It’s great to live in San Antonio with 70 degree winter days. As I write this first quarterly issue of The Acute Pulse, I hope to convey news, issues, information, and perspective for our Department. As an academic department, we fit within the greater School of Nursing and Health Science Center. But many pieces of news and information pertain to us distinctly here in the land of Acute Care Nursing. We will try not to duplicate items that are in the SON Tribute.

I look forward to receiving news or issue items that you as faculty and staff may want to bring to my attention for consideration for future Issues. Publication dates will be January, April, August, and November.

Carol Reineck, PhD, RN, FAAN, CNAA
Chair & Associate Professor

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Health Observances and Recognition Days

Interesting to note that January is cervical health awareness month [www.wcn.org](http://www.wcn.org) or [www.thegcf.org](http://www.thegcf.org); January is also National Blood Donor Month [www.aabb.org](http://www.aabb.org); January 20-26 is National Nurse Anesthetists’ Week [www.aana.com](http://www.aana.com); and January 25 is National Intravenous Nurses’ day [www.ins1.org](http://www.ins1.org).

February brings many days of observance as well, as American Heart Month

Undergraduate News

The first iteration of the 20-student undergraduate enrollment increase begins this semester. To meet the expectations of the more than a half million dollars in additional legislative funding for this purpose, we anticipate a new enrollment level of 120 undergraduate students each first semester into the indefinite future. Over the course of four semesters we will have added up to 20 additional students to each of our graduating classes. To meet this challenge, NURS 3802, under the direction of Ms. Vicky Dittmar, and 3209 (under the direction of Ms. Cheryl Staats) teaching teams are gearing up for the additional enrollment levels. To begin building more faculty for the future, three teaching assistants, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Son, and Ms. Ashley, have been added to NURS 3802 to (1) provide TA’s the opportunity to learn and grow in the educator role and (2) support students and clinical instructors. An additional Student Associate (the name for a TA who is a graduate student at another school), Kathryn Norton, was added in Fall 07 to NURS 3209. In addition, 2 GNP faculty members from FNC (Ms. Denyer and Ms. Rudolph) have been added to assist with clinical group instruction. Ms. Sandy Keith is a new Clinical Instructor on the 3802 team. Ongoing faculty members are Lyda Arevalo, Deborah Forman-Lindsay, Frank Laureano, Joyce Borgfeld, Jennie Shaw, and Lark Ford. Dr. Barbara Owens, Marla Loring, and Kathleen Reeves also provide lectures in 3802. We salute the entire NURS 3802 and 3209 teaching teams for their dedication to providing a strong, quality foundation to the critical first semester nursing student experience.

NURS 4614 and NURS 4410 teaching teams will receive increased enrollment as the up to 20 additional students move into the third and fourth semesters in 2009. With the outstanding quality of the teaching teams in all our courses, the students have an excellent opportunity for academic and clinical success as they move toward graduation, the RN licensing exam, and patient care responsibility. NURS 4614 team is led by Judy Maltas and includes Joan Hyett, Marla Loring, Kathleen Reeves, Janis Rice, Wesley Richardson, Martha Tuller, Stacey Ward, Pam Hodges, and Beverly Wheeler (we welcome Beverly as a new faculty member this Spring 08). The NURS 4410 team is led by Dr. Paula Clutter and includes most of the aforementioned faculty members.

Acute Department also graciously provides faculty for courses in other departments. For example, Jennie Shaw co-teaches 3312, Cheryl Staats teaches 4203, and Dr. Bell is co-teaching 4212 Flexible Process Health Assessment.

Graduate News

Nursing Administration in Community and Health Care Systems in Nursing

The graduate teaching team in the Nursing Administration major is led by Dr. Mickey Parsons. Dr. Parson’s team includes Dr. Brenda Jackson, Ms. Pam Hodges, and Ms. Lark Ford. The Masters Program includes core courses that are common across all majors. Acute faculty teach in the MSN core. Dr. Reineck is Course Coordinator for The Nurses Role in Financial Planning, in the MSN core. Dr. Owens, Dr. Jackson, Ms. Hodges, Dr. Robichaux also teach in the MSN core courses. We also welcome Dr. Larry Johnson, FACHE, to the NURS5226 faculty.
Clinical Nurse Specialist Program

The Clinical Nurse Specialist Program at the SON is comprised of two majors, the Medical-Surgical and Critical Care CNS, housed in our department. The CNS majors are growing! The faculty teaching in these majors are: Dr. Mary Heye (Coordinator), Dr. Cheryl Lehman, Dr. Cathy Robichaux, and Ms. Judi Trotti. Ms. Phyllis Gordon is Course Coordinator for Pathophysiology, in the Advanced Practice core. Dr. Lehman and Ms. Trotti teach Pharmacology in the APN core. Dr. Brenda Jackson teaches in both the MSN Core, the Admin Major and the APN Core.

The PhD Program in Nursing

Acute Nursing Care Department provides faculty for the doctoral program by the teaching and committee involvement of Dr. Sharon Lewis and Dr. Cathy Robichaux. Faculty in Acute who are involved in the doctoral program as doctoral dissertation committee chairs include Dr. Reineck, Dr. Parsons, and Dr. Heye.

Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program

Our newest MSN program is led by Ms. Leslie Payne, MSN, RN, ACNP-BC. Leslie is also a doctoral candidate, nearing her graduation, and has served as an outstanding leader for this growing program.

EDUCATION and TRAINING

TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE TEACHERS
Spring Meeting—January 21-22, 2008
Jenny Shaw

PROFESSIONAL GRANT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP—January 28-30, 2008:
Paula Clutter & Cheryl Lehman

SOUTHERN NURSING RESEARCH SOCIETY
February 20-23, 2008
Denise Miner-Williams

Baccalaureate Essentials Regional Meeting
March 12-14, 2008
Dr. Brenda Jackson

Notes from the ANC Department Administrator

-Paul Summers-

- Please look at your eCV’s for necessary updates. Faculty or staff can make changes and updates.
- Please look at Department Web Page and if any corrections are needed, please print a copy, make changes in red and give to Paul.
- Please be aware of nearest emergency exit in the event evacuation is necessary.
- Please do not leave your office doors opened or unlocked should you need to venture away.
Staying Healthy at Any Age

The agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently released two new evidence-based checklists designed to help men and women understand which medical checkup tests they need to stay healthy at any age. The men’s and women’s versions of Your Checklist for Health show at a glance what the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends regarding screening tests, preventive medicine and other healthy lifestyle behaviors. The checklists are available on the AHRQ website:

http://www.ahrq.gov/ppip/healthymen.htm
http://www.ahrq.gov/ppip/healthywom.htm


Upcoming Dates
Feb. 19  Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Accreditation Visit
Feb. 22  Department Meeting, 1pm-3pm , 1.444/1.418
Mar. 7  Student Opportunity Career Fair

2007 - 2008
Approved Acute Nursing Care Department Goals

Teaching
Build the faculty team by creating opportunities to (1) share areas of common interest and expertise, (2) meet mutual learning needs, (3) get more acquainted, (4) provide collegial support, (5) promote interdisciplinary scholarly activity, (6) increase the use of educational technology, and (7) collectively define equitable workload.

Research/Discovery
Strengthen our capability to prepare grants and enhance competitiveness for faculty scholarship programs & fellowships by (1) accessing development opportunities, (2) sharing expertise, (3) removing barriers, and (4) joining forces with entities such as the merged CTRC/UTHSCSA.

Practice/Service
Promote activities, arrangements, and assignments which will (1) promote certification and re-certification; (2) build enrichment income for faculty and department; and (3) enhance/maintain credibility in teaching or research.

General
Continuously improve communication among faculty and staff, manage conflict effectively, and promote a healthy, enjoyable work environment.