

Volume III, Issue 2

May 2013



# Partners in Practice

Radford University School of Nursing

## **Risk, Care, Dream, Expect**

A card I recently purchased reads: Risk more than others think is safe; Care more than others think is wise; Dream more than others think is practical; Expect more than others think is possible. Naturally, I thought of my students.

What is an unsafe risk? One does not venture into something new if risky or enticing; you would need to eliminate those risks to tackle the venture- or in the case of the DNP- the academic nursing ventures. The risks are identified early: full time employment, life situations (e.g. newly married, child bearing, disabilities) which do not improve with additional study. There may be many more risks to be tackled before beginning the venture. I've identified risks in your interviews and tried to make you aware of them- so that you can indeed be safe. You are still prone to falling into risky behaviors, particularly after you begin getting good grades. I've revised and re revised programs of study numerous times to 'keep you safe'.

What is wise caring? Begin caring about yourself physically and emotionally. Next, set your priorities and care about those most important to you, your family. Only after having a positive self-image and knowing that you have family support, can you care about the patients who cross your path. Wise caring is also an integral ingredient of your faculty. Listen attentively to their counsel as you test un-chartered risky waters.

Dreams and practicality seem like an oxymoron. For me, dreams are my expectations. When I was pursuing my doctorate I think I may have had nightmares. The DNP for many of you is close while others still aspire to achieve many more credits. Dream and let your mind wonder always remembering to prioritize and include your loved ones in your future projections. Your dreams do not only belong to you, share them.

Haven't you already demonstrated what you expect through your education? Have your expectations been realistic and are they possible? I revise dozens of programs of study each semester which leads me to believe you may be unrealistic in your expectations. Start slow and you can still go; tackling risks, caring about yourself and others, dream the future and expect excellence.

Dr. Ginger



## Note from the Director



### **Solid as an Oak**

As I write to you today, I am looking out my patio door at an oak tree in my backyard that the Virginia Tech Extension Office estimates to be 80 years old. Oak is a very strong tree. I close my eyes and imagine that my oak has weathered countless storms over its lifespan. As I continue to dwell on this tree, it occurs to me that one of the main reasons it has withstood so long is because of its root system.

Nurses are not much different than an oak. We stand strong as the storm approaches and we hold the hands of our patients until the storm passes. A major part of our resilience is our root system. We were brought to nursing for a reason. Deep in our core is a true compassion for others who are suffering. We sacrifice ourselves for our patients while others take evenings, weekends, and holidays off. When the storm approaches, we do not cower in the closet or under the covers. Our roots tell us to stand strong and face anything and anyone head-on.

My message to you is to always stay true to your personal and nursing roots. Regardless of the letters following your name, you are a human and a nurse first. Soon you will be an RU nurse and that means the closet is never an option for you. Instead, you will use your love for others and the skills that you have obtained in our program to weather any storm that comes your way. As your newly appointed Director, I am proud to say that when you graduate from our program, you are an oak. I extend my sincere gratitude to you for standing strong during a difficult DNP program that will transform you into a better nurse and person. I know the road is not easy, but remember you are an oak!



## SALUTING SCHOLARSHIP



### *Congratulations To*

**Natalie Leonard & Amy Johnson**, with daughter who also attended the ceremony. They were inducted into the International Nursing Honor Society, (**Sigma Theta Tau**) on April 13,



**Dr. Kimberly Carter** recently had a poster abstract accepted for the Virginia Organization for Nurse Executives and Leaders and will present on May 17th. Carter K, Linkenhoker E, and Jackson K. "Evolving a Culture that Engages Nurses and Leadership in the Goal of Excellence in Patient Care Through Evidence Based Practice and Research". Virginia Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders, Richmond VA (peer-reviewed poster).



**Marjorie Young** has been invited to be one of only two presenters nationally for the HCA Virtual Research Presentation on June 4, 2013. She will be presenting her capstone work for RU titled "**Changing Knowledge and Attitude toward Maternity Care Practices Consistent with the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative**", sponsored by the HCA Nursing Research Network.



RU School of Nursing sponsored a presentation on April 3, 2013 by a graduate faculty member, **Dr. Vicki Bierman**. She presented a discussion on the Impact of PTSD: Assessment and Treatment to both faculty and students at the Roanoke Higher Education Center. Using a case study approach, the presentation examined the emotional and physiological responses to trauma, detailed the symptoms of PTSD, and provided effective treatment modalities for persons across the lifespan.



### An Evening with Author **Lynne Bryant**

On February 25, 2013, Dr. Lynne Bryant presented at an author event, "An Evening with Author Lynne Bryant," hosted by Radford University's McConnell Library, Office of Diversity, and Department of Women's Studies. Dr. Bryant spoke to a full house of students, faculty and administrators about the inspiration and issues related to her novels, *Catfish Alley* (NAL/Penguin 2011) and *Alligator Lake* (NAL/Penguin 2012). Dr. Bryant writes about families struggling with issues related to race and culture in the Deep South, and both of her novels have strong nurse characters. Members of the audience participated in a thought-provoking discussion of current local and national issues related to race. Dr. Bryant believes that nurses are uniquely suited to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue related to diversity because of our unique and intimate view into the lives of our patients and clients.



**Harvey, E., Lee, E, Echols, S. & Clark, R. (2012).** A comparison of traditional and simulation TeamSTEPPS training methods on Nurse performance related to failure-to-rescue. Carilion Research Day; Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke, VA. Accepted peer reviewed poster presentation, Received 1st place on Gold medal Faculty division; April 25, 2013.



DNP Student, Brittney Dillon,  
all wrapped up!

**Gloria Just**, Adjunct for the School of Nursing recently held a splinting lab for the NURS721 students. Gloria reported they had a lot of fun!

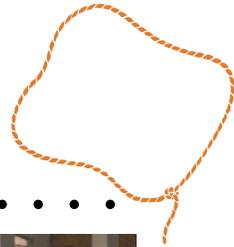


In April **Carey Cole** and a team went on a mission trip to Haiti. Clinics were held in Jolivert and the team saw an average of 800-900 patients of all ages who were treated for a variety of diseases and illness.

DNP Students **Vickie Moore, Kate Brennan, and Lisa Smith** went to Jamaica in March on a mission trip that with a 42 member team that included doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, dentists, dental assistants, an optometrist and an eye assistant. The team saw over 1,000 patients a day, including both adults and children, with conditions ranging from hypertension and diabetes to skin conditions and upper respiratory complaints.



**Greta Estacio** traveled to Cavite, Philippines to be the main speaker at a church convention. Her topic, **“Love With Aging: The Best is Yet to Come”**. She integrated spiritual, emotional, physical and psychological aspects of the topic into her presentation which was presented in both English and native dialect. Greta is in the last semester of the DNP program.



**Cindy Ward** has been analyzing the varied role of the doctorally prepared clinical nurse specialist. Her primary preceptor has been the neuro-trauma CNS at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital with Ellen Harvey, DNP. She has completed a literature review on ICU readmission, studied the use of intermediate care for post-surgical patients, and is working on a pilot study to measure the acuity of patients on the surgical unit at Lynchburg General Hospital using the Nursing Activities Score.



**Linda Ely**, DNP Student and current faculty at the SON recently hosted from Taiwan. They came to learn the US to learn about US healthcare. Ten students and two faculty from Chang-Gung University of Science & Technology, (C-GOST), lived at the Cross Pointe campus in February while studying mental health issues and the provision of behavioral health care in this country.



**Rebecca Biersbach** finished up her residency in Bland County. She is currently in Martinsville two days a week and Blacksburg one day a week. She will be starting in Wytheville going every Friday at a location that has never had students. The location will see how she does for a few weeks to determine if they want to begin taking other students. The NP she currently works with is an RU grad. Rebecca is really enjoying her time in rural locations and FQHC.



**Jerusalem Walker** is at New Horizon Healthcare this semester. She helped write a blood pressure control grant proposal and worked on optimizing the facility’s health record to make it more useful and efficient for charting behavioral health visits.



**Michelle Whittaker** is doing her clinical rotation with DNP graduate and former SON Faculty, Joni Goldwasser at the VA medical center this summer.

**Amy Johnson** reported she has spent the last year of her residency at East Lake Medical Center in Huddleston, VA where she will work following graduation. The clinic has scheduled the women’s health physicals with her. She has learned a great deal where she also dictates her own charts allowing her to “tell the patients story”, where you are unable to do so in the EMR. Amy also participated in an agriculture Medicine Course at East Carolina University.



## FAMILY FOCUS

# Congratulations To The May 2013 Graduates



**Vicki Moore**



**Greta Estacio**



**Edythe Boitnott**



**Rebecca Biersbach** and her family traveled to Antarctica February 13 to March 4th. They traveled around South America while en route to

**Pam Moore**, DNP Program Specialist for the School of Nursing was awarded the 2013 Presidential Employee Service Award on April 18th.



## **COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS**

### **PLEASE READ**

Another semester is behind us as we prepare for our fourth year. The faculty will hold a summer retreat to address our curriculum and review 2012-2013. There are some challenges to online learning and the lack of 'face to face' contact with our students. That does not mean that we are unaware or not involved with you. Please pay attention to these bullets that will help with better communication in the future.

- Check your RU E-mail **every day**
- Pay attention and save particular dates and deadlines.
- All Programs of Study (POS) must be signed and if **revised- signed again**.  
These are kept at the Graduate College for reference.
- All elective courses must be at the **600 level** and be approved by Dr. Burggraf before registering
- Immunization tracker is **mandatory** each year, or you will not be able to register for the following semester.

Clinical agencies/sites and preceptors **MUST** be arranged and approved by Dr. LaRue or if Psych Mental Health with Dr. Bierman, a semester prior to the clinical rotation. Designated dates, March 1 and October 1 are stipulated for all Summer, Fall and Spring clinical sites to be sent to Dr. Laura LaRue and Pam Moore.

We, your faculty, are your advocates and we are here to not only serve but assure that you will be the future leaders in nursing. Come along with me, the best is yet to be.

*\*Thank you to all who have invited me to be friends on Face Book and Linked In but with about 100 e-mails a day, that is more than I can now tackle.*

### **"NEW NEWS"**

**The Nurse Executive Leadership DNP Concentration** was approved and can now enroll students. It is a 33 credit concentration with specific criteria. This concentration is for nurses holding a MS or MSN in health care, systems management or administration and who are currently hold a leadership position. All information can be located on the Graduate College Website. <http://www.radford.edu/content/radfordcore/home/admissions/apply.html>

Potential applicants are told to apply through the College of Graduate and Professional Studies; There are places available for August 2013 matriculation.

### **DNP STUDENT ORIENTATION**

**Wednesday, August 28th, 2013—9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Heth Hall, room 014**

**(if anyone would like to attend this orientation for new DNP students, please notify, Pam Moore @ [prmoore@radford.edu](mailto:prmoore@radford.edu) or call 540-831-7741.)**

## Dates to Remember

**Last day to withdraw with a full tuition refund.....May 30**  
**Last day to Add/Drop for GR students .....May 30**  
**Last day to withdraw from classes with a grade of "W".....July 1**  
**Summer III session end..... July 3**

Session	Dates	Last Day to Add/Drop
Maymester	May 20-June 8, 2013	May 20
Summer I	May 20-June 22, 2013	May 21
Summer II	July 1-August 3, 2013	July 2
Summer III	May 20-August 3, 2013	May 21