

# Partners in Practice

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RADFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

## Words of Wisdom

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*Patience, hard work, perseverance, and good communication are some of the keys to success in the DNP program.*

Perhaps I am very presumptuous in believing that knowledge and experience in life bring wisdom. However when I looked up the word wisdom in the Oxford dictionary it indicated: experience and knowledge together with the power of applying them critically or practically. Perhaps I am not presumptuous. I thought it appropriate to ask our first DNP graduates Dr. DeEtta Compton and Dr. Faye Lyons for their words.

DeEtta prefers to use the word advice and this is what she wants to convey to you: "I believe that to obtain a Doctorate is a challenge for anyone who aspires to obtain it. Working full time and attending graduate school, at the same time, is not recommended unless one is truly ready to give up everything else in their life for that determined amount of time. Hard work, perseverance, organization, good time management skills, excellent communication skills, and determination are a must to succeed in a Doctoral program. As a nurse, I am forever expanding my knowledge, while changing and adapting to

the environment around me to provide quality care to people and this is embraced by the transformational role of the DNP in clinical practice."



**Dr. DeEtta Compton**

Faye offers you these words: "striving for excellence in the nursing profession expresses a desire to provide the highest quality expertise and care for patients. For me, obtaining my doctoral degree in nursing practice (DNP) indicates, to my patients, that I wish to provide superior care. To obtain the DNP one must possess patience, confidence, and endurance. While acquiring my DNP I grew professionally, and had to learn to have patience, endurance to push myself outside of my comfort level and to have the confidence in my knowledge to complete the program."



**Dr. Faye Lyons**

What else can I say? For me wisdom, after achieving my Doctorate in Nursing Science (DNS) in 1998 at 56, meant all these things and more. I was pushed to my highest level of achievement by significant persons in my professional life. These persons, many of whom are deceased, may have been mentors in geriatric nursing, but they taught me much more. Perseverance and communication with faculty are key. You have, before you, some excellent faculty who will move you to limits you did not believe possible. Just trust us and listen. Sometimes we whisper.

**Dr. Ginger Burggraf**

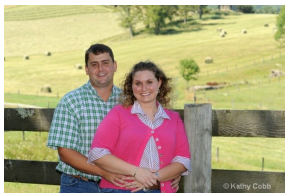


## Announcements !!!

Ellen M. Harvey MN, RN, CCRN, CNS and colleagues presented the peer-reviewed poster "Time to Wake Up in the Morning: A Quality Project" at the 2011 Summer Institute on Evidence-Based Practice in San Antonio, TX, 30 June–2 July 2011 and received a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Honorable Mention for the peer-reviewed podium presentation "Investigation into an outbreak of *Candida parapsilosis* fungemia in a Neuro Trauma Intensive Care Unit 2010" at the Society of Critical Care Medicine Carolinas/Virginia 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Symposium June 24, 2011 in Roanoke, Virginia. **Good job Ellen!!**



On May 23 Amy Johnson was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from the Bedford Foundation. Following graduation from the FNP DNP program Amy plans to practice in Bedford County. Amy used the funds to purchase textbooks and supplement expenses involved with her clinicals for the Chronic Illness Across the Lifespan course she took this summer. Also, Amy's Doctoral Fellowship from the Graduate College has been renewed for this academic year. **Congratulations Amy!!**



**Amy & husband WP**

Twenty-six new students have been admitted into the DNP program for Fall 2011. The students are: Kristyn Gerrol, Natalie Gillespie, Tina Howard, Renee Lima, Rachel Talbot, Jessica Chaney, Wendy Williams, and Kim Wilson, all Post-BSN FNP; Shannon Dechant and Ashley Worley, Post-BSN NM; LT Thomas Kannon, Post-BSN PMHNP; Cynthia Ward and Jean Zavertnik, Post-MSN CNS; Edythe Boitnott, Debbie Bratton, Tracy Buchanan, Nancy Davidson, Major Jon Geno, Kim Goad, Mary Jo Collie, Debbie Maddox, Vicky Moore, Sandra Robertson, and Lisa Smith, Post-MSN FNP; Margaret Ruis-Thompson and Kim Buzzelli, Post-MSN PMH. **A Warm Welcome to all of You!!**

Dr. Laura LaRue and Dr. Ginger Burggraf are the recipients of a Waldron College grant (\$10,000): Transitions in Care. It will address chronically ill older adults living at home and provide care by NPs. The results of this pilot will lead to a larger NIH grant.



**Dr. LaRue & Dr. Burggraf**

Jerusalem Walker's Doctoral Fellowship from the Graduate College has been renewed for the 2011-2012 academic term. This Fellowship covers tuition and fees for full-time students. **Congratulations Jerusalem!!**

Dr. Burggraf has received her third year of funding from HRSA

atric Nursing and is writing a textbook: *Healthy Aging: Clinical Guidelines for Advanced Practice Nurses*.



Dr. Ginger Burggraf's ninth grandchild Megan Jane Lundregan was born on May 13th. She weighed 6 lbs, 15 oz and was 19 inches long. Megan's mother Liz (Ginger's daughter) is a Nurse Practitioner. **Congratulations**



**Grandma!!**

**Grandma Ginger, Megan, & mom Liz**

Kim Hall has been accepted to present her poster "Implementing Nurse-Driven Interventions to Improve Incontinence Associated Dermatitis and Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcers" at the Clinical Symposium for Advances in Skin and Wound Care.



## Meet Your Faculty

Dr. Kimberly Carter is entering her twentieth year on faculty at Radford University this year. She has promoted from Instructor through Full Professor, has earned tenure, and is a Full Graduate College Faculty. Two years ago she accepted the position of Director of the School of Nursing, having served as Associate Director for four years. She has a diploma in Nursing from Ohio Valley General Hospital School of Nursing, a BS in Nursing from Radford University and an MSN and PhD from the University of Virginia, with cognate work in Epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Carter's clinical specialty is Community/Public Health, with an emphasis on health behavior and health promotion. Her research interests are the dimensions of health behavior with a variety of populations, including older adults, teenagers, young adults, and the homeless. She has received over \$600,000 to support 20 grant-funded projects as project director or co-director. She has published 20 peer-reviewed papers, in addition to instructor supplements, book contributions, and professional newspaper articles. She served on the Board of Review for *Advances in Nursing Science*, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, and *Public Health Nursing*. Dr. Carter is the Research Coordinator for Lewis Gale Montgomery Regional Hospital and is a member of the Research Council for Carilion Clinic. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Salem Research Institute, Roanoke Valley Allegheny Regional Advisory Council on Homelessness, Virginia Association of Colleges of Nursing, Workforce Council of the Virginia Rural Health Association, Leadership Task Group for the Virginia Regional Action Coalition, and the Nursing Advisory for Virginia Western Community College. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, American Nurses Association, and Virginia Rural Health Association. She was a two-time Radford University nominee for the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award, and she was the recipient of the 2008 Waldron College Outstanding Professor Award, the 2007 Ruth Spencer Dunfee Professional Achievement Award for the Ohio Valley General Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, and the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award for St. Clairsville High School. She has been named in more than 20 Who's Who and International Biographical listings. Dr. Carter is a Fellow from the 2004 cohort of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Leadership for Academic Nursing Program.

Dr. Carter is married to Greg Carter, also an RU alum (Geology, 1986), who is Senior Environment and Safety Specialist at ITT Night Vision. They have two children, Leanna (15) and Brandon (11). They live in Franklin County, where they enjoy tennis, boating, sailing, swimming, and hiking. They attend Epworth United Methodist Church, where Dr. Carter is a part-time pianist.



**Dr. Kimberly Carter**

Dr. Sarah Strauss has been a member of RU's SON faculty full-time for the last 12 years. Prior to this she served as an adjunct faculty after leaving VCU SON in 1996. Dr. Strauss was involved in development of the Ph.D. program at VCU. Her specialty is pediatrics and she is a certified FNP. At Radford Dr. Strauss teaches undergraduate Nursing of Children, Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Family Nursing IV, Children's Health, and Capstone in the DNP program. She received her BSN from the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston and her MN in Pediatrics from the University of Florida in Gainesville. She obtained a pre-doctoral minor in Nursing the Handicapped Child and Family from the School of Nursing, University of Washington, Seattle and went on to complete her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a focus on child development and learning and thinking at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Dr. Strauss's work experience includes staff nursing in pediatric oncology at M.D. Anderson Hospital (Texas) and adult health at Virginia Mason Hospital (Seattle), and faculty at Western Carolina University in addition to VCU and RU faculty appointments. Dr. Strauss has also practiced as an NP, part-time health department NP (Roanoke/Alleghany Health District), and faculty practice, Radford University Clinics. Her current practice at the Free Clinic of NRV serves uninsured and underinsured children and adolescents. She performs daycare, school entry, & athletic physical exams, and employment/CDL examinations for Head Start workers. Dr. Strauss was awarded Medical Volunteer of the Year by the Free Clinic of NRV for 2008 and Nurse Educator of the Year in 2011 by the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners.



**Dr. Sarah Strauss**

## Notes from the Director

This August we celebrate the completion of the first year of the DNP, while at the same time two of our students will celebrate their completion of RU School of Nursing DNP program. The graduation of our first two DNP students – Dr. DeEtta Compton and Dr. Faye Lyons - is a significant milestone in Radford University history, as they are the first students at Radford University to earn a doctoral degree. This is a shared accomplishment for both Dr. Compton and Dr. Lyons, as well as for the doctoral faculty who conceptualized, designed, developed, and implemented the DNP for Radford University. Many words come to mind to describe what it has taken for both faculty and students to arrive at this historical moment: vision, dedication, persistence, patience, flexibility, innovation, and excellence are but a few.

Achievement of a doctoral degree demonstrates a person's ability to navigate a complex and challenging system successfully, while concurrently showcasing their ability to be a significant contributor to the science and practice of nursing. Nursing faculty provided innovative and accessible education, modeled scholarship, and mentored the students to make the very rapid transformation from Master's to doctoral level practice and scholarship. Both DNP alums have established the foundation for their career of scholarly contributions for improved practice and optimal patient care. Dr. Compton's work in cardiac care and Dr. Lyon's development of skin lesion treatment decision trees for publication represent significant advances for best practices in the clinical setting. We are proud for the School of Nursing to be leading the way for other Radford University programs who will follow with graduates of doctoral programs. We are hopeful that the national vision for the DNP will reveal new solutions for our healthcare system, and we are confident that our first two DNP alumni as well as those who will follow will be the nurses who discover innovations and use their scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes.

Kim Carter PhD, RN

Director

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*....a significant  
milestone in the  
history of Radford  
University....*

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## Coordinator's Comments

It has been a busy summer for me and I am certain that it has been for you. You have never been far from my thoughts in planning for the future of this program at the School of Nursing. With two graduates, Dr. Compton and Dr. Lyons, the reality of the 'earned doctorate' has begun. Our graduates earned this degree through hard work, perseverance and commitment (see their comments in the words of wisdom). I would also like to say that the faculty earned their DNP stripes through hard work, perseverance and commitment. We have all begun to think out of the box in approaching our student's performance and expectations. You have demanded of us expert performance. It does work both ways and I have seen that, this past year. Continue to enhance the nursing profession with your passion for practice while, at the same time, realize that we, your faculty are also passionate about that same practice. Success in this next semester.

Dr. B.

# RESIDENCY ROUNDUP



You may soon be taking your residency hours toward completion of the program. At this time it is important that you become aware of what is anticipated and or what your fellow students have accomplished. It is a very important time in the program where rigor drives you toward your destination, your goal. I have initiated this column, for the newsletter, to keep you all informed, 'brag' on our students and hopefully invigorate others toward completion. The catalog description, for NURS 824 Clinical Residency, reads: The DNP Clinical Residency is a clinical leadership experience focusing on nursing practice, education, policy, and/or research within an area of student interest.

It is truly your 'moment in time' to work directly with the gifted faculty here at RU and to make your goals become a reality. These are some of the highlights of what is being accomplished by your fellow students.

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Linda Davis has been busy developing pod casts on "Falls and the Older Adult". A series of 7-8 are planned for distribution and will be part of a new CE component that will be initiated at the RUSON. Linda worked with me and Kathy Kleppin (IT Education Specialist). She has

submitted an abstract for presentation to the Virginia Nurses Association (VNA) education day in the fall and will give a lecture to undergraduates in NURS 444.

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The use of IT and Simulation kept Ellen Harvey busy this semester. She worked at the Carilion Center for Experiential Learning where she applied, through much guidance from Dr. Echols, the Simulation Module for Assessment of Resident Targeted Events (SMARTER) and event-based approach to training (EBAT) methodology to scenario development and training for research application. She has had a poster accepted for presentation for the Rising Star Sigma Theta Tau conference in October 2011. She is working on an article for publication and will soon deliver a lecture in Dr. Scheckler's IT elective course for graduate students. This fall she will continue to address simulation education and also work at the Carilion Center on Aging with Dr. Jill Bass. It is her plan to also submit for a research grant: AACN Phillips Medical Systems Outcomes for Excellence Research. Be sure to check out Ellen's article "Exploring Simulation-based Training in

Healthcare: Virginia Nursing on the Forefront" which is featured on the RU DNP website at [www.dnp.radford.edu](http://www.dnp.radford.edu).

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Joni Goldwasser has had experiences at the Veterans Administration Central Office (VACO) in DC with Dr. James Harris, a Deputy Director. She investigated/researched major documents that provided a review of the literature on independent practice of NPs. A major project is anticipated, as a result of her efforts, to write position statements for NPs in the VA system. This will have a significant impact on federal supremacy and licensed independent practice (LIP) with the VA system. She will continue to work with Dr. Harris and others on this project. While at VACO she edited the first nursing services handbook for the entire VA system. She also gave an expert (I was told) respiratory lecture in the DNP Chronic Illness class this summer for Dr. Tony Ramsey. Joni spent time at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in DC, with Dr. Joan Stanley and Kathy McGuinn addressing Master's Essentials. She will work directly with them to develop a tool kit for use with the Essentials

on the Future of Nursing into this report. Joni has had a poster accepted for the DNP program in New Orleans this fall.

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Kim Hall completed the following projects during her residency: completed requirements for Advanced Practice Certified Wound Care Nurse; prepared manuscript for publication entitled "Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Long-Term Care: Implementing a Nurse-Driven Interventions Protocol"; prepared manuscript for publication entitled "Is an Advanced Practice Nurse a Smart Addition to Your Wound Care Team?"

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How exciting to see these things occur with our DNP students. We began one year ago and have come a very long distance in scholarship. All those agencies working directly with our students are very proud of their work and have evaluated them highly. I am truly humbled to have facilitated some of these student projects. I am certain I speak for the entire graduate faculty. It was hard work for us as well as the students but a true joy for me to see this progress

*Dr. B*



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### Employment Opportunities:

Part-time Family Nurse Practitioner, either on a paid or volunteer basis, at the Free Clinic of Pulaski County. The position would assist on a weekly basis at open and by appointment clinics. The clinic provides primary medical care to uninsured residents of Pulaski County. If interested contact Gary Elander at [pulaskifreeclinic@verizon.net](mailto:pulaskifreeclinic@verizon.net) or (540)980-0944 or leave a message at (540) 980-0922.

Busy Internal Medicine practice is seeking a Nurse Practitioner for a full-time position in the clinic, with a potential for hospital rounds, to provide quality health care to patients with an age range of adolescents to geriatrics. Responsibility includes management of acute and chronic conditions, as well as preventative medicine. Competitive salary and benefits included with potential for six figure income. Located in Pulaski, VA 24301. Contact: New River Internal Medicine, 2460 Lee Highway, Pulaski, VA 24301, (540) 980-8804.

[www.pa-exchange.com](http://www.pa-exchange.com) focuses exclusively on Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants

## Dates to Remember



*Back to school  
August 29*

August 29	Classes Begin
September 5	Labor Day—Classes in Session
September 12	Census Date Last Day to Add or Drop Classes Last Day to Change to Audit Last Day to Apply for December Graduation & Certificate Completion
October 21	Last Day to Withdraw with Grade of "W" from any or all classes
November 19-27	Thanksgiving Break
November 28	Classes Resume
December 9	Last Day of Classes
December 12-15	Final Examinations
December 16	Hooding Ceremony