



VANS E-Newsletter

Valdosta Association of Nursing Students

VSU College of Nursing

July/August 2008

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President's Message

Lauren Walter

Hello Students! It's about that time for Fall semester to begin again and VANS has many opportunities to get involved! We have a Ropes Course planned for the incoming juniors and many more exciting events to come! Please be on the lookout for more information as we begin the semester. We are really excited as we branch out this semester to provide more opportunities and to better our organization! We are looking forward to working for you! Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything!

Newsletter/Website Message

Barry Jones

Please take an opportunity to look at the website updates. If you'd like to see something added to the website, please send suggestions to bjones@valdosta.edu. Thanks!!

Please look at the "Contact Us" column for important web links that will allow you to submit stories,

Secretary's Message

Crystal Gomez

Hello future, current and past Valdosta State University nursing students and faculty! Welcome to the July issue of the VANS E-Newsletter. I hope you find tons of great information about our plans for the fall semester. Please take the time to view our latest meetings minutes to find out what may be in store for you.

A great opportunity for you to be thinking about for the fall semester is the annual Georgia Association of Nursing Students Convention, which will be held in historic Columbus Georgia. This convention is packed with new and exciting opportunities just for YOU! You'll get to enjoy loads of information from various hospitals and agencies in and around the state of Georgia. This means RECRUITERS who are looking to give you information on what their institution has to offer! You will also get the opportunity to interact with other nursing students by participating in the first annual GANS idol, a decade party, a futuristic cosmo soiree, NCLEX review sessions and focus sessions. Stay tuned for more information...

If you are interested in finding out more about Valdosta Association of Nursing Students, please contact one of our officers.

VANS News

Please keep updated on current events by accessing the VANS website at <http://valdosta.edu/vans>. There will be many exciting events coming up in August. Please keep updated!! We are currently trying to plan a Junior I Meet and Greet, plan and implement various fundraising activities to help pay for convention, and other fun activities for the students. Thanks!

GANS Annual Convention, Columbus, Georgia October 16-18, 2008

Lauren Walter, President, VANS

Welcome students! I hope everyone is prepared for an exciting new semester at the College of Nursing. VANS is planning many and new exciting events for you to take part in. Also, in October we have state convention. This year's theme is "Oh the places you'll go! New Directions in Nursing!" Please read the following excerpt of information from the GANS website regarding this year's GANS Convention:

Exhibit Hall

This year's exhibit hall will feature over 70 exhibitors, including professional organizations, regional hospitals and other employers, graduate nursing programs, vendors, and community service organizations. Speaking with exhibitors is a great way to increase your awareness of professional opportunities in the field of nursing, build relationships with regional recruiters, and gain insight into career possibilities available to you following graduation. Nurse recruiters from regional hospitals will also discuss summer nurse externships and other employment opportunities available to students.

Focus Sessions

Focus sessions are led by experts on various topics of interest to student nurses; they are a great opportunity to explore career possibilities, learn more about issues relevant to our profession, and get specific information on everything from how to become involved in the political process to how to make it through nursing school.

Convention Scholarships

A feature of convention this year will be scholarships awarded onsite from sponsoring hospitals and other organizations, ranging in value from \$125-\$500. Applications will be available at convention, and students must be present at the Awards Banquet to receive these scholarships, so you must attend convention to win!

House of Delegates

The House of Delegates is an opportunity for us to make our voices heard as the nursing students of Georgia. We will discuss and vote on resolutions submitted by students from chapters around the state. Participating in our observing the House of Delegates is a great way to become more aware of current issues affecting our profession.

Fun Activities

An important part of convention is having fun while getting to know your fellow students from across Georgia. This year's convention will include a retro-

themed welcome reception, a futuristic-themed party and parade of the banners, as well as our Annual Awards Banquet and Endnote Address. We will hold a silent auction and, as always, convention will include numerous prizes and raffles for you to win.

I expect this year's convention to be very exciting! And on our local level, we will have many opportunities for you to get involved. We will hold elections for our officers at the end of the semester, so start planning on your opportunity to become involved and start working on those leadership experiences. Be on the lookout for more information throughout the CON and on our website: <http://www.valdosta.edu>. You can also email me at lawalter@valdosta.edu for any questions or concerns! Good luck everyone and I look forward to working with each of you!

VANS First Meeting for Fall Semester

Lauren Walter, President, VANS

Our first VANS member meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 28 at 3:30p in Room 104 unless otherwise specified. At this meeting we will be doing things such as finalizing meeting dates for the Fall semester. Since there are many exciting changes in the College of Nursing, we would greatly appreciate your input on when it is appropriate and convenient for the majority to attend VANS meetings without conflicting with either a class or our lunch hours. Please attend so that we can hear your input on how we can help you get more involved with your student nurse association.

VANS Junior I Meet and Greet Almost Here!!!

Barry Jones, Website/Newsletter

Valdosta Association of Nursing Students is excited to announce that we will be holding a Junior I Meet and Greet at the Campus Recreation Center on Sustella Avenue on Thursday August 14, 2008 from 12pm-5pm. This will allow Junior I's the opportunity to meet some other nursing students and help build leadership skills through Ropes Course activities. After the Ropes Course we intend on having a cookout for the Junior I students. We invite all Junior I's to attend! If you need any additional information regarding this activity, please email lawalter@valdosta.edu. Please have your student ID available when attending!

We want to allow Junior I's as well as other students the opportunity to find out what your student nurse association (VANS) can do for you!! Please come out and spend some time and experience the great opportunities we have to offer!! We look forward to seeing you there!

College of Nursing News and Announcements

Assistant Dean Position Available, taken from Inside Higher Education, (link available on the College of Nursing Website at <http://valdosta.edu/nursing>)

The College of Nursing at Valdosta State University invites applications for the position of Assistant Dean. This is a twelve-month, tenure track faculty position at the rank of associate or full professor. Appointment date is January 1, 2009. The Assistant Dean position requires leadership and oversight of the undergraduate program and the recruitment, development and retention of undergraduate students. The Assistant Dean role includes strategic planning, curriculum development, mentoring faculty, and teaching selected undergraduate and/or graduate courses.

Qualifications include a minimum of an earned doctorate in nursing or a related field, experience teaching in baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs, a record of scholarship, evidence of academic leadership and credentials consistent with appointment in senior rank as associate or full professor. Preferred candidates will have experience in academic administration and recent performance as CCNE evaluator.

Interested applicants should submit a faculty application form (http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/documents/Faculty_Employment_APP.pdf), letter of interest, vitae and the names and contact information for at least three professional references to Assistant Dean Search, College of Nursing, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA 31698-0130. Review of applications will commence October 1, 2008. Position is open until filled. For more information on the University, College, or community visit our website www.valdosta.edu. VSU is an equal opportunity educational institution. For more information regarding position contact Dr. Anita Hufft, Dean, College of Nursing via email ahufft@valdosta.edu or phone 229-333-5959.

Upcoming Events College of Nursing

BSN Admissions Advising and NET	July 16th
BSN Admissions Advising and NET	July 23rd
Last day of Summer II	July 29th
BSN Admissions Advising and NET	July 30th
Summer Commencement	Aug 2nd
University Convocation	Aug 11th
College of Nursing Convocation	Aug 15th
New Student Orientation	Aug 16th
1st Day of Fall Classes	Aug 18th
Fall Registration	Aug 14th - 18th
Applicant Advising and NET testing for Spring Applicants (click the links for a complete list of dates)	Aug 1st - Sept 12th
Mandatory ATI Orientation Meeting (for All BSN Students)	Aug 29th
Please look for continuous updates to the College of Nursing Calendar by clicking here .	

Faculty Corner

*South Georgia Medical
Center
And
Valdosta State University
Present
Budget Management
Concepts for
Nurse Managers*

Featuring

Ken Kiser, RN, MSN

Date

September 27, 2008 8am-4:30pm

Location

University Center
Valdosta State University
1204 N. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA 31698

(across from Martin Hall — College of Nursing)

To find out more information on registration for this event, please go to the College of Nursing Website and download the registration form. Coffee and lunch are provided. Preregistration Deadline is September 12, 2008.

Faculty Spotlight



**Dr. Deborah Weaver,
Associate Professor**

Dr. Deborah Weaver is VANS choice for the month of June for our faculty spotlight column. Dr. Weaver has been with VSU College of Nursing since 1987 when she

moved here to work on her MSN. She has taught adult health on the junior and senior levels most of that time. She does have one semester experience in Maternal Child content; however, her main educational focus has lied with adult health. As an advocate for the early adoption of technology, she championed the causes to get computers in a room for faculty use, then another room for student use, acquisition of computers for all faculty, a dedicated computer lab in the CON with a printer, smart classrooms, high fidelity simulators, and PDAs for faculty and a cohort of nursing students. Throughout much of my time here, I have been involved in innovative teaching strategies, including online testing.

She graduated from the University of South Carolina with her Associates Degree in Nursing in 1975. In 1985, she came to Valdosta State College to pursue her BSN and graduated in 1987. She then entered Valdosta State College's Masters of Science in Nursing Program where she graduated in 1990. In 1999, she began her educational focus on education at Valdosta State College. In 1992, Dr. Deborah Weaver began her effort to complete her Doctorate in Nursing Education from Georgia State University where she finished in 2000.

Dr. Weaver's current research interest are to finish her research related to the pilot use of PDAs for second degree students and the effect on their self efficacy for clinical. She plans to develop or partner with others for another research study regarding the use of PDA's in the simulation settings. She will be attending the ELNEC conference that will provide her with the continuing education she requires for her continued work with hospice patients and families.

Dr. Weaver said in response to receiving this recognition from VANS, "I am honored to be

chosen as your featured faculty member. My quote: 'often the person who challenges us the most is the one from whom we can learn the most, if only we can keep our eyes on the prize.'

Student Corner

GANE Offers Scholarships

The Georgia Association for Nursing Education (GANE) is offering 2 scholarships for Associate & Baccalaureate nursing students. The scholarship award will be a minimum of \$500. The deadline for scholarship applications is October 1, 2008 (the application is incorrectly dated for last year). Go to the GANE website (www.georgiaassociationfornursingeducation.com) and follow the links on the left side of the page labeled GANE Scholarships. Good luck to all who apply!!

GANS Corner



New NEC South Director, GANS Executive Board

Barry Jones from Valdosta State University was appointed to the NEC South position on June 21, 2008 to replace Amanda Flax.

Barry is currently trying to contact all Southern District schools in order to recruit potential qualified executive board candidates for election in October during the GANS state convention. If you, as a member, advisor, or school representative have any questions or need any assistance in the application process, please contact him at gansekgcochair@yahoo.com or bjones@valdosta.edu. He can also be reached by cell phone at 229-444-4572 (please leave a message if no answer). Barry has served the executive board as the GANS EKG Co-Chairperson since October of last year and currently is responsible for the BLAST E-Newsletter sent out every month. Many of you that went to COSL got a chance to meet Barry during the Website/Newsletter focus session. The board welcomes him to the position of NEC South.

Convention Update, Layne Mankowski, 1st Vice President, GANS

Included are some reminders about your 2008 GANS Convention. Our theme is, "New Directions in

Nursing: Oh the places you'll go!" It's going to be held from October 16th -18th, 2008 in Columbus, Georgia at the Historical Iron Works Trade Center. This is a beautiful location right on the river in downtown Columbus, GA.

Hotel rooms have been blocked at the Columbus Marriott for a GANS special rate of \$130/night for multiple occupancy rooms. The contact information for the Marriott can be found below.

The schedule for your 2008 convention is still a work in progress, but includes things such as:

- Welcome ceremony with keynote speaker Susan S. Gunby, RN, PhD, Dean and professor for Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, Mercer University. Those who have heard her speak know how motivational and inspiring her presentations are. Don't miss this incredible keynote speaker!
- Our first annual GANS Idol - come show us your karaoke skills and puts the likes of William Hung to shame (or maybe you will make him look like Clay Aiken), our 3 "famous" judges will be there to help decide!
- Celebrate the decades past by coming to our Celebrate the Years party dressed in the fashions of your favorite decade!
- Banner-making will be back this year, so conjuring up your ideas to help your school win the banner parade!
- The NCLEX review is back too, but with a different presenter. We received plenty of feedback concerning last year's review, and are currently working with Kaplan to do this year's NCLEX review!
- We will be having a Cosmo Soirée on Friday night, so come dressed in your futuristic best!

Thus far, we have focus sessions lined up that include topics such as:

- You've Passed the Boards Now What: Surviving your first year as a nurse
- Spinal Cord/Brain Injury Nursing
- Bringing Babies into this World: Midwifery, L&D, NICU
- Pharmacology Made Insanely Easy

Focus sessions that we are working on confirming:

- Flight Nursing
- ABG's and EKG's
- ER Nursing
- Oncology Nursing
- And several more!

Newest Announcements

We are in the process of finalizing an incredible endnote speaker and will announce who it is in the next BLAST after we confirm their availability. We are also working in conjunction with The Red Cross to do another blood drive as well as a possible Disaster Relief Training Session/Experience! Wouldn't you like to see your school, fellow classmate, or advisor recognized at convention?? Please check your Chapter Resource Book for the list of awards and applications for the 2008 GANS Convention. The application deadline is in early September, so please take note and start thinking about them now. The link for the Chapter Resource Book and Award Applications will be on the GANS website soon!** I hope to see you all at our 2008 GANS Convention in Columbus! Any questions, please contact Layne Mankowski at 1stvp@ganursingstudents.org

GANS to Host Workshop at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing

The Georgia Association of Nursing Students is holding workshops at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia. The following workshops will be offered...

Resolution Writing Workshop

Hosted By: Kristin Borgia, Legislative Director

Bring your resolution ideas and/or rough drafts!
Please RSVP to (770) 655-5858

Newsletter/Website Workshop

Hosted By: K. Niles Jarrett, EKG Director

Please bring copies of your school's newsletter.
Please RSVP to (770) 823-1601

Running for Office Workshop

Hosted By: Rosalie Medina (NEC Chair/ East), Sabrina Thomas (NEC West), Barry Jones (NEC South), and Nancy Jean (NEC North)

Get information about running for office!
No RSVP required

When: Saturday August 23, 2008

Where: Georgia Baptist College of Nursing Building, Rooms: 304/313 3001 Mercer University Drive Atlanta, GA 30341

Time: 10 am - 1 pm