Graduate Programs in Nursing

Notes from the Director

“Cold December Flies Away” …but wait, it hasn’t really been that cold in December. Yeahhhhh! How fortunate we are for I remember last December when, during this week, we had over three feet of snow (maybe I’m exaggerating). It is so much easier to move around and be active in this type of weather.

I hope that you are taking time to rest and relax a bit after a very full semester. I congratulate all students and faculty who were part of our new courses in the new curriculum, some with new course delivery, this semester…awesome job!

“Seasoned students” also had some new adventures as partners in Rochester Healthy Community Partnerships with the Let’s Talk program in the Advanced Health Promotion course. We have begun a project where graduate nursing students work with community liaisons to develop approaches to teaching health literacy curriculum for our immigrant, refugee, and African-American Rochester residents. By all reports, learning was “life changing” for students and the community members involved. Thank you to the students and to Dr. Carole Jenson for pushing beyond the traditional classroom walls to serve while learning in NURS 612/613. This project will continue next semester based on the work of the fall semester students and community members and will contain a research component.

Thank you, also, for helping us celebrate the contributions of Gayle Olsen, MS, CNP to the Department of Nursing upon her retirement. Though we are very sad to say goodbye to Gayle, we believe she has great plans for her retirement and that we have certainly not seen the last of her contributions to nursing….stay tuned.

Finally, I want to announce that the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System Office has approved the proposed Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program to be offered by Winona State University! This is an exciting stage in the journey of the Graduate Programs in Nursing; yet, we must await final approval of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), our regional university accrediting body, before we are able to advertise the implementation of the DNP. The HLC will be making a visit to our campus in March to assess our readiness as a university for offering doctoral education….so again, stay tuned.

Best wishes for a restful holiday break and for excellent times of meaningful connection with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonja Meiers
Professor and Director
Graduate Programs in Nursing
507-536-5671
smeiers@winona.edu

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WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY—ROCHESTER

December 2011
Volume 5, Number 6

Winter
Gayle Olsen’s Retirement Celebration, December 13, 2011

Gayle Olsen, MS, RN, PNP, Professor retires after 32 years of teaching in the Graduate and Undergraduate Nursing Programs with Winona State University!

Gayle was surprised during her Retirement Celebration by the presentation of The Gayle Olsen Graduate Nursing Scholarship which is being established in her name.

Family and Friends surround Gayle during her Retirement Celebration!
Gayle Olsen’s Retirement Celebration, December 13, 2011

Retirement from WSU is just a stop in the road for Gayle as she plans her next adventure.

Best wishes Gayle !!!

“In clinical you have the real world experience. It is a very powerful learning situation as you can help the students work their way through a problem so much better.”

~ Gayle Olsen

An excellent article was written on Gayle’s behalf by Pete Myszkowski, Enrollment Communication Coordinator, Student Campus Services—Rochester. Read Gayle’s full story at: www.winona.edu/rochester.
Greetings and I hope this finds you enjoying your well-deserved break! There continues to be a great deal of behind-the-scenes activity regarding clinical placements. (Think policies and procedures!)

Since clinical needs are universal to graduate schools, a new online system is being developed in Minnesota, just for graduate nursing. The Clinical Coordination Partnership (TCCP) sponsored by Health Force Minnesota has already developed a system for pre-licensure nursing. The Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) system will include all graduate nursing fields of study. Ideally, all graduate schools and health systems in Minnesota would participate in this system. Then, we coordinators can place, monitor and update our requests in a more timely and organized way. The current timeline is to have this system live for Fall 2012 placements! Currently, this is a statewide initiative, so we will continue the usual processes for placement with our Wisconsin, Iowa and other out-of-state educational partners.

We are wrapping up arrangements for spring semester 2012 clinicals and looking at spring internship (for the NP students), plus all of Fall 2012 placements. Please be aware that clinical requests are being placed 1-2 years in advance at many health systems! With this in mind, I will be stopping by your classes in January and meeting with individual students at other times to determine clinical goals.

As my role evolves, it is apparent that there is a valuable triangle of communication between the faculty advisor, the student and the clinical placement coordinator. It’s a dynamic process, and your input is welcome.

Have a restful, joyful holiday!

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Herman MS RN CNP
Clinical Placement Coordinator

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**Gentle Reminders**

* Submit “Application for Admission to Candidacy for a Master’s Degree in Nursing”. Graduate Programs in Nursing students will need to complete this form, in consultation with an advisor, and prior to completing 16 credits. This form can be located by visiting the Graduate Nursing website at: http://www.winona.edu/nursing/files/Application_for_Candidacy_-_Semesters_(BS_to_DNP)_(FORM_UPDATED_8-24-11).pdf

* Submit “Application to Graduate”. You are encouraged to complete and submit this form to the Graduate Studies Office by midterm of the previous term prior to graduation. This form can be located by visiting the Graduate Studies website at: http://www.winona.edu/gradstudies/Media/Application_for_Graduation.pdf

* Looking for graded classroom assignments from faculty? Please stop by our office, we may have your graded paper here waiting to be claimed. Graded papers left in our office will be shredded the following semester.

* Please keep your mailing and email addresses, and phone numbers current with the Graduate Programs in Nursing office and the Registrar’s office.
Interactive Television Site Use

Most of our nursing science core courses, some direct care core courses, and some program cores are offered both on the WSU, Rochester campus with sending of the course via Interactive Television (ITV) to the Winona campus. Arrangements for sending of ITV are made by Carolyn Ryno, our Office Administrative Assistant working with the WSU Technology staff. Occasionally, students from other sites (e.g., Mankato, Grand Rapids, Bemidji) request ITV transmission of courses. When this occurs, the student requests permission first from the instructor for the transmission of the course to the remote site. If this request is approved by the instructor, the student works with staff at the remote site who then requests transmission from WSU Technology staff to the remote site. While this works in most instances, we want to make certain all students are aware that there may occasionally be limits to the amount of technology lines available or logistical challenges or poor quality of transmission that make transmission not possible. Planning to make these connections at least by mid-semester the semester before the course is offered generally gives enough time to seek permission and plan for successful connection.

Did You Know……..

- Searching for WSU-Rochester classes is user friendly using the on-line web schedule? Please choose “Rochester” as the Campus location. See example below.

Find Courses at Winona State University
(WSU - Winona campus)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Course Equivalents</th>
<th>Non-Credit/Continuing Ed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

College/ University: Winona State University - search other institutions
Campus: WSU - Rochester
Semester: Fall 2011 (Aug - Dec)

- WSU’s Academic Calendar is located at: http://www.winona.edu/registrar/Reg/LargeSpring_2012_20110610.pdf

- WSU’s Graduate Programs in Nursing Calendar is on the web at: http://www.winona.edu/nursing/files_CLASS_SCHEDULE_(11-12)_(Working_Copy).pdf

- Donors wishing to contribute to the Gayle Olsen Graduate Nursing Scholarship, may do so by check, credit card, or monthly debit. Checks may be made out to WSU Foundation, please indicate Gayle Olsen Scholarship in the memo line. Gifts may also be given online at www.alumni.winona.edu/netcommunity/onlinegift.
Severe Winter Weather Information

Since winter weather conditions can vary greatly from community to community, students are encouraged to use discretion when traveling. The Winona State University Severe Weather web page will be updated with specific information about severe weather closing or class cancellation on days when such events occur.

In case of a weather emergency, the following radio stations in the area will be notified as soon as possible of any cancellations at WSU.

**Radio:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winona</th>
<th>Rochester</th>
<th>Red Wing</th>
<th>La Crosse</th>
<th>Twin Cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KQAL 89.5-FM</td>
<td>KNXR 97.5-FM</td>
<td>KCUE 1250-AM</td>
<td>WIZM 1410-AM</td>
<td>WCCO 830-AM</td>
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<td>KAGE 1380-AM</td>
<td>KROC 106.9-FM</td>
<td>WIZM 93.3-FM</td>
<td>WKBH 100.1-FM</td>
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<td>KAGE 95.3-FM</td>
<td>KROC 1340-AM</td>
<td>WKTY 580-AM</td>
<td>CC106.3-FM</td>
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<tr>
<td>KWNO 1230-AM</td>
<td>KYBA 105.3</td>
<td>Magic 105</td>
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<tr>
<td>KWNO 99.3-FM</td>
<td>KWWK 96.5</td>
<td>(104.9-FM)</td>
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<td>KHME 101.1-FM</td>
<td>KLCX 103.9</td>
<td>Eagle 102.7-FM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>KWEB 1270-AM</td>
<td>Classic Rock</td>
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<td>KRCH 101.7-FM</td>
<td>100.1-FM</td>
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**Television:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winona</th>
<th>Rochester</th>
<th>La Crosse</th>
<th>Twin Cities</th>
<th>Eau Claire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HBC Cable 20</td>
<td>KTTC - 10</td>
<td>WKBH - 8 (7) [7]</td>
<td>KSTP - 5</td>
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<td>and 25</td>
<td>KXLT - 47</td>
<td>WXOW - 19 (11)</td>
<td>WCCO - 4</td>
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<td>[18]</td>
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**Graduate Programs in Nursing:**

In cases of inclement weather, students and faculty should use their best judgment as to the safety of travel. If a student or faculty member believes travel would be dangerous, they should call (507) 285-7473 and report that they will not be able to attend class. The Administrative Assistant will then report the person’s absence to appropriate students and/or faculty members via e-mail or phone if possible. **It is important the current phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses are on file with the Master’s Nursing Program and with the Registrar’s office!**

In instances where driving conditions are acceptable at the traveling student’s, or faculty member’s home, yet inclement weather or poor driving conditions are suspected in the Rochester area, students and faculty should check the appropriate road condition reports. They should also check the main WSU Home Page. When faculty members cancel classes due to severe weather, the cancellations are noted. As a last resort, call the WSU Switchboard but realize that this line is hard to reach on snow days and is not staffed until 8:00 a.m.

Please visit: [www.winona.edu/communications/severeweatherinfo.asp](http://www.winona.edu/communications/severeweatherinfo.asp) for full policy.
We’re on the web!
www.winona.edu/nursing

Important Dates ————

• January 9, 2012  WSU Classes Resume
• January 16, 2012  Martin Luther King Day Observed
• March 12-16, 2012  WSU Spring Break
• April 26, 2012  Sigma Theta Tau International, Kappa Mu Chapter — Annual Induction Ceremony