

BOWMAN'S CAPSULE

DECEMBER 2002

STEPHANIE TAYLOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

PA STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANGEL TREE FUND RAISER	ON- GOING THRU CHRIST- MAS
CHRIST- MAS PARTY	DEC 14 8:00 PM
	AT CO- BALTS
HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE	ENDS WEEK OF DEC 16

by Katrina Cole

The PA program is involved in several philanthropic projects. Community involvement from the PA students began with a year-long commitment to the Winston-Salem Ronald McDonald House. Starting in September, groups of 4-8 people began volunteering biweekly to bake cookies, assist with house activities such as pumpkin decorating, and visit with families staying in the house.

The Winston-Salem Ronald McDonald House was established in 1981. Ronald McDonald Houses were created to provide a place for families with sick children to stay free of charge. The house provides a "home away from home" with private bedrooms, bathrooms, and common living and kitchen areas. The group living environment promotes social support,

allowing families to interact with others in similar situations.

Another highlight of the house is that home cooked meals and snacks are made in the house or delivered daily by community groups like ourselves. This provides an alternative meal source to the hospital cafeteria, local restaurants or fast food. It also gives the families a chance to interact with community members, discuss their concerns, and provide an outlet for "normal" conversation.

The house has provided a wonderful opportunity for teaching students the importance of families and family interactions when treating a child—or any patient for that matter. Treating the entire patient as a person, not as a disease or physical concern, is a lesson we all need to be reminded of from time to time.

The experience has been a rewarding experience for students, families and the house staff.



PA student Kurt Hossler paints pumpkins with a family at the Ronald McDonald House.

PA PROGRAM FACULTY PARTICIPATE IN WOMEN IN MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM

By Stephanie Taylor

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center hosted the "History of Women in Medicine Symposium" on October 8 from 2-4 p.m. at the Women's Health Center of Excellence. The symposium was a celebration of women in medicine and their unique role and contribution to present day practice. Two of the PA program faculty members, Eleanor Russell and Suzanne Atkins, were guest speakers.

The symposium featured women physicians, scientists, physician assistants, and nurses.

Janet Bickel, M.A., a national figure from the Association of the American Medical Colleges, spoke about women physicians. She currently oversees an initiative to stimulate women's leadership development in academic medicine.

Eleanor Russell, M.A., interim director of the PA Program, began discussion with a broad overview of women in science from antiquity to present day. She selected some interesting women who have made contributions to the development of scientific thought. "Their faces are

fascinating as are their stories, particularly when considered in the context of their political and economic environments," stated Russell.

Suzanne Atkins, PA-C, reviewed the history of the PA profession. She also discussed the political environment and traditional gender roles at the conception of the PA mid-level professional. In response to audience questions, Atkins and Maureen Sintich, ARNP, led a discussion comparing the PA

to the Nurse Practitioner. Together they enabled the audience to understand the differences between the two professions.

"It (the symposium) was well attended and I was pleased that the PA Program was so well represented. Their presence was noticed by my medical center colleagues as a very positive thing," said Russell.

CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNED

The PA Program will be holding its annual Holiday Cocktail on December 14th, 2002 for

the classes of 2003 and

2004. It will be held at Cobalt's and will be catered by New Town Bistro.

We are looking forward to a night of dancing and Holiday celebration.

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE IN PROGRESS

Bring canned/boxed food for the holiday food drive. The boxes are labeled and out by

group rooms so just drop some food in between now and the week before Christ-

pantries before Christmas. Thanks for your contributions!!!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS INSPIRES STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

By Stephanie Taylor

PA students from the classes of 2003 and 2004 volunteered at the North Carolina Special Olympics Fall Games on November 9 and 10 in the Triad region. Approximately 20 students participated in giving first aid to athletes as part of the class's philanthropic activities.

"The Special Olympics were great and I loved the athletes. They were so into the games. They can smile and be so happy in the face of adversity. They must have an angel living inside them," said Tonya Evanoff, PA student volunteer.

Evanoff was a volunteer at

the bocce competition. She was glad to report that her first aid duties were limited to Band-Aid placement. Student volunteers were only part of the first aid management team, with EMS handling more serious injury.

Erin Garris was a PA student volunteer at the soccer field. She was impressed by the camaraderie and support that the athletes showed for each other. "There was a really good shot at the goal, and the goal keeper caught it. His team mates just fell all over him congratulating him on his great catch. It's always that way."

More than 1100 athletes participated from 50 local Spe-

cial Olympics programs across North Carolina. The games included bocce, bowling, cycling, roller skating, soccer, and tennis. Eight participants from these games will go on to compete in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland.

PA students enjoyed volunteering at the Special Olympics because the athletes had such an exceptional attitude. Special Olympics athletes truly live by their pre-game oath: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."



PA student Josh Smith gets a hug from a Special Olympic athlete.

"They can smile and be so happy in the face of adversity. They must have an angel living inside them,"

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE IN THE PA PROGRAM

Kudos are in order for the following people:

Raeleen Wilson was awarded a scholarship from the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants. A grant is awarded to one second-year PA student at each North Carolina PA pro-

gram. The scholarship award is based on professional plans, reasons for entering the PA profession, scholastic achievement, and financial need.

Suzanne Atkins received the President's recognition award for meritorious service to the

NCAPA. Lanny Parker president of the NCAPA, presented the award at the NCAPA board meeting on November 23.

Cathy Shull recently obtained her master's degree.