Using Technology
Improve Nursing Care

As a fulltime faculty member in the ECU College of Nursing, Mark Hand has the attention of
many students. But as a doctoral student in the College of Nursing PhD Nursing Program,
his attention turns towards the nursing care of hospitalized morbidly obese patients, spe-
cifically pressure ulcer prevention. His research involves testing an accelerometer, a device
that will detect movement while the patient is in bed. Turning and repositioning patients is
essential in preventing various complications. Little technology for such monitoring is avail-
able, so the ability to correct care process deficiencies and reward conscientious work is
impaired. The accelerometer that Mark is researching offers the promise of a monitoring
system. Mark’s 18 years in nursing have put him in contact with many patients with com-
lications relating to nursing interventions that were not backed up by research. Now as a
nurse scientist who likes a challenge, his priority is examining nursing interventions that will
improve the quality of nursing care.

“Adding new knowledge to the field of nursing as a nurse scientist
needs to be based on the ‘best evidence.’ This is what I strive for
in my research.”

- Excellence in Classroom and Clinical Teaching, Daisy Award, American
  Association of Colleges of Nursing & The Daisy Foundation, May 2011
- Excellence in Leadership Award, Beta Nu Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International, February 2011
- Finalist for Excellence in Teaching Award, Nursing Spectrum Magazine, 2007
- Collaborative Research Grant, Vidant Medical Center/College of Nursing, Recipient