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Forensic Certificate Program Celebrating its 3rd year!

As our 4th cohort of students prepares to start in August 2010, the Advanced Practice Nurse Forensic Certificate Program is celebrating its third year of forensic education and preparation of advanced practice nurses, and interdisciplinary and community involvement surrounding issues of violence. We are still the only graduate or certificate forensic nursing program in Illinois.

We would like to congratulate the students who have completed all four courses and have received their certificates from the program thus far:

3 years!



Barbara Simmons
Barbara Preib-Lannon
Susan Painter
Jennifer Baxter
Mary Kay Burke
Krista Schwuchow
Dorothy Kozakowski
Suzanne Herrera
Judith Sullivan-Murphy

We would like to thank our faculty and staff, as well as the supporters of our program, for helping us make the last three years possible:

Carl C. Bell, MD, President & CEO, Community Mental Health Council, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health, UIC

Barbara Camune, CNM, WHNP-BC, DrPH, FACNM, Clinical Associate Professor, UIC College of Nursing

Barbara Collins

Richard A. Devine, Former State's Attorney of Cook County, Illinois

Mark Ertler, Deputy Supervisor, DNA Review Unit, Cook County State's Attorney's District Office
Angela Evans, RN, BSN, MPH, Regional MCH Nurse Consultant, IL Department of Human Services

Angela Exson, Assistant Director, UIC Campus Advocacy Network

Meredith Flynn, RN, BSN, SANE, Nurse Coordinator, John Stroger Jr. Hospital-Cook County
R.E. Gaensslen, PhD, Professor & Director, Forensic Science Program, UIC College of Pharmacy

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Bridget Healy-Ryan, Assistant State's Attorney, Cook County State's Attorney's Office

Heather Imrie, Associate Director, UIC Campus Advocacy Network

Julie Kasak-Martin, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, Rape Crisis Center

Aarati Kasturirangan, PhD

Jenifer Markowitz ND, RNC, WHNP, SANE, Medical Advisor, Æquitas

Anuja U. Mehta, Coordinator of Victim Services, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

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Nicole Ousley, Director of Advocacy Service, Rape Victim Advocates

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Paul A. Schewe, PhD, Director, UIC Interdisciplinary Center for Research on Violence

Diane Siegel, Chicago Children's Advocacy Center

Kara Stefanson, DNA Resource Specialist, Cook County State's Attorney's Office

Sheryl Stogis, RN, Dr. PH, Clinical Assistant Professor, UIC College of Nursing

LaFay N. Thompson, Legal/ Medical Advocate, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Thank you!

Spotlight: Mujeres Latinas en Acción



Mujeres Latinas en Acción is a nonprofit, community-based organization in Chicago, established in 1973 in Pilsen. It was the first social service organization in Illinois run by Latinas for Latinas. Its mission is to empower Latina women by offering services that reflect their values and cultures and by advocating on issues that matter to them.

Among its many initiatives, Mujeres has a Domestic Violence Program that works to eliminate domestic violence and assists survivors to break the cycle of abuse in their families and in their lives. Mujeres offers a 24-hour hotline in both English and Spanish for victims. The organization also provides survivors with domestic violence counselors for emotional support, information about their rights and options under the law, referrals to resources and a safety plan to keep themselves and any children out of danger. Mujeres Latinas en Acción also has programs for victims of sexual violence.

The organization recently had a benefit dinner, Voces Unidas (United Voices), to raise money for the services they provide for the community.



Susanne Herrera, Melissa Hernandez, Dorothy Kozakowski, Jennifer Baxter, & Naomi Twigg (L to R) at the Mujeres benefit dinner.

3rd Cohort Takes on Standardized Patients

The second course of the Advanced Practice Nursing Forensic Certificate Program is NUEL 537: Forensic Health Care Documentation and Evidence Collection. Students learn the “nuts and bolts” of forensic nursing in this course. Although it is an online course, students meet at the College of Nursing 2 times per semester, where they have an opportunity to collaborate in person as well as take advantage of the wonderful resources at UIC to help them in their studies. One of the on-site days in NUEL takes a hands-on approach to teaching documentation and evidence collection.

Students attend the Dr. Allan L. and Mary L. Graham Clinical Performance Center (GCPC) at the UIC College of Medicine, where they can practice counseling and physical evidence retrieval with standardized patients. With the help of actors, instructors create clinical scenarios that present realistic challenges for forensic nurses in a safe and supportive environment. After seeing their patients, students are given immediate debriefing, feedback and coaching.



Faculty can observe the student-patient interactions from a main computer monitor.



The Performance Center is set up like an actual clinical setting with fully-equipped exam rooms.

Student Corner: Two Weeks in Haiti

Krista Schwuchow

Before the earthquake in January 2010, I didn't know a lot about Haiti. I knew it was a poor country with an unstable government and that it shared an island with the Dominican Republic - that was about it. When the earthquake happened, just like many others, I couldn't take my eyes off of the television coverage of the disaster. The amount of suffering the people of Haiti were experiencing and the lack of means available was unbearable to watch. I had an overwhelming urge to do something. I had never done disaster relief care before, but I was drawn to this situation and immediately signed up to volunteer my time. I hoped I would get called to go, but wasn't expecting it, due to the chaos and unpredictability of it all.

Luckily, I was able to travel to the capital, Port-au-Prince, with a team from Children's Memorial Hospital (where I work) and Heartland Alliance (an NGO in Chicago). I found out on Saturday night that I would be leaving Monday morning. I had gotten my vaccinations weeks earlier and in that regard, was ready to go. Nothing could have prepared me for what I saw when I actually made it into Haiti. The devastation was so widespread that I was immediately overwhelmed.

I have been a nurse for 13 years, and in August of 2010, I graduated from UIC with my MSN and, shortly after, passed boards and was a brand new Psych Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Weeks before I went to Haiti, I received my DEA #. Working in psychiatry, I always pictured writing my first prescription for perhaps an SSRI or maybe a mood stabilizer. If someone would have told me that my first real prescription writing experience would be in Haiti, for an antibiotic for a woman with an infected wound from an earthquake injury, I would have never believed them. Nor would I have believed that my prescription pad would consist of ripped up pieces of paper that my armed guard/interpreter prepared for me while we cared for the injured.

My main role was to function as a primary care provider in a makeshift clinic that was set up in a soccer stadium, in the midst of a tent city. I spent my time assessing, diagnosing, and prescribing for an array of medical issues. Being a psych nurse at heart, I couldn't ignore the signs of trauma I was seeing in the Haitian people. Depression, anxiety, panic attacks, disorientation, hypervigilance - all of the signs were there. Not only were they traumatized from the quake, but many were also victims of violence (rape, domestic violence, abuse) which occurred after the disaster.

Feeling helpless and insignificant, it was hard to leave after 2 weeks. There was still so much more to do. We didn't have enough medications, enough time, or enough supplies, and it made the situation seem hopeless. Returning home, I struggled with these thoughts. I felt guilty and angry. Then after some time, I was able to remember those moments that truly mattered and made a difference. Those moments when we were able to make an injured kid laugh, or allow a newly widowed man to show pictures of his wife, or comfort a woman who had lost her child. That's what was important.

I left Haiti knowing more than when I arrived. It's not just a country devoured by poverty and tragedy next door to the Dominican Republic. It's a country full of amazingly kind, resilient people who, just like the rest of us, are seeking a human connection to tell their story. It was a privilege to be able to hear their stories.



Susan Painter, Barbara Preib-Lannon, Barbara Simmons, & Krista (L to R) at her Grand Rounds presentation about her Haiti experience.

Krista completed our APN Forensic Nursing Certificate this spring.

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Advanced Practice Nurse Forensic Certificate Program

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Save the Date!



2nd annual Building the Forensic Health Community in Illinois

September 10th, 2010

8am-4pm

University of Illinois at Chicago

Other News from the APN Forensic Certificate...

- The APN-FCP was featured in “Uncovering the world of Forensic Nursing” in *Nurses’ Lounge—Chicago*.
- Two students from our certificate program have started positions as SANEs-in-training at South Suburban Hospital. Congratulations and good luck!
- Students and faculty of the certificate program had the opportunity to observe autopsies as part of their clinical rotation at the Office of the Medical Examiner.
- We now have an extensive library with resources on all aspects of forensic nursing.
- Students, faculty, and staff visited the Racine Correctional Institution in Wisconsin as a possible collaborative site for student practicums.
- An article titled “Intimate partner violence in older adults: What home healthcare clinicians should know” by Dr. Barbara Simmons and Jennifer Baxter was published in the February issue of *Home Healthcare Nurse*.
- Students, faculty, and staff attended various forensic conferences this spring.
 - * Violence, Abuse, and Trauma’s 7th Annual Hawaii Conference: Preventing, Assessing, & Treating Child, Adolescent, and Adult Trauma
 - * Forensic Trends: Psychiatric & Behavioral Issues Conference
 - * International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services’ Annual Conference



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