New Simulation Lab Enhances Learning

The School of Nursing’s new Simulation Lab allows nursing students to enhance their nursing skills in an environment that reproduces a hospital setting. Shawanna Wilder is Director of the Simulation Lab, which has four patient rooms, a nursing station, and four state-of-the-art human simulators. The “patients” in this lab include two SimMan adult simulators, a NOELLE maternity/childbirth simulator, a SimBaby infant simulator, a Nursing Anne training manikin, and a Nursing Kid pediatric training manikin.

Having several different simulators allows faculty to use a wide variety of hands-on scenarios. SimMan is an advanced patient simulator with the built-in capability to cough, vomit, moan, and say phrases like “My chest hurts, and I can’t breathe.” Students can check SimMan’s blood pressure, administer intramuscular and subcutaneous injections, and listen to realistic heart, breathing and bowel sounds. SimMan has carotid, radial, and femoral pulses and one SimMan even has a pedal pulse, allowing for assessment of circulatory conditions and traumatic injuries.

Thanks to interchangeable parts (and a wig donated by faculty), SimMan can also become an anatomically correct female patient.

In the Simulation Lab, learning outcomes are addressed in a controlled, safe environment. Instructors use the scenarios as a reliable assessment tool for measuring student skills and reinforcing the learning process. Students gain proficiency through repeated practice and benefit from learning to manage increasingly complex medical situations. After each simulation, students receive constructive feedback in a debriefing session.

Ms. Wilder has found that the simulations improve students’ reasoning skills. “The exercises force them to critically think,” she explained.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Rattler Nurse, a publication designed to share news of the School’s programs, faculty, students, and alumni.

Although we are proud of our legacy as the oldest baccalaureate program in the state of Florida, we are now engaged in the mission of preparing nurses for practice in a global society.

We are blessed to have dedicated and caring faculty who facilitate high-quality education.

In 2006, we increased the number of students enrolled in our undergraduate program. We currently enroll 100 students per year. Statewide, our Masters program graduates are successful advanced practice nurses. In future editions, we plan to feature alumni updates.

Thanks to all of you—alumni and friends—for your continued support.

Ruena Williams Norman, Ph.D., R.N.
Interim Dean and Associate Professor

New Advisory Board for School of Nursing

The first meeting for the School of Nursing’s new Advisory Board was held on Thursday, April 16th at the FAMU Alumni House. Board members are all registered nurses and represent a wide variety of expertise, including nursing practice, research, education, and administration.

The Advisory Board will meet in the spring and fall of each year to make recommendations to the School of Nursing on processes and decision-making.

Charter board members are:

Florence Bamgbose ARNP
Tallahassee, Florida

Robin Byrd ARNP
Tallahassee, Florida

Lenora R. Campbell, R.N., D.S.N.
Dean
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Ian Clark
Nursing Supervisor
Tallahassee, Florida

Loyce Hill
Registered Nurse Consultant
Department of Health
Tallahassee, Florida

Robin Kretschman
Executive Director of Nursing Practice
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital
Tallahassee, Florida

Versie Mallard-Johnson, Ph.D.
Faculty
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida

Barbara Peters
Clinical Educator
Capital Regional Medical Center
Tallahassee, Florida

Tamika Sanchez-Jones, Ph.D.
Faculty/Post-Doctoral Fellow
Marietta, Georgia

Natasha R. Sledge
Charge Nurse
Tallahassee, Florida

Carol Wright-Tanner
Director
Office of Public Health Nursing
Department of Health
Tallahassee, Florida

Ruena Williams Norman, Ph.D., R.N.
Interim Dean and Associate Professor

100% NCLEX-RN Pass Rate for Spring and Summer 2008 Graduates

The Spring and Summer 2008 graduates of FAMU School of Nursing achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The exam is used by state, commonwealth and territorial boards of nursing to assist in making licensure decisions.

“I am extremely happy,” said Ruena Norman, interim dean of the School of Nursing. “The results represent the hard work of our students and faculty.”

“I applaud and commend the outstanding job of our nursing students,” said Cynthia Hughes Harris, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. “This accomplishment demonstrates the hard work and the commitment of our faculty and the quality of our students.”
School of Nursing Goes Wireless

Excitement is in the air. The School of Nursing will have wireless Internet access this summer. Planned infrastructure upgrades will lead to a faster, more reliable communications network. The enhancements will mean that students will notice a faster connection when they are taking online tests, downloading class documents, and doing Internet research. Instructors can integrate Internet content into classroom instruction. Students will be able to access and download class documents while having lunch.

“The infrastructure will be ready for smart classroom technology”, said Wayne Dunwoody, FAMU’s Director of Network Infrastructure. After the upgrades, the School of Nursing will also have access to videoconferencing.

The building upgrades involve the services of FAMU EIT and two outside vendors. Work began in late March, and the estimated completion date is June 1.

SNA Weight Loss Challenge

Student Nursing Association members participated in a Weight Loss challenge modeled after the popular television show “The Biggest Loser”.

SNA members attended an informational session on Tuesday, March 3. Gei-Nam Lim, Associate Director of Campus Recreation, spoke to nursing students about nutrition and weight loss.

For the competition, students were divided into teams. First semester, second semester, and third semester nursing students competed for a group prize of a Subway luncheon. Each student who entered the competition was eligible to win the Grand Prize of $100, awarded to the individual who lost the most weight.

Contestants weighed in each week with Shawnna Wilder, SNA Advisor and instructor at the School of Nursing. The contest ended on Tuesday, April 28.

The contest is part of a universitywide movement. “The School of Nursing is taking an active role in President Ammons’ Healthy Living challenge”, Wilder said.

We’d Like to Hear from You!

We’d like to share alumni updates and keep everyone informed about what’s new at the School of Nursing. If you know of alumni who are not currently receiving The Rattler Nurse, please feel free to forward this newsletter to them.

The Rattler Nurse is published twice a year. To receive our newsletter via email, send a message to nursing@famu.edu with the subject “Subscribe”.

In Memoriam:
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Queen Esther Carter, former Dean of the School of Nursing from 1953 to 1956. Services were held on March 21, 2009 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Retirement:
Senior Secretary Mary Allen retired in November 2008 after 29 years of dedicated service.

Congratulations:
Faculty member Uloma Onubogu earned a doctorate in Nursing Sciences from the University of Florida in August 2008. As a board certified Advanced Practice Nurse, she chose gerontology/aging studies as her minor field of study.

Faculty member Brenda Bryant received the 2009 Nurse of Excellence award on May 12, 2009. Bryant teaches psychiatric and mental health nursing.

We welcome your comments. Would you like to share your news, pictures, events, or achievements with other Rattler Nurse readers? Contact the newsletter editor, Alba Cunningham, at (850) 412-7070 or at alba.cunningham@famu.edu.
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Brenda Bryant
Instructor
Adult Psychiatric –MSN, RN

Robin Butler
Instructor
Neonatal Clinical Specialist-MSN, RN

Alba Cunningham
Computer Support Specialist
MCP

Donna Darity
Instructor
Community Health-MSN, RN

Jaibun Earp, Ph.D.
Professor
Adult Nursing/Family Nurse Practitioner-ARNP

Deanna Epley, Ph.D.
Adjunct
Adult Nursing/Primary Care-ARNP

Ann Ford, Ph.D.
Adjunct
Family Nurse –ARNP

Mary Ella Graham, Ed.D.
Professor
Adult Health and Illness-RN

David Guthrie
Instructor
Acute Care - MN, ARNP, CCRN

Frances Henry-Bush, D.Min.
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Community Mental Health-ARNP

Clarence Herring, Pharm.D.
Adjunct
Pharmacology

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Carswella Phillips
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Natalie Royal
Adjunct
Pediatrics –MSN, RN

Col. Clifford Simons (Retired)
Adjunct
Maternal-Child Midwifery –MSN, RN

Vickie Stephens
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Psychiatric Mental Health-MSN, ARNP

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Spread the word! Feel free to forward a copy of The Rattler Nurse to other interested alumni and friends. Email nursing@famu.edu to subscribe to our newsletter.