

# Bears *that* Care

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING Southwest Missouri State University

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Fall 2003

### First Generic BSN Class Admitted in June

One word describes our first class of nursing students and that word is ‘very’. Imagine a class full of ‘very’ bright, motivated, enthusiastic, conscientious students who are ‘very’ positive, flexible, and eager to learn! That describes our first class in the generic BSN program which started this summer. Students range from ages 20 to 40+. Approximately one-third already have a bachelors degree in another area. Their average cumulative GPA is 3.45. They come from a variety of backgrounds and geographic locations, as close by as Springfield and as far away as Illinois. Many are single but some have already started their own families.



Just how these terrific students discovered our new program is a mystery. Even before the program was approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing in December of 2002, and before we started recruitment efforts, we had dozens of students asking about our “new BSN program”. And week by week, more and more students came to our door to ask about our new program.

Due to the extreme nursing shortage in the area and across the nation, we admitted our first class of students just 3 months after the State Board gave its approval. Only those who had already completed the first two years of our program prerequisites (58 credits of general education and basic sciences) with a GPA of at least 2.75 were eligible for admission. Twenty-four students who met the criteria were accepted for admission.

We are ‘very’ proud of our first class. They have successfully completed demanding prerequisites and an intense summer session. We wish them continued success. They promise to be great additions to the field of nursing!

#### What’s Inside . . . . .

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#### **BSN Program Offers LPN’s Options**

SMSU’s 4-year BSN program, which admitted its first class this summer, offers Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN’s) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN’s) two options for obtaining the BSN degree. First, LPN/LVN’s may apply to the generic BSN program and complete the curriculum as specified in the Undergraduate Catalog, or secondly, they may ‘articulate’ by taking a two-hour LPN transition course. The LPN transition course is designed to address content areas that were not covered in their LPN/LVN programs. Upon satisfactory completion of the LPN Transition course and the first didactic nursing course, the student will receive credit for the first two BSN clinical courses, Skills and Technology I and II (6 credit hours). **(Options continued on page 3)**



# *Nursing Honor Society Hosts Events*

The first and only nursing honor society, Sigma Theta Tau International, was started in 1922 and has expanded from its initial 6 founding members to over 117,500 active members. In 1986, the Theta Lambda Chapter at SMSU was started. Our chapter has also grown from a handful of members to over 130 active members. Each year during the Annual Induction Ceremony, nursing students who have demonstrated high academic success and leadership potential are invited to join our chapter and become part of Sigma Theta Tau International. Membership also is open to nurses who have already graduated from SMSU or other programs, who demonstrate a high level of clinical scholarship, leadership, or professional service.

This year we continued the tradition of welcoming new members at the annual induction of new members ceremony, which was held on Saturday, November 16, 2002. Attendees enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens, a brief video of the history of the Sigma Theta Tau, and the induction ceremony for new members.

Another event sponsored by Theta Lambda Chapter and Missouri Nurses Association was the Third Research Showcase held on April 18, 2003. Oral presentations by two Family Nurse Practitioner graduates, Sara Silvey-Cates, Christi Wilson, and SMSU faculty member, Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens were featured. In addition, graduate and undergraduate students presented over 20 research posters. The event was supported in part by Cox College of Nursing and Health Sciences and SMSU's Department of Nursing.

If you are a member of Sigma Theta Tau, we hope you will join us for these events in the future. If you are not a member but are a registered nurse who has demonstrated a high level of clinical scholarship, leadership, or professional service, we hope you will consider joining. Please contact Dr. Susan Hinck, President of Theta Lambda Chapter at 417-836-6263, for membership information and a community membership application. ~



## **MEET THE NEW FACULTY AND STAFF**

As our Nursing program expands to meet the growing need for nurses, so does our faculty and staff. **Reneé Severyn** assumed the position of Admissions Coordinator in July. Reneé received a BA degree in Speech Communications from Grace-land University and is currently pursuing her MHA degree. She brings with her several years of recruiting and advising experience from the medical field. Her responsibilities include academic advising for students interested in the generic BSN and BSN completion programs, as well as marketing and recruitment. **Debbi Magnifico** joined us in July as a part-time temporary secretary. She moved from California to the Ozarks over a year ago and currently resides in Strafford with her husband and youngest son, with two more children out on their own. Debbi's responsibilities involve providing secretarial and administrative/faculty support. Reneé and Debbi are welcome additions to the staff!



Left to right: Reneé Severyn, Debbi Magnifico, Patricia Webb, Deb Savinske, Lisa Antle

The new faculty joining us this fall have come from diverse educational and clinical backgrounds that are sure to add to our program. **Deb Savinske, MN, RN**, and her husband Dan, have twin 18-year-old daughters. Deb served 20 years as an army nurse and retired in 1993 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She has a bachelors degree from Northern Illinois University and a Masters degree in nursing from the University of South Carolina. She is certified as Clinical Nurse Specialist in Medical-Surgical Nursing. Deb will be teaching in Skills and Technology II, The Adult Client, and Introductory Pharmacology courses. **Patricia Webb, MSN, RN, CPNP**, and her husband Mark, moved here from the Kansas City area. Patricia has 11 years of public health experience and several years experience as an Advanced Practice Nurse for children at risk. Patricia received her BSN degree from William Jewell College, in Liberty, Missouri, and her MSN from the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she specialized in pediatric nursing. Her primary teaching responsibilities will be in the areas of Childbearing & Childrearing Family, Individuals and Family, and Professional Emergence courses. **(Faculty/Staff continued on page 3)**

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## ***Faculty, Students and Alumni on the Move***

In March of 2003, **Dr. Katie Hope, Associate Professor, Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens, Assistant Professor & Elizabeth Fahey, Instructor**, presented a paper at the Annual Primary Care for the Underserved Conference in Boston entitled, “Out of the Hospital, On to the Front Lines: The Evolution of Community-Based Nursing Programs to Meet the Needs of the Underserved.”

**Dr. Rose Utley, Associate Professor**, was recently appointed by Governor Holden for a 5 year term to serve on the Missouri Community Service Commission. The Commission is composed of approximately 25 members from across the state who support the development of volunteerism and community service. **Dr. Utley** also serves as the Faculty Advisor for the very first student chapter in the nation of Business and Professional Women, located here on the SMSU campus!

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Susan Hinck**, was awarded a Summer Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Hartford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence at Oregon Health and Science University. She will receive advanced research training in gerontological nursing over two consecutive summers in Portland, Oregon. Her current research focuses on fatigue in community-living adults over age 85. **Dr. Hinck** also received the Honorable Mention Award at the National Council on Aging/American Society on Aging joint conference in Chicago where she presented her dissertation research, “The Lived Experience of Oldest-Old Rural Adults”.

**Associate Professor and Department Head, Dr. Katie Hope**, received a \$26,910 Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program Grant for 2003-2004 from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The grant provides tuition and fees for full-time nurse educator and nurse practitioner students ( more information on page 4).

**Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens, Assistant Professor**, is one of 60 Fellows selected by the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing for the 2003 Leadership for Academic Nursing Program.

The Graduate College granted 7 nursing students Thesis Research Funding Awards. Each award provides \$500 to defray the costs of graduate thesis research projects. Students and their thesis topics are: **Elizabeth K. Adams, BSN, RN**, “Factors Affecting Types of Dental Services Rendered in the Pediatric Population”; **Jaime A. Cook, BSN, RN**, “Assimilation of Hispanic Migrant Workers into the United States Healthcare System: A Multi-cultural Perspective”; **Teresa Davis, BSN, RN**, “Comparing Factors That Influence the Nursing Career Choice: Then and Now”; **M. Elisabeth DeShane, BSN, RN**, “Barriers to Health Care Access of the Hispanic American Population in Southwest Missouri”; **Amy Lunn, BSN, RN**, “Diagnosis and Treatment of Depression in Women”; **Katherine M. Rains, BSN, RN**, “The Relationship Between Social Support and Chronic Heart Failure in Women”; **Debra Ann Upton, BSN, RN**, “Geri-design Safe Living Model for Older Adults”.

Congratulations to all of our faculty and students on their accomplishments! ~

### **Faculty/Staff** (continued from page 2)

**Lisa Antle, MSN(R), RN-CS, GCNS-BC**, will join us as a part-time Clinical Education Supervisor. In addition to working on her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and being a wife and mother of two children, Lisa works as a Gerontological Clinical Specialist. She received her BSN from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her MSN from St. Louis University. Her primary teaching responsibilities involve providing clinical instruction for the Skills and Technology II and Adult Client courses. Please welcome Reneé, Debbi, Deb, Patricia, and Lisa to our department. We are glad they are here to help us launch our generic nursing program! Welcome to each of you! ~

### **Options** (continued from Page 1)

LPN's interested in articulating need to complete the 2-credit hour LPN Transition course prior to applying for summer admission. Those interested in more information about the generic nursing program and options for LPN/LVN's should contact the Generic BSN Program Coordinator, Caroline Helton, 417-836-6569, e-mail her at [cah909f@smsu.edu](mailto:cah909f@smsu.edu), or visit our website at <http://www.smsu.edu/nursing>. ~

BEARS that CARE  
Newsletter of the Department of Nursing  
Rose Utley, Writer/Editor  
Vicky Woolery, Design & Layout  
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Department of Nursing  
SMSU  
901 So. National  
Springfield, MO 65804

Mailing Address Line 1  
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**DEPARTMENT OF NURSING RECEIVES EDUCATIONAL GRANT**

This is the second year that the Department of Nursing has received an educational grant to support full-time Graduate students in nursing. The Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program grant of \$26,910 from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) pays tuition and fees for full-time MSN students from either the Nurse Educator or Family Nurse Practitioner Programs. Full-time MSN students who are in good standing and successfully progressing through the program should contact the Project Director, Dr. Hope, at (417) 836-5310 to apply for funding. All who qualify will get funding. ~

**Thank You to Our Supporters!**

Clifford and Jo Helen Beauchamp graciously donated over \$20,000 worth of equipment and supplies to the Department of Nursing skills laboratory. Their donation has allowed our students to practice nursing skills in a laboratory setting prior to taking care of patients in a clinical setting. Many thanks to the Beauchamps for their generosity! ~

**Are You...**An Alumni of the Nursing Program or a current nursing student in our program?

**If So....**Let us know about your professional accomplishments!

Submit the form below to: Southwest Missouri State University, Department of Nursing Newsletter,  
901 South National Avenue, Springfield MO 65804

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials \_\_\_\_\_ Current Student \_\_\_\_\_ or Alumni of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Description of professional accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_

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