Honors in Nursing

DECEMBER GRADUATES

Lindy Kay Beyer*
Advised by: JAYNE DEECKMANN, PH.D., R.N.
Clinical Associate Professor

“Rethinking the Professional Image of Nursing: A Content Analysis of Nurse-Authored Blogs”

The concept of the body affecting the mind has been around since the written word was invented. Consider this quote from the Buddha (563-483 BC): “To keep the body in good health is a duty; otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear.” Although I have had the good fortune to be healthy, perhaps receive health care for a large majority of my life, I have also been witness to how devastating an illness can be to a person and their family. At the age of 51, I was probably too young to understand that my mother’s death from cancer was not an isolated event happening only to me. Indeed, it took another 15 years and a Peace Corps assignment to discover that people, everywhere in the world, and in any given moment, had loved ones battling an illness or fighting their own illness. At the age of 27, I was living in an isolated village in the mountains between the Kyrgyz and Uzbek borders, and health literacy in this area was extremely low. Consequently, illness was extremely common and the medical resources available to treat people widely varied from none at all to grave. Living in this environment allowed me to really think about our priorities in life. I had that “eureka!” moment where it suddenly became very obvious to me that quality of life was heavily dependent on one’s state of health, and I wanted to take some responsibility for helping my fellow humans achieve a higher quality of life through offering support during convalescence and education about disease prevention. Nursing was the obvious career choice for me at that point, and it absolutely love the profession—we are a perfect match!

Kristin Bonsting!
Advised by: LAURA MOORE, PH.D., R.N., P.H.N.C.N.S.-R.C.
Clinical Associate Professor

“Recognition of an Emerging Disorder: Are Nursing Students Educated to Identify and Refer Muscle Dysmorphia?”

I was in high school when my Mom was diagnosed with cancer. Her experience affected me greatly. I felt powerless as I watched someone I cared about suffer. I feel thankful and blessed that she survived and can share many new and wonderful moments with me today. Her fight directed me to volunteer as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) towards the end of my high school career and I have fallen in love with health care and helping others. As a nurse, we are truly unique and invaluable assets to our communities. My commitment will culminate in a career at UNC. It is my ultimate hope that nursing gives me the opportunity to make a difference.

Kristie Anne Brown
Advised by: MARIA VAN RIPER, PH.D., R.N., F.G.N.
Associate Professor & Chair Family Health Division

“Decision Making about Prophylactic Surgery in Families with a BRCA Mutation: One Family’s Story”

It has always been a passion of mine to help people. The nursing profession allows me to live this dream while also fostering creativity. Being a nurse allows me to have a relationship with a patient that no other health care team member can replicate. It is my ultimate hope that nursing gives me the opportunity to make a difference.

Courtney B. Wolff, Carolina Research Scholar
Advised by: DIANE YORK, M.D., PH.D., R.N., C.N.P.
Clinical Assistant Professor

“Caring for Seriously Ill Children: How Pediatric Nurses Cope”

Unlike many people, I didn’t always know that I was going to become a nurse. I graduated with my first degree in journalism and folklore from UNC-Chapel Hill, and it wasn’t until I began volunteering for a local crime center that I felt pulled to be a nurse. Through my volunteer work I met several nurses and was impressed with their compassion, intelligence, and confidence. I decided right then that I wanted to be a nurse and do that kind of protective work with children. I can’t wait to get started on this novel and help partners alongside the ability to stand up the dance floor, I have the honor of caring for...