

# E·L·N·E·C Connections

## End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium

### Welcome to our Fall 2002 Issue!

The End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium is pleased to bring you *ELNEC Connections*, a quarterly newsletter designed primarily for ELNEC Trainers to showcase efforts in end-of-life care education, spotlight project developments, and share resources that are useful to your own education and the education you provide. ELNEC is a national education program to improve end-of-life care by nurses, and is funded by a major grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. ELNEC is administered through a partnership between the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and City of Hope National Medical Center.

### First Annual Excellence in ELNEC Award Winners Named

The First Annual Excellence in End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) Awards will be presented on November 14<sup>th</sup> in Lake Buena Vista, FL at the 2002 Baccalaureate Education Conference. Congratulations to the following nursing school faculty members for leading innovative implementation of the ELNEC curriculum within twelve months of ELNEC training:

- Ruth Ann Britnall, Grand Valley State University (MI)
- Vicky Bowden, Azusa Pacific University (CA)
- Kathy Czekanski, Thomas Jefferson University (PA)
- Barbara Daniel, Cecil Community College (MD)
- Elizabeth Freeth, University of Texas (TX)
- Maureen Goode, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan Health System (MI)
- Ann Pinner, Georgia Perimeter College (GA)
- Linda Rodebaugh, University of Indianapolis (IN)
- Roberta Stoops, Oklahoma State University (OK)
- Sandra Walsh, University of Miami (FL)
- Shirley Woolf, Indiana University (IN)
- Melinda Zimmer-Rankin, St. Joseph's College (ME)

### Congratulations to Elizabeth Ford Pitorak and Project Safe Conduct

Congratulations to Elizabeth Ford Pitorak, MSN, APRN, CHPN for her work on Project Safe Conduct, one of four recipients of the 2002 Circle of Life Award for innovations in end-of-life care. Project Safe Conduct is a collaboration of the Hospice of the Western Reserve and Ireland Cancer Center at University Hospitals of Cleveland to provide palliative care support for cancer patients.



Elizabeth Ford Pitorak

In a culture traditionally focused on aggressive treatment and cure, Project Safe Conduct has successfully shifted that focus of care to include palliative care in conjunction with therapy and treatment, according to the American Hospital Association. Elizabeth and her team received the

award at the American Hospital Association Health Forum Leadership Summit on July 26 in San Diego. Elizabeth is a member of the ELNEC Advisory Board and faculty.

## Inside

**Pediatric ELNEC  
Graduate ELNEC  
Student Testing Project  
ELNEC Trainer Roundup**



*Next ELNEC Training is  
January 16-18, 2003 in Pasadena,  
CA. For applications, please go  
to [www.aacn.nche.edu/elneec](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/elneec).*



# ELNEC Course News

## Graduate ELNEC

ELNEC is pleased to offer an opportunity to **graduate faculty** to participate in a three-day training program. This course will provide the faculty with information and resources to expand the scope of end-of-life nursing care within the graduate curriculum and prepare graduates to provide the highest quality end-of-life care.

The Graduate End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (G-ELNEC) project, funded by the National Cancer Institute, is a partnership effort of the City of Hope with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Dr. Judy Paice from Northwestern Memorial Hospital/Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. The curriculum is built upon The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded-ELNEC project aimed at educating undergraduate faculty.

The first course offering is scheduled for June 19 – 21, 2003 in Pasadena, CA. Costs for registration, materials, tools for take home use, lodging, lunch and breakfast for the three-day course will be paid through the grant. In addition we will provide a \$350 stipend to partially offset travel and other expenses.

An application packet may be obtained from the AACN Web site at:

[www.aacn.nche.edu/elneec/GraduateELNEC.htm](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/elneec/GraduateELNEC.htm)

Please note that graduate faculty are eligible to apply even though the institution may have an ELNEC trainer from the undergraduate programs and/or continuing education programs. However, those currently designated as ELNEC trainers are not eligible to apply. Application deadline is January 15, 2003.

## Pediatric ELNEC

Thanks to the feedback from 20 pediatric experts from across the country, the Pediatric ELNEC curriculum is in the revision stage and should be ready for a pediatric specific audience in August 2003. Applications will be available online around February. This is coming on the footsteps of the Institute of Medicine's recent report, "When Children Die: Improving Palliative and End-of-Life Care for Children and Their Families," which can be accessed at: [www.books.nap.edu/books](http://www.books.nap.edu/books).

## Your Local ELNEC Courses

Cindy Drenning from West Virginia University will be part of a statewide train the trainer conference December 2-3, 2002. This conference is sponsored by a West Virginia State Initiative for End-of-Life Care. Contact [cdrenning@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:cdrenning@hsc.wvu.edu).

## Last Acts Regional Course in St. Louis

The fifth and final 2-day course in conjunction with a Last Acts Regional Conference was held September 17-18, 2002 in St. Louis. Ninety-six educators attended, representing hospices, home health agencies, hospitals, clinics, faith communities, medical centers, university-affiliated organizations, and state or community coalitions. A special thanks to Kathy Egan and her team for coordinating these programs!



## ELNEC Test Items Released in October

Many ELNEC Trainers have been eagerly awaiting the ELNEC test items that have been in development for some time. The test items were given to approximately 800 students at 27 schools of nursing across the country. During academic year 2001-2002, students were pre-tested, taught a specified amount of the ELNEC curriculum, and then post-tested. During the summer of 2002, their responses were psychometrically analyzed, and items were refined and finalized as a result of this analysis. The 106-item test pool will be released in early October. All nurse educators who have attended a national ELNEC course and who are current on their evaluation submissions (if applicable) will receive three Word attachments via e-mail: (1) the test, (2) the test with answers in bold, and (3) an explanatory cover letter. If your e-mail address has changed, be sure to advise LaTonya Pressley in the Project Office of your new address: [lpresle@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:lpresle@aacn.nche.edu). You'll want to make sure that you receive this useful information.

---

*For the latest news on ELNEC training and initiatives, visit our Web site at [www.aacn.nche.edu/elneec](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/elneec)*

---

## ELNEC Trainer Roundup

Here is a snapshot of what some Trainers have been doing since their ELNEC participation. **Please send updates on your ELNEC activities including your picture or pictures of your training sessions to LaTonya Pressley at [lpresle@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:lpresle@aacn.nche.edu) by December 14, 2002 for the Winter issue.**

.....

**Lynn Allchin**, [lynn.allchin@uconn.edu](mailto:lynn.allchin@uconn.edu)

*University of Connecticut School of Nursing, Storrs, CT*

Is leading an interdisciplinary graduate course this semester on "Ethical and Legal Perspectives of EOL Care" and will present a talk titled "End-of-Life Care: Respecting Patients' Rights" at the School of Nursing Distinguished Scholar Seminar. She plans to use ELNEC's ethical and legal module as the basis for these presentations. In addition, she and another ELNEC trainer, Kathy Burns, are developing computer based self-learning modules for staff nurses to use in conjunction with small discussion groups. Finally, Lynn has begun research studies with junior nursing students at UCONN relating to student competency and knowledge about end-of-life care issues and student experiences with end-of-life care during a clinical rotation.

**Chris Burd**, [christine\\_burd@mail.und.nodak.edu](mailto:christine_burd@mail.und.nodak.edu)

*University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND*

Is moving ahead with plans for a "one-day immersion" ELNEC workshop for UND's nursing students on February 19. Evaluations from an April Train the Trainer workshop were positive and over thirty professional nurses earned the ELNEC Trainer's Certificate.

**Virginia Burton**, [virginiaburton@sacn.edu](mailto:virginiaburton@sacn.edu)

*Saint Anthony College of Nursing, Rockford, IL*

Designed a new, three-credit theory course for senior baccalaureate students for the upcoming spring semester. The catalog description and course objectives are based on AACN's *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education and the ELNEC curriculum*.

**MaryBeth Buschmann**, [Marybeth@uic.edu](mailto:Marybeth@uic.edu)

*College of Nursing/University of Illinois at Chicago*

She and Karen Kavanaugh, another ELNEC Trainer, will present a series of brown bag lunches to faculty every third Wednesday of the month focused on the resources of ELNEC and TNEEL. They seek to encourage faculty to incorporate the material into their existing courses and gain more knowledge themselves about end-of-life care.

**Cindy Drenning**, [cdrenning@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:cdrenning@hsc.wvu.edu)

*West Virginia University School of Nursing, Morgantown, WV*

Is part of the school's curriculum committee to ensure additional content about end-of-life care is included in the curriculum and to develop a Palliative Care course for nursing and other health science majors as an elective.

**Mary Garcia**, [mgarcia@delmar.edu](mailto:mgarcia@delmar.edu)

*Del Mar College, Corpus Christi, TX*

The TNEEL program, which was part of the ELNEC training, has been added to all nursing lab computers (about 50) and second semester students, during the study of oncology, are now required to complete the entire TNEEL program and answer exam questions related to information from it.

**Pat Gibbons**, [PGibbons@Hospicegso.org](mailto:PGibbons@Hospicegso.org)

*Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro, NC*

Delivers presentations for hospice home care staff titled "Artful Symptom Management." Each meeting focuses on one symptom, about which participants discuss etiology, assessment, and various ways to control it. As part of graduate nurse orientation, in which new graduate nurses have a day-long symptom control symposium, she presents on various symptoms with a focus on assessment. These sessions have also been well received and will be repeated for regular staff.

**Beverly Leath**, [leathb@Rex.queens.edu](mailto:leathb@Rex.queens.edu)

*Queens College, Charlotte, NC*

The Bioethics Resource Group's End-of-Life Committee from Charlotte, NC hosted a focus group of nursing faculty about end-of-life issues. Beverly and ELNEC trainer Virginia Sullivan from Gardner Webb University provided the day-long workshop, presenting content from the ELNEC modules, and gave participants information about TNEEL.



### A Lesson for Life

*People are like stained-glass windows.*

*They sparkle and shine when the sun is out,  
but when the darkness sets in;  
their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light  
from within.*

*--Elizabeth Kubler-Ross*

**Karla Lund**, LundK@milescc.edu  
*Miles Community College, Miles City, MT*

Developed a three-credit course offering on end-of-life issues with another faculty member whose background is Sociology, History, and Religion. The first part of the semester will be an introduction to death in historical cultures, the history of American funerals, superstitions, and modern traditions of life after death. The second part will incorporate ELNEC training on grief, communications, pain management, legal/ethical issues of end-of-life care, and hospice care. Guest speakers included are a Native American elder, a physician of Islamic belief, attorneys, funeral directors, and grief counselors.

**Sylvia McSkimming**, SMcSkimming@providence.org  
*Providence Health System, Portland, OR*

Providence Health System has 6 training sessions scheduled for the fall to prepare “resource” personnel in the organization. There will be trainings in Portland, OR; Medford, OR; Everett, WA; Spokane, WA; Anchorage, AK; and Torrance, CA. This education is being done in conjunction with mission directors, the ethics education program, and nurse educators.

**Judy Meyers**, meyerj@wsu.edu  
*Washington State University, Spokane*  
Changed the foundations theory course to include four hours on pain management and two hours on nursing care at the end of life. She uses the ELNEC bibliography in preparation for professional development and ethics course discussions. Also, four professors who teach courses related to patho/pharm, gerontology, and growth and development now use the ELNEC and TNEEL materials.

**Nadareh Nasser**, nadarehn@vna.lawrence.ks.us  
*Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence, KS*

Forty-four nurses from home health, nursing homes, and the town hospital attended an eight-hour seminar on end-of-life nursing for the community to address the weaknesses and strengths of end-of-life care in Lawrence, learn about pain and symptom management, and discuss the psycho-spiritual, legal and ethical aspects of end-of-life care in Kansas.

**Abby Pratt**, APratt@genesishcs.org  
*Genesis Hospice and Palliative Care, Zanesville, OH*

The hospice now offers its staff training in four ELNEC modules in a four-hour time frame.

**Lois Robley**, lrobley@kennesaw.edu  
*Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA*

Each semester, Kennesaw presents a program called “Critical Conditions” that informs students and the community about advance directives. The GA program is a standardized educational package with a detailed planning guide that allows for legal expression of one’s wishes regarding medical treatment at the end of life, power of attorney for health care, and organ donation. They reach about 80 students each semester in nursing, human services, and gerontology classes. Amazing stories are shared about the spread of information to grandparents, parents, and siblings.

**Carolyn Stevenson**, cstevenson@SDHospice.org  
*San Diego Hospice, San Diego, CA*

The hospice actively uses the ELNEC series with its own staff and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) where they transfer hospice patients. They offer contact hours with the modules to nursing homes and local hospital nurse educators have requested modules to teach their staff. Carolyn is training nurse liaisons to offer ELNEC modules to the community as well. Wherever they give the ELNEC modules, they receive glowing evaluations about the high caliber and professionalism of the series.

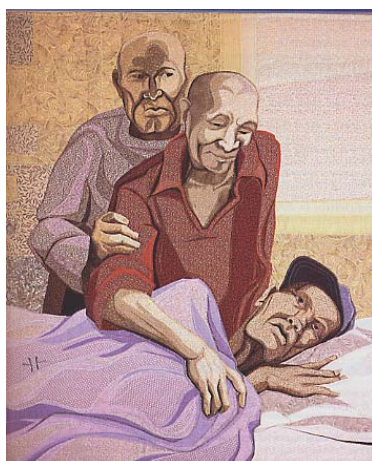
**Jane Tallant**, jtallant@son.umsmed.edu  
*University of MS Medical Center, Jackson, MS*  
Taught end-of-life issues to beginning students in the Health/Wellness course. She used the TNEEL CD.

**Betty Wexler**, Betty.Wexler@med.va.gov  
*Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System*

Her organization hosted a one-hour talk on Nursing Care at the End of Life at the Geropsych Seminar on August 28. About 40 nurses, physicians, social workers, and other care providers attended. The organization plans to teach different ELNEC modules at various VA sites over the next few months with the ultimate goal of presenting a continuing education day for nurses in the new year.

**Sarah Wilson**, sarah.wilson@marquette.edu  
*Marquette University College of Nursing, Milwaukee, WI*

Is teaching a new undergraduate course in gerontological nursing, which includes ELNEC content on death and dying and pain management. Marquette University plans to develop an Institute for Excellence in End-of-Life Care Education in collaboration with the Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin. Sarah is also involved with an international study of the meaning of the term “Dignified Dying”.



## ELNEC Featured in Nursing Journals

ELNEC Advisory Board members Dr. Marianne Matzo and Dr. Deborah Sherman are coordinating a series of 10 articles about the ELNEC modules. The following five have been accepted for publication:

- ◆ “Introduction to End-of-Life Care: Foundational Content of the ELNEC Curriculum and Teaching Strategies” in *Nurse Educator*.
- ◆ “Teaching Cultural Considerations at the End of Life: ELNEC Program Recommendations” in the November/December 2002 issue of the *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*.
- ◆ “Communication Skills for End-of-Life Nursing Care: Teaching Strategies from the ELNEC Curriculum” in *Nursing Education Perspectives*.

◆ “Strategies for Teaching Loss, Grief, and Bereavement” in the March/April 2003 edition of *Nurse Educator*.

◆ “Achieving Quality Care at the End of Life: A Focus on the ELNEC Curriculum” in the September/October 2002 issue of the *Journal of Professional Nursing*.

### AJN Series

The *American Journal of Nursing* (AJN), the official journal of the American Nurses Association, continues its bimonthly continuing education series on palliative nursing care. The latest article in the series, “Symptom Management in People with AIDS” by Patrick J. Coyne, MSN, RN, CS is available on the AACN Web site at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC/ajn.htm> or the AJN site at <http://www.ajnonline.com>.

## Resources You Can Use

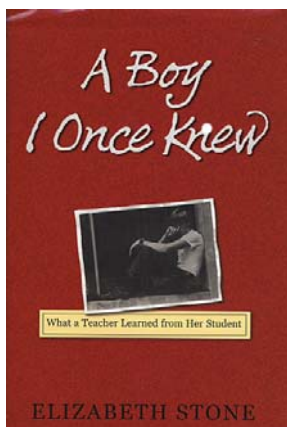
***A Boy I Once Knew***: In this first-person account, Elizabeth Stone, PhD, writes about her experience reading the diaries of Vincent, a former student who died of AIDS in San Francisco and left her his diaries in his will. Stone was Vincent’s 9<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher and had not seen him in 25 years, nor did she know he had contracted HIV in the late 1980s, when she received his diaries with a request to not only read about him, but also write about him.

“I think he saw me as someone who, in writing about him, could help him live beyond his death,” writes Stone.

Stone also weaves into Vincent’s story that of her mother, who was coming to terms with her own death while her daughter learned about Vincent’s. “Tying the two [stories] together is me,” explains Stone. “As Vincent grew closer to death himself he began to understand how to grieve and how to be remembered in a way that had eluded him in relation to his own dying friends.”

This 200-page, accessible story can prompt class discussion on many ELNEC issues, including Pain Management, Symptom Management, Grief, and Loss and Bereavement—from, as the author puts it, “a human point of view.” Published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

NOTE: On October 15, Connie Chung’s interview with the author and Vincent’s family will air on CNN.



**Research You Can Use**: Sharon Valente, RN, PhD, FAAN has condensed research on health care improvement for older adults to a one-page, evidence-based fact sheet. She addresses the key findings under four headings: What are older adults’ mental health needs near the end of life? What do older adults fear most? What are the obstacles to a good death? and What is working? You can obtain this resource by contacting Sharon Valente at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Nursing Research Council at [sharon.valente@med.va.gov](mailto:sharon.valente@med.va.gov).

**Grief and Loss**: The Hospice Foundation of America has created a new section on its Web site focusing on Grief and Loss, [www.hospicefoundation.org/grief/](http://www.hospicefoundation.org/grief/). Offering a collection of informative articles and related links, this online resource provides practical advice about dealing with grief. This collection covers a range of topics such as coping with sudden loss, helping a child, facing spiritual challenges and marking the anniversary of a loss. Information about the bereavement newsletter, *Journeys* and a suggested reading list is also available.