



VANS E-Newsletter

Valdosta Association of Nursing Students

VSU College of Nursing

June 2008

Visit our website <http://www.valdosta.edu/vans>

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President's Message

Lauren Walter

Hello VSU Nursing Students! Hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacation! The Valdosta Association of Nursing Students is in the process of coordinating many new and exciting events for the students of the College of Nursing. We have a dedicated executive board that is committed to serving you and providing you with many new and unique experiences. Please be on the lookout for more information to come concerning the upcoming fall semester! Hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe summer, and we look forward to working with you in the fall!

Vice President's Message

Alanna Reed

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all students, Nursing and Pre-Nursing to the Valdosta Association of Nursing Students' first newsletter. I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind all students that they are eligible to be a part of our great organization by going to www.nsnamembership.org to sign up with the NSNA. There are many benefits to becoming an NSNA member and VANS member which are detailed on our website; however, the most important is the ability to network with other students within the College of Nursing at various levels within the nursing program. This nursing program here at Valdosta State is very competitive and difficult and it's nice to have other students supporting you throughout the journey to become a baccalaureate prepared registered nurse. I've learned that throughout my journey, that this group of students has offered me companionship and support. Please join us in launching this organization to new heights in the upcoming year. I'm personally excited about the new changes and opportunities we have in store for you as students. Please make an effort to request access to BlazeNet group labeled "VANS Members" as this keeps you up to date on current announcements which may not be found in the newsletter or on the website. Please take advantage of our community service opportunities and receive credit for your "Community as Client" course. Keep up to date on the latest research and the latest technologies as VANS tries to reach into those areas to bring worthwhile information to you as a nursing student. Finally, congratulations and best wishes as we all take a long break for the summer. You're journey only begins with the College of Nursing. Make your journey a great one with VANS!!!

Secretary's Message

Crystal Gomez

Please keep up to date on the latest minutes on the VANS website. We will begin linking the new minutes as the new meetings come to date. Please keep the VANS calendar, available on the website, linked and close by to ensure you're keeping up to date on VANS activities and deadlines. Please, please, please be an active participant in your Student Nurse Association as we have a say in policy changes in the college of nursing, and the organization allows for the opportunity to learn and develop leadership skills through activities such as convention attendance and workshops. I encourage everyone to take advantage of all the opportunities VANS offers you as students. Welcome to our organization and to our website and we look forward to seeing all of you at orientation in the fall.

Newsletter/Website Director's Message

Barry Jones

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Valdosta Association of Nursing Students. I wanted to take this moment to say that we're very proud to have this available to all nursing students as well as pre-nursing students regardless of membership. Our website and newsletter, developed this summer, are the students' link to our organization (VANS) and to the College of Nursing at Valdosta State University. We have sections available for student and faculty submissions as well as focus on specific events pertinent to the nursing student. Please take a few moments to read over everything in our newsletter as we have specific breakdowns of pertinent information based on levels throughout the VSU nursing program.

Student News and Information can be found under the "Student Corner" heading found below. Student submissions about events happening with their class are welcomed. Student stories are also welcomed; however, be sure to NOT include any patient information as this is a violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 and will be subject to disapproval. Also announcements about open study groups are helpful.

The "Faculty Corner" allows our faculty to submit different stories about nursing as well as helps faculty have a conduit to provide words of support as they do know what you as students go through. We strongly encourage all faculty members to make submissions.

Please also be aware that within our newsletters lie important dates and information for College of Nursing Students. Please see the "Upcoming Events: College of Nursing" section for more information on ATI test dates, NET test dates, etc. There will also be a link to the VSU College of Nursing Calendar to help recap some of these dates.

Once again, thank you for taking time to read YOUR student newsletter!!! We're very excited and proud of the upcoming possibilities throughout the school year!! Please be aware that you can print this newsletter as I publish them in PDF format. That way if there's something you can't read

right now, but can read later, the information is printable. Please be aware and keep in mind the university policy on printing. Please conserve paper when possible.

Treasurer's Message

Shanta Bunkley

Fundraising Opportunities in the Works

Hello to our great members and students. Please keep your eyes out for fundraisers coming up in July and early August. Anyone planning to attend convention in Columbus in the fall will need to participate. These fundraisers are designed to help you, the student, defray costs for attendance. We will be making appropriate changes to the calendar on the VANS website as well as posting announcements on the BlazeNet site.

State Convention News

The Georgia Association of Nursing Students' state convention is scheduled October 16-18, 2008 in Columbus, Georgia. Please note NSNA/GANS/VANS members receive discounted rates for registration. Visit www.nsnamembership.org for information on how to become a member. There will also be opportunities for an NCLEX review sessions for small fee.

Fundraising opportunities to help offset costs of attendance will be going on throughout the summer and fall semesters. Please keep apprised of any updated information on fundraisers via our newsletter, BlazeNet announcements or on the VANS website. For up to date information from GANS, please visit their website, www.ganursingstudents.org.

If you plan to attend convention in Columbus, please email Shanta Bunkley at sebunkley@valdosta.edu. We need an accurate count so that we can begin coordinating hotel rooms.

College of Nursing News

Nursing Student Now Army Strong

Barry Jones was sworn in as a second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps on Friday May 30, 2008. Dr. Anita Hufft, Dean of the College of Nursing and retired Captain in the Army Nurse Corps administered the US Army Officer's Oath to Barry as well as pinned his bar on his collar of his Valdosta State University Student Nurse Uniform. Those in attendance were Barry's family, SFC Ian Francis, his recruiter, as well as Dr. Maura Schlairet,



Anita Hufft, Dean of the College of Nursing administers the US Army Officer Oath to Barry Jones at his Commissioning Ceremony on May 30, 2008

Professor for the College of Nursing. Dr. Louis Levy, Vice President of Academic Affairs and another former military officer, was also able to attend the event. Barry Jones, 26, is the son of Robert and Terrie Jones of Ray City and the oldest of seven children. Barry's father, Robert is a retired Air Force Master Sergeant and has a graduate degree in Public Administration and a graduate certification in Human Resource Management. Robert is currently an instructor at Park University on Moody Air Force Base and is the owner of GC Restaurant in Ray City. His mother, Terrie has two graduate degrees, one in Business Administration and Human Resource Management. Terrie is currently employed by Sanderson Farms, Inc. as a feed mill distribution supervisor. Barry is set to graduate Valdosta State University in December 2008 with a baccalaureate degree of science in nursing and will attend Officer Basic Leadership School sometime afterwards. Barry will pursue a career in critical care nursing upon entering the Army and looks forward to completing a graduate degree in nurse anesthesia. Barry currently serves as website and newsletter director for the Valdosta Association of Nursing Students, as EKG (Exciting News about GANS) Co-Chair for the Georgia Association of Nursing Students and he is a member of the National Student Nurse Association. The College of Nursing and VANS congratulates Barry on a job well done.

Student Corner

Student and Faculty Submissions Welcomed

Barry Jones, VANS Newsletter Director

Please make contributions to your newsletter. We encourage professors to announce exam dates, advisors announce their advising schedule, and students to post opinions articles as well as research oriented works. Please utilize the "Student Corner" and "Faculty Corner" areas in order to help facilitate the dissemination of information to all students, faculty and administrators. We look forward to seeing what comes across our desks.

Website Glitches—Problem Being Worked

Barry Jones, VANS Website Director

There are still a few kinks we're working out with our website and I'm aware of some issues. The "Faculty and Student Feedback" page on the website will not submit an actual form to us, but only goes to an error screen. We are working with IT on this problem and will hopefully have the issue resolved by the Fall semester. In the meantime, if you'd like to make suggestions or inform of us of anything additional you'd like to see on the newsletter or website, please email me at bjones@valdosta.edu. I welcome any suggestions or criticism as it allows me the opportunity to improve. If there are any other errors (i.e. links not working, forms not pulling up, pages not showing) please let me know immediately by emailing me and I will try my hardest to have the issue rectified as soon as possible. Thanks and enjoy navigating!!!

Get Ready...Here Comes Orientation!!

Barry Jones, VANS Newsletter Director

Orientation for the College of Nursing will be held the Friday before classes begin which will be August 15th. Classes begin for fall semester on August 18th. Newly admitted Junior I students should be receiving notification in the mail soon. Please keep in mind that there are financial obligations coming up for the VSU College of Nursing. All students who are officially in the nursing program are REQUIRED to attend orientation. VANS will have presentations for your viewing and will have T-Shirts available for sale. Please help support VANS by purchasing a very popular T-Shirt!!!

ATI and Meds Publishing Deadlines Approaching

Barry Jones, VANS Newsletter Director

All student deadlines for Meds Publishing and ATI will be on 1 August 2008. Please make appropriate arrangements to pay appropriate funds on time. ATI dues can be paid by setting up an account at <http://www.atitesting.com> and Meds Publishing dues can be paid to Cecilia Furey at the VSU College of Nursing during normal business hours. Please see the VSU College of Nursing's website for further information.

Gas going up...What does that mean for clinical?

Barry Jones, VANS Newsletter Director

As everyone has seen a rise in gas prices, the prices are set to go even further to the increase end of the spectrum. So, what does this mean for clinical in Waycross, Thomasville, Moultrie and Tifton? It means START PLANNING NOW!!!

As the VSU College of Nursing tries to decrease expenditure to the student as much as possible, the lack of clinical resources and facilities in our area needed to meet the student demand for learning and development are limited. We all suggest that you take the time to begin budgeting for clinical now. There are many scholarships for nurses available and more information is contained within the VSU College of Nursing website. Please, see the VSU Office of Financial Aid website also for additional information for financial resources available to students.

Bottom line...it's time to begin budgeting for the fall to prevent getting caught by the "broke fairy." Also, get rid of SUV's!!! Buy more economically sound vehicles. Your pocketbooks and wallets will thank you!! Besides, lower emission vehicles decrease pollution and help with respiratory health within the community. We're nurses, shouldn't we advocate for better health?

Got Research?

Barry Jones, VANS Newsletter Director

Research...the foundation of evidence based practice. Dr. James Humphrey, the current generic BSN instructor for Nursing 4100, Nursing Research, is the person to go to for help in nursing research. I recently took Dr. Humphrey's class. If I may say, he's very knowledgeable and a very capable instructor. He's the best resource I know of in regards to research in nursing. For senior I students scheduled to take research in the fall, please use him as a resource as he maintains an open door policy. Look for an in depth interview from him and his son Jared, a current Junior II college of nursing student. In that story I'll be looking at the differences in nursing education and practice across generations. Look forward to introductions from Jared and Dr. Humphrey in subsequent issues.

Dean's Corner

Dr. Anita Hufft, Dean,

Valdosta State University, College of Nursing

Since commencement in May, everyone keeps asking me if I am enjoying my "time off" during the summer. I honestly reply yes and no – yes because I always enjoy summer – with its warm, long days, green and colorful flora all over town and some of my favorite holidays (Father's Day and Independence Day), usually celebrated with cookouts, music and relaxation in my family. Of course we never really "relax" here at the CON. As soon as we graduate one cohort of students we gear up for another. Our fourth group of Second Degree Students started in Maymester while the third group enrolled in their last term of coursework and is due to

graduate in August! The nurse practitioner and other MSN students are all over campus this summer and in the community doing clinicals. This will probably be the last summer in which RN-BSN coursework is not scheduled. So you can see our work never ends – but what wonderful work it is!

Our enrollments keep growing and our student successes keep growing along with them. Our current senior 2's had the highest cohort achievement percentage of any group of students yet and I'm very pleased to announce that Dr. Maria Whyte, pediatric faculty and Coordinator for the Nurse Practitioner Program, was just accepted into the prestigious and competitive leadership development program for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing!

Dr. Temple and I are working with faculty developing strategic initiatives for 2008-2011 and preparing for the SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) accreditation visit scheduled for spring 2010. That may seem like a long time from now, but the preparation is incredibly complex and we want to be the best college in the university so we're starting now! We invite participation from VANS members in the development of goals and strategies for meeting those goals, particularly ones related to student performance, student retention, and student success. We need to hear your thoughts regarding what works and doesn't work how you learn best, how we can best support you.

I am particularly interested in supporting student initiatives which help us reach beyond the classroom and minimum expectations to providing leadership in health promotion and student activism across South Georgia and beyond. Take a moment to review the Charge to the College below: how can VANS be a leader in defining these attributes as actions?

I look forward to seeing everyone in August, until then, health, happiness and good fortune!



Charge to the College "the big C's" Live our Core Values

- Caring
- Communication excellence
- Clinical Competence
- Consistent Critical thinking
 - Collegueship
- Culture of caring and civility

Faculty Corner

VANS Faculty Member of the Month, Dr. Deborah Weaver

Barry Jones, VANS Website Director

Many times throughout nursing school, many students receive various recognitions and achieve through an intense learning process; however, many times our faculty is overlooked. I would like to rectify this by naming Dr. Deborah Weaver, instructor of Health Promotion and Health Restoration of Adults (Med-Surg I and Med-Surg II) as our faculty member of the month!! Many nursing students can attribute their success in the College of Nursing to her. She's a challenging instructor; demanding excellence and dedication to the material that she teaches. I personally learned quite a bit from her invaluable leadership in the classroom and in the clinical setting. Dr. Weaver was recently recognized in the *VSU Connection* as a leader in educational excellence. This story in the "Connection" stemmed from an award Dr. Weaver received at the second annual Valdosta Area Nursing Recognition Reception that was held on 8 May 2008 (Heine, 2). Congratulations to her!! Due to publication time constraints, I was unable to gather the information I wanted; however, look for a complete biography for Dr. Deborah Weaver in July's newsletter. Until then, congrats to her for being our June Faculty Member of the Month!!

Upcoming Events College of Nursing

Please refer to the VSU CON website for up to date information regarding the VSU College of Nursing. Please see the VANS website calendar for up to date

Resources

Heine, Kate. May 2008. Nursing professor recognized for excellence in teaching and practice. *VSU Connection*, (1), 14. Retrieved from http://www.valdosta.edu/news/connection/documents/Connection_May_15.08_Web.pdf#2 on June 13, 2008.

information about VANS. Meanwhile, here are some dates to think about...

College of Nursing Dates

Deadline to sign up for all Retests	June 23 rd
Retests (Pharm, Fund, Adult, Peds, Mat)	June 27 th
4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY	July 4 th
Summer II Mid-Term	July 7 th
Fall 2008 Registration	July 7 th - 14 th
RNCP #2 SDS Cohort 3	July 11 th
BSN Admissions Advising and NET	July 16 th
BSN Admissions Advising and NET	July 23 rd
Last day of Summer II	July 29 th
BSN Admissions Advising and NET	July 30 th
Summer Commencement	Aug 2 nd

For more information on Summer Dates please follow the link to the College of Nursing Website's Calendar at <http://valdosta.edu/nursing/documents/SummerCalendar2008.pdf>

The new Fall calendar has just been posted to the VSU College of Nursing Website—Get a jumpstart on planning by going to <http://www.valdosta.edu/nursing/documents/Fall2008MasterCalendarupdated13June08.pdf>

VANS Dates

VANS Executive Board Meeting June 30th