Greetings from the faculty, staff, and students at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Quad Cities Campus! At UIC-QC, we are proud to provide the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP), Advanced Generalist Masters of Science, and RN-BSN degrees to nurses in our Illinois-Iowa region. Our clinical partners and colleagues endorse the quality of our graduates and value them as health team colleagues, direct care providers, and nursing leaders. 2015 has been a special year at our QC Campus as we commemorate 35 years of educating nurses, starting with the RN-BSN program in the Quad Cities in 1980. Over the past 35 years, we have graduated 570 BSN or graduate prepared nurses. Over 70% of those graduates have stayed in the bi-state region, enhancing health care quality and access to thousands of patients.

We continue to build on the heritage of our early beginnings. Newsletter highlights focus on teaching, learning, and implementing the advanced practice role; student activities and achievements, and news from our alumni. The College of Nursing is consistently recognized as one of the top ten nursing schools in research funding by the National Institute of Health (NIH); the RN to BSN program is ranked second nationally in online programs, and first in student engagement (US News and World Report), while the majority of our nurse practitioner specialty programs are also ranking nationally in the top 10. Faculty activities include pursuing the DNP degree (Wislander and Clarke), presenting on the Holistic Admission Process in an NP curriculum at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) conference (Sparbel), and lecturing on UIC’s strategies for diversity at the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition Diversity Forum (Sparbel). Our successful DNP Program is preparing advanced practice nurses to provide expert care and meet the increasingly complex health care system needs.

Entering 2016, we reflect on our history with pride and look forward with anticipation. While 2015 marks 35 years for UIC-QC, 2016 is a landmark year for the UIC College of Nursing, as we celebrate our 65th anniversary!! Special events are planned during this 65th year- mark your calendars to join us in Chicago for our anniversary celebration on October 1, 2016. We value your investiture in our mission in the Quad Cities, whether it is to mentor our students, refer students to our program, participate as an alumni, or contribute to future graduate education at UIC-QC through the Quad Cities Legacy Fund. YOU are our most prized legacy! Thank you for your support!

35 Years of Teaching, Learning, Serving, and Leading

In 1980, the Illinois Board of Higher Education released a document on the status of nursing education in Illinois. It reported the results of a needs assessment and subsequent recommendations for improvement in nursing education across the state. The status of nursing education in Health Service Area 10 (HSA 10), which covers the Quad Cities, showed a low rate of bachelors and/or masters prepared nurses practicing in the region, only 7% of nurses in HSA 10 had degrees beyond Associates or Diploma compared to 21% statewide. The Board of Higher Education recommended that existing nursing baccalaureate programs increase their enrollments, and that existing accredited nursing schools offer off-campus baccalaureate completion programs where a demonstrated need for such programs existed.

UIC College of Nursing (CON) responded to the recommendation and in the same year admitted its first students to the newly established baccalaureate completion program (RN-BSN) located at UIC College of Nursing, Quad Cities Regional Office. In 2015, UIC CON Quad Cities Campus joyfully celebrates 35 years of teaching, learning, serving, and leading.
RN-BSN students are already nurses who seek to increase and enhance their education, but who are also employed as practicing nurses. In 1980, UIC-QC offered the RN-BSN courses one day per week, so that working nurses would not have to take too many days off work. Balancing work and school has been a tightrope walk for nursing students for decades. Local nurses gained a high quality nursing education balanced within their life and work because UIC offered the RN-BSN degree right here in the Quad Cities. The RN-BSN degree took two years to complete, so UIC College of Nursing Quad Cities graduated it first class in 1982.

That UIC RN-BSN program founded at the Quad Cities Regional Campus, is now a fully online degree reaching students across the state, region, and nation. In 2015, US News and World Report ranked UIC online baccalaureate degrees, of which the RN-BSN degree is largest and longest standing, second in the nation for quality education, and first in the nation for student engagement.

In 1991 UIC Quad Cities Regional Campus added graduate nursing education. By offering a master’s degree in the Family Nurse Practitioner specialty, UIC Quad Cities allowed local nurses the opportunity to increase knowledge and skills necessary to become Advanced Practice Nurses, a specialty field in nursing just blossoming in the 1980s. Students attended courses, took exams, performed in a mock exam room, and were placed with clinical preceptors in numerous Quad City metro and regional health care facilities. By 1997, other specialty areas beyond the FNP were added and students participated in live local learning, and distance education via telecommunication connections. Now in 2015, UIC is a leader in promoting the Advanced Generalist Master Degree (AGMS) and the Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree (DNP). AGMS degrees prepare clinical nurse leaders and educators to fulfill roles in administration, education, and clinical leadership. Alternatively, local BSN and/or masters prepared nurses can enroll in any of 12 different specialty areas: Adult Gerontology Acute Care or Primary Care, Advanced Population Health Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Health Systems Leadership and Informatics, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Midwifery, Nurse Midwifery/Women’s Health, Pediatric Acute Care or Primary Care, or Women’s Health, and complete their DNP from UIC, one of the top ranked research universities in the nation, all right here in the Quad Cities. Courses are a mixture of on-site and online and include team based and problem based learning. Simulation, including standardized live patients and life-like learning mannequins, has been added to traditional, valuable preceptor learning experiences in clinical settings throughout the region.
The Quad Cities UIC College of Nursing campus has had many iterations. It initially was located on the campus of Augustana College in Founders Hall. Subsequently over the last 35 years the “campus” has moved eight times and most recently and comfortably resides within the Heritage office building in downtown Moline, IL. Nearly 350 BSN graduates call UIC College of Nursing Quad Cities their alma mater, and over 220 Master of Science and DNP graduates fill out the Quad City campus alumni ranks. BSN Class sizes of 10 to 20 have grown to 50-60, and a graduate program that started with 12 students currently enrolls 47 graduate students. Of the nearly 600 graduates of UIC Quad Cities Regional Campus, 70% have stayed in the region serving area patients of all ages, families, and communities in primary care settings, acute care settings, and in individual homes providing chronic illness management, acute illness care, midwifery care, and health promotion and disease prevention.

We past and present faculty, staff, and students are proud of our strong legacy of teaching, learning, serving, and leading for 35 years in the Quad Cities Region. We look forward to years of growth, many semesters of learning, and decades of impact in transforming the health of area residents through the knowledge, skills, expertise, and caring of our Quad Cities UIC College of Nursing graduates.

**Marti Clyde Receives 2015 QC Director’s Legacy Award**

The Legacy Award is presented to “an individual who has promoted the continuity of the program and has given service to the QC unit.” Ms. Marti Clyde, recently retired as Director of the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center, exemplifies the qualities reflected in the spirit of the Legacy Award. Since 1988, Ms. Clyde provided program and statistical data support, promoted UIC-CON within the Quad Cities, and facilitated UIC being a part of the consortium of graduate education opportunities offered in our region. Her efforts as part of the Quad Cities Graduate Study Center made it possible for us to introduce the graduate nursing programs, including the ability to offer in-state tuition to students on both sides of the river. Marti also identified funding for equipment to enhance our distance learning videoconferencing capability. She has been a strong, calm, cheerful advocate to facilitate advanced education in the Quad-Cities. Ms. Clyde’s dedication and stewardship is greatly appreciated by the College of Nursing, and all of us in the Quad Cities.

**FOCUS ON TEACHING**

**Global Education through Peking Union Medical College (PUMC) Partnership**

UIC CON has a new partner school, Peking Union Medical College (PUMC), located in Beijing, China. PUMC is one of the premier medical institutions in mainland China. The PUMC School of Nursing was established in 1920 and offers BSN, MSN, and PhD degrees. Hauping Liu, Dean of the PUMC School of Nursing traveled to UIC College of Nursing in August 2015 to officially
sign the Memorandum of Agreement and discuss opportunities for collaboration with UIC CON faculty.

Dr. Kathy Sparbel, Quad Cities Faculty, completed the first faculty exchange visit under the new agreement in November 2015. During her visit to PUMC, Dr. Sparbel lectured on the Doctorate of Nursing Practice, the role of Advanced Practice Nurses and on genetic risk considerations in decision-making in adolescents and young adults. She also led an open discussion session with graduate students and clinical nurses from the PUMC hospital, with topics ranging from end-of-life issues, elder care options, and nursing scope of practice. She also had the opportunity to learn about nursing practice and simulation in nursing education at PUMC.

Even though Kathy’s trip was a quick one, her hosts made sure there was time to take in some of the cultural and historic aspects of Beijing. Side trips to the Forbidden City and Great Wall were arranged, as were samplings of local cuisine and street fairs. A positive aspect of international faculty exchange is that learning occurs inside and outside the classroom.

Collaborations with partner schools such as PUMC provide experiences to strengthen awareness, nursing practice and education across countries and health systems.

Building Advanced Practice Skills through Simulation

Simulation provides opportunities to build skills and practice clinical decision-making in a mentored and safe environment. Students participate in developing hands-on skills, such as suturing, and managing standardized patient scenarios. In Spring 2015, we collaborated with Merck & Co., Inc. to provide NEXPLANON clinical training to Family Nurse Practitioner students. NEXPLANON is a progestin-only implant used to prevent pregnancy. Clinicians need to complete a training program to be certified to insert and remove the implant. Students were trained on procedures for insertion, localization, removal, and reinsertion of NEXPLANON. They were also educated on clinical data review, such as efficacy, pharmacokinetics, and contraindications. FNP students practiced localization, insertion, and removal procedures on simulation models. Upon completion of the clinical training program, students received certification they can use in practice when they become licensed APNs.

Sensitive and high risk clinical situations use simulation and team learning as strategies to develop student competencies. In QC, we have added a child mannequin to the adult and baby model we use to practice skills. Nurse Practitioner students have engaged in multiple team simulations including for respiratory issues, mental health presentations, potential child abuse, and addressing drug seeking behavior. Through the team simulations, students conduct the entire clinical encounter, with periodic scheduled ‘time out’ points for reflection, and peer, faculty, and patient feedback. This promotes an interactive learning experience where the students can develop and demonstrate critical thinking and practice interpersonal skills with the ‘patient’. Student evaluations of simulation experiences as a tool for learning are very positive. We are convinced the most benefit will be to their future patients!
FOCUS ON EVIDENCE

Transforming Clinical Practice- the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) Project

Advanced Practice Nurses who achieve the highest clinical degree in nursing, the Doctorate of Nursing Practice, are critical partners with doctoral prepared research nurses (PhD) in transforming clinical practice and improving patient outcomes. In the DNP project, students develop population-focused competencies by asking nursing questions at a clinical population or health system level, analyzing and synthesizing the research evidence to identify an intervention, and subsequently designing, implementing, and evaluating an intervention within a clinical population or system. The goal is to translate the research to the bedside for optimal benefit of patients.

DNP student, Alyssa Wislander, MS, ACNP-BC, PNP-BC, recognized the increased mortality and morbidity when patients with asthma lack knowledge of appropriate bronchodilator inhaler use. She found that patient understanding is associated with the level of education received by patients from hospital nurses during acute asthma episodes. Those ‘teachable moments’ are an important link in helping patients become independent in asthma self-care, minimizing uncontrolled asthma symptoms and preventing unnecessary hospital visits. However, evidence based guidelines for patient teaching on asthma inhaler technique are not standardized within the inpatient setting. Ms. Wislander identified inpatient nurses as both a valuable resource for patient education and a focus for an evidence-based project at a health system level. Her DNP project, Implementation of education on inhaler technique for inpatient nurses, uses research literature as the foundation for an educational intervention to standardize patient teaching on inhaler use. Her implementation with practicing nurses will in turn enable better patient understanding, and promote improved long term patient outcomes. From research to bedside- DNP students like Alyssa Wislander are working to transform clinical practice for better health care...and better health!

Integrative Pain Management

In spring of 2015, students attended a UIC sponsored career fair offering access to various employers and information pertinent to the Advanced Practice nurse role.

Keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Venkateswara Karuparthy, doctor of anesthesiology and president and founder of the Integrative Pain Centers of America. Dr. Karuparthy spoke about the complexities of pain management, the positive and negative aspects of pain medication, and the promise of alternative methods of pain treatment. Dr. Karuparthy has been in practice for 31 years, and has a clinic located in Rock Island. He hopes to create a program that will fuse the benefits of holistic healing and biomedical practices in combinations that promote pain relief and the alleviation of suffering.

Regional Staff Support Students and Faculty

UIC Quad Cities recognizes Jessica Jeys and Claire DeConte for their dedication and tireless support of students, faculty, and college departments. Daily operations at the Quad Cities Campus work seamlessly largely due to the expert efforts of Jessica Jeys, Administrative Aide, and Claire DeConte, Chief Clerk. They deftly handle computer issues, technology challenges, changing schedules, registration/application questions, student events, and community partner and faculty needs. Claire, who is completing two years at UIC, is ‘point person’ for student activities planning and puts her organizational skills to good use. Jessica provides office fiscal management, and staff support for the RN-BSN Program and Graduate Transition Student Program. In 2016, Jessica will celebrate a milestone with 10 years of service at UIC-QC (congratulations!). Together, they are a formidable team-thank you, Jess and Claire!
FOCUS ON PRACTICE

Integrative Practice Model Grows from DNP Project

The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health (2010) stresses the importance of nurse collaboration with various and numerous health care providers, from physicians and pharmacists to social workers and therapists, to deliver safe, quality, cost effective care for complex patient cases and diverse populations.

In ambulatory care, it is common for specialties to communicate back and forth with primary care providers about mutual patients. However, for those patients who go to mental health providers, the communication with primary care providers is often sparse and the care is fragmented.

Though there is evidence that patient satisfaction, health outcomes, and cost containment all improve when behavioral and medical problems are addressed together, integration of mental health care into primary care has not been consistently adopted (Cohen et al., 2015). Thus need and opportunity exists for integrating mental health care with primary care to address the problems of fragmented care, limited communication, and poor follow-up.

As discussed elsewhere in this newsletter, DNP Implementation Projects address real world concerns and problems, proposing processes and procedures for practice improvement and quality patient care. While a DNP student at UIC, Bernie Tadda, DNP FNP-BC, developed a DNP project studying the lack of integration of mental health care into primary care and proposed a practice collaboration to address this need in the Quad Cities area. Subsequently sections of that DNP project have been implemented as a working practice model in the Quad Cities area. Bernie’s own clinical practice at Community Health Care, Inc. now includes 2 days a week delivering primary care to patients with chronic mental illnesses at the Robert Young Community Service Program (CSP) in Rock Island. Colocation of primary care into community mental health centers has been identified as effective in producing integrated services for the chronically mentally ill population (Cohen et al., 2015). Bernie reports that such close proximity allows for frequent discussions and consultations about patient management with the psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioners and RNs at the CSP. There is a monthly meeting with Bernie, many of the CSP nurses, case managers, and other staff about select clients who may need additional monitoring and care. Bernie and the CSP staff are continually working on their communication and coordination to provide truly integrated care.

The implementation of this new integrative practice model is relatively new, so evaluation of its success is ongoing. It is apparent, though, that patients are receiving more comprehensive health assessment, treatment, and care; more organized referral and follow up; and less fragmentation of care.


Community Partner Award Recognizes

Ruth Fiedler-Eaton

The QC Community Partner Award honors an individual or organization in the greater Quad Cities area which has collaborated with the UIC CON in a strong ongoing professional relationship that enhances the nursing education of our students. In 2015, UIC-QC was proud to award this honor to an alumnus (MS ‘99) and long-time clinical preceptor, Family Nurse Practitioner Ruth Fiedler-Eaton.

Ms. Fiedler-Eaton is the primary care provider for the Genesis Health Group Family Practice clinic in Erie, Illinois. She enthusiastically and routinely has mentored advanced practice students in her clinical practice since 2002, and often offers experiences at her clinic to broaden student’s understanding of rural health needs. Students have consistently reported being impressed with the relationship Ruth has with her patients/families, the kind, yet persistent way she guides and educates the students, and how they have really developed as advanced nurse practitioners under her tutorage. She mentors them to be nurses first, and what it means to embrace the competencies and role of an advanced practice nurse. We are proud to call Ruth ‘one of ours’ and are grateful for the service she has provided to us at UIC, and to her patients and community.

Award Winning Service and Leadership

Bernie Tadda’s practice expertise, service to patients, and leading in the community was recognized at the 2015 Iowa Primary Care Association (Iowa PCA) Annual Conference.

Dr. Bernie Tadda, DNP, FNP-BC, ARNP, has been awarded the Carl Kulczyk Memorial Award presented to an individual who
Focus On Practice continued

has made outstanding contribution to his/her organizations and/or community. Bernie has been a nurse practitioner at Community Health Care, Inc. (CHC) for almost 27 years. In that time he has cared for and treated thousands of the Quad City area’s most vulnerable patients, and further supported CHC in leadership roles providing training and workflow reviews. Bernie’s service and leadership extend outside the walls of CHC. As clinical instructor here at UIC QC Campus, he is and has been instrumental in the education and development of hundreds of nurse practitioners. Bernie has employed his clinical expertise, teaching skills, and calm demeanor to educate students, coach patients, mentor colleagues, and lead projects to improve the well-being of the Quad Cities Community. It is no wonder he was nominated for and awarded the 2015 Carl Kulczyk Memorial Award.

Congratulations Bernie!

Dr. Kathy Sparbel’s service to Quad City area healthcare providers has been recognized by the Quad Cities Area Advanced Practice Nurse and Physician Alliance. Dr. Sparbel is the recipient of the inaugural CARE (Community, Achievements, Respect, Excellence) Award for Distinguished Service in recognition of her leadership on numerous regional committees and boards, her strategic planning abilities, policy making initiative, skills as an educator of Nurse Practitioners serving the Quad Cities Region, and for her loyalty to and advocacy of Advanced Practice providers across the region and state.

Kathy co-founded this Alliance in the early 2000s to promote the APN and PA professions through public awareness, health care system education, professional development, and networking across a 75 mile radius of the Illinois-Iowa border. She served as the first President and subsequently as Secretary and active Board member.

Congratulations Kathy!

FOCUS ON STUDENTS

Student Advisory Board Promotes UIC Community

The Quad Cities Campus Student Advisory Board (SAB) collaborates with alumni, students, Regional Director Kathy Sparbel and Chief Clerk Claire DeConte to enrich the experiences of UIC-QC students. SAB members prioritize activities that enhance the UIC community and strengthen relationships between students and within the college. They attend prospective student information sessions, provide the student perspective for applicants at time of interview, and assist with the Spring Celebration dinner. Board members help organize dinner events to build community with new students, collaborate with the Alumni Board to design UIC-QC sweatshirts (available for order through the QC office), and plan social events for students. Upcoming events include attending a QC Mallards hockey game in January, a dinner event, and a Career Fair with invited speakers in February. The 2015-2016 Student Advisory Board representatives are Lindsay Tapia, Shawna Fury, Meghan Grothus, and Krystine Ryan. Kuddos to the SAB for their leadership and service!

Scholarship and Award Recipients

At the Annual Spring Dinner in May, 2015, the UIC College of Nursing Quad-Cities Alumni Association presented three scholarships. These scholarships were made possible from generous donations to Birdies for Charity. These awards were based on academic excellence, financial need, and a commitment to practice in the Quad Cities area. The recipients were:

**DNP FNP student Tammy Bunn**: Rock Island, IL
**MS FNP student Kaytee Knoop**: North Liberty, IA
**MS AGPC student Lori Schwarm**: Bettendorf, IA

Congratulations to these students, and thank you to everyone whose generous donations made these scholarships possible!
**Focus On Students continued**

**Welcome to new Fall 2015 students…**

**New Graduate students:**

- Britnee Ayers: Moline, IL
- Amy Burkhart: Bettendorf, IA
- Melissa Drish: Rock Island, IL
- Bailey Higby: Eldridge, IA
- Edward Killian: Silvis, IL
- Angelita Manuel: Rock Island, IL
- Bethany Oberfoell: DeWitt, IA
- Tricia Pons: Moline, IL
- Melissa Reller: LeClaire, IA
- Abby Shumate: Davenport, IA
- Shanna Spies: DeWitt, IA
- Adrianna VanDuyne: Rapids City, IL
- Cara Voelliger: Bettendorf, IA

Students are completing programs in **Advanced Generalist Masters**, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NP, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care NP and FNP.

**Interprofessional Education**

On April 7th, 2015 nursing students from Quad Cities, Peoria, and Urbana gathered at the Jump Simulation Center in Peoria to hone their collaboration and communication skills!

The emphasis on interprofessional education has triggered the creation of curricula to address the challenge of educating future healthcare providers about the importance of collaborative patient care, both in the US and throughout the world. Such curricula include simulation activities which provide students interprofessional interaction early in their career development and demonstrate the benefits of working together as a team to benefit patients and transform health.

At IPE Day, students were immersed in an interprofessional learning experience that was case-based and utilized video simulations, small interprofessional group interactions, and highly trained simulated patients to develop knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed for collaborative, team-based, patient-centered care.

Speakers included Dr. Kathy Sparbel, Dr. Gerry Wickham, and Kate Tredway. Meredith Ecklund, Program Director for the IPE HRSA grant (College of Nursing-Quad Cities), and Valerie Bricka, Academic Office Manager (College of Medicine-Peoria), were critical in planning and coordinating this event.

**Congratulations to 2015 Graduates!**

The following students were awarded degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Spring 2015:

**Masters Degrees** were awarded to:

- Treena Adams: Milan, IL
- Jill Ballantine: East Dubuque, IL
- Saysya Bolden: Davenport, IA
- Dawn Dominguez: Silvis, IL
- Ashley Fuller: Clinton, IA
- Brandi Heinecke: Clayton, IL
- Susan Joy: Iowa City, IA
- Kulule Kenea: Bettendorf, IA
- Sandra Koppes: Bellevue, IA
- Kelsey Kropf: Moline, IL
- Antoinette Lambert: Moline, IL
- Ann Maxwell: Davenport, IA
- Alicia Meinert: Galesburg, IL
- Kelli Miller: Coal Valley, IL
- Ryane Passno: Sherrard, IL
- Carrie Ricketts: Coal Valley, IL
- Jessica Shelly: now residing in Minneapolis, MN
- Shannon VanZummeren: Aledo, IL
- Jessica Wilt: Eldridge, IA
- Cameron Wold: Eldridge, IA

Brehon Allen (Eldridge, IA) and Kimberly Kallin (now residing in Saratoga Springs, NY) were recognized for completing the post-master’s Family Nurse Practitioner certificate program.

**Celebration Dinner Honors Graduates**

The annual Spring Celebration Dinner honoring the 2015 graduating class was held on April 30th, 2015, and was well attended and full of fun. It is always so great to have the opportunity to
Focus On Students continued

recognize the graduating students for their achievements. Likewise, saying hello and thank you to family members and friends who have supported and cheered on their students is always interesting and often hilarious.

Warm hugs and other forms of enthusiastic congratulations (including the gift of a coffee mug and flower from the QC program) round out an evening of companionship, acknowledgement, and achievement in recognition of hard work, skill development, critical thinking, and value enhancement.

CONGRATULATIONS
Class of 2015!!

FOCUS ON PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Fall 2016 graduate student application deadline is January 15th, 2016.

- RNs with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree can “transition” into the AGMS and DNP programs by completing 3-4 undergraduate courses which are all available online through UIC Online.
- GREs are waived for AGMS and DNP applicants with a cumulative GPA of 3.25/4.0 in their most recently completed (baccalaureate or graduate) degree from a professionally accredited institution.
- Informational Open Houses for the graduate programs will be scheduled in March and April 2016.
FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumnus Award

UIC College of Nursing’s Quad-Cities Alumni Association presented its 26th Annual Distinguished Alumnus Award to Dr. Debra Stark for her dedication to nursing education, lifelong learning, and mentoring of others. Debra Stark received her initial nursing education at Methodist School for Nurses in Peoria, and became a UIC alumnus when she graduated with her BSN from the Quad Cities Regional Program in 2001. Deb went on to earn her Master’s Degree in Nursing and PhD in Education with a focus on curriculum development and instructional design.

Deb’s clinical practice has been primarily in maternal/child nursing where post-BSN she quickly rose to leadership positions, as charge nurse and eventually department manager. Her passion for developing and teaching new nurses led Deb to pursue a position at Methodist College of Nursing as a full time faculty member in 2008. In this role she instructs students in Maternal/Child nursing as well as leadership and management. As a faculty member and leader, Deb was instrumental in the development and implementation of revised BSN and RN-BSN curricula at Methodist. After completing her PhD in Education, Deb was appointed Director of Nursing Curriculum at Methodist, a role that allows her to work with all faculty to promote excellence in teaching through curriculum and outcomes assessment, and faculty and course development. Deb’s research interests lie in how students develop critical reasoning. She is expanding her area of study to examining the education needs of preceptors, and the value of internship as a learning tool.

Deb has broadened her own nursing and education service to include membership on the Tazewell County Board of Health, and to the role of Faith Community Nurse in her church.

Dr. Deb Stark, Class of 2001, reminds us “contributing to the nursing profession can be at a macro or micro level. The contributions of one nurse or one nurse educator are at the micro level, one patient, one nurse, one faculty, or one student at a time. Promoting excellence and betterment in every interaction or opportunity has the potential to impact the excellence of nursing as a whole”.

For her example of lifelong learning, service to patients, education of students, and development of nursing faculty, the Quad Cities Alumni Association is proud to present the 2015 Distinguished Nurse Alumnus award to Dr. Debra Stark, PhD.
UIC QC Alumni Board Going Strong

UIC-QC celebrates 35 years of producing alumni. Nearly 600 RNs and APRNs are alumni of UIC-QC and are aptly represented by the UIC QC Alumni Board, whose members include Lynn Kustes (inaugural Class 1982), Mary Watters (Class of 1991); and Saysha Bolden (Class of 2014).

The Alumni Board actively supports the Quad Cities Regional Campus by being ambassadors in the community, sharing information about and referral to our program among the nursing population in the QC. Of great significance for current nursing students, the QC Alumni Board is instrumental in raising funds for student scholarships through promotions such as Birdies for Charity and activities such as the gift basket raffle at our Annual Spring Celebration Dinner.

The UIC QC College of Nursing Alumni Association is seeking new members to fill open positions and to grow the size of the Alumni Board. Please consider volunteering for this fun and effective organization. Interested parties can contact Dr. Kathy Sparbel at ksparbel@uic.edu.

Quad Cities Sweatshirts

Quad City sweatshirts are here! Please contact Claire DeConte in the QC office for pricing and availability.
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar

Spring 2016
Jan 11  Instruction begins
Jan 18  Martin Luther King Day - no classes
Jan 22  Last day to complete late registration.
        Last day to add/drop courses
Mar 21-25  Spring Break - no classes
Apr 28  Quad-Cities Spring Dinner
Apr 29  Instruction Ends
May 2-6  Final Examinations
May 5  College of Nursing Commencement

Summer 2016
May 16  4-Week Session instruction begins
May 30  Memorial Day Holiday - no classes
June 9  4-Week Session instruction ends
June 10  4-Week final exams
June 13  8-Week Session instruction begins
July 4  Independence Day – no classes
Aug 3  8-Week session instruction ends
Aug 4-5  8-Week final exams

For information on the UIC Master’s and DNP Programs
offered in the Quad-Cities, please call (309) 757-9467 x34.
For information on the RN-BSN program, please call
1-866-772-2268 option 1.

REMINDEERS TO PROSPECTIVE FALL 2016 STUDENTS:
Graduate application deadline – January 15th, 2016

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