Raising the Bar
Message from Kristy Courville

Dr. Debra White is the RN-to-BSN program Coordinator in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions. She is very pleased to be invited to serve as an Advisor for a one year commitment on the Online Learning Insight Panel for Academic Partnerships (AP). AP provides support services to academic institutions offering online courses. AP has two large-scale technology products in development, as well as other projects such as an enhancement of our teaching and learning website, Faculty eCommons. Developed by Academic Partnerships, Faculty eCommons is a social learning ecosystem for faculty across the world to work together to improve online education. The site offers industry research, guidance, best practices, and professional development, with a focus on national quality standards.

In order to further several strategic initiatives, AP convened an “Insight Panel” of professionals in the higher education sector to provide AP with feedback, recommendations, and expertise on the development and implementation of those initiatives. Twelve panelists were chosen from across the nation based on their current job description, program type, university demographics and experience in online education. This diverse group of panelists come with experience in engineering, English, business, communications, nursing, leadership and curriculum development online programs. The panelists represent a group of dedicated professionals, passionate about creating useful innovations to improve the course development process in online learning. Over the next year, the panel will provide meaningful insight on technology tools, documents and prototypes for potential end-users.

Embracing the Educator Role

We would like to welcome two new faculty members that joined the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions at the beginning of the Spring 2017 semester:

Aimee Delahoussaye is a certified FNP and two-time graduate of the UL Lafayette College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions. Her professional experience includes intensive care nursing and primary care. In her spare time, Aimee enjoys reading, watching live sporting events, and spending time with her husband Jacob (UL Lafayette Engineering, ’08), and three sons, Jack (7), Reid, (2) and Ford (4 months).

Robert “Bob” Garrie is a native of Crowley, a graduate of UL Lafayette’s HIM Program, and has a master’s degree in public administration with a concentration in health care and non-profit management from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Bob has lived in New Orleans, Chicago, and Birmingham, and decided to move back home to spend time with his family. He likes jazz/blues, the theater, and good food.
A Fine Balance: Teaching, Scholarship, and Service

Dr. Roger Rholdon is an Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions where he teaches at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He graduated from the BSN-DNP program at the University of South Alabama with his Master of Science in Nursing in 2013 and Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2014. His program of research began with his DNP scholarly project, Outcomes of a Quality Improvement Project: An Implementation of Inpatient Infant Safe Sleep Practices. His project findings will be published later this year.

He is currently collaborating on a pilot study which examines the effectiveness of simulation to teach senior level nursing students about safe sleep and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID). His goal is to find effective ways to decrease the rates of SUID in Acadiana and Louisiana. Dr. Rholdon’s additional work on safe sleep includes an in-press publication on the roles of sitting devices in infant safe sleep.

Dr. Rholdon is the recipient of various awards that are related to his scholarship and service. An article he co-authored, Atypical Kawasaki Disease: A Case Report, published in the Journal of the Dermatological Nurses’ Association, was chosen as the Best Clinical Article for 2016. Furthermore, he was a recipient of the 2016 LSNA District IV Acadiana Celebrates Nurses Award. And, he has been a SLEMCO/BORSF Endowed Professor in Nursing since 2016.

Dr. Rholdon serves his department, college, and community. He currently serves his community as a member of Louisiana Department of Health Region 4’s Child Death Review and Fetal Infant Mortality Review.

Lifelong Learning

Dr. Melinda Oberleitner – Authored or co-authored three book chapters and has presented scholarly work at two annual conferences. Co-authored a journal article: Lockhart, J., Oberleitner, M., Vioral, A., & Felice, T. Using Evidence to Prepare Non-Oncology Nurses for Cancer Survivor Care. The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing. Accepted for publication 11/23/16.

Lorraine Kizzir – renewed her CNE through December 2021.

Dr. Catherine Belden – Presented research at STTI Delta Eta Chapter’s Intercollegiate Research Day and was accepted for a podium presentation at the National Rural Health Association Annual Conference. Co-authored a journal article: Coelho, K. R., & Belden, C. V. (2016). A Systematic Review of the Literature on the Relationship Between Caste Membership and Health-related Risk Factors in India. International Journal of Medicine and Public Health, 6 (2).

Dr. Deedra Harrington – Collaborating with Lafayette General Medical Center, Dr. Oberleitner, and Dr. Lenahan on a process improvement project for CAUTI reduction in ICU. Co-authored a journal article: Lenahan, C. & Harrington, D. (2016). PCSK9 Inhibitors for Familial Hypercholesterolemia. The Journal for Nurse Practitioners. http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2016.05.005

Dr. Lisa Broussard – Presented a poster at the Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference, “Faculty Attitudes and Practices Related to Online Teaching” and had a podium presentation with Dr. Patrick Reed at the Online Learning Consortium Innovate 2017, “RN to BSN Student Engagement in Online Courses: The Impact of Synchronous Teaching Methods”.


Collaborative Efforts

Dr. Lemoine, Dr. Templet, and Dr. Roger Rholdon are collaborating with Chris Cornell, the Maternal Child Coordinator for the Louisiana Department of Health, to conduct a pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness of simulation to teach senior level nursing students about infant safe sleep practices and sudden unexpected infant death. The goal is to take the knowledge that is gained from the study and use it to design and implement educational programs on infant safe sleep and sudden infant death for nurses in the community.

Dr. Lisa Broussard and Dr. Patrick Reed received $4250 from Academic Partnerships to support a research study titled “RN to BSN Student Engagement in Online Courses: The Impact of Synchronous Teaching Methods”. Findings indicated student preference for a combination of both synchronous (web conferencing) and asynchronous activities (discussion forums). Participants really enjoyed the personal interaction experienced with faculty and classmates during the web conferencing, but expressed concerns about scheduling conflicts incurred with synchronous activities. Value was realized in a combination of both synchronous and asynchronous activities.