A Message from the Director

The first month of every fall semester brings anticipation, excitement, and some anxiety simultaneously for students and faculty members. Students ask questions such as, “Will I be able to juggle it all?” and “Will I be able to learn the way a graduate student learns to do well in this course?” Faculty members ask questions like, “How will I get this all done in time for the students?” and “Will this be the right teaching approach to help students learn this content?” The good news is that at Winona State University Graduate Programs in Nursing we know that we are in this adventure together and that the ultimate outcome is excellence of care for the persons, families, and communities that we serve. Therefore, we work diligently together to make the learning the best that it can be. I am thankful each new day that I know students and faculty have learning and gaining knowledge for practice at the forefront of everyday efforts. Thank you for your diligence in this regard!

We will have an opportunity to share who we are, how we learn together, and how we use data to improve our programs on October 20 – 22 (See the separate announcement in invitation for DNP and post-graduate certificate students to lunch on October 21 from 12 pm. – 1 pm.) with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education Accreditation Team. We have completed our Self Study and it is posted on the D2L Graduate Programs in Nursing Helpful Resources site (Materials, Content, DNP Specific Documents, Final-WSU DNP Self Study pdf) for your review. We are also preparing our Resource Room (my office) with documents of evidence about our DNP and post-graduate certificate programs. Sooooo, you can see that we are busy in preparation and we appreciate your team spirit as we move into this Accreditation Team Visit time.

Best wishes to you as you continue your fall semester journey amidst all of this preparation and in your interactions with our CCNE Accreditation Team Visitors. We are very proud of your accomplishments and look forward to even more time together throughout this Team Visit. Please let me know if you have any questions about the Team Visit process as we move forward.

Sincerely,

Sonja J. Meiers, PhD, RN
Director and Professor
Graduate Programs in Nursing
CCNE Accreditation Visit

CCNE is the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

A CCNE Accreditation Team will be visiting the Graduate Programs in Nursing on October 20-22. The CCNE team is made up of faculty and administrators from nursing programs at other colleges. Team members will visit the Winona State University—Rochester campus, and will be talking with administrators, faculty, staff, and students. CCNE visitors will be reviewing the new DNP program programs for quality, educational effectiveness, and how well we are achieving our mission and goals.

You may be asked these sort of questions by the site visitors:

What attracted you to the DNP program at WSU? Are the marketing materials clear and accurate?
What input do you have into curriculum changes? What role do you play in department decision-making?
-Input into policies through discussion with faculty -Evaluations
- Evaluations during and after each course -Talking with graduate student liaisons
-On-line Assessment Day Survey -Meeting with director of faculty

If you could make one change to your program of study, what would that be?

How well prepared do you feel for your future courses:

Did the organization or flow of the curriculum make sense to you?

What type of clinical experiences do you have and how have these clinical experiences prepare you for your future APRN role?

What is the process for your DNP project?

How are the Teaching-Learning Experiences (i.e. faculty preparation, clinical experiences)?

Assessment of student learning outcomes (i.e. papers, exams, projects, presentations)?

Tell me about your access to faculty, (i.e., office hours, advising for plans of study, assistance with questions, etc.).

A light luncheon meeting with the visitors will be held Tuesday, October 21 (12:00 noon -1:00 pm), room CF 206/208. Please try to attend, if possible.

Please RSVP to Carolyn Ryno at cryno@winona.edu by October 14th.

CCNE graphic from http://nursing.unc.edu/ccne-to-conduct-accreditation-visit-at-the-son/
WSU has been part of a multidisciplinary, multi-agency effort to establish a free school-based clinic at the Rochester Alternative Learning Center (ALC).

Are you interested in working with children and adolescents at Rochester Alternative Learning Center?

If interested, please contact Rachel Herman, MS, RN, CNP for more information rherman@winona.edu

Shifts are 4 hour blocks

Rochester Alternative Learning Center (ALC) is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Looking for WSU Graduate Programs in Nursing apparel?

The following items are available for purchase:

- Fleece Jacket—Dark Ash (Women’s Medium)
- T-shirts (size Small)
Kappa Mu is WSU’s Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, an international nursing honor society.

If you are a member, you can log into the Kappa Mu website:

https://sts.nursingsociety.org/login.aspx

There are blogs and other materials; this shows the meetings for the year.

If you are NOT a Sigma Theta Tau Member, you need to be invited to join. For graduate students this is the criteria: Master's and Doctoral students enrolled in graduate programs at accredited institutions of higher education who have completed at least 1/4 of the nursing curriculum, have achieved academic excellence (at schools where a 4.0 grade point average system is used, this equates to at least a 3.5).

There will be a spring induction in April, if you are invited to join. It is an excellent way to network with other colleagues from around the world.

Meetings for Fall 2014 are:

9/29 (business meeting)
10/20 (wellness theme with a speaker)
11/17 (Marie Manthei on Wellness)

All meetings start at 5 PM and are ITVed between Rochester and Winona (Adobe Connect available for other locations). Room location may vary, so see Professors Foote, Forsyth, Jenson, Schnepper, or Starling for details about the meetings.
Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Annual Conference

Indianapolis, Indiana
April 16—19, 2015!

Abstracts Due
October 15, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS)

Graduate Student Poster Exchange and Competition

WSU can select up to 3 graduate student thesis and/or EBP or DNP projects!

Please contact Dr. Jane Foote, EdD, RN or your faculty advisor for questions
Welcome Graduate Student Liaisons to the Graduate Committee

Each year we request and welcome Graduate Student Liaisons to join the Graduate Committee, comprised of all teaching graduate nursing faculty.

These Graduate Student Liaisons inform the Graduate Committee on program policy issues, curriculum concerns, needed communications, student development needs, etc. At each meeting (the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month), these students share concerns they are aware of and assist us in decision-making. They are your representatives and we encourage you to communicate with one of these persons if you have concerns that you believe need to be addressed across programs.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Ben Franklin Elementary School is looking for individuals to come and read to students for 30-60 minutes at a time. Volunteers determine how often they come. The school would like some regularity, e.g., twice a week, once a week, once every two weeks, etc. The school day goes from 9:10 a.m. to 3:35 p.m., and your reading time can be scheduled at any time during the school day.

It will also help start these young students on the road to being better readers themselves and eventually more successful as future RCTC or WSU students (or college of choice).

Tauni Tuckner is the contact for this opportunity and can be contacted at tatuckner@rochester.k12.mn.us
Gentle Reminders...

- **Is your Clinical information up to date?** Please remember to update your clinical information, such: Nursing License renewal, CPR– recertification, Mantoux Test results, flu shot, etc. You may drop off, fax, or mail updated clinical information to the Graduate Programs in Nursing office. Graduate Programs in Nursing fax number is 507-292-5127.

- Graduate Programs in Nursing students need to complete one of the following forms in consultation with your advisor, and prior to completing **16 credits**. These documents may be found on the “Applications and Forms” section of the Graduate Nursing website at [http://www.winona.edu/graduatnursing/](http://www.winona.edu/graduatnursing/)
  - Master of Science, Nursing students, please complete the **Application for Admission to Candidacy for a Master’s of Science (MS) Degree in Nursing**
  - Post-baccalaureate DNP students, please complete the **Application for Admission to Candidacy for a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree**
  - Graduate Certificate (GC) Nursing students, please complete **Certificate Program Plan**

- Has your professor left your graded assignments/papers in the Graduate Programs in Nursing office (EA 129-136) for you to pick up? Are you looking for graded assignments from a previous semester? Our office may be holding your past assignments, please stop by and we will gladly check the file. Graded assignments not picked up by the student will be disposed of at the end of the following semester.

- **Are you planning to graduate Spring 2015?** If so, please complete and submit your **Application for Graduation** by the midterm of the term prior to graduation.

- Feel free to check the bulletin board by your student mailbox (across from the Graduate Nursing Office) for the latest job postings.
Leadership Corner—Dr. Jane Foote

Exciting news in the Leadership Corner this semester!

Sigma Theta Tau author Dr. Teddie Potter is coming to Rochester to speak on her new book on Interprofessional Partnerships. Join the Southern Minnesota Holistic Nurses at Hermitage Farm on October 14th at 5:30 pm. Cost is $5 and she will bring some books to sign if you are interested!

Another piece of great news is that Minnesota is the national leader in providing Quality Health care according to the latest study by AHRQ.

The Following link allows you to read the story by the Minnesota Hospital Association: http://www.mnhospitals.org/patient-safety
This second link allow you to read more about the benchmarks in all the states, and make comparisons. For those of you who are thinking of becoming APRNs in other parts of the country this link will be helpful to determine benchmarks for http://nhqrnet.ahrq.gov/inhqrdr/state/select

Halloween Corner—Jack O’Lantern

- The largest pumpkin ever measured was grown by Norm Craven, who broke the world record in 1993 with a 836 lb. pumpkin.
- According to tradition, if a person wears his or her clothes inside out and then walks backwards on Halloween, he or she will see a witch at midnight.
- The first Jack O’Lanterns were actually made from turnips
- Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween

We are on the Web!

www.winona.edu/graduatenuming

Winona State University — Rochester

Graduate Programs in Nursing
859 30th Avenue, SE
Rochester, MN  55904

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Phone: 507-285-7473
Fax: 507-292-5127
Email: nursing@winona.edu

Important Dates—

Midterm October 17
Veterans’ Day Holiday November 11
Registration for Spring 2015 begins November 17
Thanksgiving Holiday November 26—30
Fall Final Examinations December 8—11

Thank you October Newsletter contributors: Dr. Sonja J. Meiers, Dr. Diane Forsyth, Dr. Jane Foote, Rachel Herman, and Kristi Ziegler (WSU-R Student Services)

Thank you Evan Dyce and Bethaney Ebner (Graduate Assistants) for the design of this month’s Graduate Programs in Nursing Newsletter!