



**Gloria Bonner, PhD, RN,
FAAN, Director of the Palliative
Care Certificate.**

University of Illinois at
Chicago College of Nursing,
Department of Medical-
Surgical Nursing
845 South Damen Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois 60612-7350

Email: gjbonner@uic.edu

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Inside this issue:

Faculty Member	1
Program Accomplishments (Student Corner)	2
Program Accomplishments (Events)	2



Gloria Bonner, PhD, RN, Research Assistant Professor

The palliative care team is pleased to congratulate Dr. Gloria Bonner who is the new Director for the Palliative Care certificate at UIC College of Nursing.

Her accomplishments are many:

Research / Discovery

Dr. Bonner conducts research that examines advance medical planning for African Americans with dementia. Her program of research includes: (1) an exploration of factors that influence end-of-life treatment decisions made by African American family caregivers for relatives diagnosed with dementia; (2) development and evaluation of a culturally sensitive autopsy recruitment program for African Americans with dementia; and (3) evaluating the psychometric properties of a newly developed instrument that measures trust in physicians as perceived by African American caregivers. Currently, her research interest is to develop an empirically based education program that empowers family caregivers to make the best end-of-life treatment decisions for relatives with dementia.

Teaching / Learning

Dr. Bonner is a gerontology specialist with a clinical public health nursing background in the care of older adults living in community settings. She lectures on topics that include advance medical planning for the elderly, health assessment of the older adult, cultural health issues, and research methodologies.

Service / Practice

Dr. Bonner collaborates with an interdisciplinary team of experts on the prevention of cerebrovascular (brain blood flow) diseases in the Black community. She serves as a community speaker on dementia and advance medical planning in African Americans and assists with media presentations regarding the importance of advance care treatment plans for individuals with dementia. She is also active with the Gerontological Society of America's sections on dementia and care giving.

Current Research Projects:

Advanced Practice Palliative Care Nurse Certificate (PI), Adult and Geriatric Advanced Nursing Education (co-I), Reducing Disparities in Underserved Populations (co-I), Quality of Life of African American Cancer Survivors (co-I), Tailored Intervention to Increase MI Symptom Recognition (co-I), Breast Cancer Delay in Black, Hispanic, and White Women (co-I).

For more information regarding the palliative care certificate...

The two didactic courses "Palliative Management of Pain and Common Symptoms" and "Socio-cultural and Ethical Issues in Palliative Care" are being taught this Spring 2007 Semester on-line. The "Dying, Loss, and Grief" will be available Fall 2007. You can register for these courses either for university credit or for continuing education. **For more information regarding the palliative care courses and how to register please visit our website www.uic.edu/nursing. If you are interested in taking these courses for continuing education, please contact Dr. Julie Hoff at 312-996-6925 or check web site above.**

Program Accomplishments 2006

Student Corner

Erica Hess, RN, BSN
PhD Candidate, UIC College of Nursing



I am in the third year of the BSN to PhD program. I will be completing my coursework over the summer and then will begin working on prelims probably this fall. I am a staff RN in a 17-bed intensive care unit at MacNeal Hospital. Currently, I am working on a survey of ICU nurses (fashioned after Dr. Karin Kirchhoff of UW-Madison's tool) on what they perceive to be the biggest obstacles to providing quality end-of-life care in the ICU. I presented my Abstract titled "**Compassion Fatigue: This Could Be You,**" which discusses compassion fatigue, a serious issue in today's fast-paced healthcare environment that has the potential to affect any and all of us at any time, yet is frequently overlooked. Compassion fatigue needs to be addressed because everyone is affected when someone suffers from compassion fatigue, including patients and families. Ignorance and dismissal of this serious problem cannot be tolerated in today's quality-driven healthcare arena. My research will hopefully provide nurses and other health care providers with the tools necessary to assess for and combat compassion fatigue. I am also taking the palliative care courses to enhance my knowledge within my research.

Erica has also announced her new wedding engagement this December 2006. We wish her the best of luck with this exciting adventure.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR PALLIATIVE CARE STUDENTS



Dr. Kavanaugh and her students from the Dying, Loss, and Grief course this fall semester ended with a great holiday party. Thank you to all who came and participated.



Various Highlights

Dr. Forrest (to the right) and members of the palliative care team (below) say farewell to Dr. Jeannine Forrest. She has taken a position at Horizon Hospice. She will be missed by all of us. Good luck with your new endeavors.

Jeannine Forrest, PhD, RN, Vice President of Clinical Services at Horizon Hospice & Palliative Care can now be reached at jforrest@horizonhospice.org



We would like to congratulate Jane Pelosi-Kelly, RN, APN, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner at Alexian Brothers Hospital. She is also a UIC College of Care program. recently published (October 2006) in the *Journal of Nursing, Vol. 106, No. 10* titled "Nursing Research: Building Interest and Helping hospital nurses implement evidence-based practice."

