Several familiar and some uncommon events occurred recently. A few examples of the familiar are the “fall back” time change Nov. 2; local, state, and national elections November 4; and celebration of Veteran’s Day November 11. Uncommon events happened, too. For example, Dean Breslin’s strategic planning session November 14 propelled the school into a preferred future designed by faculty. Dr. Ivon Foster’s faculty development presentation October 24 illustrated the myriad of academic technology resources available for faculty and staff in the expanse of the Health Science Center. And approximately 10 Acute Nursing Care faculty received word their abstracts were accepted for podium and poster presentations at the upcoming AACN Baccalaureate Education conference Dec 4-6. Both the familiar and the uncommon weave their way into our paths as we teach, discover, innovate, serve, and live.

Acute faculty and staff are accomplishing great things! While nearly 120 new generic students started their program this fall, faculty are busy reviewing and revising the curriculum for the future, focused on the AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education as well as on recommendations from Quality and Safety Education in Nursing (QSEN) and The Geriatric Nursing Education Consortium (GNEC). Masters students in administration visited a Magnet hospital in the Seton System for real-world application of the systems-level concepts in their major. Our CNS Program faculty will meet with renowned nursing leader Dr. Mary Lou Sole, December 17-18 for a program review and to receive recommendations for transforming the current programs into a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). ACNP faculty are not only teaching their own students, but also extending their hands to assist with health assessment in the APN core. Faculty abstracts have been accepted for presentation at regional and national meetings which include Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS), Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. (AMSUS), American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), and the Nursing Economic$ Invitational. And -- our Acute Care staff excelled in the SECC campaign again this year, thanks to their leadership and your generosity. (cont., pg. 6)
**SPECIAL PROGRAM NEWS**

- Dr. Kathleen Stevens was awarded an NLN Research Grant to support Measuring Evidence-Based Practice Readiness in Nursing Students for the ACE program for $12,400. Congratulations, Dr. Stevens!

- AACN Baccalaureate Education Conference presenters from the Acute department:
  - Ms. Judy Malats
  - Ms. Kathy Reeves
  - Ms. Janis Rice
  - Ms. Jennie Shaw
  - Dr. Mary Heye
  - Dr. Kathleen Stevens
  - Dr. Lyda Arevalo

- Dr. Catherine Robichaux has been appointed AACN (critical care grant reviewer and also a reviewer for NTI abstract/creative solutions submissions. She also continues to be a manuscript reviewer for both CCN and AJCC.

**NOTES FROM THE ANC ADMINISTRATOR**

**Travel Tips:**

Remember to request travel approval via the travel request form for travel to conferences/workshops in the local area (San Antonio, Austin, etc).

**Mileage**

Reminder to submit your San Antonio Traveler’s Intra City Mileage Record for reimbursement to preceptor/clinical sites. If you do not have the form, please contact Paul.

**Airline Fare Reimbursement:**

Before making your own airline reservation, please contact one of our staff for assistance in getting a quote from Corporate Travel. The accounting office will reimburse your airfare up to the rate we get through Corporate Travel.

**Safety Measures**

This is a reminder that we all need to be watchful of our surroundings and not leave our office doors open or unattended even if we are stepping away for just a moment. Thanks for being proactive and remember to call UT police x7-2800 or 911 if you see any suspicious activity in our building.
Dr. Reineck and Dr. Bob Piemonte at the NLN Education Summit in September, San Antonio, TX. Dr. Piemonte is formerly the Executive Director of the National Student Nurses Association and Colonel of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps (Ret.). He was named a Living Legend, Nov. 2008, by the American Academy of Nursing.

Acute Faculty members participate in faculty development Oct 24 with Dr. Ivon Foster, Assistant VP For Academic Technology Services.

Dr. Denise Miner-Williams passed the national board certification exam in hospice and palliative care nursing. Dr. Miner-Williams is a Geriatric Research Fellow. Congratulations, Dr. Miner-Williams!

Dr. Nancy Girard, the first Chair of Department of Acute Nursing Care, is now the Editor of *Perioperative Nursing Clinics of North America*.

Drs. Mickey Parsons and Joseph Schmelz were inducted as new Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing on November 8, 2008. Congratulations!
Caregivers Perspective: November is National Family Caregivers Month

From Sunrise Senior Living
sunriseconnection@sunriseseniorliving.com

In centuries past, the situation people faced as they grew elderly was often dire. During hard times, seniors were consigned to the poorhouse, and those who remained at home feared they would become a burden on their families. Today the situation is completely different, thanks to the efforts of millions of ordinary Americans who have taken it upon themselves to serve as caregivers. Because of their compassion, most seniors today enjoy a quality of life that would have been unimaginable 100 years ago.

The sheer magnitude of this effort is impressive. According to the AARP Public Policy Institute, between 30 and 38 million adult caregivers provide care to adults in need of assistance with an activity of daily living like bathing or grooming. The average family caregiver devotes 21 hours a week to caregiving, or more than 1,080 hours a year.

The economic value of this care is also striking. AARP estimates that the services caregivers provide are equivalent to $354 billion, larger than the gross national product of Denmark, Argentina, or Ireland. This sum is as much as the total expenditures for the Medicare program or more than $1000 for every person in the United States.

In fact, caregivers efforts have substantially diminished the burden on the American taxpayer, reducing the demands on the Medicare system. For instance, caregiving by adult children has been shown to significantly decrease the likelihood that beneficiaries will have Medicare expenditures for skilled nursing-home care and home health care.

These efforts involve many sacrifices. Caregivers make direct out-of-pocket expenditures of $2,400 a year to support a family member or friend with a disability. In addition, the time and effort involved in caregiving can have an impact on their wages, job security, and advancement, as well as on their retirement.

Nonetheless, caregivers choose this course because they find caregiving to be a source of real satisfaction. Caregivers report that the daily experience of love and service has given them an opportunity to forge new bonds with their loved one and has made their lives more meaningful. They feel empowered by the knowledge that they have made a difference.

At Sunrise Senior Living, we salute all caregivers during National Family Caregivers Month. Because of our mission, we fully appreciate the sacrifices you’ve made, and we share with you the conviction that few things enrich our lives more than caring for others.

Web Resource
As part of its celebration of National Family Caregivers Association is hosting a teleclass to help family caregivers get more from their communications with health care professionals. For information about dates, time, and registration, visit the organization’s http://www.nfcacares.org/press_room/detail.cfm?num=109

We salute our Dr. Sharon Lewis and her staff whose research is dedicated to caregiving. Paula Blackwell, Jennifer Kretzschmar, Dr. Denise Miner-Williams, Dr. Alan Novian, and Cory Retherford. We salute Dr. Lyda Arevalo whose dissertation and post-doctoral research program focus on caregiving.
Clinical Practice Resources

Patient Safety Links:

- Joint Commission
- Medline Plus
- National Patient Safety Foundation
- Institute for Safe Medication Practices Newsletter
- AHRQ Patient Safety Network

http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/

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Health Observance and Recognition Days

November

MONTH

Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month (National) http://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_14980.asp

Epilepsy Awareness Month (National) http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/

Family Caregivers Month (National) http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org/national_family_caregiver_month/

Hospice and Palliative Care Month (National) http://www.nhpco.org/templates/1/homepage.cfm

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (National) http://www.pancan.org/raiseyourvoice/

WEEK

1-7 Medical-Surgical Nurses Week http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/118801.php

9-15 Perioperative Nurse Week http://www.aorn.org/education/educationevents/

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SECC News

The Acute Nursing Care Department maintained 100% participation for the eighth consecutive year and department contributions reached $7,190.00! The HSC exceeded its goal of $380,000 with existing contributions of $387,007. Thank you all so much once again for a successful campaign!

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Errata

Correction should be noted from August Issue 3. Dr. Heye was actually co-chair of the poster abstract committee (not the Summer Institute itself).
Message from the Chair

This fall, Acute faculty are engaged not only in the familiar and ongoing responsibilities in teaching, but also in grant reviews, grant writing, orienting to the faculty role, writing manuscripts, re-writing manuscripts, conducting community screenings (804 individual screening tests this fall, with 25% referred for care), presenting, exploring doctoral study, declaring for promotion, laying the foundation for simulation, and introducing and expanding the use of LXR technology for exams. In addition, this fall, Acute is the faculty home of the chairs of both COUS and COGS, and Chair-Elect of Faculty Assembly and COFL.

These accomplishments by the dedicated members of the Acute Nursing Care Department are simply amazing. I am not surprised at this level of excellence and commitment. Amazed, yes -- but not surprised. We do make lives better! Students watch their faculty and learn how to be from them.

Enjoy the upcoming months of cooler weather, a new year, and uncommon opportunities for us all. Thanks to both faculty and staff for all you do and for your support.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

December 2008

DAY
4-6  AACN Baccalaureate Education Conference, San Antonio, TX
5   University of Washington: Responding to the Needs of Family Caregivers, Seattle, WA
10-14 2008 Call for Abstracts. 31st Annual San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. San Antonio, TX

Presentations—School of Nursing
4   Lynda Woolbert. Current and Proposed APN Legislation for the State of Texas
18  Dr. Mary Lou Sole. CNS Practice & Education: Moving Curriculum to the DNP

News Notes

- Nursing students from SAC invited Dr. Sharon Lewis to be their guest speaker for their pinning ceremony on December 11th.
- Cheryl Staats has been acknowledged for her service years with the HSC - 20 years! Cheryl attended the President’s monthly celebration on November 8th to receive her service award pin and plaque. Congratulations, Cheryl!
- Dr. Barbara Owens lectured NURS3802 class on Sleep Basics for patients. Dr. Owen’s goal with the wake up costume was to help students remember the Sleep Basic concepts. Braum’s Lullaby, “Don’t Go Back to Sleep” and “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” music set the mood! Dr. Owens' research program focuses on battling fatigue in chronic illness.
Dr. Barbara Owens Lebed program was featured in the San Antonio Express News October 27, 2008. Her program is thanks to a grant from Susan G. Komen for the cure. Visit the ANC Brag Board to view her article.

Dr. Cheryl Lehman is spearheading the database development with Typhon for the CNS and ACNP students. Beginning in spring 2009, students will enter data on their clinical experiences. Faculty and preceptors will be able to access the designated student’s entry to verify, correct, and/or to give feedback. This program will allow tracking of students’ experiences with patients over the 3-4 semesters of major. It also provides a summary of all experiences and hours that can be used in the students’ portfolio during school and after graduation.

**Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Majors: Report on Activities**

**CNS Faculty Meetings**

The faculty teaching in the Critical Care and Medical-Surgical CNS Majors meet regularly to discuss the curriculum. They have recently accomplished the following:

- evaluated CNS I, II, and III courses according to national guidelines, reviewed graduates’ exit surveys for the majors, recommended a database and portfolio program (“Typhon”), discussed the DNP and new Consensus Model for APRN Regulation, and identified a consultant to review the curriculum. The faculty and students recently requested nametags for CNS students to identify the student by name and as a CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST GRADUATE STUDENT (to avoid confusion with other APN roles). The ANC department graciously provided funding for the nametags. (This is worn in addition to the UTHSCSA nametag)

**New Developments and Implications for CNS Education**

- The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation may result in a new title for the CNS majors, e.g., Adult/Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist vs Critical Care or Medical Surgical Nursing.
- Along with COGS, the CNS faculty are beginning to explore the implications of the Doctorate of Nursing Practice.
- There has also been work to develop a skills course for the critical care, medical-surgical and acute care nurse practitioner students.
- Newly validated CNS Competencies are forthcoming from the work of a national task force. The outcome will be an updated set of core CNS practice competencies.
- There is also a new certification examination in development for CNSs. Drs. Cheryl Lehman and Mary Heye volunteered to take the field test two weeks ago. This test will take the place of the current ANCC Adult Health Certification Examination and will test core competencies required of CNS to practice in their field.
- The Tri-Council for Nursing is collaborating with national nursing organizations to commission a study of the impact Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) on health care quality and patient outcomes. The first comprehensive study-of-its-kind in 20 years, the researchers will examine the evidence connected to care provided by APRN roles—Clinical Nurse Specialists, Nurse Anesthetists, Nurse Midwives, and Nurse Practitioners. This work is expected to be completed by January 2009.
- Dr. Mary Lou Sole, CCNS, FAAN, Professor, University of Central Florida, will be coming to campus on December 18th as a consultant for the CNS curriculum. Her agenda will be published shortly. She has been involved in the University of Central Florida’s move to the DNP and she will talk about this during her presentation on Thursday, December 18th 1:00-2:30 in Room 1.102 School of Nursing. Hold the date!
- Ms. Judi Trotti has arranged for Ms. Lynda Woolbert, MSN, RN, PNP-BC, to speak on, “Current and Proposed APN Legislation for the State of Texas” on Thursday, December 4th from 9:00-12:00 in Room 1.102 School of Nursing. Ms. Woolbert is the Public Policy Director for the Coalition of Nurses in Advanced Practice (CNAP) in Texas.

*Did You Know, cont., on page 8*
The second CNS Advisory Council Meeting was convened on October 16th at the School of Nursing. Faculty and seven council members discussed many of the above topics. The council members provided valuable feedback for CNS faculty to consider for future curriculum and clinical experiences. The council members’ names are:

Col. Jeffrey Ashley, PhD, RN, CNS & NP/Director Critical Care Units
Chief, Critical Care Nursing Services
Brooke Army Medical Center, FSH, TX

Sonja D. Brune, RN, MSN, CCRN, CCNS, CNS
Cardiac Transplant/CHF
Faculty Associate
Department of Medicine / Division of Cardiology

Lori Czekaj, RN, MSN
Director of Education-St. Lukes
Baptist Health System

Debra Fraley, MSN, RN, CCRN, CCNS
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Nurse Educator
University Hospital

Leslie Goddard, PhD, RN, CNRN
Neuroscience CNS
Methodist Hospital

Phyllis Gordon, MSN, RN, CS
Clinical Nurse Specialist Vascular Surgery Division
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

Ann Marie Lazarus, MSN, RN, ACNS
Acute Care Hospitalist at Baptist Hospital

Marthe J. Moseley, PhD, RN, CCRN, CCNS
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Critical Care
South Texas Veterans Health Care System
Audie L. Murphy Division

Vicky Paparelli, MSN, RN, CCNS
Schnitzler Cardiovascular Consultants PLLC
Beverly Wheeler, 4614 Clinical Instructor, asked her clinical students to write about a patient they had in nursing school that made them realize they had chosen the right profession. Although all of her students’ stories were outstanding, we selected one to feature in the Acute Pulse.

Most Influential Patient

There are several patients that I can think of when asked to think about someone who has made me know I made the right decision going into nursing, but one stands out above them all. She was an older woman that I got to care for in my management rotation for only one day. The first time I met her, she was not my patient, but I went in her room to help her get comfortable in bed. The next day, I had her as a patient and she remembered me from the one time I saw her. She kept telling me I looked like some golfer that she really liked, and she asked me all about school. The funny thing about her is she reminded me so much of my grandmother who is no longer living. She wore a night gown exactly like the gowns my grandma used to wear, and she was overweight just like my grandma. She was so sweet to me and so interested in my life. I loved going in to see her and she would always ask me to come “chat” if I get a chance. She loved telling me about her husband and things that she did at home, and she kept thanking me for making her feel so comfortable while she was getting bathed and cleaned and doing things that put her in a vulnerable position. Every time I went to the hospital after I had her as a patient I would go in to see her and talk. I could tell she loved it when I came to visit, and I even got to know her husband. Taking care of this patient made me know I chose the right career. She made me realize that every patient has a life outside of the hospital and is something special to their family. When I took care of this patient, I treated her just as I would treat my grandma; I loved it! I realized that I should treat every patient the way I would want my family to be treated. This woman made it so clear as to how much a loving attitude can make a difference when someone is in the hospital. I want to be the nurse who makes all of my patients feel special and well taken care. I want all of them to feel like they are my priority, no matter how big or small their illness is. This patient will always be in my memory because she hit a place so special to me.

Jacqui Garcia

I give permission to show this to others.

- Jacqui Garcia