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We are excited to introduce Ms. Sharron Chivari to the UIC College of Nursing community. Sharron is the new Clinical Instructor for the Advanced Practice Forensic Nurse Certificate Program (APFN), and comes to us with an extensive background in forensic nursing. Prior to becoming a nurse, Sharron was a paramedic, providing pre-hospital emergency care and transport to patients. As a nurse, Sharron has experience in the intensive care unit and the emergency department at a level II trauma center, where she has been a Clinical Leader for the last 5 years. Ms. Chivari also had a brief stint in flight nursing, providing critical care nursing for patients during hospital transfers and responding to the scene of accidents by helicopter.

Sharron currently holds certifications as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner for both adult and pediatric patients (SANE-A, SANE-P). She is an active member in many professional organizations, including Sigma Theta Tau, Emergency Nurses Association, International Association of Forensic Nurses, and the Illinois State Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Task Force.

ICVP 2009 Conference

The Illinois Center for Violence Prevention (ICVP) 2009 conference took place at UIC on April 2. The conference, titled "Beyond Visible Injuries: The Link Between Health and Violence," was attended by members of the health care and lay communities of Illinois and featured speakers from various health care disciplines.

The goals of the conference were:

- To discuss the impact of violence and trauma and the roles that health care practitioners must play in order to break the cycle of violence
- To provide information and resources on appropriate protocols and clinical pathways for preventing, identifying, and responding to violence
- To build participants' skills in using the available screening tools that assist in identifying violence

The APFN was represented through many of the speakers who presented their work. Dr. Carl Bell, the keynote speaker, sits on the Advisory Board for the APFN. Dr. Barbara Preib-Lannon and Ms. Sue Painter presented at the conference. Both are students and faculty in the APFN. Patty Metzler is a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE-A) at Carle Hospital in Urbana, IL, as well as the President of the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses. She spoke about the role of the SANEs.



Patty Metzler

Come visit us on the
Web!
[http://www.uic.edu/
nursing/forensics/
index.shtml](http://www.uic.edu/nursing/forensics/index.shtml)



Spotlight: Illinois Center for Violence Prevention

The Illinois Center for Violence Prevention (ICVP) is an organization whose mission is to foster safe communities for people at every stage of life, and to promote and evaluate ways to prevent violence.

The Center's core values are that:

- Violence is preventable.
- Everyone has the right to live free from violence.
- Everyone has a role in preventing violence.
- Equality and respect are fundamental to successfully preventing violence.

The Center is currently working on 2 special statewide projects: Elder Abuse Prevention and StandUp. The Elder Abuse Prevention initiative is meant to link elder abuse and domestic violence systems in order to reach a greater number of older adults who are being abused or neglected. ICVP released the Abuse Later in Life (ALL) Report in 2008, which outlined the major short- and long-term goals of a strategic plan to prevent elder abuse. StandUp is a grassroots group that increases awareness among men about how their everyday behaviors can contribute to violence against women. It also provides a supportive atmosphere for men and women who choose to stand up against violence against women.

Members of the Advanced Practice Forensic Nursing certificate program (APFN) have been very



involved with the ICVP.

Dr. Barbara Simmons (Director, APFN) and Melissa Hernandez (Project Coordinator, APFN) sat on the advisory board for the ICVP's recent conference: "Beyond Visible Injuries: The Link Between Health and Violence" (see p. 1). We look forward to more opportunities for collaboration with such a wonderful and valuable organization for the state of Illinois.



Congratulations!



**Congratulations
to Ilia Smith.
Ilia is an Advanced
Practice Forensic
Nursing student, and
just graduated from the
Women's Health &
Midwifery
program in May 2009!**





I received my BSN from UIC in December 2002. My first nursing job was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at UIC Medical Center. I worked there part-time while I began the Family Nurse Practitioner Program (FNP) at UIC. I graduated in July 2007. Currently, I am FNP at MinuteClinic®, retail health clinic, inside CVS Pharmacy. I believe in their concept of bringing health care to where families live for diagnosing, prescribing if necessary and educating on common illness: pink eye, colds, flu, ear infections, bronchitis, vaccinations and more. To me, this new health care setting provides needed visibility to FNPs in the community, to be able to show off what nurses are all about and what nurses do best! Now I am back at UIC going for the Advanced Practice Forensic Nurse (APFN) Certificate.

In nursing school, I remember going over small sections pertaining to violence, but I do not recall anything sticking in my head. I was naïve about violence, but the instructors and students in the APFN Certificate Program have opened my eyes to this epidemic. Now, I feel like I need to do something about violence. I have always wanted to support a cause (such as HIV/AIDS or heart disease), but I had no idea on what issue to focus my advocacy attention. Now I have found an area: domestic violence (DV)/sexual assault (SA) and child abuse. I have a desire to know more about it and hope to make a difference. One main issue that strikes me is that a patient's chief complaint, such as a urinary tract infection (UTI), premature labor, or depression, could be the product of being exposed to DV or SA. Are we addressing the root cause of her symptoms?

My idea through the certificate's grant project is to develop, plan and implement universal screening for women on domestic violence/sexual assault and child abuse in the retail health clinics. A major component I need to do is educate myself and the other family nurse practitioners in the retail health settings of how to ask questions, what to ask, what to do if patients decide to disclose, and develop referrals and safety plans. My future goal is to incorporate what I have learned through the APFN Certificate Program, especially my grant project, and develop that into my doctoral dissertation and beyond.

Forensic Grand Rounds: March 5th, 2009

This spring, the APFN Certificate Program sponsored a Grand Rounds titled "Traumatic Exposure: Does it Contribute to Child Abuse and Neglect Among Inner City Children." The presentation was delivered by members of our certificate program, Dr. Barbara Preib-Lannon, PhD, PMHCNS, BC, and Sue Painter, PMHCNS, BC, to a large audience of nursing and community members and leaders.

Barbara is a student in the certificate's first cohort, as well as our newest faculty member. She has been an assistant clinical professor at UIC College of Nursing since 1999. Clinically, as a mental health clinical nurse specialist, her focus is child, adolescent and adult psychiatry, specifically including substance abuse, crisis intervention centers, mental health halfway homes and forensic mental health. Barbara is currently the Director of School-Based Mental Health, Neighborhoods Initiative, at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Sue is a student in our first cohort and the instructor for the second cohort of students in the APFN. She has practiced clinically in psychiatric nursing for over 20 years, spending time in psychiatric emergency rooms, crisis stabilization, and private practice.



Barbara Preib-Lannon (L) and Sue Painter (R)

Their topic was of interest to over 80 attendees from UIC and beyond.

September 11th Conference: Save the Date!

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Congratulations
to our
Project
Coordinator,
Melissa Hernandez,
who received the
UIC WOW &
Graduate Staff
Award of
Excellence
in recognition for her
exceptional concern for
and support of others
and for her service
above and beyond
normal expectations!



*The Advanced Practice Forensic Nursing Certificate Program
and the Illinois Chapter of the IAFN presents:*

“A New Dawn, A New Day: Building the Forensic Health Community in Illinois”

When: Friday, September 11th, 2009
8:30am-4:30pm

Where: University of Illinois at
Chicago, Student Center East
Chicago, IL

Keynote: Victor Vieth, J.D.
“Unto the third generation:
A call to end child abuse in the
United States”

For more information, please contact the APFN Certificate Program
office 312-355-2605 or email pmhern@uic.edu.

Advanced Practice Forensic Nurse Certificate Program

**UIC COLLEGE OF
NURSING**
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO



The goal of this online certificate program is to educate and prepare advanced practice nurses to assist victims of violent crime across the lifespan

Ranked Top 10

Consistently ranked nationally among top 10 colleges of nursing by *U.S. News & World Report*.

For More Information

www.uic.edu/nursing/forensics