Nursing students train on high tech patient

Chipola College nursing students recently got firsthand experience in a medical emergency scenario using a new human patient simulator.

The future nurses found themselves in a mock emergency room with a young child in breathing distress along with a panicked and somewhat-challenging mother.

The students performed basic tasks such as taking patient history, checking vitals, drawing blood and starting IV fluids. As the trauma progressed the students were faced with decisions regarding the course of care in a deteriorating situation. Students had to decide which medications to administer and make quantity conversions for a child.

According to Lucinda Graven, Assistant Professor of Nursing, the scenario helped the students gain valuable experience in making quick and decisive decisions in a stressful environment.

“The Pedisim simulator can be adjusted to suit the education point of the student. The medical issues and training are basic in the initial semester and progressively increase in difficulty as the students move through the program,” said Graven.

Jackson Hospital employees Tracy Mears and Amy Samson played a major role in setting up the patient simulator and evaluating the scenario for the Chipola students.

Funds for the human patient simulator came from a Succeed! Florida Nursing Profession grant. Chipola was awarded a total of $253,000 to help introduce nursing students to real life medical situations with three human simulators, including a male and female adult. The Pedisim human patient simulator can breathe, bleed and talk just like a real patient.

For information regarding entrance requirements to the Chipola nursing program, call 850-718-2278.

Chipola College now offers more than 40 programs

Chipola College now offers more than 40 individual programs ranging from four-year Bachelor’s degrees to certificate programs which can be completed in a few hours. Here, Chipola student Sylvianna Garrett of Greenwood works in a science lab on campus. Registration for academic programs is available at the beginning of Fall, Spring and Summer terms. Some workforce and certificate programs feature open enrollment which allows students to enroll whenever the college is in session. For information about college programs, call 526-2761, or visit www.chipola.edu
**Lt. Governor visits Chipola**

Florida Lt. Governor Jeff Kottcamp visited the Chipola campus on June 2. Pictured from left are: President Dr. Gene Prough; Sandy Helms, Executive Nursing Director at Sunland Center; Lt. Governor Jeff Kottcamp and Rep. Marti Coley

**Chipola visits Caterpillar**

Automotive Technology students recently visited the Ring Power Cat facility in Tallahassee. George Long Service Manager gave the students a tour of the facility and discussed the caterpillar apprentice program with them. Chipola may partner with Ring Power for future student employment opportunities.

**Teacher Outreach meets future educators**

The Chipola Future Educator’s Club recently led some 45 high school students in various activities at Chipola College. The students previewed Chipola education classes, practiced leadership, learning and instructional strategies, and experimented with microbial structures in a biology lab.

Through a Succeed Florida grant, Chipola officials developed a Teacher Outreach Program targeting seven district high schools to identify students interested in careers in education. The schools then organized Future Educators Clubs under the direction of Teacher Outreach Coordinator, Joan Lasseter.

For information about Chipola’s Teacher Education program, contact Dr. Lou Cleveland at 850-718-2416 or 718-2492.

**Rentz is Faculty Member of the Year**

English professor Pam Rentz of Sneads recently was named the Chipola Faculty/Administrator of the year.

In her regular job Rentz teaches college students the importance of writing clearly and using good grammar and punctuation; but the lessons she teaches after class may be more important.

Rentz serves as faculty adviser to the college chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. Like most honor societies, good grades are required to join PTK, but service learning is the group’s main focus.

Rentz leads Chipola students in various community service projects each year, but “Project Prom” may be the most intriguing. Rentz led Chipola volunteers to Bay St. Louis High School in Mississippi where they helped put on the Junior/Senior prom. Chipola students collected prom gowns and decorations and helped organize the prom for students at the hurricane-ravaged high school.

The Chipola chapter of PTK was named the Most Distinguished Chapter of the Florida Region this year and has won numerous international recognitions.

Rentz also has been involved in Chipola’s Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) for SACS re-accreditation.

Rentz’s supervisor Dr. Sarah Clemmons, says, “Mrs. Rentz is respected by students, peers, and administrators for her dedication to service learning experiences for students. Her involvement of students and the college in projects to serve the community and the nation earned her much special recognition and appreciation by all.”

Rentz has taught English courses at the college since 2005. She formerly taught at Sneads High School. She is a Chipola alumna who earned a B.A. from the University of West Florida and an M.S. from Nova Southeastern University.

Rentz and her husband Bill have two children. Their daughter Paige is a Chipola alumnus, a member of the Chipola Academic Hall of Fame and a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College. Their son Chase is a senior at Sneads High who is dual enrolled at Chipola.