The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report in 2011 entitled The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health. The report provided eight recommendations for the future of nursing; namely, 1) Remove scope-of-practice barriers, 2) Expand opportunities for nurses to lead and diffuse collaborative improvement efforts, 3) Implement nurse residency programs, 4) Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020, 5) Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020, 6) Ensure that nurses engage in lifelong learning, 7) Prepare and enable nurses to lead change to advance health, 8) Build an infrastructure for the collection and analysis of interprofessional healthcare workforce data.

The report concluded that “high quality health care cannot be achieved without exceptional nursing care and leadership.” And it needs to begin with more nurses holding a bachelor’s degree. A key recommendation emerging from the IOM report was the need to increase the number of nurses with a baccalaureate degree from 50 percent to 80 percent by 2020. Further, research by Linda Aiken, PhD, RN professor of nursing and sociology and director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, demonstrated that patient mortality and morbidity are negatively impacted if the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses is too low. Dr. Aiken’s research has contributed to the growing body of evidence that suggests having the right mix of associate degree to baccalaureate degree nurses has a significant impact on positive patient outcomes.

So it is important that nurses engage in lifelong learning and continue progressing with their education to meet the demands of a transformed health care system. That being said, let me share with you what nursing at Nicholls has done to address the recommendations in the IOM Report. Our RN-BSN Articulation is now totally online and is offered through Nicholls Online beginning in the spring 2013. We want to make the baccalaureate degree in nursing as accessible as possible for the associate degree-prepared workforce. The online RN-BSN articulation accommodates working RNs with their families and busy lives for returning to school.

More than a credential, the BSN degree gives nurses the breadth and depth of knowledge that equips them to take on leadership roles, do their job more effectively and ultimately better serve patients. Thus, it is imperative that their education level is up to the task. For example, according to Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, director of the “Future of Nursing: Campaign for Action” and senior adviser for nursing at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Nurses will need to be more adept with technology to care for an aging population with multiple chronic conditions. They will need to work in teams with other health care professionals to coordinate care and manage disease. And they will need to assume leadership roles to help transform our health care system to ensure that it delivers integrated, equitable and cost-effective services to everyone.” The nursing faculty, this past year, have transformed nursing education at Nicholls and have aligned education to practice by redesigning the baccalaureate curriculum to incorporate the above concepts and the knowledge nurses will need to equip them for the future.

Another initiative implemented that addresses the recommendations in the IOM Report, is nursing at Nicholls has partnered with the Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing (ICMSN) offering 4 concentrations: Family Nurse Practitioner, Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Executive, and Nurse Educator. It is our belief, that with this advanced MSN degree, our graduates will apply their new knowledge to lead change and advance high-quality health care for their patients and communities. We want nurses to continue their education and achieve higher levels of education through an improved system that promotes seamless academic progression. The online RN-BSN Articulation and the ICMSN partnership allow for this to occur.

In the spring, both the BSN and MSN programs will undergo separate national accreditation visits and Louisiana State Board of Nursing survey visits. We look forward to ongoing validation of program excellence and safety from these accrediting and regulatory bodies. We may be calling upon some of our alumni and partners to assist us in this endeavor. In the meantime, enjoy the exciting accomplishments shared in this newsletter!

Sue Westbrook, DNS, RN
Nicholls Association of Student Nurses (NASN)

Nicholls NASN began the fall semester with Welcome Back Day. The chosen theme was “Nurses Get Fit” and included a “Shot Put” water balloon game with Dr. Todd Keller as the target. Congratulations on a successful Welcome Back Day 2012. Nicholls Nursing was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Ribbon! Thanks to all the faculty and students who came out to support the day...and bombarding Dr. Keller with water balloons. A special thanks to Kim Dozar and Dr. Keller for making the Water Balloon Shot Put a great success!

In October, NASN members participated in Family Day by providing games for children. The Louisiana Association of Student Nurses (LASN) fall convention was attended by Collette Breaux, NASN Vice President. NASN was awarded a certificate for the greatest increase in membership and Ms. Breaux was awarded a scholarship. In November, NASN member Brooke Vickers was elected Region III LASN director. NASN ended the semester by collecting a total of 134 toys for the Thibodaux Area Toy Drive. Many NASN students and faculty, as well as, the LASN President participated in the Toy Drive Wrapping Party.

During the upcoming spring semester, NASN will sponsor its annual Easter Egg Hunt for area children, complete with beautiful weather and an appearance from the Easter Bunny himself. NASN’s central and final event set for this spring will include the Cystic Fibrosis walk.

NASN Officers
President: .................................................................................. Kristin Deenes
Vice-President: ......................................................................... Paige Matthews
Secretary: ................................................................................... Brooke O. Landry
Treasurer: ..................................................................................... Brooke M. Landry

December 2012 Graduates

Kelly M. Acker  Britney N. Domingue
Marie A. Barker  Chelsea P. Dowden
Lori C. Battaglia  Justin P. Dumont
Heather Bergeron  Krizia A. Eldredge
Megan N. Bergeron  Ali R. Fontane
Jody M. Blankenship  Shawn P. Fontane
Claire A. Bossier  Brittany J. Fuselier
Holly M. Boudreaux  Kacie B. Harrison
Justin P. Boudreaux  Shaquanda Hart
Pheobe K. Bowers  Stephanie A. Harvey
Collette M. Breaux  Amanda D. Henry
Jessica L. Brister  Vincent P. Holcomb
Orie L. Cressionie  Monique Jones
Brittany K. Desselle  Toni T. Joseph
Megan K. Kelly  Adrianna M. Miller
Katherine E. Kern  Katie L. Naquin
Benjamin M. Landry  Hannah B. Neal
Kimberly C. Landry  Reshell L. Parker
Ashley N. Leboeuf  Nicole M. Ponville
Janie L. Ledet  Tasha R. Sevin
Brittany A. Livaccari  Mallory E. St. Romain
Philip A. Lottinger  Andrae N. Terry
Kaitlyn A. Machen  Careen E. Tetuh
Breana B. Mansfield  Candice N. Theriot
Kayla M. Martin  Jordan E. Vaccarella
Maddie R. McElroy  Lindsey R. Verret
 Rochelle E. Melo  Amy F. Waguespack

Xi Zeta Inductees - 2012
Chelsea Becnel  La Toya Jones
Heather Bergeron  Megan Kelly
Megan Bergeron  Amy Kirkland
Jody Blankenship  Samantha LeBlanc
Collette Breaux  Janie Ledet
Jessica Brister  Sarah Linton
Kim Clement  Jenny Lirette
Candice Crotwell  Lauren Lusco
Holly Cumpston  Kaylyn Machen
Brittney Domingue  Breana Mansfield
Jill Dubois  Kayla Martin
Ali Fontane  Maddie McElroy
Shawn Fontane  Kristie Naquin
Brittany Fuselier  Hannah Neal
Meagan Gervais  Tiffany Picou
Kayla Guerra  Nicole Ponville
Kacie Harrison  Elaine Quao
Amanda Henry  Britttnie Roussel
Louis Herzog  Renee Sons
Jasmine Hoskins  Bethanie Thibodaux
Jared Jenkins  Orie Tregre

Xi Zeta officers:
President .................. Dr. Angelique Allemand
President Elect............ Dr. Amanda Eymard
Vice-President ............ Michelle Patterson
Secretary...................... Jeanne Hammer
Treasurer..................... Rebecca Naquin

Faculty Advisor............ Rebecca Lyons
Research Chair ............ Dr. Tanya Schreiber
Governance Chair .......... Kimberly Dozar
Leadership Chair .......... Carol Hession
Faculty Scholarship & Accomplishments

Dr. Pete Lewis, Dr. Charlene Smith, and Pamela Williams-Jones’s article “Tips to reduce dangerous interruptions by healthcare staff” was published in Nursing 2012.

Dr. Pete Lewis, Dr. Charlene Smith, and Pamela Williams-Jones’s article “The silent killer among African American children” was published in NNNA News.

Dr. Angeilque Allemand and Michelle Patterson presented “Simulation: A Tool to Learning Effective Communication” at the Xi Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Society fall program.

Dr. Todd Keller and Dr. Amanda Eymard successfully completed the Certified Nurse Educator examination.

Angele Davis presented the continuing nursing education activity, “Applying ECG Rhythm Interpretation to Safe, Evidence-Based Patient-Centered Care” at Nicholls State University in November.

Rebecca Lyons continues ongoing participation in the Nurse-Family Partnership grant in collaboration with the Department of Health and Hospitals.

Dr. Amanda Eymard, Kimberly Dozar, and Laura Blanchard were funded for the NSNA grant entitled Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development.

Dr. Amanda Eymard was funded for the Sigma Theta Tau grant entitled Using Interviews to Explore Nursing Students’ Attitudes and Perspectives Toward Older Adults.

Dr. Amanda Eymard was funded for the Louisiana Board of Regents grant entitled Curriculum and Instruction Materials for Collaborative Learning Space Dedicated to Music Education/Teaching of Music.

Dr. Amanda Eymard, Amber Berry, Angele Davis, Dr. Bridget Guidry, and Jeanne Hammer submitted a grant to the Louisiana Board of Regents entitled Enhancement of BSN Nursing Curriculum with SOCC (Simulation of Critical Care) Project. Approval of funding is pending.

Angele Davis, Kimberly Dozar, Dr. Amanda Eymard, and Rebecca Lyons submitted a grant to the Louisiana Board of Regents entitled Implementing Innovative Teaching and Formative Evaluation Strategies (ITFES) in the Clinical Setting to Determine Student Outcomes: The ITFES Project. Approval of funding is pending.

Dr. Amanda Eymard submitted a grant to the Fourchon Oilman Association entitled Enhancement of BSN Curriculum with TEDR (Trauma, Emergency, Disaster Relief) Simulation Project. Approval of funding is pending.

Dr. Tanya Schreiber served as abstract reviewer for the upcoming 2013 Southern Nursing Research Society conference.

Dr. Todd Keller was awarded the Grace Monk-Gueydan Endowed Professorship in Nursing.

Dr. Tanya Schreiber was awarded the Mary Danos Endowed Professorship in Nursing.

Student News

Dr. Amanda Eymard and Shay Ives, a Senior nursing student, were funded for the Counting the Steps: The Effect of Preceptorship Experience on Nursing Students’ Efficiency Grant submitted to the Research Council.

The Nursing and the Childrearing Family students brought fun into the clinical setting by dressing up for Halloween.

Where are they now…. Tell us how you are doing! Help us to keep up with what Nicholls State University nursing alumni are doing by visiting the Web site at www.nicholls.edu/nursing and update us using the link provided.

To make a submission to this newsletter or update your contact information, email: Angele Davis @ angele.davis@nicholls.edu or Dr. Tanya Schreiber @ tanya.schreiber@nicholls.edu.