

The Next Step

A newsletter of Anderson University's MSN programs



this issue

New faces in the SON **p.1**

Murrell saluted **p.2**

SON honors friends, alumni **p.3**

Accreditation team to visit **p.3**

School of Nursing welcomes four new faces

SON faculty and staff welcomed four new colleagues this year. Cheryl Vincent and Jason Pierce joined the teaching faculty while Lynn Schmidt was named graduate coordinator and Debbie Sebastian filled the new position of program recruiter.

Vincent completed undergraduate work at Drake University and the Iowa Methodist School of Nursing. She completed her MSN with a specialization in nursing education



Cheryl Vincent

at Walden University. Vincent has worked as a staff nurse in pediatrics, pediatrics ICU, neonatal ICU, and women's units. She spent 10 years as a school nurse and 17 years with National Trainer for Safe Sitter, Inc. In 2004, she became nurse educator

for Hancock Regional Hospital before becoming associate dean of nursing at Harrison College-Indianapolis in 2008.

Pierce earned his undergraduate nursing degree at Ball State University and an MSN and MBA from AU. He has taught



Jason Pierce

as an adjunct at AU since 2009. He has also taught at Ball State and Ivy Tech Community College. Before becoming a teacher, Pierce spent much of his career in emergency medicine. While working on his undergraduate degree, he was an EMT and an emergency room

technician. In 2000, he became an ER nurse. In 2007, he was named emergency center manager and later director of emergency services at a hospital in Noblesville, Ind.

Schmidt began studying nursing at the Henry Ford Hospital



Lynn Schmidt

School of Nursing in Detroit before receiving her bachelor's degree in nursing at Ball State University. She also earned a master's degree in nursing, with a focus on nursing education, at Ball State University.

Schmidt has worked as a hospital staff nurse, a public school nurse, a college instructor, and a staff nurse in an otolaryngology practice. While much of her assignment will involve enhancing and promoting graduate programs in AU's School of Nursing, she will also have the opportunity to teach.



Debbie Sebastian

Already a familiar face on the campus, Sebastian began her career at AU in the student activities office in the Department of Student Life. She later became an associate dean in the department. Last spring, she came to the School of Nursing to serve as recruiter for the graduate programs and the RN-BSN

Completion Program. Sebastian has bachelor's and master's degrees in social studies education.

MSN student Maple Murrell gets *Indianapolis Star* salute

When Maple Murrell became serious about her career search several years ago, she



Maple Murrell

was determined to steer clear of two vocational options that were then popular for women — nursing and teaching.

“But it seemed like everything I did was in the medical field, including 20 years of respiratory therapy,” says Murrell who “gave in” and returned to school to earn a nursing degree. She graduated with a BSN in 1995 from the University of Indianapolis and has practiced at St. Francis, St. Vincent’s, and now the VA Medical Center, all in Indianapolis.

The “reluctant” nurse, who today is a student in AU’s MSN program, was one of four nurses honored recently in the *Indianapolis Star* 2010 Salute to Nurses. In the process of selecting a Nurse of the Year and three honorable mentions, the *Star* received 962 nomination letters which were reviewed by the Indiana State Board of Nursing. Murrell received an honorable mention.

Murrell, who grew up in Arkansas in the 1950s, says her grandmother was influential in her career choice.

“My grandmother was always taking care of people,” she remembers. Although her

grandmother was not a licensed medical practitioner, she earned the trust of neighbors and family with her relentless care and compassion.

Murrell is now active in the Black Nurses Association, having served as president for two terms. In 2009, the association honored Murrell with the Nurse of the Year award.

A fellow nurse in the Black Nurses Association, Alley Carson, nominated Murrell for the Salute to Nurses Award. In her nomination letter, Carson wrote, “Maple has worked selflessly and tirelessly in her efforts to close gaps in minority health care.” Carson cited Murrell’s work with young minority nursing students and her efforts to help women who cannot afford mammograms.

Today Murrell is a GI consult nurse at the VA Medical Center. Last spring, she embarked on the next chapter of her nursing story, the education track of AU’s MSN program.

School of Nursing Advisory Board

The Advisory Board for the Master of Science in Nursing programs at Anderson University is comprised of 31 nurse leaders. The board meets twice a year and provides guidance to the AU School of Nursing concerning issues such as curriculum development and career placement opportunities:

Cindy Adams, PhD, ANP-BC, RN, vice president of nursing; Temika Atwood, RN, staff nurse and student representative; Pat Bennett, MSN, RN, professor emeritus; Jan Bingle, MSN, RN, CNO; Ginger Breeck, MSN, MBA, RN, manager of psychiatric services and alumna; Brenda Kinsey, MSN, MBA, RN, director of clinical education; Paige Dooley, MSN, MBA, RN, vice president of nursing; Bobbi Dunne, MSN, RN, team leader liaison; Jo Leah Flores, MSN, MBA, RN, staff nurse and alumni representative; Pat Fox, MSN, RN, CEO and CNO, Sherry Gehring, MAOM, MSN, RN, vice president and CNO; Pat Griffin, MSN, RN, professor emeritus; Karen Iseminger, PhD, FNP, director of ethics; Kimberly Nealon BSN, RN, site administrator; Penny Miller, BSN, RN, director of home health care; Jinx Oberly, HFA, RN, executive

director; Lydia Ostermeier, RN, director of nurse recruitment, retention, workforce development, resource allocation, customer service and magnet; Ann Parsons-Yates, BSN, MSN, MBA, RN, executive director of patient care and clinical services; Jason Pierce, MSN, MBA, RN, assistant professor, alumnus; Gwynn Perlich, MSN, RN, CNO; Nancy Pitcock, RN, vice president, patient care services, CNO; Wanda Powell, MS, RN, education consultant, education and development; Shelly Roberts, RN, DON, med/surge, student representative; Marianna Schneider, BSN, MEd, RN, education specialist, clinical education department; Debbie Sebastian, MS, BS, SON recruiter; Beth Tharp, MBA, BSN, RN, vice president of patient care services and CNO; Beverly Travis, MSN, MBA, RN, assistant professor; Nancy Walker, clinical educator; Aaron Wilson, RN, charge nurse-ER/student rep; Eleanore Wilson, MA, BSN, RN, vice president of patient care services; Cynthia Wolfgang, MSN, MBA, RN, nursing supervisor/alumni representative.

Alumni and friends honored at 2010 Homecoming

Alumni and friends came home for Homecoming and the annual SON alumni banquet in October. At the banquet, faculty, students, and friends recognized the nursing career contributions of Matilda Barber, Lori Keith, Jan Bingle, and Jeff Glover.

Receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award was Barber who began her nursing career as a staff nurse at John H. Andres Hospital. While at Saint John's Hospital in Anderson she was promoted through the ranks to positions such as vice president of patient care service and vice president of community relations. A committed communitarian, she has served on several boards and committees, such as the Madison County United Way Board. In 2004, she received an Honorary Humanitarian PhD from AU.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Keith, a veteran diabetes educator at Community Hospital in Anderson. Throughout her 46 years in the nursing profession, she has mentored nursing students, oriented new staff to the hospital, and taught classes on resuscitation and tuberculosis. Today her primary focus is teaching diabetics and their families how to manage their diabetes. Keith was honored as a nursing educator who inspires and coaches her patients with quality care.

Bingle was recipient of the Friend of Nursing Award. She is chief nursing officer for Community Health Network and network vice president for clinical standards, education, and research. A distinguished lecturer for Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society,

Bingle is active in nursing workforce development issues in Indianapolis and throughout the state. One of the founders and a board member of the Indiana Nursing Workforce Development Center, she is a member of executive boards for Nursing 2000 and Spotlight on Nursing,

Glover was recognized with the Service to the Community Award. He is a full-time family nurse practitioner at the CVS Pharmacy MinuteClinic in Westfield, Ind. Previously he worked as a FNP and a clinical charge nurse. He received his associate of science in nursing in 1981 and a bachelor of arts in religion in 1986, both from AU. He has also earned a master of arts in Christian counseling and a master of science degree.

SON preps for CCNE accreditation team visit

After completing a year-long in-depth self-analysis of its graduate nursing programs, the School of Nursing is prepared for a visit from a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation team, Nov. 8-10.

The CCNE team last evaluated the master's program in nursing five years ago, soon after the debut of a new dual MSN-MBA degree, and granted the program the maximum allowable five years. Since then, the School of Nursing has launched MSN degrees in nursing administration and nursing education.

Dr. Karen Williams, dean of the School of Nursing, is counting on the maximum allowable 10-year accreditation term. "This process has been an eye opening experience," says Williams. "In our study, we took the curriculum apart and put it back together again. We analyzed strengths — and our weaknesses so

we could implement a plan to address them."

New graduate coordinator Lynn Schmidt saw the process from the perspective of a newcomer. "The self-study confirmed for me that this is a program that's going in the right direction," she says.

According to Williams, an accreditation visit study helps "re-charge your team for

another ten years."

Third party comments may be sent to Amanda Brownbridge, accreditation assistant, at the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-1120.

Learn more about the School of Nursing

- Master of Science in Nursing
 - MSN-MBA
 - Nursing Administration
 - Nursing Education
- RN to MSN
- RN to BSN
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing

To speak with someone personally, please call:
(765) 641-4380 or
(866) 575-7148 (toll free)

E-mail:
msn@anderson.edu

Website:
www.anderson.edu/nursing

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Next Step

A newsletter of Anderson University's MSN programs



this issue

- New faces in the SON **p.1**
- Murrell saluted **p.2**
- SON honors friends, alumni **p.3**
- Accreditation team to visit **p.3**

RN-BSN completion program makes debut

RNs in need of their BSN are finding it this fall in a new accelerated RN-BSN completion program, offered exclusively at St. Vincent Northeast Medical Center (exit 10 off I-69).

The program represents a collaboration between the SON and the School of Adult Learning and uses a hybrid delivery format that includes classroom as well as online classes.

"Over the past several years, as I have recruited for the MSN-MBA program, I have always received inquiries as to whether we had a BSN program for nurses who have their RN license with an associate degree in nursing," says Bev Travis, former recruiter for the School of Nursing at AU. The inquiries led to an SON feasibility study which revealed a strong interest by the community in an

RN-BSN completion program.

The program is designed so that students receive a base for effective nursing practice by completing all nursing curriculum courses in 16 months before enrolling in supporting and liberal arts courses. It is also designed so that students take their nursing classes with peer RNs instead of traditional undergraduates.

"Hospitals are encouraging their nurses to obtain their BSN, especially those hospitals desiring to obtain magnet status," explains Travis. "We believe our program will allow the working nurse to obtain a quality education close to home and in a timely manner."