



Maria Bautista-Smith, Nursing Instructor, first row far left, and the first pharmacology class celebrating the last day of classes. First row second from left, Debra Dandar, Teresa Julian and Liana Jennings. Back row, Whislene Jean-Charles, Jessica Villegas, Kimberly Butcher, Chisa Briggs, Kimberly Bailey and Tom Stanton.

## Innovations in HCC's Nursing Program

### Pharmacology and Understanding Drugs

Under the firm guidance of Nursing Instructor Maria Bautista-Smith, and with the encouragement of the nursing faculty, the Academic Affairs Committee approved an innovative new elective course for HCC's nursing program. This action was supported by the Vice President for Academic Affairs and approved by the Board of Trustees. This course, pharmacology in nursing, focuses on the drugs used in medicine and understanding the impact of those drugs on the patient. Ms. Bautista-Smith sharpens that focus to include an emphasis on the complexity of the medications and the effect those drugs have on patients.

The course was offered in summer 2008 as an elective within the nursing program. Patterned in part on a course taught at USF, the objectives of the course are:

- Apply pharmacology concepts and principles utilizing the nursing process.
- Describe basic principles of pharmacotherapy including pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, adverse effects and drug interactions.
- Discuss the legal and ethical aspects of drug administration, including related nursing safeguards.
- Calculate with accuracy, basic drug dosages for clients of all ages and states of health.
- Explain the proper administration of selected drugs via the various routes of administration.
- Describe the importance of patient education and the categories of information to be included.
- Discuss the influence of health beliefs, cultural background, and physiologic aspects of drug therapy in order to provide culturally sensitive nursing care.
- Explain the prevention of medication errors with regard to reporting, recognizing error-prone situations, impacting factors, special populations, and public education.
- Explore the use of information technologies related to pharmacology in order to obtain current accurate information about drug therapies for clinical practice and patient teaching.



Paulette Gross shares her experiences with the nursing pharmacology class.

experienced the process and who had interacted with nurses in the chemo lab." This dialogue enhanced the text information. The students asked many questions and appreciated the "firsthand" description.

Nursing students must master a huge amount of technical and scientific material as well as hundreds of care techniques. And this information changes constantly—there are breakthroughs in medicine in all fields. In addition, nursing students know that successful nurses are individuals that can empathize with their patients while retaining a level of objectivity that enables treatment as directed. It is a very difficult task but one that is rewarding, valuable, and important to patients and family.

Toward the end of the term, as students began to study antineoplastic drugs including some drugs used to fight cancers, Ms. Bautista-Smith invited Assistant to the Dean of Health, Wellness and Sports Technologies Paulette Szabo Gross to share her recent experiences with the class. Ms. Gross returned to the college after a medical leave and was a chemotherapy patient for six months.

Students were very interested in hearing from a "real patient...someone who had



## Graduation Celebration

### Diagnostic Medical Sonography

The evening of Friday, August 8, 2008 was a very special time for 15 HCC graduates and several hundred members of their families, friends, and guests. For on that evening, there was a graduation ceremony honoring these graduates and their families who have worked so hard for this day.

Each of these individuals sat in the same room, the Dale Mabry Auditorium in the Student Services Building, two years ago and were welcomed into the diagnostic medical sonography technology program. With almost 150 others, each was admitted into a highly competitive, limited access health sciences program. And now, a full six semesters later, 15 individuals are ready to join a profession and work in their chosen career.

The program consisted of the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem done by a graduating student, Ms. Carol S. Hermanson. Louis Gomez, program manager, gave the welcoming remarks. Brenda L. Fondaw gave the Class President's Address and shared many stories covering the last two years.

During the ceremony, four awards were presented. They were:

#### Service Award

*For Outstanding Contribution to the Program:*

**Ms. Kristin A. Downey, RDMS**  
Member of HCC Advisory Board  
Senior Technologist at All Children's Hospital

#### Clinical Affiliate Award

*For Demonstrating Teaching Excellence, Proctorship and Professional Excellence:*

**Blake Regional Medical Center**

#### Student Clinical Excellence Award

*For Demonstrating Excellence in the Practice of Professional Skills, chosen by clinical instructors of all the clinical affiliates:*

**Nicole Politis**

#### Student Academic Excellence Award

*For Obtaining the Highest Grade Point Average in the Program Curriculum:*

**Vanessa Hamilton**

After the awards ceremonies, there was a pictorial review of the last two years and a graduate address by Ms. Vanessa Hamilton.

This class joins a distinguished group of professionals. The program is almost 30 years old and has been a leader in innovative teaching practices. Under the leadership of Mr. Gomez and Ms. Carrie Hall, it has a proven track record of graduating the finest sonographers in the community, and the program has a 100% passing ratio, a fact very few programs can equal.



Kristen Downey accepting her award.

### 2008 Graduates, HCC Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

Amy N. Berland  
Maria E. Bernal  
Mindy L. Cochran  
Brenda L. Fondaw  
Kimberly L. Hall  
Heather L. Hamilton  
Vanessa L. Hamilton  
Nancy M. Hanby  
Carol S. Hermanson  
Kortnee B. Mumma  
Nicole K. Politis  
Lyndsey L. Terry  
Winston G. Thompson  
Gregory C. Waldron  
Sarah A. Webster

Pinning by Mr. Gomez and Ms. Hall was followed by a closing address by Mrs. Paulette Gross announcing that on behalf of the Board of Trustees of HCC, College President Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson, Dale Mabry Campus President Dr. Robert P. Chunn, and Dean of Health Dr. Amy R. Anderson, the Sonography Class of 2008 was officially graduated. A reception and dinner hosted by the first year class followed in the cafeteria.

Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the facilities that provided clinical educational experiences for students in the diagnostic medical sonography program:

- All Children's Hospital
- Bayfront Medical Center
- Blake Medical Center
- Brandon Hospital
- Careview Imaging at Carrollwood
- Careview Imaging at Northside
- Genesis
- James A. Haley Veteran's Administrative Hospital
- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center
- Manatee Diagnostic Center
- Manatee Memorial Hospital
- Morton Plant Mease Health Care System
- New Tampa Imaging Center
- St. Anthony's Hospital
- St. Joseph's Hospital
- St. Joseph's Women's Hospital
- Spring Hill Regional Hospital
- South Bay Hospital
- Tampa General Hospital
- University Community Hospital
- University Community Hospital Women's Center