

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing

Winter 2009

Message From the Dean

Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, PhD (c), APRN



The impact of Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Nursing is evident throughout Louisiana and beyond. Our mission remains strong “to provide local, national, and international leadership in the education of professional nurses to function as generalists, advanced practitioners, educators, scholars, and researchers who shape the delivery of nursing practice and education.” LSUHSC School of Nursing has educated nursing leaders at the local, state, and national level. This issue of Tiger Nursing Times highlights our extensive involvement in promoting academic and clinical practice excellence. This is evident through the successful achievements highlighted by our alumni, nursing faculty, and students.

The School of Nursing is in the final stages of re-accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and approval by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. The on-site accreditation and approval visit occurred on March 2-4, 2009. Our faculty, staff, and students have conducted in-depth self-study identifying our assets and opportunities. After completing our extensive self-study and hosting our on-site visits, we are poised to critically evaluate our current strategic map and engage in generative strategy identification to fulfill our mission and strive toward our vision. The School of Nursing continues to hold the vision of being recognized “as a center of nursing excellence, produces local, national and international leaders in nursing education, research and practice.” This achievement cannot be done alone; we need the engagement of our faculty, staff, students and alumni. I encourage anyone interested in assisting us to achieve our mission and vision to become actively involved in our Nursing Alumni Association, participate in our nursing school committees or serve the nursing school in a multitude of advisory capacities. One of my favorite quotes from an anonymous author states “When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.” Please contact me; we can match your expertise and energy with our nursing school strategic initiatives and opportunities. This is our nursing school and its future is in our hands. We are on a journey of Excellence! Ralph Martson states “Excellence is not a skill. It’s an attitude.” Rick Pitonno challenges us to reach far beyond our visible reach, he states “Excellence is the unlimited ability to improve the quality of what you have to offer.” Please join your nursing school, LSUHSC School of Nursing, on a journey of excellence!

Tiger Nursing Times

LSU
Health
Sciences
Center

LSUHSC Nursing Awarded Nearly \$1 Million

The LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Nursing has been awarded an Advanced Education Nursing grant in the amount of \$832,546 over three years by the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. The funding supports the development of a new distance learning Masters in Nursing Education track in the existing accredited Masters Degree program to prepare nurse educators caring for Louisiana's under-served populations.

The new track will admit up to 20 students a year with recruitment focusing on those who would not have access to Master's level education without the use of technology as well as under-represented and disadvantaged minorities. The program will utilize state-of-the-art technology to emphasize culturally sensitive teaching. Because the courses are delivered online, students can continue to live and work in under-served areas of the state while pursuing their Master of Nursing degree. The program will provide cost effective education to produce nurse educators who are essential to the solution to the nursing shortage.

"Expanding the technology utilized to offer a distance program will help increase student enrollment, particularly minority and disadvantaged students, by decreasing the financial burdens of travel, campus housing, and/or relocation to the LSUHSC New Orleans campus," notes **Jennifer Couvillon, PhD, RN, CNE**, principal investigator on the grant and Director of the LSUHSC Masters in Nursing Education Track. "Recruitment and education of under-represented student groups will help to increase workforce diversity."

It is widely acknowledged throughout the healthcare industry that the supply of nurses in the United States will be insufficient to meet the growing needs of patients. The problem is serious and is likely to be critical by the close of the next decade. Based on recent projections according to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the United States could face a deficit of thousands of physicians and close to one million nurses by the year 2020.

In consideration of the nursing shortage, the Council on Physician and Nurse Supply noted that a growing body of research supports the relationship between the level of nursing education and both the quality and safety of patient care. Therefore, in expanding nursing education, the emphasis should be toward the baccalaureate (BSN) level. The Council urged a national effort to substantially expand BSN training, but acknowledges a dearth of nursing school faculty prevents any movement toward that goal for the near future.

If you are interested in information about the Master of Nursing, Nurse Educator Track contact Dr. Jennifer Couvillon at: jcouvi@lsuhsc.edu or 504-568-4185 or Pamela Mathews at pmath1@lsuhsc.edu or 504-568-5198.

School of Nursing Awarded Grant to Address Nursing Shortage

LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Nursing has been awarded a \$100,000 grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to provide scholarships to individuals under-represented in nursing. The funding will support ten scholarships in LSUHSC's Career Alternative RN Education Program (CARE), expanding enrollment and the number of fully qualified nurses prepared to practice.

LSUHSC Nursing's CARE Program, established in 2004, offers an accelerated, rigorous and focused curriculum to prepare graduates to earn a BSN degree and complete the RN licensure examination in less than a two-year frame of study. It was designed for those who already have a degree in another discipline but would like to change careers to become a nurse.

"The CARE faculty of the LSUHSC School of Nursing envision the RWJF New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program as a means of reducing the financial stress on CARE students," notes **Stephanie Pierce, RN, MN**, Acting Department Chair of LSUHSC Nursing's CARE Program. "Exit interviews reveal the primary reason for withdrawing from our CARE Program is financial."

LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans' CARE Program graduated its first class in May 2006, with 100% of the class obtaining RN licensure despite the challenges students and faculty faced after Hurricane Katrina. Since its inception, the LSUHSC's CARE Program has graduated a total of 75 students, with thirty students in the seventh CARE class on track to graduate in May 2009. The average score on the RN licensure exam of LSUHSC CARE students has consistently equaled or exceeded 90%. Seventy-one students are presently enrolled in LSUHSC's CARE Program.

Mathers Named LSUHSC Nursing Alumni of the Year 2008

Terran Mathers received her Doctor of Nursing Science degree from LSUHSC in 2002. Dr. Mathers is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama and is the coordinator and instructor for the Community Mental Health, Community as Client, and Nutrition courses. She has received several awards from the American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA), including the Research Sharing Award, Research Based Practice Award, and Nurse Competence in Aging Award. From 2004-2007, Dr. Mathers served as chair of the ANNA research committee. She has lectured throughout the United States and has several publications, including authoring two sections of the Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing. Dr. Mathers is active in community service and coordinated a Down Syndrome Awareness Fair held in March 2007.



Tiger Spirit Alive In Afghanistan



Captain Kittrick R. DuBois, a LSUHSC School of Nursing alumni, recently wrote home from his outpost in Afghanistan, providing pictures of his exploits along with his letter. As one of only a handful of anesthesia providers in western Afghanistan, CPT Du Bois works with a small group of other specialized health care providers in what is termed a Forward Surgical Team (FST). Traditionally consisting of two CRNA's, two general surgeons, and one orthopedist, the FST is the sole source of surgical care in the western region of Afghanistan, except for the occasional transient Air Force crew.



“Lucky for me, we are generally pretty slow here in the west,” writes CPT Du Bois. “Generally, most of the action takes place in the northeastern part of the country closer to Pakistan. We’re very close to Iran though!”

LSUHSC’s Nurse Anesthesia Program recently represented in Central America



Two senior anesthesia students, **Erin Morgan** and **Michelle Gibbs**, joined Program Director, **Dr. Laura Bonanno** on a medical mission trip to Antigua, Guatemala. For years, LSUHSC’s Nurse Anesthesia Program has partnered with the Knoxville Medical Mission to offer health care for Guatemala’s poorest patients. From January 10 -17, 2009, the three provided both general and regional anesthesia for sixty five general, urological and gynecological surgical patients at Hermano Pedro Hospital. The experience proved to be invaluable and unforgettable for all involved and despite the language barrier, the depth of gratitude felt by both patients and members of the mission was undeniably clear.

Marjorie Geisz-Everson Named to Supply and Demand Council

The Nursing Supply and Demand Council, a legislated council, is part of the executive committee of the Louisiana Health Works Commission. The Council provides consultation regarding nurse training programs, student demand and labor demand, and gives recommendations on the approval of new nursing programs. The Council is comprised of various nursing and non-nursing leaders throughout the state including members from the Louisiana State Nurses Association, the Louisiana Board of Regents, the Louisiana Organization of Nurse Executives and many more. **Ms. Geisz-Everson** represents the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists. The current legislated resolution is to explore what barriers exist preventing the LPN from becoming a registered nurse and to suggest solutions.

Tennyson Appointed To Midwifery Committee By Governor Jindal

On July 22, 2008, Governor Bobby Jindal announced appointments to the Louisiana Advisory Committee on Midwifery. The Louisiana Advisory Committee on Midwifery establishes and publishes the minimum curriculum and experience requirements for persons seeking a license to become a midwife, establishes and publishes the minimum standards of the midwifery practice, and examines, approves, denies, revokes, suspends, and renews licensure of qualified applicants.

According to statute, the board is comprised of seven gubernatorial appointments including: one member who is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana and is selected from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, one member who is a pediatrician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana selected from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Midwives Association, one member who is a registered nurse with obstetrical experience or a certified nurse midwife selected from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, three members who are midwives selected from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Midwives Association, and one member who is a citizen who has been a consumer of midwifery services selected from a list of names submitted by the Louisiana Midwives Association. The members shall serve two-year terms and each appointment by the governor is submitted to the senate for confirmation.

Among those appointed this year by Governor Jindal was **Margaret Tennyson, DSN**, of New Orleans. Tennyson, has been a professor of nursing at the LSU Health Services Center for 22 years and is a certified nurse-midwife. She will serve as a nurse nominated by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing, as required by statute.

Five Faculty Members from LSUHSC School of Nursing Recognized by Great 100 Nurses Foundation

The Great 100 Nurses Foundation honored **Marjorie Geisz-Everson, Nancy Buccola, Dr. Laura Bonanno, Sharon Kappel, and Katherine Carter** at a ceremony this past October in Kenner, Louisiana.

The Great 100 Nurses Foundation began in 1986 as an event to recognize outstanding nurses in the state of Louisiana. Every year, state-wide community, civic, health care, and government leaders join together at the celebration to honor 100 exemplary nurses. These honored nurses are nominated by their patients, families, colleagues, friends and community leaders based on their concern for humanity, their contribution to the community and the nursing profession. Funds raised at this sensational event are placed in a dedicated fund called the "The Great 100 Nurses Foundation", which is used for positive press coverage spotlighting nursing heroes, recruitment and retention of experienced nurses, and publication of new nursing discoveries.

Congratulations to the Following DNS Recipients!

Dr. Martha Jane Fayland

Dissertation: Mapping the Literature: A Bibliometric Analysis of Evidence Based Practice Literature in English Language

Dr. Annette M. Knobloch

Dissertation: Development and Testing of an Instrument to Measure Parent and Caregiver Child Passenger Safety knowledge, Attitude, Practice, and Consistency

Dr. Karen LeBlanc Rice

Dissertation: Nurses' Recognition of Delirium in the Hospitalized Older Adult

Dr. Donna Rae Trimm

Dissertation: Process of Maintaining Balance During the Surgical Wait

Dr. Debra Lynn Kincade Walker

Dissertation: How Competency is Operationalized for Registered Nurses in the Adult Medical Surgical Acute Care Setting

CCNE Accreditation Reminder

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans School of Nursing School (LSUHSC-NO SON) is currently preparing for re-accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Since the last accreditation in 1999 there have been many changes at the School. A few of the most noticeable include: the SON re-located to Baton Rouge and returned to New Orleans; a new Dean and Associate Deans; there are many new faculty; the undergraduate curriculum has been revised; the CARE and RN to Master's track were approved; there are new specialty tracts in the Master's Program; and the SON has a new strategic plan and new organizational chart. It was a challenge to capture all that we have accomplished in the Self-Study Report. There are also changes at CCNE and after a comprehensive review, CCNE revised the Standards for Accreditation of Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs.

The CCNE site visit is scheduled for March 2 – March 4, 2009. The revised accreditation standards are available at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Accreditation/pdf/standards.pdf>.

LSUHSC Future Nurse's Institute Continues To Develop

The Future Nurses Institute (FNI) is a program developed at LSUHSC School of Nursing to increase minority awareness of nursing as a career option and to mentor high school students in applying and successfully entering schools of nursing, particularly LSUHSC School of Nursing.

We began the FNI by visiting local area high schools (both public and private) to promote nursing as a career option and to increase student and counselor awareness of the program.

Students submit applications and are selected based on an established criteria. Ten junior and 10 senior high school students were selected for the spring semester. The 10 junior high school students attended an ACT test prep course with Dr. Omojola of Kumon Institute. Dr. Omojola is a professor at SUNO and is one of the 11 recipients of the National Science Foundation's Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM).

The 10 senior high school students attended Saturday classes at LSUHSC School of Nursing, in which they were exposed to different aspects of nursing, test taking strategies and were administered a pre-entrance health career exam. Results of the pre-entrance exam were reviewed with the senior students and opportunities to improve were identified and discussed. Students were given a number of books on the nursing profession and the study guide for the LSUHSC School of Nursing entrance exam. The two groups returned to the school of nursing for the summer camp. This year's guest speaker for the camp was Dr. Larry Purnell, professor at the University of Delaware and a renowned lecturer and author of several books on cultural diversity. The goal of the program was to reach more students at a younger age and to provide additional academic enrichment in math and sciences, while exposing them to the nursing profession.



Nursing Research Day Explores Timely Topics

Under the leadership of Planning Chair Jacqueline Favret, LSUHSC Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing, the faculty of the School of Nursing at LSUHSC, New Orleans, along with the Epsilon Nu and Rho Zeta Chapters of Sigma Theta Tau, organized a day long research conference. Numerous topics were explored, including the critical care nurse's role in intercepting medical errors, coping for loved ones after suicide, caring for patients during a disaster and alternative strategies to recruit and retain nurses. The 14th Annual Dr. Linda Corson Jones Memorial Research Day took place on April 11, 2008, at the Brent House Hotel and Conference Center. The conference, whose theme was Celebrating Scholarship, Discovery, Application, Integration and Teaching, featured oral and poster presentations from nursing faculty and practicing nurses from institutions around the state.

The keynote speaker, Patricia S. Yoder-Wise, EdD, RN, Professor of Nursing at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, discussed how the next five years will shape the nursing profession's future.

LSUHSC School of Nursing Continuing Education Spring & Summer 2009

Contact us for information on these programs:

Advanced Pharmacology: Psychiatric Drugs
CCRN Adult Review Course
Critical Care Course

Diabetic and Cardiovascular Drugs Update
HIV: Comprehensive Care
Legal Nurse Consulting

Legal, Ethical, and Conflict (CD-ROM Series)
Legal Research and Legal Writing
Management Skills

Nursing Law Ethics Update 2009

Obstetrical Emergencies and Newborns at Risk

Note: For more information contact our department by e-mail at nsgconted@lsuhsc.edu or visit our web site <http://nursing.lsuhs.edu/ContinuingEducation/ContinuingEducation.html> or call 504-568-4202.

LSUHSC School of Nursing Alumnus Inducted into the American Academy of Nursing

Cynthia N. Rittenberg, RN, MN, AOCN®, FAAN was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) on November 8, 2008 in Scottsdale, AZ. "The Academy is comprised of 1,500 of the nation's top nurses," said AAN President, Pam Mitchell, PhD, RN, FAAN. "Being selected as an academy fellow is an important recognition of one's contributions to nursing." Mrs. Rittenberg is the Executive Director of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC), an international, multidisciplinary, non-profit organization that enhances supportive care worldwide through research and education. She is noted for her work in preventing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and was a member of an expert multidisciplinary panel that formulated the most evidenced-based guidelines available, now translated into eight languages. She is the author of many other articles in this area and co-authored the validated MASCC Antiemesis Tool (MAT), now translated into seven languages. Mrs. Rittenberg is a member of the Oncology Nursing Society, the American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology. She received her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Nursing from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, New Orleans.



Notes From The School Of Nursing Alumni President

Get-Up, Get Excited and Get Involved! It is a New Year, providing time to reflect on the past and to plan for the future. Last year we said Happy Retirement Days to Dr. Kathy Moisiwicz, Board Member at Large. Kathy is a dear friend to the Association and decided after many years with LSUHSC and the Alumni Association she would retire. We will miss Kathy's kind and supportive spirit and wish her well with her retirement. **Other Alumni news:**

- Lisa Schulmeister, RN, MN, APRN-BC, OCN, FAAN joined the association leading the fundraising committee. Lisa comes to us with many years of fundraising experience and we are excited to welcome Lisa to the Association.
- The students heading back to school in the fall were greeted by the Alumni Association with snowballs. The lines were long and all enjoyed snowballs of their favorite flavor.
- The Annual End of the Year Celebration was held with spice tea, pastries, and a silent auction to say good bye to 2008 and to welcome in the New Year. It was a pleasure to see many familiar faces at the event.
- We will soon be announcing the details of the Alumni Donor Wall where you may be recognized or acknowledged on the Donors Wall that will be proudly displayed at LSUHSC School of Nursing.
- We are currently accepting **Alumnus of the Year nominations** on our web-site <http://nursing.lsuhs.edu/NursingAlumniAssociation/Alumnus.html>. Get involved and nominate an Alumnus of the year and consider running for an Alumni Board position.
- We need your help and participation! Please let us know how we may be able to service you as Alumni of LSUHSC School of Nursing. You may notify us by using our website message board <http://nursing.lsuhs.edu/NursingAlumniAssociation/MessageBoard/index.html>.

I remain in your service,
Arlene Rome

Save The Dates !!!

Mark your calendar - Our Annual Alumni Luncheon will be held at Windsor Court on June 13th.

The Nursing Students would love for the Alumni to join them for the Annual Crawfish Boil. The event will be held on March 28, 2009. Please contact Kayley Kalil (kkalil@lsuhsc.edu) or Katie Cranford (kcran@lsuhsc.edu) or visit our website (<http://nursing.lsuhs.edu>) for more information.

Faculty Publications

- Bernard, M. L., & Mathews, P. R.** (2008). Evacuation of a maternal-newborn area during Hurricane Katrina. *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 33(4), 213-223.
- Favret, J. O.** (2008). Effective communication. In R. Kearney-Nunnery (Ed.), *Advancing your career: concepts of professional nursing* (pp. 123-129). Philadelphia: F.A. Davis.
- Geisz-Everson, M., Wren, K., & Kennedy, L.** (2008). Asystole during laryngoscopy of a patient with pleural and pericardial effusions: A case study. *Journal of Perianesthesia Nursing*, 22(2), 85-90.
- Giarratano, G., Orlando, S., & Savage, J.** (2008). Perinatal nursing in uncertain times: The Katrina effect. *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*, 33(4), 249-257.
- Haslauer, M., & Tipton, J.** (2008). Small world widening: Pediatric obesity and hypertension trends reflect pandemic of unhealthy lifestyles. *Advance for Nurses*, 10(13), 21.
- Orlando, S., Bernard, M. L., & Mathews, P. R.** (2008). Neonatal nursing care issues following a natural disaster: Lessons learned from the Katrina experience. *The Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing*, 22(5), 147-153.
- Porche, D., & Danna, D.** (2008). Stages of business start-up. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 4(6), 422.
- Rhoads, J., Pearman, T., & Rick, S. (2008). PTSD: Therapeutic interventions post-Katrina. *Critical Care Clinics of North America*, 20(1), 73-81.
- Rice, K. L.** (2008). Gerontological alterations. In L.D. Urden, K.M. Stacy, & M. E. Lough (Eds.), *Priorities in critical care* (5th ed., pp. 66-81). St. Louis, MO: Mosby, Inc.
- Sumner, J.** (2008). Is caring an impossible idea for today's practicing nurse? *Nursing Administration Quarterly*, 32(2), 92-101.
- Sumner, J., & Fisher, Jr., W.** (2008). The moral construct of caring in nursing as communicative action: The theory and practice of a caring science. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 31(4), E19-E36.
- Troy, A., & St. Germain, D.** (2008). How forensic knowledge can help prevent future violence. *Pelican News*, 64(1), 19.
- O'Donovan M.C., Craddock N., Norton N., Williams H., Peirce T., Moskvina V., Nikolov I., Hamshere M., Carroll L., Georgieva L., Dwyer S., Holmans P., Marchini J.L., Spencer C.C., Howie B., Leung H.T., Hartmann A.M., Möller H.J., Morris D.W., Shi Y., Feng G., Hoffmann P., Propping P., Vasilescu C., Maier W., Rietschel M., Zammit S., Schumacher J., Quinn E.M., Schulze T.G., Williams N.M., Giegling I., Iwata N., Ikeda M., Darvasi A., Shifman S., He L., Duan J., Sanders A.R., Levinson D.F., Gejman P.V.; Molecular Genetics of Schizophrenia Collaboration: Gejman P.V., Sanders A.R., Duan J., Levinson D.F., **Buccola N.G.**, Mowry B.J., Freedman R., Amin F., Black D.W., Silverman JM, Byerley WF, Cloninger CR, Cichon S, Nöthen MM, Gill M, Corvin A, Rujescu D., Kirov G., Owen M.J. (2008). Identification of loci associated with schizophrenia by genome-wide association and follow-up. *Nature Genetics*, July 30 [Epub ahead of print PMID: 18677311].

Congratulations to:

Leah S. Cullins, a student in the DNS program at LSUHSC, who was accepted into the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institute of Health, Summer Genetics Program

Marirose L. Bernard, APRN, MN, CNA-BC, who was awarded the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center 2008 Allen A. Copping Excellence in Teaching Award for the School of Nursing

Rose Schaubhut, who has been awarded a Policy Research Mentorship Fellowship for 2008- 2009 in the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics at George Mason University, in conjunction with being invited to participate in the 2008 Washington Health Policy Institute

Dr. Gloria Giarratano, Dr. Susan Orlando, and Dr. Jane Savage, whose article *Perinatal Nursing in Uncertain Times: The Katrina Effect*, was named the 2008 Research Article of the Year for *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing*

Marirose Bernard and Pamela Mathews, whose article *Evacuation of a Maternal-Newborn Area During Hurricane Katrina* was named the 2008 Clinical Article of the Year for *MCN: The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing*

Q-Tips #2 - Spring 2009

Welcome back to Q-TIPS, an ongoing series of columns designed to keep you in the loop about what's going on in the world of quality at the LSUHSC School of Nursing. It all started when Dean Porche asked me to create a blueprint to guide our quality improvement efforts. I said "sure, I can do that." Then I said (to myself), "Toni, are you nuts?" There was no reply.

Before any kind of quality improvement plan (QIP) could be developed, I knew that it was important to learn how the School of Nursing operates. We are a complex organization, so I did a lot of snooping (also called 'due diligence') to learn how our systems work, who does what, and why we do what we do. I embarked on a journey of discovery, and here's a brief look at what happened along the way ...

Exploding Brain Syndrome. The sheer volume of documents and data that I reviewed caused my brain to explode a couple of times. Is there a nursing diagnosis for that?

Imploding Brain Syndrome. When my brain wasn't exploding, it was imploding. With mountains of information to review, there were many times when I couldn't decide what to include, what to exclude, and what to save for another day. Every now and then my brain leaned over and gently whispered, "enough, already."

Right Brain Syndrome. Given my brain's confusion, I wasn't sure if that creative gene we're born with would work when I asked it to. I waited for a sign, hoping that a plan would miraculously appear. Didn't happen. As my brain struggled to make sense of things, a fog began to lift, a little creativity emerged, and a plan started to take shape. In the beginning, the plan covered only general stuff in broad brush strokes, without any pesky details. It wasn't complete, but it was a start.

Left Brain Syndrome. With the creative stuff out of the way, it was time to shift into detail mode. The devil's in the details, so that's where it got tricky. Not only did we need high-level goals, we also needed activities, benchmarks, metrics, timelines, and accountabilities to support them. My left brain struggled to make the pieces fit, but they finally did, and a plan was born at last.

Our new QIP is designed to position the school to achieve its vision, to be nationally and internationally recognized for excellence. It outlines our goals (what we want to achieve) and the strategies we'll use to achieve them. It's important to understand that our QIP is not designed to sit on a shelf, out of sight and out of mind. It is designed to evolve over time in response to changing needs and changing goals. As we move forward, we'll use our QIP as a blueprint to implement actions, measure results, analyze them, and set our thresholds for success ever higher (it's called 'raising the bar'). After the plan is approved by the faculty (projected for 1/09), a summary version will be posted on our website for your review.

One more thing ... our success is linked to your success. Feedback from students, faculty, employers, alumni, and others helps us to identify opportunities for improvement and keeps us in touch with the concerns and ideas of our customers.

Anything else? Here are a couple of process improvement (PI) initiatives that the LSUHSC School of Nursing is working on now ...

EBI exit survey. This web-enabled exit survey, marketed by Educational Benchmarking, Inc (EBI), launched in October 2008. The survey is designed to give BSN and MN graduates an opportunity to provide feedback about the overall quality of their programs of study (a doctoral survey will be available in the future). I'm pleased to report that 100% of our Dec 08 graduates completed the survey. Analysis of the survey results is being conducted now so we can identify opportunities for improvement. We will launch an EBI exit survey every Spring (for May & Aug grads) and every Fall (for Dec grads).

E*Value. We are planning to launch this data management application, marketed by Advanced Informatics, in August of 2009. All programs and tracks in the SON (except for the Nurse Anesthesia track) will use E*Value to track clinical experiences & evaluations, create portfolios, and manage multiple documents and data sets. Faculty and students will receive more information about E*Value as we map our plans for implementation.

That's it for now. Stay tuned for an update in our next newsletter. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call me at (504) 568-4401 or e-mail me at acasci@lsuhsc.edu.

*Toni Cascio, M.N., R.N.,
Coordinator of Quality Improvement
and Faculty Development*



LSUHSC Has Large Presence at LASN Convention

The School Of Nursing would like to recognize and congratulate the nursing students who attended the 2008 Louisiana Association of Student Nurses Annual Convention in Alexandria, LA. Twenty-three students from LSUHSC actively participated in many focus sessions, the House of Delegates, and met with numerous exhibitors. In addition, LSUHSC School of Nursing sent the largest number of students to the convention. Several students received scholarships and were elected to serve as leaders at the state level within LASN. The students represented the school very well and we are very proud of all of their accomplishments and hard work.

A list of all the awards, scholarships, and new LASN board is to the right. Please join me in congratulating LSUHSC School of Nursing students on their success at the LASN Convention.



LSUHSC School of Nursing Members of the 2008-2009 LASN Board of Directors and Award Recipients

Gina McCormick
Vice-President

Alexis Washington
Secretary

Cassey Sartin
Region IV Director

Justin Wooley
BTN Membership Director

Jennifer Hudgens
Historian

Stephanie Worth
Elected Consultant

Irielle Banks
Presidential Consultant
(2008 Graduate)

Kim Guidry
Honorary Member
(2007 Graduate)

Marirose Bernard
Faculty Advisor of the State

Jennifer Hudgens
Student of the State

Scholarships
Callie Estes
Cassey Sartin

Congratulations To The Following Dean's List Students

CARE Program

Brooke Basiri
Kortney Belou
Loy Ernst
Jennifer Thompson Falla
Jodi Fremin
Elizabeth Lang
Michelle Mayeur
Courtney Noles
Mary Stone
Jaime Waguespack
Brandi Washington
Melissa Weese
Freya Zork

Traditional BSN Program

Jennifer Amorello	Esther Fontenot	Aimee Lestelle
Jenifer Andry	Natalie Fontenot	Heather Maness
Shannon Baudouin	Faith Friedman	Kelsey Merrick
Haley Blanchard	Patrick Frye	Emily Messina
Amy Blouin	Natalie Garzotto	Maria Miller
Lauren Cefalu	Jessica Gelpi	Anna Nesom
Courtney Chatelain	Corey George	Amanda Nickels
Lauren Clifford	Jessica Goldberg	Amanda Pilgreen
Stephanie Cone	Bessie Grillot	Rebecca Riche
Kathryn Cranford	Ashley Hebert	Katherine Ryan
Kendi DiLorenzo	Caroline Horner	Heather Stann
Emily Duffy	Chantay Johnson	Stephanie William
Alison Faust	Emily Jordan	Amy Wright
Jake Fontenot	Erin Kernaghan	

Faculty Presentations 2008

Marirose Bernard presented the keynote address, Hurricane Katrina and Nurses in the NICU at Memorial Medical Center, New Orleans, in May, 2008, at the Oregon Nurses Association conference: Altered Standards of Care in Disasters: Protecting Your Family and Community.

Dr. Dianna Douglas and **Dr. Deborah Garbee** presented their abstract “Joyce Travelbee: Theory Interrupted” in September, 2008, at The Combined 12th International Philosophy of Nursing Conference and 15th New England Nursing Knowledge Conference in Boston, MA.

Dr. Jane Sumner’s abstract “A Moral Framework for Caring in Nursing: Neo-stoic Eudaemonism” was presented in September, 2008, at The Combined 12th International Philosophy of Nursing Conference and 15th New England Nursing Knowledge Conference in Boston, MA.

Dr. Sharalda Jeanfreau and **Dr. O. Danny Lee** presented Men’s Health Lost but Not Forgotten at the American Assembly of Men in Nursing National Conference, held in October, 2008, in New Orleans.

Stephanie Pierce, Marjorie Kraus, Khaleelah Hassan, Anne Troy, Katherine Carter, and Ellen Beyer: Their abstract, “Nursing School Partners with Community Schools to Save Vision”, has been accepted for poster presentation at the Unite for Sight 6th Annual Global Health Conference to be held in April, 2009, at Yale University.

Dr. Gloria Giarratano and **Dr. Christine Pollock:** Their abstract, “Post Katrina Perinatal Mood Changes and the Use of Complementary Alternative Therapies”, has been accepted as a research poster presentation at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses Convention to be held in June, 2009, in San Diego, CA.

Judith Gentry presented her abstract, “Learning from the Experts: Using ONS Members to Teach BSN Students”, in January, 2009, at Mosby’s Faculty Development Institute in Orlando, Florida.

Dr. Denise Danna, Rose Schaubhut, and John Jones presented Leading through Chaos: The Katrina Experience at The American Association of Nurse Executive’s 41st Meeting and Exposition

Karen Gant presented Family Hardiness: An Evolutionary Concept Analysis at the Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Research Conference.

Judy Gentry and **Rose Schaubhut** presented Nurses as Teachers: Educating the Nurses of Tomorrow to Leave a Legacy at East Jefferson General Hospital, LSU Interim Public Hospital, and Ochsner Foundation Hospital.

Dr. Gloria Giarratano presented Uncertainty in Disaster: The Personal and Community at The Combined 12th International Philosophy of Nursing Conference and 15th New England Nursing Knowledge Conference held in September, 2008.

Dr. Gloria Giarratano presented Perinatal Nursing in Uncertain Times: The Katrina Effect at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses Annual Convention held in Los Angeles, California and the Southern Nursing Research Society, held in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. O. Danny Lee presented Measuring the Political Pulse of the Louisiana Registered Nurse June, 2008 at George Mason University Health, Policy, Ethics, and Research Institute.

Dr. Susan Orlando presented The Effect of Co-Bedding Hospitalized Preterm Twins on Selected Physiologic Variables and Behavioral Cues to the Southern Nursing Research Society, held in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Demetrius Porche presented Men’s Health at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Conference.

Anne Troy presented the highly popular Teens Not Gone Wild to numerous audiences during 2008.

RIGHT: Dr. Denise Danna, Rose Schaubhut and John Jones presented “Surviving Katrina and Restoration of Helathcare in New Orleans” at the 4th Interational Nursing Management Conference held in Antalya, Turkey.



Spring 2008 Graduates

Master of Nursing

Tara Whittaker Dodd
Heather Naquin Fanguy
Amy Odette Landry
Mary Wood Surman
Mattie Hobley

Bonnie Hebert Doucet
Charlene Tolbert Johnson
Christine Zurn Odum
Roxanna Smith Thomas
Joelle Ann Bourgeois

Master of Nursing (Anesthesia)

Steven Paul Blanchard
Michelle Marie Bliss
Tracy Lin Broussard
Nicole Marie Bruno
Giselle L. Bush
Christina Marie Capaci
Scott Stewart Carroll
Virginia Helton Casey
Rusty B. Chapman
Belinda Kay Cole
Tiffiney Lynn Davis Lavergne
Derek Gavin Davis
Todd Wesley Decuir
Melanie Dellihoue-Lockhart
Megan Millard Eckert
Amy Breckenridge Fanguy
Bernard Antony Fernandes
Katharine Mefferd Hall
Julie Boudreaux Harris
Ardis Gordon Hassenboehler
Stephen Gerard Hava
Sunshine Marie Hernandez

Derek Leonard Hines
Chris Alan Holifield
Melanie L. Johnson
Tara K Lapeze
Michele Lee Lawhorn
Nicole L. Lecompte
Victoria Monzon Lemond
Kourtney Denise Lewis
Erin Ann McGee
Kevin Christopher Millet
Netra Marie Mitchell
James Patrick Mollere
April McCoy Morgan
Amanda Roper Murphy
David Martin Naul
Courtney Day Passman
Tanya Franz Smith
April Jenell Tanner
Enrico Espanol Tobias
Joshua Wayne Vicknair
Ashley Rae Wilson

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Justina Ameloko
Jenna Sabrina Balamane
Irielle Latrice Banks
Tracey Christina Baudy
Janeice Nicole Benson
Diana Laverne Bias
Lauren Elizabeth Black
Emily Marie Bodin
Cali Bergeron Bourgeois
Lorie Jean Bourgeois
Erica Elizabeth Bragg
Katherine Lyons Brown
Caitlin Jean Burger
Jamie Elizabeth Byrd
Tawny Lynn Cortez
John Edward Covington
Amy Beth Cristina
David Randall Davis
Jennifer Nicole Davis
Jennifer Louise Donsbach
Ashley Nicole Duncan
Jacqueline Geraldina Esquivel
Kelli Rae Ford
Luke Aaron Fuselier
Kristin Gabriell Fuxan
Elise Marie Givens
Cynthia Ann Gleason
Frederick Shane Grant
Ashley Chantel Hebert *
Rochelle Lynn Holm
Margaret Elizabeth Hoppenstedt
Lacey Courtade Hue
Michelle Christine Hymel *
Lauren Morris Jackson
Kristen Marie Joubert *
Lori Lynn Lampard
Jan Marie Landry *
Cassie Henderson Lavigne
Jason Michael Lindsey
Mary Anne Livaccari *
Michelle Andrea Macaluso *

Abbie Louise Malbrough
Devin Oliver Marroquin
Denise Trenell Martin
Heneretta Myles McCoy
Lindsey Elizabeth McKnight
Lauren Elise Mesman
Julia Marie Carol Mirabile
George William Murla
Vi Thuy Nguyen *
Rebecca Louise O'Neill
Melissa Gilmore Pitts *
Angie Marie Plateo
Paige Ursula Popich
Jennifer Anne Prat
Charles Clayton Prather *
Lauren Elizabeth Raymond
Amanda Ruth Richard
Maria Elisa Rocha *
Natalya Rostovshchikova *
Marjorie Elizabeth Rusteberg
Suzanne Savage
January Sintuphant *
Stacie Michelle St. Pierre
Lauren Diane Stansbury
Matthew Craig Stringer
Stephanie Ann Subervielle *
Ashley Christine Swaney
Yong Mei Tan
Jebby Scott Tate
Carolina Alejandra Tefel
Tiffany Rochelle Thomas *
Candace Lynn Trosclair
Tiffany Nicole Tusa
Erin Frolich Tweedy
Liza Marguerite Vallese
Angelle Elizabeth Vosburg *
Onesha Monique Williams
Dorothy Elizabeth Winfree
Andrea Lynn Wisti
Ashley Lynn Wooderson
Lauren Roseland Zichichi

Fall 2008 Graduates

Master of Nursing

Lori Zieman Minsky

Nursing Administration

Monique A. Cerise

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Melinda Mire Orellana

Karen E. Skific

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Ellison Bernard Abad
Jennifer L. Amorello
Shannon Leigh Baudouin
Rebecca Johnson Bertucci
Kimberly Marie Beyer
Cynthia Marie Bookout
Victoria F. Bracey
Jamie Lee Capdeboscq
Courtney Lynne Chatelain
Melissa Carol Coleman
Ashley Imbornone Corbello
Allison Rebecca Dew
Kendi Lavergne DiLorenzo
Taryn Marie Eilers
Brittney Marie Faciane
Jessica Geralyn Gelpi
Jessica Rae Golman
Adrienne Adams Goodwin
Lauren Elizabeth Graugnard
Melissa Jeannine Harris
Albert Frank Hezeau IV
Elizabeth Schexnailder Hodge
Kelly Christine Hogan
Lauren Brianne Hopkins
Caroline Virginia Horner
Lauren Elizabeth Hymel
Lindsay Anderson Jarreau
Michele A. Jenkins
Terran Hale Johnson
Emily Grace Jordan

Jenna Rene Kelly
Tracey Elizabeth Kersten
Melissa Lee LeBoeuf
Huong Thien Le
Elisabeth Victoria Lifsey
Jennifer Kathryn Loats
Jessica Marie Matthews
Kelsey Mignon Merrick
Emily Rose Messina
Anna Katherine Nesom
Jessica Lynn Nicholson
Amanda Elyse Pilgreen
Sandra Wilder Poole
Rebecca Christine Riche
Stephanie Alice Robichaux
Hallie Marie Roussel
Kasi Le'An Savage
Benjamin Robert Mitchell Schuler
Amy Kathleen Sharp
Erica Marie Siemssen
Jordan Stratton
Lindsay Louise Stuart
Heather Susanne Tarver
Erica Treuting
Ashley L. Vinnett
Corey Paul Vollenweider
Stephanie Benedic Worth
Amy Elizabeth Wright
Dana Andrell Wyche
Ping Xia

Fall 2008 Scholarship Winners

Laura Ryan Scholarship

Laurie Gonzales – CARE program
Elizabeth Thibodaux – BSN program
Danielle Lemon – BSN program
Donald McConnell – BSN Program

Susan Theriot Scholarship

Megan Gruwell – CARE Program
Jennifer Hughes – BSN program

Northrup Scholarship

Jordan Ellis – BSN Program
Hunter Louviere – BSN Program
Katrina Delpit – BSN Program

Nursing Scholars

Erin Benit – CARE Program
Stephanie Bordelon – BSN Program
Alexis Washington – BSN Program
Nneka Uwaemelu – BSN Program

Lori Norton Scholarship

Jacqueline Endsley – CARE Program
Zachary Parish – BSN Program
Christine Jaubert – BSN Program
Jennifer Hudgens – BSN Program

*CARE Student (Career Alternative RN Education)



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