

# Bears that Care

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING Southwest Missouri State University

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Fall 2004

### Class of 2006 Admitted

Out of over 80 qualified applicants, the field was narrowed to the top 40 students, and the class of 2006 was formed. Our second class of 4-year BSN students seems to be just as diverse and achievement-oriented as the first class! Students range in age from 19 to 40+, nearly 20% are male, 20% are married, the majority have a job, several have grown children, and some are starting second careers. They have relocated from as far away as New York to attend SMSU.

Scholastically, the class of 2006 is very strong and motivated to achieve! Five have previous BS degrees. Overall, their grade point ranges from 3.1 to 4.0, with an average of 3.55. This is no small feat considering the students must complete at least 20 credit hours in courses such as biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and nutrition, prior to admission.

This summer, the class of 2006 embarked on what we think is the best career choice possible. We are fortunate and proud to have such a high caliber of students eager to enter the field of nursing. The SMSU faculty and staff are glad they are here, and wish them continued success. ~



Class of 2006

#### What's Inside . . . . .

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### Complementary Therapy Conference Planned for April 2005

Come to Chateau on the Lake for an enlightening educational experience, as the Department of Nursing sponsors the First Conference on Complementary Therapies, April 21-23, 2005. The conference begins with a reception Thursday evening, followed by a keynote speech from physician, author, and researcher, Dr. Norman Shealey, on Friday morning. Concurrent break-out sessions on a variety of modalities will be offered for continuing education credit on Friday and Saturday morning. Other conference events include a silent auction, exhibits and book signing. Proceeds from the conference will go to the Department of Nursing Foundation to provide scholarships and educational resources for students.

Please check our web site at <http://www.smsu.edu/nursing> for further conference details. ~

# ***Nursing's Bachelors and Masters Programs Fully Accredited!***

The process of establishing a basic 4-year nursing program and getting that program accredited is daunting to say the least. For SMSU's Department of Nursing, this process began with planning the curriculum design, course content and sequencing; determining budget needs for equipment, supplies and staff; and determining how we would evaluate student learning for each component of the program. Policies and procedures for admission, progression, and graduation were developed; text books and clinical sites selected; course syllabi written; and lectures and classroom activities developed.

Last April, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) reviewed a 72-page Self-Study Report in which the Department documented how our new 4-year BSN Program, as well as the BSN Completion and Masters Programs, met the accreditation

standards established by CCNE. Four evaluators representing CCNE visited our campus and spoke with faculty, students, alumni, and administrators about our programs. The site visit culminated in a favorable written recommendation from the evaluators that was forwarded to the CCNE Accreditation Committee.

Finally, in October 2004, the Department of Nursing received official notification from CCNE that the Department of Nursing programs received full accreditation. The period of accreditation is for a maximum of five years for programs receiving initial accreditation with CCNE.

The SMSU Department of Nursing wishes to thank our students, alumni, administrators and staff for their support and help in achieving a successful accreditation outcome. ~

## ***STUDENTS EXPERIENCE CAMP BARNABAS***

On June 8, 2004, student nurses Ashley Anderson, Diane Corlett, Cassie Eckman, Amie Eklund and Jamie Gallivan packed their bags for a unique nursing experience...camp nursing at Camp Barnabas! As they will tell you, this is not just any camp, but a camp for children of all ages with disabilities. Located in Purdy, Missouri, Camp Barnabas sprawls over 86 acres and possesses all the necessary features to make camp a blast! Their instructor, Deb Savinske, MN, RN, who has volunteered at Camp Barnabas for years, thought it would be fun and challenging to take students with her this year. Working side-by-side, the students were able to experience another side of nursing. "I was overwhelmed at first", said Jamie Gallivan, "as I had never worked with disabled children before. However, it didn't take long for me to see that these kids were really no different from other kids."

Camp Barnabas is a nine-week program with each week designed to provide a camp experience for children with different handicaps. This particular week at camp, June 9-15, was "challenge week" with a total of 103 campers, of which 79 were in wheelchairs. Because each camper is provided their very own counselor around the clock, they are able to participate in horseback riding, crafts, swimming, canoeing, archery/rifle range, the high ropes, and so much more. "I think this camp is awesome because it's a place where kids can get together and forget their disabilities," believes Cassie Eckman.

The experience was such a success that Deb Savinske plans to take a new group of students with her next summer. She believes it is "an eye-opening experience for students, and a great opportunity for them to share a part of themselves with a wonderful group of children." ~



Left to right: Jamie Gallivan, Deb Savinske, Ashley Anderson, Cassie Eckman, Diane Corlett and Amie Eklund accompany Sam Blinn.

Would you like to receive the Bears that Care Newsletter electronically? If so, send your email address to [vickywoolery@smsu.edu](mailto:vickywoolery@smsu.edu).

BEARS that CARE Newsletter of the  
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## ***Faculty, Students, and Alumni on the Move***

**Larry P. Schumacher, a 1983 BSN alumni**, was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN)! He is a doctoral candidate in nursing administration at the University of Iowa and currently serves as Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of Mercy Medical Centers in Des Moines, Iowa. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Assistant Professor Dr. Susan Hinck** on her recently published article “The Lived Experience of Oldest-Old Rural Adults” which appeared in the July 2004 issue of *Qualitative Health Research*, and on the acceptance of her presentation at the Gerontological Society of America Conference in November entitled, “Activity and Fatigue in Adults Over Age 85”.

This fall, **Associate Professor Dr. Rose Utley** received a College of Health and Human Services Award for outstanding service. She also was a presenter at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Show-Me Service Training Conference this fall, speaking on “Establishing Volunteer Centers.”

**Carolyn (Bruning) Spradlin, a 1981 BSN graduate**, is currently Program Manager for MissouriPRO, working to improve healthcare quality for nursing home residents in Missouri. Over the years since graduation, she has served as director of nursing for two hospitals, staff development educator for hospice, and has opened three new nursing homes. She also is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ).

**Instructor Deb Savinske** was a featured speaker at the recent College of Health and Human Service’s Fifth Annual Multidisciplinary Forum on “Complications of Diabetes”.

Congratulations to this year’s scholarship recipients: **Sarah L. Hamlin** received the Thelma Ritter Evans/Four State Stroke Club Nursing Scholarship, **Rachel Kopsas** received the Nursing Education Scholarship, **Sarah Gibson** received the Springfield Medical Foundation Scholarship, **Tina Johnson** received the Columbia Hospital South Auxiliary Scholarship, **Trisha Howe** received the Ammon D. Schaeffer Memorial Scholarship, **Sarah Campbell** received the Gladys C. Harmon Scholarship, and **Desiree White, RN**, received the Mildred Durr and Roy T. Wilcox Scholarship. Scholarships awarded total approximately \$4,500.00.

In February, 2004, **Associate Professor and Department Head, Dr. Kathryn L. Hope**, and **Assistant Professor, Dr. Susan Sims-Giddens**, presented a paper entitled, “Leading Academic Department Change with Strategic Action and Program Vision” at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Academic Chairpersons Conference in Orlando, Florida. In April, **Dr. Hope** also spoke on “Combining Effective Teaching with the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning” at AAHE’s 5th Colloquium on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. ~

### **Meet our New Faculty**

This August, two new fulltime faculty joined the Department of Nursing. Instructor Vicki Cuthbertson teaches in Skills and Technology II, Individuals and Family, and Mental Health nursing courses. She relocated from Texas where she had taught for 12 years at the University of Texas at Tyler in mental health nursing. Vicki earned a BSN from the University of New Mexico and a Masters in Nursing from the University of Washington, with an emphasis in Family and Community Health. She also received a Fellowship from the National Institute of Mental Health. She has worked clinically on an adolescent medical-surgical unit and with children, families, and adults in acute and community mental health settings. She has two sons and three grandchildren who live in Texas.

Deborah Highfill has an MSN in Administration from Clarkson College, Omaha NE, and is completing her PhD in International Health from Touro University, Cyprus CA. She is currently teaching in Leadership Management and Community Health Nursing courses. Debbie has relocated to the Ozarks after spending four years in China, where she founded an international health relief organization. Debbie has extensive leadership and management experience in nursing and ambulatory surgery, and assisted in founding the Kansas City chapter of ASORN. She is married and has four grown children, all boys.

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Mailing Address Line 5

**If you are interested in donating money/supplies to the Nursing Department, please contact Dr. Kathryn Hope, toll free, 1-877-728-0001. All donations are needed and sincerely appreciated.**

**Nurse Educator Post-Masters Certificate Program Online** The Nurse Educator Post-Masters Certificate Program is designed for nurses who already have a masters in another nursing specialty but would like to have educational preparation as a nurse educator. The certificate program is available online or in distance learning formats that enable the student to complete the program without requiring campus visits. The certificate consists of 8 credits of didactic course work in teaching/ learning, curriculum design, and educational issues; and 4 credit hours of teaching practicum as a nursing instructor and in community education, patient education, or staff development settings. For more information, contact Dr. Rose Utley, Director of Nurse Educator Graduate Program, at rau293f@smsu.edu , phone 417-836-6568 or toll-free 1-877-728-0001.

**New Nursing Electives Offered Spring 2005** Want to feel more prepared in an emergency? Want to work in the area of Emergency Care? Enroll in **NUR 499 Emergency Care**. This 3-credit hour course is divided into three 1-credit hour sections which cover basic, intermediate, and advanced knowledge of how to deal with medical emergencies and trauma. Want to improve your understanding of rural health care needs? Enroll in **NUR502 Rural Health**. This 3-credit multidisciplinary course is open to juniors and graduate students and contains a service-learning component to further enhance the learning experience.

**Meet Our New Faculty** *Continued from page 3*

We are fortunate to have faculty such as Vicki and Debbie, who have such extensive and diverse nursing backgrounds. We welcome them to SMSU.

**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 S. National Ave., Springfield MO 65804

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_