

## **Accreditation Update - College of Nursing Alumni Board Meeting May 8, 2009**

### **The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)**

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) "is an autonomous accrediting agency, contributing to the improvement of the public's health. A specialized/professional accrediting agency, CCNE ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate education programs preparing effective nurses. CCNE serves the public interest by assessing and identifying programs that engage in effective educational practices. As a voluntary, self-regulatory process, CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing education programs and supports continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education".

### **CCNE Accreditation Update**

The College has been engaged in preparing for our 10 year evaluation review of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program and initial review of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program by CCNE. Even though we have had a practice doctorate program since 1999, accreditation of DNP programs was not available until very recently.

In December 2007 we began conducting a self-study process which generated a self study document that addresses the extent to which the MSN and DNP programs are in compliance with the CCNE standards for accreditation. The self study report also addresses our strengths and areas for continuous improvement.

An on-site resource file was compiled for on-site inspection by the CCNE evaluation team. This file contained evidence of compliance with accreditation standards. Examples of evidence included faculty qualifications and accomplishments, promotional and recruitment materials, academic policies, curricula, syllabi, samples of student course work, degree completion rates, job placement rates, certification pass rates, and other measures of success of our graduates.

- December 8, 2008 - Dr. Jean DeMartinis conducted a mock site review
- March 9, 2009 - The CCNE self study document was submitted to CCNE.
- April 27-29, 2009 - A CCNE evaluation team consisting of four individuals who were educators and practicing nurses conducted a site review. The purpose of the visit was to validate the findings of the self study and to assess compliance with the CCNE standards for accreditation. Acting as a fact-finding body, the evaluation team prepared a report for the college and for CCNE.
- All four CCNE standards were met for the MSN and DNP programs and there were no compliance concerns.
- July 30- August 1, 2009 - The CCNE Accreditation Review Committee will review the team's report, the self-study and the college's response to the team's report. The ARC will formulate a recommendation regarding proposed action to be taken by the CCNE Board.
- October 1-3, 2009 – The CCNE Board of Commissioners will meet and decide whether to accept the recommendations of the ARC. Hopefully, at that time they

will approve the reaccreditation of the MSN program and initial accreditation of the DNP program. The MSN program can be approved for a period of 10 years. However, since the DNP program is seeking initial accreditation the maximum period of approval is 5 years.

### **Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs (COA)**

- The MSN Nurse Anesthesia program is accredited by The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.
- Extensive self study documents were prepared for COA for reaccreditation of the master's program and approval to offer the DNP for entry into nurse anesthesia practice. This review and approval has to occur before the CON can offer a DNP in Nurse Anesthesia.
- Dr. Betty Horton served as consultant for the self study process.
- The self study documents were submitted in March 2009 and on April 28 and 29 three visitors representing academia and practice conducted a thorough on site evaluation of the CRNA program. The findings were very positive and the CON awaits accreditation status in October 2009.

### **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) ANCC**

The College of Nursing has been actively engaged over the past year in self evaluation and accreditation of the Continuing Education Unit.

The self study document for the Continuing Education Unit in the College of Nursing was submitted to the **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)** in July 2008. Site appraisers Amy Bernard, Director of Nursing Education and Nurse Planner at Western Schools, West Bridgewater, MA and Barbara Petrie, former Director of the Nursing Education Program New York State Nurses Association were on campus November 12 and 13, 2008 to evaluate the College of Nursing's Continuing Education Unit. Continuing accreditation was granted for 4 years

### **University Health**

#### **AAAHC Accreditation**

The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) has awarded University of Tennessee Health Science Center University Health Services an initial three-year term of accreditation (2008-2011). Granting accreditation reflects confidence, based on evidence from a survey and onsite visit that UHS meets and continues to demonstrate the attributes of an accreditable organization as reflected in the standards found in the Accreditation Handbook for Ambulatory Health Care. The compliance with those standards implies a commitment to continual self-evaluation and continuous improvement.