



Urban Health Program Newsletter

Building Bridges for Nursing Scholars

by Bridges Cohort 1: 2003-2004

The UIC Nursing Bridges to the doctorate program (Bridges) is a unique, NIGMS and NIH funded program headed by Dr. Mi Ja Kim, Dr. Beverly McElmurry, and Dr. Eva Smith. The long-term objectives for the Bridges program are to increase the pool of doctoral prepared minority nursing faculty who will: educate and train students with cultural sensitivity; conduct research that will aid in generating new knowledge, alleviating health disparities and promoting the health of all people; and serve society as nursing scholars. The Bridges program provides minority, master's prepared nurses from the University of Alabama and DePaul University, with a unique opportunity to gain insight into the doctoral program at UIC and in turn facilitate the transition into doctoral studies.

The Bridges program offers tuition assistance and a stipend for the selected student's last year of the master's program. During the spring semester before graduating from the master's program, the student is given the opportunity to participate in graduate level courses at UIC and a one-month intensive research seminar with their graduate advisor. During the summer

semester, the student participates in a writing workshop presented by Dr. Rosemary Camilleri and the summer pre-doctoral training grant seminar facilitated by Dr. Marquis Foreman and Dr. Karyn Holm (DePaul University). Recently, the Bridges program has worked with the Urban Health Program to offer UHP students the opportunity to attend these workshops as well.

The first Bridges cohort has completed their first year of the PhD program. They are Monique Collins (DePaul University), Cassandra Ford (University of Alabama) and Cherese Pullum (DePaul University). The first cohort will now facilitate a successful transition to the doctoral program for the second cohort of students as peer student mentors to the new students. The second cohort students are Susanna Castro (DePaul University) and Kameka Brown (DePaul University). The third cohort (2006-2007) will also include a student from Purdue University Calumet. Please join us in welcoming our new doctoral students as we wish them much success in the 2005-2006 school year!

Filling the Gap in the Nursing Workforce

On May 31, 2005, the Illinois General Assembly passed a bill that establishes an externship program to train and educate nurses from Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories to practice in Illinois. This new initiative, Senate Bill 1842, will allow for the establishment of a program under which the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation may issue nurse externship permits to RNs who are licensed in another state or U.S. territory and who have not taken the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

Nurses who are issued these permits will be allowed to practice as nurse externs in Illinois under the direct, on-site supervision of an Illinois-licensed RN. Nurse externs can be issued no more than one permit in their lifetimes, and permits ex-

pire in one calendar year. The nurses that participate in this program must successfully complete the Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium course, or another approved course, and pass the NCLEX within the year that their permit is valid in order to continue practicing in Illinois. The qualification requirements for an externship include that nurses pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language if their first language is not English.

The passage of this bill signifies that Illinois lawmakers are acknowledging the increasing need for culturally diverse and bilingual health professionals, while simultaneously taking action to expand the nursing workforce.

For more information, please visit www.nurseweek.com.

UHP Students in the Spotlight:

Teresa Onah received an honorable mention in the undergraduate poster competition at the Midwest Nursing Research Society meeting held April 1-4, 2005 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Clara Chipeta (Malawi) received the 3rd place award for posters in the masters student category. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

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Farewell to the Class of 2005

by Dawn Carter



My first academic year as the UHP Coordinator has come to an end and it is with excitement and sadness that I wish the Class of 2005 farewell. As I sat in the stands of UIC Pavilion on graduation day looking out at a large class of graduating UHP students, I hoped that the Urban Health Program had enriched the education of the students sitting in the chairs and had made the path to reaching their educational goals smoother. From my first large gathering with students at the UHP Welcome Dinner at Pompei last August to the last event held for the academic year, I have enjoyed getting to know the students, learning about their experiences in the college and hearing their plans for the future. I know that this class will go on to do great things and make amazing contributions to the field of nursing.

During a Nursing Day event held at the College of Nursing for students that attend the Early Outreach and Saturday College program at UIC, I had the pleasure of watching nursing students perform hands-on activities with students in grades 7 through 12 from Chicago area schools. The students that attended learned about breast cancer self-examination, testicular self-examination, CPR, the Heimlich maneuver, patients in isolation and blood pressure. The nursing students that participated in this event were able to captivate their audience and provide detailed information on their assigned topic in a

professional and enjoyable manner. It was at this event that I realized that the students at the UIC College of Nursing are exceptional and I was more excited to be a part of the college and the UHP. I'm looking forward to planning more events like this one, so that others can see nursing students in action.

As graduation came to an end, students and their family and friends flooded the corridors and entryways of the pavilion to exchange well wishes and take pictures to capture the excitement of the day, I was honored to witness the accomplishments of the students and to share in their joy.

I'm looking forward to welcoming the new class of UHP students this fall and continuing to get to know and work with the Class of 2006 as they complete their studies and prepare for their careers in nursing.

I'd like to remind the Class of 2005 that although you have graduated from the College of Nursing, you are still a part of the UHP/College of Nursing family and we remain a source of support for you as you embark on the wonderful career that awaits you. Please keep in touch and let me know how you are doing. My email address is dtcarter@uic.edu.





Congratulations 2005 UHP Graduates!

Bachelor of Science

Brenda Appleswhite
 Jessica Arndt
 Abiola Bamgbose
 Candace Cox
 Charlene De La Torre
 Johanna Delgado
 Jessica Ebenau
 Genet Gaim
 Leslie Gamez
 Cesar Garcia
 Maria Giraldo
 Marvin Glenn
 Kristina Granados
 Rocio Guzman
 Olatokunbo Ijaodola
 Kelechi Jackson

Mahari Kelly
 Adetoun Kolawole
 Joetta Little
 Barbara Luttrell
 Patricia Mack
 Jocelyn Mallard
 Maria Martinez
 Sisay Mersha
 Tangee Moscoso
 Heather Miller
 Pamela Moore
 Krista Nixon
 Ngozi Onah
 Anne Oyugi
 Sylvia Perez
 Christine Quintero
 Christina Rivera

Rosalind Seals
 Mojisola Tella
 Lakisha Thomas
 Cin-Quea Thomas
 Shakirat Umardeen
 Rashonda Vaughn
 Jamira White

Master of Science

Eunice Abegboro
 Cathy Alvarado
 Evelyn Aztlan
 Tedra Gray
 Marie Nardone
 Starshemah Terry

Upcoming Events

UHP Student Welcome Reception

Tuesday, August 30, 2005, 5:30-7:30pm
 Pompei- 1531 W. Taylor Street
 RSVP to dtcarter@uic.edu

Welcome Week Open House & Mixer

Thursday, September 1, 2005, 3-5pm
 College of Nursing, 3rd Floor Lounge
 RSVP to dtcarter@uic.edu

Undergraduate Annual Cultural Workshop

Tuesday, November 22, 2005
 Contact Dawn Carter at dtcarter@uic.edu
 for further information.

Second Annual Illinois Health Professions Student Conference

(For Undergraduates, Graduates and Graduate Profession students)
 Saturday, September 24, 2005, 9am-1:30pm

UIC Student Center West
 Register at www.uic.edu/depts/uhealth
 Free Admission

Open House Events

BSN & Graduate Entry Program

Saturday, October 8, 2005, 9am-12pm

MS & PhD

Wednesday, September 28, 2005 4-6pm

RSVP to dtcarter@uic.edu

About UIC's Urban Health Program

The mission of the UIC Urban Health Program is to improve the quality of health care services for medically underserved urban populations by expanding health profession education opportunities for underrepresented groups and others interested in serving in Health Professions Shortage Areas of Illinois.

Do you have any ideas or would you like to submit an article? Please let us know:
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