

Nursing Matters @ RIC

Newsletter of the School of Nursing at Rhode Island College

August 2010

“RIC’s School of Nursing is committed to ensuring patient safety through simulation in our nursing lab. Behaviors consistent with the National Patient Safety Goals are reinforced every time the students enter the lab. Simulation promotes reflective practice and competency-focused performance to achieve the goal of nursing excellence and high quality patient care.”

-Dean Jane Williams



REACH
INSPIRE
CONNECT



SIMULATION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Developing a caring bedside manner and best practices, like proper hand-washing, are basic learning objectives in Rhode Island College’s nursing program. At the School of Nursing, faculty use simulation to help students learn basic and advanced professional skills. Dr. Judy Murphy, one of the VA Nursing Academy faculty, is responsible for the simulation initiatives at RIC and the Providence VA Medical Center.

Simulation is a transformational way to learn. Students practice clinical skills and critical thinking using high-tech manikins that can talk and breathe. They also practice communication, patient advocacy, teamwork and problem-solving skills in a realistic hospital-like setting. The RIC School of Nursing integrates this method of teaching throughout the curriculum.

With enthusiastic support from Senator Jack Reed, the School of Nursing received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the purchase of high-tech manikins and a state of the art video and software system that expanded simulation learning and stimulated educational research.

The simulation center includes three types of rooms; hospital-like patient rooms equipped with cameras and microphones, a room that houses computers to control the manikins and monitor activity in the patient rooms, and a debriefing room where students can reflect on their performance. Simulation provides the opportunity for students to learn from critical events, experience the consequence of making mistakes, and develop competency before caring for real patients.

KUDOS

RIC faculty are experts in nursing. Faculty and students receive many awards and a complete list of accomplishments is available at the SON website: www.ric.edu Some examples are:

Dr. Cynthia Padula, Professor of Nursing and Director of the Master's Program received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Sigma Theta Tau in April 2010 for her outstanding record of scholarship.



Dr. Anne Carty, Professor of Nursing, was selected by undergraduates to give the Faculty address at Cap & Gown Day.

Lucia Amado, Class of 2010, was selected to present her senior honors project, "Military Kids: Exploring the challenges of deployments and strategies to provide crucial support" at the Annual Institute of the Association of Community Health Educators in Washington, DC in June 2010.



Susan DiBlasi, MSN graduate was selected to attend the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Inaugural Nursing Student Policy Summit in Washington, DC

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



It was 40 years ago that RI legislators voted to create a baccalaureate nursing program at Rhode Island College. The first nursing students entered RIC in fall of 1970 and the first graduates participated in the 1974 RIC Commencement. We applaud the legislature for having the vision to support baccalaureate nursing education and take great pride in reporting news of the accomplishments and plans for RIC Nursing.

During the last 40 years, we have grown from a departmental program to an established school with three professional nursing programs that contribute to the advancement of health care in our nation and are vital to the well-being of Rhode Islanders.

In this newsletter, you will get a glimpse of innovative educational strategies and practice partnerships like the Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) and the VA Nursing Academy project that enhance the education of nurses at RIC.

Our future plan focuses on building bridges that connect academic and clinical nursing. Active involvement of our clinical nursing colleagues is key to a strong, successful program. We are privileged to have expert nurses involved in curriculum development and teaching students both on clinical units and in the classroom.

Participating in the implementation of health care reform is another priority. We are educating students about health care legislation, so they can answer patients' questions and be informed members of the health care team. Health care reform will increase the number of people with health insurance and the demand for health services. In our undergraduate and graduate programs, RIC School of Nursing educates the professional and advanced practice nurses needed to provide high quality care for all.

I invite you to learn more about RIC's School of Nursing at www.ric.edu/nursing and to follow the developments and achievements of Rhode Island College School of Nursing on Facebook. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at 401 456-9608 or jwilliams@ric.edu.



RIC NURSES CARE FOR RHODE ISLANDERS

RIC nursing students are Rhode Islanders who take jobs in Rhode Island and care for Rhode Island citizens. The great majority of nursing students come from Rhode Island. In the fall of 2009, only 3% of RIC's nursing students were out-of-state students.

RIC nursing students reflect the diversity of the state; in the fall of 2009, 26% of students were minorities. Rhode Island College is recruiting and graduating students from minority backgrounds in an effort to contribute to a workforce of health professionals that reflects the makeup of our society.

Partnering for Innovation: The DEU



“The DEU model fosters more opportunities for students to have more time to learn, have more hands-on technical practice, and have more interaction with other disciplines”

*Danise Davis
Nurse Manager
Bridge 7 Unit, RIH*

The Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) is an innovative approach to clinical nursing education that is improving clinical learning and helping to address the nursing faculty shortage. RIC Nursing faculty are working with management and nursing staff of particular patient units to establish optimal learning environments for student nurses.

The DEU allows collaboration between academic faculty and clinical nurses to teach nursing students. Nursing faculty members coach nursing staff interested in becoming more involved in teaching students. Staff nurses are prepared for their enhanced teaching role and have in-depth orientations to RIC's nursing program. Both the students and staff nurses are guided by faculty instructors.

Rhode Island College School of Nursing and professional nurses of the Bridge 7 Unit at Rhode Island Hospital are beginning a DEU in the fall of 2010. RIC Nursing faculty member Michele Siskind, and RIH Nurse Manager, Danise Davis partnered to plan the DEU. Last spring, VA Nursing Academy faculty Anita Creamer and Tony D'Eramo piloted a modified DEU on two inpatient units at the Providence VA Medical Center.

Siskind and Davis are pictured above along with RIC senior nursing students, the nursing staff of Bridge 7, Dean Jane Williams, VP for Nursing Barbara Riley, and RIC VP for Academic Affairs Dr. Ron Pit at the DEU site on Thursday, May 13th.

RIC's School of Nursing is embracing the DEU as a model of clinical education that brings academic and clinical nursing together to improve education and practice. It is a collaborative model that will strengthen nursing education now and for the future.

Rhode Island College

NUMBERS COUNT AT RIC

With over 1,700 baccalaureate students at RIC having declared nursing as their major or enrolled in the nursing program, RIC's School of Nursing has the largest baccalaureate nursing program in the state. Currently, the nursing program attracts more students to the college than any other major.



RIC Nursing Faculty at Inauguration of President Carriuolo

Quality Matters at RIC







Senator Jack Reed discusses simulation with Dr. Judy Murphy



SON student Deana-Rae Brown taking the blood pressure of Steven Muarano, Associate Commissioner RIBGHE

RIC's School of Nursing is a high-performing public nursing program.

-  RIC's School of Nursing meets the standards set by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for "high caliber nursing programs". In May 2009, CCNE granted the program full accreditation with no compliance issues. The BSN program is accredited for the maximum of 10 years and the new MSN is accredited for 5 years, the maximum for a new program.
-  Over 90% of RIC Nursing graduates consistently pass the NCLEX RN license exam; a rate higher than state and national averages. New graduates must pass the NCLEX RN license exam to practice as a Registered Nurse and the pass rate is a measure used to evaluate programs.
-  The Veterans Administration selected RIC Nursing and the Providence VA Medical Center in a nation-wide competitive application process to be one of ten VA Nursing Academy sites. The VA Nursing Academy is a four-year program that partners VA medical centers with top nursing schools in the country.
-  RIC Nursing received the Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in the category of Public School without an Academic Medical Center. The school was particularly cited for its ability to re-envision traditional models of nursing education and leading programmatic change.

RIC GRADS GET JOBS

While there are fewer nursing positions available, graduates of the RIC nursing program are finding employment in Rhode Island.

In July of 2010, the School of Nursing surveyed all 49 new nurse graduates in the January of 2010 class. Of 33 responses, all are employed as nurses: 24 in seven Rhode Island Hospitals, 5 in Rhode Island long term care facilities, and 4 out of state.



Pinning January 2010

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NEW MSNs READY TO INNOVATE AND LEAD

The first class of graduate nursing students lined up to receive Master of Science in Nursing degrees at Graduate Commencement on May 20, 2010. Dr. Cynthia Padula, Director of the MSN Program, carried the School of Nursing flag, as she proudly led the students into the event. These graduates are well prepared to meet the many health care challenges facing the people of our state.

In addition to finishing required coursework, MSN grads completed major projects on relevant health care topics: prevention of postoperative hypothermia, evaluation of a nurse-led heart failure clinic, preconception planning for Latinas, faith-based community nursing, analysis of the nursing shortage in Sub-Saharan Africa, impact of a napping intervention on fatigue in practicing nurses, detection of pressure ulcers, and women's awareness of heart disease risk. The MSN candidates presented their projects to the RIC community as part of the Graduate Student Symposium on May 5, 2010.

The MSN program opened to students in the fall of 2007 and is meeting the goal of educating more advanced practice nurses in Rhode Island. Eight new MSNs graduated this year. Nationally, and in Rhode Island, more nurses with advanced nursing education are needed to implement health care reform and meet the health care needs of the population. The new MSN graduates are ready to participate in problem-solving, offer new and innovative ideas, and provide leadership to improve health and health care in Rhode Island and beyond.



Join us at "Cabaret" to benefit the SON at the Hi Hat, Davol Square in Providence, RI, October 1, 2010 5-8 p.m.

Information and tickets available online:

www.ric.edu/homecoming.

SON ADVISORY BOARD HELPS SHAPE DIRECTION OF RIC NURSING

The School of Nursing Advisory Board was formed in January 2007 to support SON objectives. We are very fortunate to have the input from these respected members of the RI community. Members include:

Deborah Clickner, MEd, RN, CAN, BC; Margaret Dooley; Michael Fine, MD; Mary Jean Francis, RN, MS; Moses Goddard, MD; Milton Hamolsky, MD; Yvonne Heredia RN, BS; Carol A. Lamoureux, RN, MS, CNAA, BC; Keith E. Macksoud, CRNA, MA; Elizabeth D. Motta, RN, BS; Constance Pratt, RN, PhD; Ruth E. Ricciarelli; Sandy Stamoulis, RN, MBA; Jane Williams, RN, PhD; Carolyn Wood, RN, PhD; Sandra Zion Hamolsky, RN, MPA

DEAN'S FUND AT WORK

In 2008, the SON Advisory Board established a Dean's Fund to support faculty and students and nurture the high-performing RIC nursing program. Fundraising efforts include creating a Founders Circle, celebrating the establishment of the school, hosting social events, and conducting an alumni appeal. To date, the fund has raised \$45,650.

The Dean's Fund supports student and faculty presentations at national and international meetings, School of Nursing participation in webinars on current issues in nursing education, and faculty attendance at leadership symposiums and a national institute on quality and safety. During the last two years, the Fund provided financial support for seven faculty development workshops on topics critical to nursing education, including simulation and meeting the needs of veterans. You may give to the Dean's Fund at: www.ric.edu/nursing/giving.php.



Celebration of SON Fall 2008



Alums and Faculty at Fall 2009 Event

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