



Let's Talk Testing



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SPOTLIGHT on Mattie Eley

This month's spotlight shines brightly on Mattie Eley, a member of ERI's Test Development Team. Ms. Eley has been working closely with Dr. Susan Pfister (December issue Spotlight) to edit and critique ERI's 2003 Practical Nursing testing and Gerontology materials. In addition, she will be instrumental in the development of the Gerontology Certification Program and in the revision of the IV Therapy materials for the National Federation for Licensed Practical Nursing (NFLPN).

Ms. Eley received her diploma from the General Hospital School of Nursing (now, Truman Medical Center-West) in Kansas City, Missouri, then received her BSN from the University of Kansas. While teaching in the ADN program at the Metropolitan Community College's Penn Valley Campus, she earned her M.Ed. from the University of Missouri-



Columbia. After having taught 18 years, she took a one-year leave of absence from Penn Valley to obtain her MSN from Bishop-Clarkson College in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ms. Eley meant to retire after teaching a total of 28 years; instead she found a mission. Since 1998, she has been shipping medical equipment, supplies, textbooks and journals to West Africa. Working with such organizations as the Black Nurses Association of Greater Kansas City, Heart-

to-Heart International and the Friendship Baptist Church of Kansas City, she has helped coordinate shipments to hospitals and clinics in Kenya, Ghana, Gambia and Nigeria.

"My job at ERI allows me to continue working for the future of Practical Nursing, plus I have the freedom to pursue my humanitarian work. I feel blessed to be given this position with ERI."



"Love is space and time measured by the heart." -Marcel Proust

Testing and Item Writing Tips



by Larry Simmons, RN, Ph.D.
Director of Research

The National Council
of State Boards of

Nursing Licensure Exam (NCLEX) is the standard by which nursing measures minimal safety competence of licensure in each state. The NCLEX blueprint, published by the National Council, is a test plan for administration of NCLEX. Not only can familiarity with the NCLEX test plan assist schools of nursing and nursing faculty in development of course objectives and test items, but overall matching of the nursing curriculum with the NCLEX blueprint. Faculty and students should become comfortable with NCLEX blueprint language. Licensure examination and results of the examination are delivered in the terminology of the blueprint. Details of the blueprints for both RN and PN testing are available on the National Council website: www.ncsbn.org.

DATES to REMEMBER

Conferences:

- March 22-25, 2003 AACN Spring Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- April 9-11, 2003 ADNE 2003 Nurse Educator Conf. Phoenix, AZ
- Sept. 18-21, 2003 NLN Education Summit San Antonio, TX
- Oct. 25-28, 2003 AACN Fall Semi-Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

ERI Offices Closed:

- May 26, 2003 Memorial Day Holiday
- July 4, 2003 Independence Day
- Sept. 1, 2003 Labor Day Holiday

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Ask ERI On-Line Registration

“Ask ERI” is a new feature which will present questions and answers that may be of interest to all our readers. Recently, a common question to our sales staff has been: “How should a student register for the Total Testing program?” I spoke with Dennis Haupt, one of ERI’s Testing Representatives, who gave me the following information:

The newest and best registration feature is online. A student can open a web browser and type in: <http://www.eriworld.com>. At our webpage, the student may select “Student Services” and then “Registration.” Each student must have a valid school ID and password to complete registration. You may obtain these by contacting your Testing Representative at 1-800-292-2273. You can also download registration and login instructions by visiting: <http://24.123.105.91/help.cfm>.



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Would you like to serve on ERI’s Examination Committee?

Please contact Jean Harris, Editor, at 1-800-292-2273 or at jharris@eriworld.com for information.

ERI Regional Workshops

ERI has begun offering Regional Workshops for Total Testing Clients. Program Directors and faculty of our Total Testing clients are welcome to attend.

Standardized Testing, Preparing for Accreditation, Item Writing and Test Construction, Implementation of Total Testing, Critical Thinking and NCLEX Blueprint Guidelines are among the subjects available for presentation by Dr. Larry Simmons, Dr. Jodi Parks-Doyle and Linda Booth.

Objectives of these workshops include defining Critical Thinking; describing practical ways to develop student critical thinking skills in the classroom and clinical settings; identification of appropriate methods of writing items and constructing student examinations; demonstrating the ability to match curriculum objectives with the NCLEX testing blueprint and describing application and integration of the Total Testing program into a nursing program. Continuing Education Units are available for these presentations.

Every issue of “Let’s Talk Testing” will include a schedule of Regional Workshops. Contact your Testing Representative with questions or to schedule a workshop in your area.



WE'D LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION. . .



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Submit Current CV to:
John Goodman, Seminar Coordinator
or Call for Additional Information:
1-800-292-2273

WE NEED ITEM WRITERS

ERI's Test Development Department is looking for people with NCLEX writing experience to write test questions and answers for Medical/Surgical, Nurse Management and Community Health testing.

Please submit your resume' and five original sample questions and answers to:
Linda Booth at: lbooth@eriworld.com.*

**Questions remain your property.*

INSTRUCTORS: The NCSBN has implemented some changes in NCLEX items. You can see some examples of these changes by logging onto the NCSBN Website (www.ncsbn.org). This information is also covered in the *NCLEX Candidate Bulletin*.

WHEN WILL ERI HAVE QUESTIONS ON THEIR EXAMS LIKE THESE NEW "INNOVATIVE" QUESTIONS? ERI is currently Beta testing these questions and we plan to add them to our exams by Fall of 2003.

SURVEY THANK YOU!

We wish to thank the Nursing Program Directors who use Total Testing for their participation in our Customer Service Survey. The results will help ERI improve its products and services to all our clients.

We are currently analyzing the results and hope to report back soon!

For More Information



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