College of Nursing Adds Wireless Lab in Omaha

From UNMC Today

The College of Nursing has been using online testing for several years for students in the RN to BSN distance education program. Before online testing, printed copies of the test were mailed to proctors who would administer the test in rural areas. Now tests are administered online by issuing proctors an ID and password to access the Internet and the exam. The student takes and submits the test online.

During the 2002-2003 academic year, the College of Nursing offered more than 65 online tests. Undergraduate and graduate faculty in the College of Nursing Divisions (Omaha, Kearney, Scottbluff and Lincoln) began online testing for campus and distance education students. The only limitation in the growth of online testing was a self-imposed moratorium due to space limitations.

Faculty members wanted to implement the testing technology in their classes. The maximum capacity for online testing in the College of Nursing in Omaha was 23 stations in the Learning Resource Center, which was insufficient for the number of undergraduate students in the largest classes. In addition, if the Learning Resource Center was used for testing, it had to be closed to other students, which had an adverse impact on the primary purposes of the LRC.

With appropriate facilities, the number of online tests administered this year will continue to grow. To facilitate the College of Nursing’s online testing needs, ITS helped develop an on-site testing facility capable of providing for the needs of this growing evaluation methodology. Room 5025 in the College of Nursing has been modified for this purpose. Laptop computers with wireless connections are being used to provide network access for 48 students (maximum occupancy). The laptops are stored in specially designed cabinets, which provide security and electric power to keep the units fully charged at all times. The cabinets are stored when not in use so the room is available as a classroom.

ITS has developed an infrastructure to support an enterprise wide solution for wireless use on campus. This type of solution is significantly different than if an individual were to implement wireless in their home. A wireless network, which connects with the current wired network, is being developed. Cisco equipment is being utilized because Cisco integrates with the current network in addition to being the market leader.

An enterprise wireless network must be able to support the entire enterprise and be positioned to expand as the technology needs change.

With the installation of the wireless classroom and enhanced online testing capacity, the College of Nursing is able to move forward with the strategic goal of enhancing and expanding the educational environment.
**People in the News**

- **Barbara McCabe** was named as a Fellow of the National Gerontological Nursing Association at its annual convention in Houston in October. This award is an acknowledgment of her work furthering the goals of gerontological nursing. She was also elected as a member of the Board of Directors for the association for a two-year term.

- **Bert Kroeger** received the Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska Nurses Association for her volunteer work as Continuing Education Director for NNA.

- **Polly Hulme and Susan Noble Walker**, along with former students Kathy Effle, Leah Jorgensen, Mary McGowan, Judy Nelson, and Beth Pratt, published an article in the Journal of Transcultural Nursing in August, titled “Health-Promoting Lifestyle Behaviors of Spanish-Speaking Hispanic Adults.”


- The College of Nursing - Kearney Division hosted a “get acquainted night” for pre-nursing students enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Twenty-five pre-nursing student attended and were greeted by UNMC CON faculty, staff and students. The students were treated to a tour of the College of Nursing, a demonstration of the simulation mannequin and refreshments. **Hilary Christo**, Student Services Coordinator, and **Judy Billings**, Assistant Dean, hosted a question-and-answer session.

**New Students Participate In Induction Ceremonies**

Induction ceremonies for new nursing students were held at all four campuses of the UNMC College of Nursing on Oct. 12. The ceremonies recognized 140 new students as they committed to academic integrity and began learning the values and behaviors of the professional nurse. The ceremonies also focused on some of the most important values for the professional nurse and for the profession of nursing: responsibility, trustworthiness, honesty, fairness, and respect of others.

During the ceremonies, students recited an oath of professionalism and signed a pledge. They also received the College of Nursing patch to be affixed to their uniforms and the pen they used to sign the oath.

**Virginia Tilden**, CON dean, provided a message for all four ceremonies.

“Health care has become more complex,” Dr. Tilden said in her message. “We recognize the importance to initiate a formal ceremony hallmarking the students’ entry into the profession of nursing and their assimilation of the values and behaviors of a professional nurse. During the next four to five semesters, student will attend classes, participate in clinical experiences from six to 12 hours a day, and fulfill their pledge to uphold academic integrity and professional standards.”

Following the ceremonies, various events were hosted at the four campuses, including receptions for the students, family and friends and open houses.

**Thank you**

UNMC CON,

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, they smell great! Ashley is doing well and her sister Rachael is adjusting to someone new in the family. Thanks again.

Cathy Binstock
As the new and sixth Dean of the College of Nursing, I want to extend my warmest greetings to you — the faculty and staff of the College. You have given me a wonderful welcome over the past days with flowers, banners, fruit baskets, cards, phone calls and many greetings and words of welcome as I’ve wandered some of the halls in Omaha. The cards were a joy to read, and, ever the researcher, I indulged in a little content analysis to see what themes emerged. Here’s what I noticed.

First, I see tremendous pride in our College, as you can see in these examples:
- the faculty and staff are uniquely warm and generous
- welcome, you have a GREAT faculty!
- the College has some great things happening
- we are striving to be the best we can be
- daring adventures as the CON moves into our future
- standing on a gold mine at the CON … looking forward to mining it with you

Second, I noticed lots of pride in the great state of Nebraska, for example,
- welcome to Husker Nation
- all you need is a red shirt and hat!
- you have to forget about Ducks and learn how to chant “Go Big Red”
- hope you have lots of red in your closet

Many of you mentioned your own past arrival at the College and hoped I would be as happy as you have been, for example.
- I hope your time here turns out to be as positive and productive as mine has been and continues to be
- this is a good place to be

And then there were outliers — unique and heartwarming, for example:
- I do have a Portland calendar in my office if you need a glimpse of Mt. Hood now and then…. 
- I thought I would list some of my favorite restaurants for you to try (names, phone numbers and street addresses were carefully listed for hanging on the refrigerator); hope these make your move nicer and that they will get you started — enjoy!

In summary, the cards were a joy. Thank you for them, and for making me feel so welcome.

As my husband and I drove across country in September, we marveled at the beauty of this state. Along the way we read several books about the region, including Ian Frazier’s Great Plains and Candy Moulton’s Roadside History of Nebraska. We were thrilled to see the vast and beautiful prairie and to imagine the proud Americans, both native and pioneer, whose histories remain indelibly etched in the trails and bluffs of the Plains States. Having “landed,” we are committed to embracing this great State and to making Nebraska our home.

As Dean, I inherit a College that is in excellent health — fiscally strong, intellectually vibrant, and well respected within the wider UNMC community, the state, the nation and internationally. The successes of the College of the past years are too numerous to list. Suffice it to say that the recent announcements — that the College of Nursing ranks a prestigious 21st in the country in NIH funding to schools of nursing and a respectable 39th in the country in graduate programs — reflect tremendous growth and achievement. I am impressed, also, by the College’s statewide structure, strong baccalaureate program, distance delivery of education, innovative clinical enterprises, international programming and commitment to enhancing diversity in students, faculty and staff. I noticed immediately the College’s strong work ethic and sense of warm interpersonal community. Dean Lindsey and all of you have done an outstanding job of placing the College with the best nursing programs in the country, and I pledge to continue this momentum. I was attracted to this deanship by the vision of the Chancellor, and the readiness of the College to realize that vision. This IS a good place to be.

My vision for the College is simple: best programs, best people, best outcomes and best place to work. More specifically, I plan to build on the growing research strength of the College and to advance scientific programs and Centers of Research Excellence. Another goal is to continue the College’s aggressive efforts to address the serious shortage of nurses and nurse faculty in this country through higher enrollments of qualified applicants as well as regional education through distance delivery and multi-state consortia. Career mobility and fast tracks of various kinds are essential routes to revitalize the profession and I am looking forward to our initiatives in this area. Harnessing technology to advance the College’s programs and to ensure the effectiveness of our business and administrative activities is another goal. Also, I will commit a great deal of attention to development for the College, since private sources of support are essential to complement state and grant dollars in these challenging economic times.

My immediate goal is to learn from you your views about the college. Where are we strong? What are our challenges, hurdles, opportunities? Where should we invest our resources in order to maximize our success in meeting the critical indicators of the strategic plan? To that end, I will be meeting with as many staff, faculty, and students as possible in small advisory groups over the coming months. The themes that emerge will help us together shape the College’s agenda for renewal and recommitment.

I look forward to meeting each of you and to supporting both your work and your own career development. Please consider my door open — I hope you will ask LaDonna to add you to my schedule whenever you would like us to touch base.
News from the Niedfelt Nursing Research Center

August Grant Submission
• Kate Nickel (PI). A Self-management Intervention for Adult Hispanics with Type 2 Diabetes. UNMC Minority Health Research Grant.

September Grant Submissions
• Kathryn Fandt (PI), Mary Megel (Co-PI). Using Two Conceptual Frameworks to Assess and Compare Values of Nursing Students and Faculty. UNMC/CON – Dean’s Research Grant.
• Margaret Kaiser (PI), Rebecca Keating Lefler. Factors Affecting Transition to Motherhood in Single Low-Income Women. March of Dimes.
• Carol Ott (PI), Nancy Waltman (Co-PI), Timothy Moore. Prevention of Osteoporosis Related to Androgen Ablation. NIH/NINR – AREA.

October Grant Submissions
• Lynne Buchanan (PI). A Multicomponent Treatment Intervention for Hospitalized Smokers. NIH/NINR – R03.
• Gloria Gross (PI), Jan Atwood, Marie Kreman. Promoting Diabetes Self Management by American Indians. NIH/NIDDK – R34.

Funding Announcement
• Shirley Wiggins (P.I.). An Intervention for Managing Pediatric Pain. Edna Ittner Pediatric Research Grant; $15,000.

Funding Opportunities
Eli Lilly and Co. Foundation
Funding: Grants range from $2,000 to $100,000.
Priorities/Company Interests: Health and human services in conjunction with major therapeutic interests and academic relations.
Deadlines: Requests are accepted year-round. Apply by Dec. 31 for payment in the second quarter and by June 30 for grants paid in the fourth quarter.
Contact: Thomas King, President, Eli Lilly and Co. Foundation, Lilly Corp. Center DC 1625, Indianapolis, IN 46285, 317-276-3177.
Web site: www.lilly.com/about/community

American Federation for Aging Research
Funding: Grants range from $50,000 to $100,000.
Priorities: Research grants (range of biomedical and clinical topics); Paul Beeson Career Development Awards in Aging, Glenn/AFAR Research Program for Postdoctoral Fellows; and Ellison Medical Foundation/AFAR Senior Postdoctoral Fellows Research Program.
Deadlines: Research, Glenn and Ellison requests are due Dec. 12; Beeson Awards deadline is Dec. 17.

(Continued on next page)
Contact: American Federation for Aging Research, 70 W. 40th St., 11th Fl., New York, NY 10018, 212-703-9977; grants@afar.org.
Web site: www.afar.org/grants.html
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
PA-01-115
Funding: R01
Priorities: Management of chronic pain across the lifespan. Research is needed to determine the most effective interventions to remove barriers to effective treatment, to determine the most effective pharmacological and nonpharmacological therapies including complementary and alternative therapies, to identify assessment tools for patients unable to verbalize their pain, and to identify effective pain management strategies for individuals with disabilities and underserved populations.
Deadlines: Feb. 1, June 1, Oct. 1
Contact: Dr. Karin Helmers, National Institute of Nursing Research Office of Extramural Programs Building 45, Room 3AN12, MSC 6300, Bethesda Contact State: Maryland 20892; Karin_helmers@nih.gov

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
PA-03-111
Funding: The small grant (R03) provides two years of funding with a maximum of $50,000 in direct costs for each year. The exploratory/developmental grant (R21) provides two years of funding with a maximum of $275,000 in direct costs over the entire budget period. The research project grant (R01) provides up to five years of funding that is commensurate with the science proposed.
Priorities: Expand research on adherence and behavior change that leads to improved adherence or improved mental health outcomes. It should integrate findings from the basic behavioral sciences with interventions for mental disorders, symptoms, or related disability, and with findings from services research about the elements of care delivery systems that facilitate or create barriers to improved adherence. Included are studies of mechanisms and processes that enhance or interfere with adherence to preventive, treatment, and rehabilitative interventions. The interventions may be pharmacological, behavioral, or psychosocial. Emphasis is on the development of innovative approaches to adherence and behavior change, especially models of interventions to improve adherence. A well-articulated, empirically based conceptual framework is therefore essential in applications solicited under this announcement. Applications that also include a detailed plan for initial tests of a conceptual model, or that test the feasibility of implementing an efficacious intervention in an existing health care delivery system are encouraged.

Applications examining mechanisms and processes underlying provider strategies and behaviors that enhance recruitment, retention, and adherence are also encouraged. Other areas of interest include research on approaches to decreasing stigma related to mental disorders and increasing adherence to interventions; studies of ways in which various informed consent procedures and other issues related to research ethics can facilitate or hinder adherence to interventions; and the development of reliable and valid measures for all the above areas.
Deadlines: Feb. 1, June 1, Oct. 1
Contact: Timothy Cuerdon, PhD, National Institute of Mental Health Division of Mental Disorders, Behavioral Research, and AIDS, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 6190, MSC 9615, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-0301; tcuerdon@mail.nih.gov An additional contact is Junius Gonzales, MD, Division of Services Research and Clinical Epidemiology Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, 6001 Executive Boulevard, Room 7141, MSC 9631, Bethesda, MD, 20892; 301-443-3364; jgonzale@mail.nih.gov.
By Patti Carstens  
LRC Director  

New Personnel in the LRC  
Ryan Cole was hired in July to replace Cynthia Fox at the Lincoln LRC. Ryan is a recent graduate of UNL with a degree in Broadcasting. Some of his hobbies include working with his church groups and theatrical productions.  
Dan Brick was hired in early August to replace Bill Lohr at the Omaha LRC. Dan was a 20-year veteran from ITS-Video Services as UNMC’s professional photographer. Many of you may remember him from his work with CON’s official portraits.  
Brian Luger is our most recent hire. Brian joined the Omaha team as CON’s TV technician. Officially Brian is employed by ITS-Video Services, but his office is in the Omaha LRC. He will be the TV tech for all classes and meeting originating in Omaha. Brian formerly was employed as a master switch controller for KMTV3.  

LRC Projects  
All the LRC Coordinators are busy handling the day-to-day operation of your campus’ LRC. In addition, we have added the MEDS RN Learning System to all LRC computers. The LRC Coordinators are helping students and faculty with their navigation through this new software. Additional NCLEX review programs may be available in the respective LRCs. Check with your campus LRC Coordinator.  
This month is also Poster Month. With Graduate Nursing Research Day fast approaching, your Coordinators are assisting graduate students with the development and production of their research posters. Just a reminder, we would like to have most, if not all, posters produced and printed at least seven days prior to Research Day. That way, if something goes wrong we have time to fix it.  
Kearney and Scottsbluff LRCs added the METI-SIM manikin to their practice labs late this summer. Both Diane and Glen have been working hard to find a final locations for this manikin and to facilitate the operation with the faculty. If you have any questions about the MET-SIM manikins, your LRC Coordinator would be the best first place to ask.  
Omaha’s LRC is piloting the inclusion of its collection of videotapes onto the HELIX catalog maintained by the McGoogan Library of Medicine. Two hundred and seventy tapes have already been added. This process will allow students anywhere the Internet is available to see what Nursing skill videotapes is available to view in the LRC. The projected completion of this conversion is Spring semester for Omaha. Once all the videos are entered into McGoogan’s catalog, the library will prepare classification labels for the videos. The overall plan is to rearrange Omaha’s nursing skill videos into subject order over the summer. Once Omaha’s collection is entered, labeled and arranged on the shelf; we hope to start adding the other LRC collections.  
This fall the LRCs have been assisting with connection of 14 IP Video (DVC) classes per week. This year we are trying to simplify the connection process for the four campuses. The IP Video machines are left on and running for the entire week. ITS-Video Services is then having the switch connect automatically. If you have a meeting in one of the IP Video (DVC) classrooms on your campus remember that the machines are on. You will need to mute the IP Video (DVC) microphone, by depressing the button in the center of the microphone. If it has a red light on, you have successfully muted the microphone. When your meeting ends, please un-mute the microphone.  
As always, if you have any questions or additions you would like to see on this newsletter, please let me know.