Notes from the Dean

Recent Faculty Publications


Physical Therapy celebrates 40 years!

On June 2, the Division of Physical Therapy hosted a reunion for the Class of 1972. Attendees included the founding department chair, Dr. Pat Yarborough, as well as notably alumni from the class of 1972 through the DPT class of 2011.

Colleagues -

Exciting things are happening for the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions as we move into our second year as an independent school.

Dr. James Weyhenmeyer, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, recently published FY 2012 grants and contracts award activities. Our faculty members brought in 20 research grants and awards totaling $1,131,210 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Thank you to all our faculty and staff who have worked hard to secure these research grants.

Also, the Board of Nursing released its quarterly report which announced that our NCLEX pass rate for 2012 so far is 95.5%. Congratulations to the nursing undergraduate alumni who have recently taken the exam.

Strategic Planning

During the first part of the summer, we convened a team of faculty and staff to develop a three-year strategic plan for the school. We will begin sharing the plan with you and our other stakeholders early in the fall to obtain feedback. We look forward to hearing your feedback and incorporating it into the final version, which faculty will implement in late fall semester.

Kudos

Both Dr. Joan Cranford and Dr. Ptlene Minick have been accepted into the AACN Leadership for Academic Nursing Program! This fellowship develops and enhances leadership skills in new and emerging executive administrators in baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs and better prepares participants to accept academic leadership positions, including the role of dean or director of the nursing academic unit. More information on this program can be found on the AACN web site at http://www.aacn.nche.edu/faculty/leadership-for-academic-nursing.

Faculty mentoring

A faculty mentoring program has been developed to aid new faculty in successfully integrating into their teaching and
Faculty and students from the Class of 1972 with Interim Division Head Jim Lewis and Dean Margaret Wilmoth in center.

From left to right: Robert “Barney” Poole, class of 1972; Dean Wilmoth; George Birdsong, Class of 1983

Jane Fitzpatrick Deloach, Class of 1972 and Jim Church, Faculty 1972

research roles and assure their success in the promotion and tenure process. The program, which has a teaching track and research track, will be adopted by the full school faculty this fall.

The mentoring program matches a new faculty member with the appropriate mentor, though not necessarily one in their academic field. For example, a non-tenure track clinical assistant professor may work with a teaching mentor. The goal of the faculty mentoring program-teaching track is for new faculty to learn teaching philosophy based on theory and evidence-based practice and setting a foundation for teaching excellence by the mentee.

The goal of the faculty mentoring program-research is to help raise the school’s research profile. Mentees will receive two years of structured support including internal grants, editing, budgeting and other resources from the Office of Research to help the new faculty member achieve success in landing external grants and publishing results. For more information on the plan draft, please visit http://snhp.gsu.edu/docs/FacultyMentoringPlan.pdf.

**Scholarship development program**

In conjunction with the strategic plan, we are beginning new initiatives with our faculty to grow our school’s research efforts. In April, we adopted a new scholarship development program. This program has been created to engage all faculty members in the research mission of the school and Georgia State University.

The two year plan sets goals to: 1) increase the quantity and quality of funded research, 2) to provide support and time for faculty to conduct research and participate in scholarship, and 3) retain faculty who are already productive in research and scholarship.

The plan employs tactics ranging from carefully planned course release to allow faculty time to apply for large national, prestigious grants to providing assistance from consulting editors, a biostatistician, and other grant review experts. The complete plan is available on the web at http://snhp.gsu.edu/docs/Scholarship_Develop_Plan.pdf.

**Personnel**

On June 9, we welcomed Gwynth Nelson as our new Director of Development. She joins the GSU family from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she has been working as the Director of Development since 2009. Gwynth has an extensive background in higher education development
as she has also served as the Interim Vice President at Shaw. She was previously Interim Assistant Dean at Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, Illinois and has held teaching positions at Olivet Nazarene and DeVry University. Gwynth is pursuing her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Capella University. She received her master’s degree from Olivet Nazarene and holds a bachelor’s degree from Indiana University. Please join me in welcoming Gwynth to our school!

In this issue of the dean’s newsletter, we are rolling out a new employee spotlight feature. Each month we will highlight one of the school’s faculty or staff, chosen at random. For the July issue, we spotlight two staff members: Sonda Abernathy of Health Professions and Linda Luckie of the Office of Academic Assistance. I encourage you to read each of their spotlights at http://snhp.gsu.edu/673.html and get to know your colleagues.

**New printing policy**

In order to save money on printing costs, we have implemented a new printing policy. Faculty and staff will no longer print and supply students with course materials such as syllabi, class handouts or readings. Instead, all documents necessary for student learning will be provided to students via ULearn (soon to be Desire2Learn) or eReserves.

Finally, big congratulations to Physical Therapy on receiving full accreditation from the CAPTE for the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program for ten years! Wonderful!

Thanks for all you do for our students and the community!

Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Best,

Peggy