Creating Our Future
Message from the Department Head, Lisa Broussard, RN, DNS, CNE

Dr. Lisa Broussard was recently chosen as an American Nurses Foundation (ANF) grant reviewer and will serve a three-year term on the Nursing Researcher Grants Review Committee. The American Nurses Foundation is the charitable and philanthropic arm of the American Nurses Association. In 2014, ANF will award $225,000 in research grants to beginner and experienced nurse researchers, with a focus on nurse leadership and empowerment of nurses to become change agents in the transformation of the health care system. The ANF Nursing Research Grants Program was founded 59 years ago to encourage the research career development of nurses. This program continues to grow with contributions for nursing research from organizations and individuals. These donations support scientific research for advancing the practice of nursing, promoting health and preventing disease. Lisa is really excited about this opportunity to put her love and passion for nursing research to good use!

Congratulations

Kathy Ardoin is the 2014 recipient of “Acadiana Celebrates Nursing” award. Congratulations, Kathy! We are very proud of you!

Join the Walking Club!

The walking club encourages the UL Community to move more and eat healthy to reach your optimal body goals. For more information, please visit their website: http://alliedhealth.louisiana.edu/academic-programs/dietetics/walking-club

Embracing the Educator Role

Jade Hernandez

is a UL Lafayette graduate and a 2012 MSN graduate of the University of South Alabama. She is currently a clinical instructor in N208 and 209.

Robbie Stephanski

returns to the CONAHP in a part-time position as Coordinator of Continuing Nursing Education. In the past, Robbie was a clinical instructor in the critical care setting and Chair of the Simulation Committee. Welcome back Robbie.
A Fine Balance: Teaching, Scholarship, and Service

For many of us it is difficult to strike a balance between the role of an academician and that of clinician. During most of my career, I was fortunate to be able to retain a clinical practice in oncology nursing while maintaining a full-time faculty role. Like many of you, I worked summer, winter and other breaks in the clinical setting and was active in my professional organization, the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), at the local and national levels. That changed when I accepted the role of Associate Dean. The position of Associate Dean is a 12 month position – I found myself unable to accrue enough clinical hours to maintain my long-held license as an Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist or to maintain national certification. The loss of my national certification was especially painful to me as I successfully passed the first certification exam delivered and was one of the first 1,000 nurses in the country and the first in the state to receive national certification in oncology. However, I have been able to continue my affiliation with ONS in several ways through work on national project teams, through scholarly activities such as publications and presentations, and through work on establishing an educator resource portal on the ONS website targeted to nurse educators. My colleague (and project co-investigator) from Duquesne University and I are working on Phase II of a three-phase project which we anticipate will culminate in the development of standards of practice for non-oncology nurses caring for oncology patients.

Phase I involved conduct of a national study to determine the extent (depth and importance) of oncology nursing content in pre-licensure and graduate nursing programs in the U.S as perceived by nurse educators. Phase II, currently in progress, involves investigation of depth and importance of oncology nursing concepts as perceived by practicing nurses, oncology and non-oncology. Phase III will investigate the perceptions of oncology patients and oncology survivors. We have been fortunate our work has been supported by grants from the Komen Foundation, from ONS, and from other grant organizations. Therefore, although I am currently unable to make an impact as a direct care provider, I am hopeful that by continued engagement in research and other scholarly activities, I can still impact the care of cancer patients and survivors in a meaningful way.

Lifelong Learning

The UL Lafayette CONAHP faculty and staff continue to exemplify the meaning of commitment to life-long learning through scholarly distinctions and publication! Kathleen Wilson and Kathy Ardoin recently had their article “Applying safety in the clinical setting: Teaching students the significance of clinical alarms” as a chapter in the textbook *Innovation in Nursing Education: Building the Future of Nursing*.

Kathleen Wilson has also completed certification through ULearn for online course design! Congratulations, Kathleen! Great job! Dr. Catherine Belden was named Editorial Review Group Chair in Geriatrics for Doody’s Enterprises, Inc., a review service that provides timely, filtered medical information and expert commentary to busy healthcare professionals who need to stay abreast of the overwhelming volume of literature and research findings in their specialty areas.

Collaborative Efforts

The CONAHP continues to partner with other organizations to enhance the educational preparation of baccalaureate degree nursing students. Dr. Lisa Broussard is working with Marianne Bourgeois and Nancy Boutte of Apex Innovations on a publication that will focus on professional staff development in a virtual environment related to EKG interpretation, congestive heart failure and stroke. Dr. Evelyn Wills has published numerous textbook chapters on the subject of grand nursing theories. Dr. Deedra Harrington has been chosen to serve on the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards Committee. The committee is charged with strategic planning and oversight of the development of scope of practice statements and standards of nursing practice nationally. Dr. Gwen Leigh, Dr. Deedra Harrington and Frances Stueben are working with statistician Steve Hetherman on an article that will focus on the challenges of clinical evaluation and the use of simulation for evaluation.

Kajun Kudos Editor Joseann DeWitt and Kajun Kudos contributors Dr. Denise Linton, Francis Stueben, Debbie White and Dr. Catherine Beldon. Graphic Design by Amanda Menard