On behalf of the Graduate Programs in Nursing Faculty and Staff, Winona State University-Rochester, Welcome to Fall 2010! We are glad you are here!

This Update is a monthly publication during the academic year as a communication mechanism for general information. Your academic advisor is the best source of individual Plan of Study guidance.

Notes from the Director:
I have met many of you either last year or at the New Student Orientation this year, but want to take this opportunity to say how pleased I am to be with you at WSU Rochester. I assumed the role of Director in August 2009 after serving as a faculty member and former Graduate Programs Director at Minnesota State University, Mankato since 1992. I am also an alumna of Winona State University, having received my master’s degree in nursing with a major in nursing education in 1995.

My clinical background is that of adult and pediatric nursing (acute care, school nursing, parenting education, and home health). I have taught undergraduate, RN-MS, master’s and doctoral education during my time at MSU, Mankato, in traditional classroom and clinical settings as well as online. I completed my PhD in Nursing at the University of Minnesota in 2002 and my research focus is on improving family health and care for families in the health experience. I continue as an active nurse researcher with colleagues at Minnesota State University, Mankato and at the Mayo Clinic. My goals as Director are to provide support, knowledge, guidance, mentoring and elements that support a context of caring in which students, staff and faculty will thrive in their chosen roles. I welcome your input at any point to make certain I can meet these goals.

My office hours are typically as follows:
Tuesday 9 - 12; 1 - 4 p.m.
Wednesday 9 - 12; 1 - 4 p.m.
Thursday 9 - 12; 1 - 4 p.m.

Please call our office at 507-285-7473 to schedule an appointment.

Additional hours are available upon request. Office hours for the Graduate Programs in Nursing are 8 – 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,
Sonja J. Meiers, RN, PhD
Professor and Director of Graduate Programs in Nursing
(507) 536-5671
smeiers@winona.edu
Faculty and Staff Additions

Welcome Sara Bass, Office Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Over the summer, we welcomed Sara Bass as the newest addition to the Administrative Staff in the Graduate Programs in Nursing Office. Ms. Bass has been a wonderful addition. She and Carolyn Ryno are an amazing team, as many of you probably already know. Sara comes to us with previous experience in a state level office and in the Byron Schools. Her 0.5 FTE typical hours are Tuesday mornings and all day Wednesday and Thursday.

Welcome Dr. Pamela Nelson, and Professors Usha Asirvatham and Christy Chua-Patel
During the Sabbatical Leave of Drs. Diane Forsyth and Julie Ponto, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Pamela Nelson and Professors Usha Asirvatham and Christy Chua-Patel to Graduate Faculty. Dr. Nelson has recently retired from her role as clinical nurse specialist (CNS) and nurse researcher at the Mayo Clinic; she is teaching the Assessment and Intervention courses and Psychosocial Interventions in Family Care this semester. Ms. Asirvatham has a background in teaching and in clinical nurse specialist practice. She is teaching in the nurse educator courses this year. Ms. Chua-Patel is employed for project work as a clinical nurse specialist at the Mayo Clinic on a part-time basis and is with us this year teaching the CNS clinical courses this year. Drs. Ponto, Forsyth and Jenson are serving as mentors for these new fixed term (meaning they are in positions that are fixed to fill-in for temporary needs such as sabbaticals) faculty to assist with a smooth transition so that student learning is best supported. Thank you to all of you for working so well together on behalf of students. Dr. Meiers will be advising nurse educator students this year, and Dr. Jenson will serve as the advisor for all CNS students.

Welcome Back Dr. Cindy Scherb
We are pleased to welcome Dr. Cindy Scherb, coordinator for our nurse administrator focus, back from Sabbatical Leave (2009-2010). Dr. Scherb completed a Post-Doctoral program at the University of Iowa during her Sabbatical; a significant outcome of her Post-Doctoral study was submission and acceptance of a number of articles in peer reviewed journals. Please visit CINAHL to see her accomplishments; and congratulate Dr. Scherb on her dedication to knowledge development in nursing when you see her!

CINAHL website:  http://www.ebscohost.com/cinahl/

Thank You:
A sincere thank you to all of the graduate nursing faculty, Dean Bill McBreen, Chairperson Jo Stejskal and our amazing office staff members, Carolyn Ryno and Sara Bass for their assistance in launching the 2010-2011 academic year. We are very fortunate to work with such a great team!
Graduate Committee in Need of a Graduate Student Representative:

Our Graduate Committee is comprised of all graduate faculty members and one graduate student. We meet on campus in Rochester (and by distance via ITV in Winona) every 2nd and 4th Monday from 9 – 11 am. We are looking for a graduate student to serve on this committee as a liaison to represent the needs of students and as a communicator to graduate student colleagues. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact Dr. Meiers; your input will help our curriculum and programs to be the best they can be.

H1N1:

Please see the Winona State University Rochester site http://www.winona.edu/rochester/ for updates and guidance regarding management of H1N1; no doubt you are caring for yourselves well, but following the Centers for Disease Control website is always helpful. Here it is for your use once again http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/

Student Handbook for Master’s Nursing Students:

Please note that the current Student Handbook is available in electronic form on the WSU Graduate Nursing website http://www.winona.edu/nursing/graduate/5767.asp.

Curriculum Revision and New Program Proposals:

For the past two years, the Graduate Faculty has been gathering data and planning for revisions in the current masters curriculum and planning for new program proposals. During the summer of 2010 and this semester, the final touches are being put on these revisions. The curriculum needs to move through the approval process with the following persons or groups of persons: Graduate Nursing Committee, Department of Nursing, Dean of College of Nursing and Health Sciences, WSU Graduate Council, WSU Faculty Senate, WSU Academic Affairs, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Academic Affairs, and (in the case of new programs), the MnSCU Board of Trustees. In early November, we will be scheduling an Information Session for Current and Prospective Students to review the proposal. Information provided during that time and during meetings with your advisors will help you make any needed adjustments to your Plan of Study. Our guiding principle is that during this transition, student Plans of Study will be held harmless. That means that we have made decisions on course equivalencies (current courses equal to proposed courses) so that students will graduate in a timely manner while fulfilling the degree that satisfies accreditation and credentialing requirements.
Graduate Study Lab — EA235

Craig Johnson, Director, Winona State University—Rochester has some important information to share with you regarding Graduate Study Lab, EA235.

The Graduate Study Lab — EA235 has been set up for Graduate Students’ use for both studying and printing. The printer is available for graduate students. Any printing completed in this area will not count against students 1000 sheet allotment per semester.

Graduate students have two print options on our campus:

1. EA235 — Students provide their own paper. Any printing in this room will not count against students WSU allotment.
2. Printer locations on campus—outside of GL118, on 2nd floor of library, or in LTC. Printing in these areas will count against students semester allotment.

And speaking of Graduate Study Lab — Don’t forget to turn in your access key card to Grad. Nursing Office if you:

1. Plan to Graduate Fall 2010
2. Do not enroll for Spring semester.

If your access key card no longer works, please return it to our office; Carolyn or Sara will issue you a new one.

Gentle Reminders:

- **Admission to Graduate Candidacy:** Please remember to meet with your advisor and file your Application to Graduate Candidacy before completing 16 graduate credits. Any courses taken beyond 16 credits may not count toward degree requirements. This form may be found at: [www.winona.edu/nursing/graduate/forms.asp](http://www.winona.edu/nursing/graduate/forms.asp).

- **Application for Graduation:** If you are planning to graduate Fall or Spring Semester, it is important for you to fill out an Application for Graduation form. This form alerts WSU’s Office of Graduate Study of your intent to Graduate. This form may also be found at the link listed above.

- **Mayo Research Conference** will be held on March 3, 2011. The poster presentation will be held on March 2, 2011.

- **Student Papers** - The Graduate Programs in Nursing office has previous semester papers for several students. If you are unsure about missing graded paper(s) from a previous semester, please stop by our office and speak with Carolyn or Sara. They will be happy to assist you.

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New Addition to Graduate Nursing Office:

Take a look at the articles displayed on the wall just inside the Graduate Nursing Office door. This display is dedicated to the scholarship that graduate faculty are engaged in and will be updated as new publications arrive; check it out!
Students who do a clinical practicum at Mayo must fill out a special application for the Department of Nursing at Mayo School of Health Sciences. An Immunization Form is also required.

If students do another preceptor experience, the student would then complete an addendum form.

See your instructor with questions about these forms.

This procedure is not necessary for Nurse Practitioner students as they are covered by another agreement.

Please be aware that students who have been involuntarily terminated from Mayo Clinic are no longer in good standing. Access to Mayo Clinic's patient care records and to the buildings for clinical experiences will be terminated immediately. Involuntarily terminated students will not be allowed to do their clinical, project or any other school activities at Mayo Clinic.

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**Student Information Session**

**Coming Soon in November**

Are you a new WSU Master’s Nursing student, a Graduate Special student who is thinking about applying for a focus, or just have some questions on the Master’s Nursing Program in general? If so, please join us at our Student Information Session.

The Student Information Session is an opportunity for students to speak with Graduate Nursing faculty about questions on the application process and the program in general. The event will take place on the UCR Campus in November; exact date and time yet to be determined. Watch our website for further details!

www.winona.edu/nursing
Severe Winter Weather Information

Winona State University:
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.

Bookmark this page for easy access: www.winona.edu/communications/severeweatherinfo.asp
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:

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Master's Program 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 am. Please visit www.winona.edu/communications/severeweatherinfo.asp for full policy.
“I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.”

Bill Cosby