New Certificate Program for RNs to Aid Cancer Patients

Floyd College is preparing to launch Georgia’s first certificate program for Cancer Care Nurse Navigators. The program, designed for registered nurses, will increase their ability to help cancer patients and their families “navigate” through the oncology system – from screening through treatments, helping patients overcome fears, determining needs (physical, social or emotional), and educating patients and family members regarding related resources and services.

The Health Sciences Division has developed the program in collaboration with a team of oncology providers from throughout northwest Georgia.

Barbara Rees, chair of the Health Sciences Division, says she is excited about the start of the program. “Right now there is no program like this. We’re treading on new ground.”

The program was developed for registered nurses working in a variety of settings: facilities, hospices, public health, and physician’s offices, to name a few. Nurses in northwest Georgia have the opportunity to be the first participants in the program, and full scholarships, covering books and tuition, are available for all participants in this first course.

The program is a six-semester-hour course that will include topics such as cancer biology, ideology, detection, treatments, clinical trials and research. The clinical portion of the course will be held at hospices and home health agencies that treat cancer patients.

Classes will be taught by a team of professionals that hail from various cancer care facilities around the state. The faculty team will be led by Mary M. Gullattee, director of Nursing, Winship Cancer Institute and Emory Hospitals. Other faculty members include Maxine Cochran, manager of Oncology Care, Floyd Medical Center, and Laura Hurt, director of Medical and Surgical Nursing at Grady Healthcare as well as other nursing professionals and social workers who are experts in the field of cancer care.

The initial program was developed with funds provided by a planning grant from the Georgia Cancer Coalition and Northwest Georgia Regional Cancer Coalition. The regional coalition and Floyd College have applied for additional funding through the Georgia Cancer Coalition. If received, the additional funds would be used to expand the program statewide over the next three years, to refine the curriculum and market the program.

The college is working with the Georgia Nurses Association to have the certificate count toward Continuing Education Units (CEUs) as part of the association’s requirements for annual professional development. Floyd College also hopes to finalize plans with Kennesaw State University and the State University of West Georgia to have the Cancer Care Nurse Navigator certificate count as credits toward a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

“We see an opportunity to touch a lot of people,” states Dr. Rees. “The program is not designed to teach a person to be an oncology nurse, but is designed to help nurses from various environments to increase their knowledge of oncology care – to improve their skills and the lives of cancer patients and their families – whether in facilities, clinics, home health or public health settings.”

Former Governor Joe Frank Harris of Cartersville has been elected to a second one-year term as chair of the Board of Regents, the 18-member governing body for the University System of Georgia. Regent Joel O. Wooten Jr., a Columbus attorney, was elected to a one-year term as vice chair.

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Folks

Wendell Barnes, director and associate professor of Floyd College’s American Sign Language Immersion Training Program for Interpreters, worked in conjunction with Valdosta State University June 25-29 at the Jekyll Island Musical Theatre Festival, helping to make two of their productions accessible to audience members who are deaf. Wendell directed the interpreters for the shadowed performance (interpreters are intertwined with the actors on stage, signing and following them as they perform) of “Hello, Dolly!”, and he also signed and performed as an interpreter for several characters. While there he also sightlined, or side interpreted, with a partner all of the male characters (and some of the female ones!) for a production of “State Fair.”

Wendell held workshops on artistic interpreting with local interpreters who participated in the productions while he was in the area.

Following their presentation at the International TechEd conference in Ontario, California in March, Dana Pergrem, instructor of Communications, and Simon Grist, director of the Instructional Technology Center, were invited to publish an article in Library Hi-Tech News. LHTN is an international electronic and print journal that addresses technology concerns of universities and public libraries. The article, titled “How to Teach Technology,” contains presentation and instructional design tips, and will appear in the August 2003 edition.

Virginia M. Carson, vice president for Academic Affairs, attended the Bridges to Healthy Communities Evaluation Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona from May 18-22. The participants were grant recipients of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Jon Hershey, professor of English, was selected as a grader by the Educational Testing Service for the AP (Advanced Placement) essay exam in the area of English Literature. He attended a week-long grading session June 1-8 during which he and fellow graders rated 650,000 essays.

In other news, Jon’s short story, “Scarboy,” was published this summer in Bayou, a journal out of the University of New Orleans and the University of West Florida.

Keep the following people in your thoughts and prayers: Wanda Henderson, retired admissions specialist, upon the death of her husband, Charlie, on June 16, and Richard Hays, retired professor of Physics, upon the death of his wife, Nell.

Announcements

Phyllis Weatherly, director of Counseling and Career Services, announces that official student orientation leaders have been appointed this year. The Insiders, the new student orientation leaders, are Bo Bowling, Julianna Hunt, Chris Lundy, Amanda Mays, Dusty Neighbors, Samantha Pierce, Savannah Ruth, Megan Wallace, Mary Wheeler and Johnny Woods.

The Floyd College Dental Hygiene office is moving to the college’s Heritage Hall location effective August 1.

The Dental Hygiene program has been located at Keel Way since its inception in 1990 when it was affiliated with the Medical College of Georgia. After joining Floyd College in the fall semester of 1998, the program remained at the same location until the need for expansion arose.

“We needed to expand clinical size and we don’t have the ability to do that here,” says Tom McDaniel, professor and supervising dentist with the program.

McDaniel hopes that the move will not cause problems for the center’s patients. While the Heritage Hall campus is a multi-floor building, the campus does have access ramps and an elevator for their patrons to use.

The Dental Hygiene program accepts patients from the general public and offers reduced rates for basic dental screenings. The cost for adults, 13 and older, is $30 and the cost for children, 12 and under, is $20. Visits include dental cleaning, x-rays, and fluoride. Patients are treated by Dental Hygiene students but are supervised by faculty.