

College of Nursing

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

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STUDENTS TRAVEL TO MEXICO ON A MISSION



By Meg Hartmann

The weekend of October 7-9, 12 GCU students traveled to Puerto Penasco, Mexico for a Medical Mission trip. Five of those students were nursing students ranging from Level 1 to Level 5, and a nursing instructor also accompanied them.

The clinic was held on Saturday where people from the local community came to receive free care and medication. The small community is built on sand that used to be a landfill. There are no paved roads, so simply getting to the community is a challenge. The vans often get stuck in the sand, so everyone must get out and push to get them back onto the sand that is packed down.

The clinic is held about three times a year for this community, and in the past year GCU nursing students have been represented at each clinic. Once the clinic was set up, we had 3 triage stations and two physicians seeing patients.

Each physician had a nursing student as an assistant, and two nursing students ran the pharmacy as well. One of the most memorable patients was a three-year-old who came in with a badly blistered foot that was completely dirty. The mother said she had stepped onto hot coals from a bonfire with barefeet, and it had been eight days ago. She didn't even have it wrapped.

A Level 4 and Level 5 student cared for the wound, and cleaned it as best they could with saline. They wrapped the foot and put ointment on it. Then, they taught the mother how to clean and care for the wound, and sent her home with materials to change the dressing. It was fulfilling to comfort this mother in treating her daughter's foot, and giving her the supplies she needed to take care of it. We passed out lots of pediatric vitamins, neonatal vitamins, antibiotics and other essentials.

After the clinic, we had a BBQ outreach where we sang, served a meal, and danced the night away. The kids got to play in a bouncy house for the first time, and they loved it! It was a great experience, and many of us can't wait to go back!

LETTER FROM THE DEAN



Dear Nursing Students,

The College of Nursing has served Arizona since 1982 and over the past few years has expanded its programs into the online format. We are committed to offering programs that will assist professional nurses in meeting their academic goals. GCU College of Nursing is approved by the New Mexico and Arizona State Boards of Nursing and is national accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). We hold ourselves accountable to the highest academic standards in the profession of nursing.

The pre-licensure program continues to exceed the state and national benchmarks on the National Licensing exam (NCLEX) and the Advanced Practice Graduates continue to excel on their national certification exams at 100 percent pass rate. We have teams of enrollment, academic and financial counselors who are committed to your academic success.

You will get to know your counselors as they help you navigate the journey of meeting your educational goals. My goal for you is to provide a solid nursing education offered within the tenants of our Christian heritage. We focus on the body-mind-spirit in health and healing. Students are challenged to integrate spiritual principles into practice when caring for patients, families, and communities.

This emphasis is what we believe sets us apart from other schools. Our graduates often share how they have made a difference in a person's life because they tapped into their spiritual needs. I know your journey will be educationally challenging and professionally rewarding!



Anne M. McNamara Ph.D., R.N.
Dean & Professor of Nursing

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Dr. Priscilla Steffen DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, Director of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) program is very pleased to welcome **Margie Amity** MSN, ANP-BC, ACNP-BC as full-time Associate Professor in the ACNP Program. Amity has completed her orientation and is moving forward with her instructional and clinical activities, supporting the education and socialization of our students toward the advanced practice role. The ACNP program has seen progressive growth over the past year.

The first cohort of students entering the ACNP program are expected to graduate in 2012. A cohort of seasoned nurse practitioners entered the ACNP program in May 2011, specifically seeking Post-Master's Degree Certificates, and this cohort will successfully complete their studies in 2012 as well. By mid-2012, the ACNP program will have more than one-hundred active degree-seeking students.

The ACNP program

currently holds classes on the GCU ground campus as well as on the GCU College of Nursing (CON) satellite campus at Scottsdale Healthcare. The ACNP program will continue to grow and we anticipate expanding our community alliances to offer exciting educational opportunities and broadened educational options that will ultimately yield high-quality healthcare and improved outcomes to individuals and families experiencing acute and critical illness.



Margie Amity



On October 22, CON faculty, students, staff, and family participated in the Arizona Nurses Foundation 5K. We had a good showing, a fun morning, and we raised almost \$1,000 for the AZNF Nursing Scholarship fund.

GCU STUDENTS IN DUET NEWS

Dania Guerrero and **Ashley Sinkler** were featured in the Fall 2011 edition of The Duet Newsletter, a newsletter about health and aging. The students attended a clinical experience at Duet and ran a workshop titled, "Healthier Eating and Lifestyle Choices." Their program can be found online, under the Nutrition section.

[CLICK HERE.](#)



Running the good race!

FALL FESTIVAL



FAST-TRACK PROGRAM

We are excited to announce that the Fast-Track Undergraduate BSN program at AT Still University is officially open. The program will operate in a dedicated space located at 5845 East Still Circle, on the campus of AT Still University. Within this beautiful, newly remodeled space, there are two classrooms, an open lab space with 5 hospital beds, 2 simulation labs, conference rooms and faculty offices. The students have study rooms, and use of a large conference room for studying. The students are also able to use the library, study rooms, and "Student Union" in the main AT Still building. The GCU at AT Still team currently includes Director **Jennifer Overturf**, Full Time Faculty **Linda Hemmila** and **Victoria Voit**, Adjunct Faculty **Melissa Vanyek**, Lab Coordinator **KC Boyd**, and Administrative Assistant **Cassie Reynolds**. We will be admitting two cohorts per year, in the Spring and Fall semesters, with up to 25 students per group. We are excited to explore interdisciplinary simulation with students from other programs on the AT Still campus. **Contact Jennifer Overturf at 602-214-3113 for questions.**

HEALTH SCIENCE & NURSING DAY

GCU held the 26th Annual Health Sciences & Nursing Day on Friday, November 4, and it was our biggest ever! Approximately 2,500 high school students and chaperones visited the GCU campus to watch presentations from health care professionals. We had 25 presenters and 44 presentations available. Also available to students were Human Anatomy tours, Simulation Lab tours, and vendor booths. The visiting students had a chance to see GCU's new arena, which is where they ate lunch and were thanked for attending by **Dr. Anne McNamara** and **Dr. Mark Wooden**, not to mention a special visit from **Thunder!**

