This summer, our department faculty contributed greatly to the teaching, research, and service missions of the Health Science Center. As department faculty, we taught a great variety of (19) electives and both undergraduate and graduate core courses; participated in doctoral qualifying exams and dissertation; advanced our undergraduate curriculum revision efforts; led international clinical experiences for students; attended and supported professional conferences; welcomed five new faculty members; and prepared new electives and grants. Please begin to think now about electives you would like to develop and/or teach, or other scholarship you’d like to pursue in summer of 2009.

As 2008-2009 AONE treasurer, I attended three meetings this summer. I offer one phrase to summarize the thrust of each meeting:

1) The Joint Commission Nursing Advisory Council – SAFETY DEPENDS ON THE CULTURE
2) 6th National Conference of State Nursing Workforce Centers – RETENTION IS THE KEY TO RN SUPPLY
3) Robert Wood Johnson/U.S. Department of Labor/AARP Nursing Education Capacity Summit – PRACTICE & EDUCATION PARADIGMS NEED TO BE TOTALLY RE-THOUGHT.

I have materials in my office and would be very glad to share them.

On a personal note, many of you know my mother passed away August 8, just as we were making arrangements for hospice. She had spinal cord compression, diabetes, macular degeneration, and heart failure. Mom and I had a memorable conversation just the day before about her final journey, which she referred to as the 4,000 mile trip on which she needed to get started. (cont., pg. 8)
ACET—Dr. Barbara Owens

Academic Center for Excellence in Teaching (ACET) met on July 7th and I would like to give you a synopsis of what we discussed. The Virtual Information System (Quality Enhancement Plan) teaching materials for case based learning and best practice is being developed by Drs. Kristin Fiebelkorn and Jaishree Jagirdar. This information will be hosted centrally by ACET with link at library site. Our own Kathy Reeves is assisting with review of material and index naming.

The Texas Faculty Development Network Conference at UTHSCSA was held June 20. Fifty-five faculty from Texas attended this regional conference.

The UT System Innovative Instruction Grants have six groups who are writing proposals for $750K, due Aug 15. The smaller proposal call for $5K grants due date was July 15.

Faculty are advised to look online to see what teaching portfolio looks like in eCV and give feedback to eCV managers.

ACET has new office space in the library. They have moved in and will host an Open House in the Fall for faculty to learn where to find ACET staff members and use this resource.

Cheryl Ross Staats completed the Trainer Program for the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) SuperCore Curriculum-Training Program which now integrates promoting Palliative Care Nursing, Oncology Nursing, and Graduate Nursing into the original ELNEC curriculum for Undergraduate faculty and Continuing Education providers. ELNEC is administered by the City of Hope and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Cheryl presented an invited workshop in June concerning End of Life Issues and Advance Directives for the Summer Institute in Aging sponsored by the South Texas Geriatric Education Center (STGEC) at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in collaboration with the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the South Texas Veterans Healthcare Center-Audie L. Murphy Division.

In September Cheryl will present an invited program on “When a Society Mourns - Who, What, When, Why – Are we stuck in the Grief Process?” for the Teleconference Network of Texas (TNT) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio which is broadcast nationwide and to Canada.

EDUCATION and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Congratulations to our three newest department Doctors!

Dr. Lyda Arevalo—Dissertation title: Factors Influencing Latino/Hispanic Caregivers’ Perception of the Experience of Caring for a Relative with Alzheimer’s Disease

Dr. Pamela Hodges—Dissertation title: Life Purpose, Health Related Quality of Life, and Hospital Readmissions Among Older Adults with Heart Failure

Dr. Leslie Payne—Dissertation title: The Use of Skin Conductance Response as a Marker of Intuitive Decision Making in Nursing. Leslie defended her dissertation at Indiana University
U.S. Army Major Elba Villacorta was Mickey Parsons’ student. Elba won the SoN UTHSCSA student Leadership Award from the HSC Women’s Faculty Association and was a nursing administrative student. Dr. Jackson is now teaching the Nursing Administrative major. Pictured L to R: Dr. Brenda Jackson, Elba Villacorta and Dr. Mickey Parsons. Carol Reineck and Kathy Reeves served as Co-chairs for the ceremony held May 5, 2008. Paula Clutter serves as WFA Secretary.

CNS Certification Exam Pass Rate 100% !

ACNP Certification Exam Pass Rate 100% !

Notes from the ANC Administrative Assistant

It’s that time again! The State Employee Charitable Campaign will kick-off September 2, 2008. The HSC is the Pacesetter once again to kick-off the 2008 SECC! This year Wendy Figueroa will be assisting Cecelia. More information upcoming!
Many thanks to the ANC faculty who assisted with the School of Nursing 8th Annual Preceptor Conference: Brenda Jackson, Kathy Reeves, Stacey Ward. Next Preceptor Conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the SON—Pharmacology updates for APN’s. Invite the preceptors who support your courses. Rose Tierney-Gumaer needs more speakers. She can be contacted at 567-0170 or TIERNEYGUMA@uthscsa.edu

Dr. Mickey Parsons presented her abstract titled, “Utilizing Organizational Technologies to Provide Evidence to Create Healthy Workplaces” at the Sigma Theta Tau 19th International Nursing Research Congress. Singapore, July 7-11, 2008.

Janis Rice and Judi Trotti attended the National Teaching Institute held by the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, to critical care issues. Chicago, IL, May 3—8 2008.

Ms. Paula Blackwell attended the Southern Regional Workshop of the American Society of Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics offering specific information about Natural Killer Cells and how they function as a part of the immune system. Las Vegas, NV, June 12—14, 2008.

Dr. Mary Heye attended the 7th Annual Summer Institute on Evidence-based Practice and serves as the co-chair. San Antonio, TX, June 25—28, 2008.

The ANC department will be maintaining upcoming conference information that can be located in a blue expanding file in the department office. Please feel free to check it often as conference information is added as received. Below please find selected upcoming conference information.

2008

- Texas Nurses Association 8th Annual Nursing Leadership, Sept. 11-12, Austin, TX
- Nursing Leadership Summit, Sept. 25-26, Chicago, IL
- HCPRO is sponsoring Applying Human Factors in Health Care: Leveraging Multidisciplinary Approaches to Improve Patient Safety, Oct. 1-3, Rochester, MN
- Building a Collaborative Hospital Work Environment, Oct. 29-31, Charleston, SC. Sponsored by AONE & ARAMARK.
- Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. 114th Annual Meeting, Nov. 9-14, San Antonio, Tx

The department has limited travel funds, but can often help support registration. Request a Travel Worksheet from the department office.
During Nurse’s Week of 2008, our department had a Who’s Who contest. Participating ANC faculty brought a photo of themselves during their nursing school days and the ANC faculty could vote “Who’s Who.” The 3 winners were Barbara Owens, Carol Reineck, and Judi Trotti. The 3 winners each received a $25.00 gift certificate and a Nursing pocket charm was issued to the remainder of our participants. We really had fun with this...thanks to all!

Left to Right Top Row:  J. Maltas, C. Lehman, J. Trotti,
Bottom Row: K. Reeves, C. Reineck, B. Owens

We have four new faculty who will be joining our department this Fall. Please welcome:

Theresa Villarreal, MSN, RN, CNS-BC—will teach 3802.
Michael Thille-Vega, MSN, RN—will teach 4614/4410.
Heleodoro “Leo” Corona, MSN, RN, CCRN—will teach 4614/4410.
And returning: Shannon Billingsley, MSN, RN, ACNP, CNS-BC
Also, Dr. Denise Miner-Williams has received a faculty appointment with our department.
We also welcome back all our returning faculty!
Suggestions for Giving a Great Lecture

Provided by Roberta Ambrosino, EdD, Educational Development Specialist, Academic Center for Excellence in Teaching

1. Identify self, topic and purpose of presentation
2. Involve audience quickly with question or activity
3. Dramatize importance of the subject matter
4. Discuss how learners can use this information
5. Provide topic outline to help learners remember
6. Appropriate amount of content for time available
7. Sequence of presentation is sensible (easy to follow)
8. Coordinate verbal presentation with visuals & handout
9. Key (important) points are identified & fully explained
10. Transitions between topics are identifiable verbally & visually
11. Use questions to interact with the audience
12. Reserve adequate time for a meaningful conclusion
13. Present key take-home messages; discuss why they are important
14. Provide time for audience to ask questions
15. Rate of speech (variety of tempo to maintain interest)
16. Inflection—voice energy
17. Volume—quality room sound and devices
18. Enunciation & pronunciation
19. Avoid distracting sounds or speaking patterns
20. Maintain expressive facial animation
21. Physical posture—use of hands
22. Use of gesturing for a natural accompaniment
23. Eye contact with the audience
24. Easy and uncluttered visual materials
25. Reinforce key messages
26. Provide handout to convey key points

Active Learning

References


QUILTING SQUARES!

Just a friendly reminder to turn in your quilt square project by the end of August. Sewing machines are available in ONRS for those who need assistance. Samples are available to view in the ANC office and the Dean’s office.

http://www.aacn.nche.edu/

Health Observances and Recognition Days

September

Leukemia, Lymphoma, and myeloma Awareness Month
Pain Awareness Month
Sickle Cell Awareness Month
Prostate Health Month

7th-13th: Assisted Living Week
7th-13th: Healthcare Environmental Services & Housekeeping Week
14th-20th: Surgical Technologists Week
21st-27th: Rehabilitation Awareness Celebration
21st-27th: Vasculitis Awareness Week
And Now for Something Completely Different…

The Operations Office for the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) is now part of UTHSCSA, having been absorbed along with CTRC last December. SWOG is one of the National Cancer Institute’s twelve Cooperative Groups, networks of institutions and investigators throughout the United States conducting clinical trials in cancer. SWOG does studies in all adult cancers except brain, head and neck, and sarcoma. The Operations Office, located in Texas Research Park, is where SWOG study protocols are put together and the Group’s membership, financial, quality assurance, and other administrative operations are conducted.

Quality assurance in SWOG, as in the other cooperative groups, is done through on-site QA audits, conducted at each SWOG institution at least every three years. Traditionally, QA auditors have been nonprofessionals with baccalaureate preparation in a biological or other scientific field, trained in QA auditing on the job. This Ops staff QA auditor focuses on the regulatory aspects of the clinical trials process, and typically is accompanied on an audit by a physician or nurse who is responsible for assessing the clinical aspects of protocol treatment. Recently, though, thought has been given to changing the job description to that of a nurse auditor, who would receive training in the regulatory aspects, but would also be able to apply her/his clinical judgment to protocol compliance, eligibility, and other aspects of patient treatment.

Call Elaine Armstrong if interested at 450-8808.

Message from the Chair, continued

I assured her that the nurses and family were with her all the time and that it was ok to let go and start on that trip. She had 88 very healthy years, but began to lose strength. She experienced much more pain and immobility in the weeks before she died. She was cared for in her final minutes and hours by devoted registered nurses who continually assessed her condition, engaged the family and inter-professional team, and intervened in effective ways to relieve her pain, anxiety, and fear. I now know much more about the profound impact of palliative care nursing and the special considerations for the hospitalized elderly. I saw first hand in the nursing staff what I hope our graduates will become. Thank you for modeling this kind of care and for your kind expressions of sympathy.

Fall 2008 will offer a new beginning. It holds many opportunities for us to shape a preferred future together. We’ll be engaged in strategic planning, preparing for CCNE accreditation, revising curricula to reflect concerns about quality and safety education, developing simulation, and designing the Doctor of Nursing Practice and Clinical Nurse Leader programs, to name a few. A warm welcome to our new and returning faculty. Have a great semester. My door is open.

Carol