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## Important Dates

**May 2**  
Pre-Nursing Forum, Henderson, (11am)

**May 4**  
Cohort 2 Students in Fresno start courses.

**May 5**  
Pre-Nursing Forum, Rancho Bernardo, (8:30am)

**May 9**  
Pre-Nursing Forum, Spectrum, (8am)

**May 12**  
Pre-Nursing Forum, Henderson, (11am)

**May 15**  
San Diego Nursing Cohort 19 Orientation, Spectrum, (8am)

**May 21**  
SHHS Journal Club, Rancho Bernardo, (12pm)  
Pre-Nursing Forum, Henderson, (5pm)

## Dean's Message

Welcome to the May, 2009 issue of the School of Health and Human Services e-newsletter!

This month's issue contains a feature story from Dr. Mary Kracun, Director and Chair of Nursing, updating you on changes in the Department of Nursing. Included in this update is a description of the advantages for students who matriculate in the BSPH program while they complete prerequisites and complete their application for future admission to the BSN program.

I am also pleased to report that we continue to make progress towards offering two new degree programs next year. The Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program will be reviewed by the university curriculum committee this month. If approved, we anticipate launching the MPH degree program next spring. We have also submitted a proposal to create a new BS in Radiation Therapy degree program. If approved, we hope to offer this program starting in spring 2010 as well. More information about both programs will be forthcoming after the approval process is complete.

If you have additional questions about any information contained in this newsletter, please feel free to contact me at [mlacourse@nu.edu](mailto:mlacourse@nu.edu). We also invite comments and suggestions at [shhs@nu.edu](mailto:shhs@nu.edu).

Please enjoy the newsletter.

Warmest regards,

Michael Lacourse, PhD  
Dean

## Announcement

**Say Hello to Henderson Cohort 2:** Ready to move on to their first clinical experiences.



### Fresno Nursing Students

Fresno student nurses are actively working to have a National University Chapter in the National Student Nurses Association and the California Nurses Association. The initial board members are Kim Hawkins and Erin Garcia.

# Recognition

Ann Kelly, Assistant Professor of Nursing, is the keynote speaker for the American Psychiatric Nurses Association. Congratulations!

Diane Hoeck, BSN, RN, a graduate of the Nursing Program, has been accepted into the Masters in Nursing Program at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. She will be enrolled in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program, and begins her studies in the fall. Congratulations Diane!

## Summary of April Journal Club

### Topic/Article Summary:

Dog bites are an underrated public problem. Victims suffer injuries, both physically and emotionally, which occasionally end in death, as well as a high cost economically. Unfortunately children are more often victims of dog bites and many are bitten at home. As stated by Wilson, Dwyer and Bennett (2003, p. 1) "current interventions, primarily aimed at the control of dogs in public areas, appear unlikely to reduce the incidence of dog bites within this group." In this particular study conducted by these authors, the parents' beliefs regarding their own children's manners around familiar and unfamiliar dogs was examined using a simple questionnaire. "The impact of a brief educational dog safety program on 192 kindergarten children average age of the study was 4.68 years of age was then evaluated. The questionnaire data revealed that many children engage in unsafe behaviors around dogs, and that parents are largely unaware of the dangers associated with such behaviors" (Wilson, Dwyer & Bennett, 2003, p.1). A dog safety program should show an increased awareness in the capability of children to understand high risk situations, involving unknown dogs.

### Project Summary:

Kelli Brown, Michelle Brown, Andréa Lee Heaton and Teresa Juarez conducted a project to a group of school-aged children from the ages of four-eleven years old in dog bite prevention. This group has chosen to educate school aged children in the community of Encinitas about dog bite prevention. Coming to a conclusion on this topic it was unanimous there is not enough education provided in a real life setting on dog behavior and bites. Together the group has come up with the following goal: Children ages four to ten, in the community of Encinitas will learn about dog bites and will show the right way to go up to an unfamiliar dog after completion of 30 min training conducted by the group. This goal is realistic for a number of reasons. First, we are fortunate to have a skilled therapy dog and handler that will be assisting the group with the training activity. Secondly one of the group members has experience in dog handling and training. Lastly we have secured a location that families with young children frequently go to and is also pet friendly.

In order to master the goal the children must first accomplish three objectives. These are: child will ask grown up/owner before touching unknown dog, child will show right way to say hello and child will list three signs that the dog is unhappy. These objectives are written at a very basic level in order to encompass all children in the selected age range. The objectives have been broken down further into detailed tasks that each child can complete easily. These objectives will be accomplished by the group providing specific education to the child on each task that relates to a specific objective. In addition to teaching children and families, the group will incorporate visual learning through the use of photos, cartoon drawings, and a certified therapy dog. The child will then provide a return demonstration to show the group that they have met the objective and no further education on that objective is required.

### Reference:

Wilson, F., Dwyer, F., & Bennett, C. (2003). Prevention of dog bites: Evaluation of a brief educational intervention program for preschool children. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 31 (1), pgs 75-86. Retrieved February 15, 2009, from EBSCO host database.

# Feature Story

The Nursing Program is growing and changing – for the better. One of the most important changes is in the pre-requisite stage of enrollment. You may remember that when a potential student first visits an Academic Advisor, she/he is enrolled into the Pre-Nursing Associate Degree program that is currently housed in the College of Letters and Sciences (COLS). With the growth of the School of Health and Human Services (SHHS), and through collaboration of the Chairs of the Nursing Department and Community Health Department a more appropriate avenue for pre-requisite completion is to be used – enrollment in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program.

Advantages of enrolling newly-admitted students in the BSPH are several; 1) the pre-requisites for both the BSPH and the Nursing Program are the same; 2) should the new student not be successful in their application attempt(s) for Nursing, the BSPH program provides a solid, interesting program in which they will continue; 3) enrollment in the BSPH program will provide an opportunity for a useful and employable degree path; 4) the time in the BSPH completing the pre-requisites will provide an opportunity for faculty to counsel students for whom the Nursing Program may not be a good fit.

Other changes in the Nursing Program include the admission of the second cohort to the Henderson, NV program; opening of the Fresno program in November 2008 and orientation of the second cohort on April 17<sup>th</sup>; opening of the LA program with its first cohort starting in March 2009. The NV program is a generic ASN program, and both the Fresno and LA programs are generic BSNs. An RN-to-BSN program is starting this spring in the Sherman Oaks area, to be held on the campus of the College of the Canyons with negotiations for similar programs at other centers throughout California. Also, a proposal to start a MSN in 2010 is in the works.

We welcome all prospective applicants to the Nursing Program to email specific campuses for information regarding the Pre-Nursing Program Information Forums in San Diego, Henderson, Fresno and LA. Nursing Program Information Forums are also being held for the RN-to-BSN program in Sherman Oaks. Email addresses are: [nursing@nu.edu](mailto:nursing@nu.edu) for San Diego, [fresnonursing@nu.edu](mailto:fresnonursing@nu.edu) for Fresno, [lanursing@nu.edu](mailto:lanursing@nu.edu) for the LA campus, [nvnursing@nu.edu](mailto:nvnursing@nu.edu) for the Henderson campus, and [soknursing@nu.edu](mailto:soknursing@nu.edu) for the Sherman Oak BSN completion program.