We are three weeks into the Spring 2009 semester as I write. We are experiencing glimpses of the future! Faculty refined the School of Nursing goals during the Dean's faculty retreat session with Kikanza on January 9, giving us the direction we need to chart our collective path. Several faculty, 3 from each department, attended a simulation meeting in Phoenix in early January and came back with even more inspiration about direction for simulation in our school. On January 7, Acute Department faculty worked to align department goals with those of the School of Nursing. There's something remarkable about being in a position to not only see the future, but to shape it together. It seems to me that it's like remodeling a house – with the dust and wet paint signaling a better future on the same excellent foundation. Our foundation is our more than 40 years as a school and rich history of faculty and staff dedication to making lives better.

But to get to the future, we have to get through the present. I knew there was a catch! In the present, we have several committees and groups working through program development (Clinical Nurse Leader and Doctor of Nursing Practice), curriculum revision (COUS), and teaching strategy generation (advances in classroom teaching, online teaching and simulation as methods). These involve lots of group work, team work, interprofessional engagement, and collaboration. We are all feeling the tug into the future; but, at the same time, it seems important that we feel the imperative to guard the health of collegiality and teamwork in the present. In the present, we are finding the ways to achieve ends that will lead us into a preferred future. My point is that the present is important, too. Today matters. Prepare, contribute, participate, follow-through, attend in the present.
By Dr. Cheryl Lehman

Typhon Tracking System—What is it?

The Clinical Nurse Specialist group just began using the Typhon tracking system for our CNS I students. Typhon is an online database into which the students enter information concerning their clinical encounters. The faculty can then review the clinical encounter information online, and pull up and print reports concerning patient encounters. For example, if you were studying the racial/ethnic mix or age of the patients your students see, you could print a graph of that information.

The Typhon program eliminates a lot of paperwork, such as clinical logs and tracking of clinical hours. The faculty can also store report templates in the system, and the student can download the template, complete it, and upload it again for the faculty to review. We will be using this for the history and physicals and self evaluations, among other things..

Other Typhon advantages for the APNs: tracking the student’s completion of competencies; the ability for the preceptor to complete online evaluations; and program evaluation (helpful for accreditation).

The Typhon system also offers the APN student the ability to create a formal portfolio. They can create graphs of their patient encounters, store their formal papers and projects, and format the portfolio in a professional manner. This will aid in their job search after they graduate, as they will have “proof” of their clinical experiences.

Typhon costs include a licensing fee and a per student fee. For CNS students, there was a one time per student fee which covers all three clinical semesters.

Typhon has both advanced practice and undergraduate clinical tracking programs. For more information and to view the tutorials, visit [http://www.typhongroup.com/products/tracking.htm](http://www.typhongroup.com/products/tracking.htm)

Undergraduate faculty will want to see the video is on the Nursing School Student Tracking (NSST) for APN faculty the video on Nurse Practitioner Student Tracking (NPST).

We’ll let you know how it is working as we complete this first semester with Typhon!
Dr. Barbara Owens would like to offer faculty and students the link to sign up for the Oncology Nursing Society’s Congress April 30-May 3rd at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center: ONS 34th Annual Congress Registration Now Open. Get ready to head to San Antonio, TX, April 30-May 3 to get the best oncology education around at the ONS 34th Annual Congress. Plus, you’ll get to celebrate your profession and the difference you make in the lives of patients and their families. Make your plans now to connect to 5,000 of your colleagues, get the latest cancer-care information, and enhance your career. Save $100 when you register by March 19! The link to sign up to volunteer: http://www.ons-sa.org/volunteer.html. Dr. Owens is the Local Liaison for this activity.

University Hospital Nursing Research Day Nov 19 Poster Presentation

Pictured left to right: Janie Trachsel, Dr. Mary Heye, Monica Kincade, Beatriz Gomez, Rozmin Jiwani, Elaine Jones, & Dr. Cheryl Lehman

Dr. Carol Reineck and Sarah Campana

Message from the Chair
(cont. from page 1)

When this reaches you, your “today” will have already started. As I mentioned in my time management presentation January 7, we all have 24 hours in every day. No more, no less. I hope you will each spend part of every 24 hours doing at least these two things -- looking into the future, and attending to both the task and relationship work in the present. As your department chair, I am so honored to be able to envision the future and work in the present with each of you. My best to you in 2009.

Carol

“The best time to plant a tree is 25 years ago...The second best time is today.”
Dr. Paula Clutter and Dr. Kathleen Stevens just received a copy of the book that includes a new chapter they wrote together.


This is the first major publication of their "Strength of Evidence Rating" pyramid (Stevens & Clutter, 2007).

The San Antonio Express News interviewed Dr. Barbara Owens and Karen Stamms in October 2008 for a story of the Lebed Method which also appeared in the Denver Post! The Denver Post mentions Owens is one of three certified instructors who teach the Lebed Method as part of the Cancer Therapy & Research Center's wellness programs. “The classes serve as a kind of support group for breast cancer patients who are taking steps to improve their health,” Owens says. Please visit this site for an interesting article. *In dance therapy, it's aloha, recovery*

Way to go, Dr. Owens and Karen!

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Dr. Nancy Girard Honorary Chair

Please join the Department of Acute Nursing Care in congratulating Ms. Janis Rice, MSN, CCRN, Critical Care CNS, Assistant Professor/Clinical, our newest recipient of the Dr. Nancy Girard Honorary Chair in Acute Nursing Care. Janis' excellence in teaching, leadership and pioneer spirit in simulation development, and conception/development of dimensional analysis method of teaching medication calculation were key areas of her expertise leading to this award. The award highlights nursing leadership and pioneer spirit. We were honored that Dr. Girard was present to help present the annual award at the department holiday luncheon on December 19, 2008.
Health Observance and Recognition Days

FEBRUARY


MARCH


DAY


APRIL


WEEK


20-26 Medical Fitness Week. http://www.medicalfitness.org

New Faculty Join the Acute Nursing Care Department! We welcome the following:

- **Kimberly Langlinais**, MSN, RN - teaching 4410 & 4614
- **Josie Queen**, PhD, RN, CCRN, CNS - teaching 4410 & 4614
- **Ada Tapper**, MSN, RN, FNP-BC - teaching 4410 & 4614

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**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

*Information is located in the ANC office inside the Conference Information accordion file.*

**February 2009**

**DAY**

- **12-13**  Cardiovascular Care Update 2009. Seattle, WA
- **23-25**  Faculty Development Institute (3rd annual). Savannah, GA
- **27**  Annual neuroscience Nursing Symposium: Targeting the central nervous system. Seattle, WA

**March 2009**

- **19-20**  Workshop on the ANCC Magnet Recognition Program. Phoenix, AZ
- **24-27**  Trends: In Trauma and Cardiovascular Nursing and In High Acuity Med-Surg Nursing. PA
- **25**  Critical Care Nursing Annual Conference. Seattle, WA
- **25-26**  The Changing Context of Care in an Aging Society
Travel Report: AACN Doctoral Education Conference
by Dr. Carol Reineck

January 21-24, 2009

The AACN Doctoral Education Conference, an annual AACN conference event, was held in Coronado (San Diego) CA. Nearly 200 doctoral faculty and deans attended from around the nation. Dean Dr. Eileen Breslin and Drs. Beverly Robinson, Mary Heye, and Carol Reineck attended from the UTHSCSA SoN.

Snippets from the Conference:

--Dr. Mary Wakefield’s Keynote Address outlined domestic and international healthcare challenges and U.S. specific data on health care (spending, variation, and health care reform). Her compelling presentation emphasized the unique and powerful contribution of nurses to meet these challenges and that “there are no boundaries when it comes to caring for one another” (Marla Salmon).

--Speakers representing The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) gave breakfast presentations on (1) The RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows, and (2) RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholars program. These are highly respected three year fellowships and applications will next be accepted in February 2010. Visit http://www.rwjf.org.

--Quality and Safety in Doctoral Education. This breakout session highlighted the crossmapping of the Quality & Safety Education in Nursing with the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). QSEN competencies are: Patient-centered care, teamwork/collaboration, EBP, QI, Safety, and Informatics. NONPF core domains are management of the patient health/illness status, NP-patient relationship, teaching coaching, professional role, managing/negotiating health care delivery system, promoting healthy environments, and culturally sensitive care.

--HRSA needs grant reviewers with expertise in doctoral level nursing education. https://grants.hrsa.gov/webReview/. Click on registering.

--Speakers Dr. Dearman and Dr. Stullenbarger spoke to mentoring new doctoral faculty to achieve success.

--Dr. Marita Titler, Professor, Associate Dean for Practice and Clinical Scholarship Development and the Rhetaugh Dumas Endowed Chair, University of Michigan, gave an outstanding presentation, “Implementation Science: Research, Practice, and Doctoral Education.” Her thesis was that doctorally prepared faculty are in a position to improve patient access, quality, and cost outcomes and need to be engaged with nurses in the hospital and other care settings to know the problems, investigate solutions, and advocate for public policy change. Educators need to integrate EBP into teaching. She concluded with requiring attendees to write down three action steps they will do immediately! Visit http://www.implementationscience.com/.
Dr. Cheryl Lehman is the Chair of the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for the Strong Star project.

Dr. Lyda Arevalo was featured in the LATINA Style Health journal for Latinas in Health care: Addressing Disparity. LATINA Style Health is the leading Health care information resource provider for Latina Entrepreneurs. Devoted exclusively to the promotion of research that produces the latest advancements in health care for Latinas. LATINA Style Health will serve as a tool that connects today’s Latinas and their families with a healthier lifestyle and will address on of the most critical issues facing our community, the issue of disparity among Hispanics in the Health care Industry. Bienvenidos y Salud! ©2005 LATINA Style Magazine http://health.latinastyle.com/index.php

Ms. Janis Rice and Ms. Jennie Shaw’s abstract, “Using Simulation to Address High Risk High Alert Drugs,” has been accepted as a poster presentation for the upcoming 8th Annual International Nursing Simulation/Learning Resource Centers Conference June 10-13, 2009 at the Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Wow!

Dr. Cheryl Lehman received notification from the Educational Resources/International Leadership Institute she has been accepted as a Sigma Theta Tau International Career Advisor. Congratulations, Dr. Lehman!

Dr. Brenda Jackson will serve one year on the Faculty Search Committee. Congratulations Dr. Jackson for your willingness to serve on this very important committee!

With the support and encouragement of Dr. Mary Heye, Monica Kincade, who is currently a CNS 3 student, was informed her abstract, “Accurate Blood Pressure Measurement Techniques” has been accepted for poster presentation by the Society for Vascular Nursing convention April 29-May 2, 2009 in Denver, Colorado. Ms. Kincade was a CNS 1 student as the time of this notification and recently shared this delightful news with Dr. Heye.
Consultant for the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Major
by Dr. Mary Heye

Dr. Mary Lou Sole served as consultant for the Medical-Surgical and Critical Care CNS majors housed within the Department of Acute Nursing Care. For over a year the CNS faculty discussed the need for an external evaluation of the CNS majors for congruence with the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists’ (NACNS) *Statement on Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice and Education* (2004).

Dr. Sole was chosen for her national reputation in critical care research, graduate education advanced practice nursing, and the CNS role. She is also an accreditor for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). On December 18, 2008, Dr. Sole met individually with groups of medical-surgical and critical care students, and faculty involved in the CNS, ACNP, and CNL (projected) majors. CNS Advisory Council members, Department of Acute Nursing Care faculty and the Dean attended an informal luncheon meeting with Dr. Sole. This time provided a forum for questions and answers about the future of CNS and APN practice with the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree. A formal presentation by Dr. Sole in the afternoon was titled, “Journey to the DNP: Challenge and Adventure.” This was attended by many interested faculty and department chairs.

Dr. Sole’s primary mission was to assess whether the CNS majors met Standard III of the CCNE Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Degree Programs. This standard states that expected individual student learning outcomes are consistent with roles for which the program is preparing its graduates, and that the curricula reflect relevant professional standards. Dr. Sole’s evaluation confirmed that we have a very good curriculum that meets NACNS/AACN Standards, and the content is inclusive of requirements for state of Texas licensure. She noted strengths of the majors: multiple faculty members with knowledge and expertise are involved in teaching, expectations for clinical experiences are clearly articulated to facilitate students’ learning, and the specialty and learning needs of communities of interest (local, military) are addressed. She commented on the strong involvement in curriculum planning from the community with CNS Advisory Board and the solid pass rates on certification exams (ANCC and CCNS). She also provided a list of questions for faculty to ponder about curricular content and strategies—which is on the agenda for our next CNS Faculty Meeting. Some of her recommendations were to: 1) incorporate CNS roles throughout each course, 2) include the Synergy Model with emphasis on spheres of influence and nurse characteristics, 3) consider a separate diagnosis and management course possibly combined with the ACNP students, 4) consider a standardized evaluation tool to use across the clinical courses, and 5) develop strategies for advising applicants so that students are advised to seek the track that best meets their goals for employment.

The CNS Faculty appreciated the participation of many department faculty in this day long consultation visit. Excellent feedback on our current curricula was received, and Dr. Sole’s sound advice and direction for transition to the Doctor of Nursing Practice outlined our work for the future.