Welcome to a new and promising academic year in the Graduate Programs in Nursing at Winona State University! The rhythm of academic life gives us all the opportunity to start something new each semester of each year, to try new things, bask in our successes and learn great lessons when things don’t go as planned. I wish you many successes this semester and hope that your learning is filled with new questions and leaves you wondering just a bit.

Our Graduate Faculty group has been preparing for over three years for the launch of the new curriculum that started this semester. We are eager to implement these new courses and plans of study, leaving the possibility of revising and adapting as we go. A curriculum ought to be organic in nature, rising from the roots of science, ethics and investigation and bathed in the ongoing sea of new ideas sprinkled in by engaged students and faculty. You will see more emphasis in the curricula on terms such as evidence-based practice, relationship-centered care, interprofessionalism, collaboration, molecular/genetic science, population health, organization and systems leadership, health care quality and outcomes, information systems, translation, and quality improvement, in addition to our continued commitment to nursing science, ethics, research, health policy, health promotion and excellence in direct and indirect practice. We welcome you to the engagement!

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 that you have chosen to be with us at WSU. 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. This program has a rich history of quality instruction and committed faculty as well as stellar graduates who are contributing much to the profession; you are now part of that rich tradition.

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 throughout 17 years of teaching at MSU, Mankato, prior to joining the faculty at WSU. I have taught 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...
Notes from the Director (continued)

at Minnesota State University, Mankato and at the Mayo Clinic. In addition, Drs. Lisa Schnepper, Carole Jenson and I are involved with a community based participatory research project with Rochester Healthy Community Partnerships (RHCP). You will learn more about that project in your Advanced Health Promotion for Families course. 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.

Sincerely,
Dr. Sonja J. Meiers
Professor and Director
Graduate Programs in Nursing
507.536.5671
smeiers@winona.edu

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 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Gentle Reminders

- Submit Application for Admission to Candidacy for a Master’s Degree in Nursing. Click here to download the form.
- 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. Click here to download the form.
- The 2011-2012 Graduate Handbook has been posted on our website. Please visit www.winona.edu/nursing/graduate/5909.asp to view the handbook.
- Looking for graded classroom assignments from faculty? Please stop by our office, we may have yours here waiting to be picked up. Any graded papers left in our office will be shredded the following semester.
- Check out the employment opportunities and graduate nursing student mailboxes across the hall from the Graduate Programs in Nursing office.
Mayo Nursing Research Conference
Poster Session Award Winners

Thank you to Drs. Cindy Scherb and Julie Ponto who served on the Planning Committee for the Mayo Nursing Research Conference held on March 2 & 3, 2011. We also want to Congratulate the following WSU Graduate Student Poster Session Award Winners. Good Job, Well Done!

Applied Projects:
Cassandra Narr, Kristine Penza, and Thia Walkowiak (Creating an Interdisciplinary Care Model for a Rural Community Clinic: An Evidence-Based Project)
Dawn King and Maria Schomburg (Implementation of a Culturally Relevant Support Group Utilizing Community Health Workers in a Migrant Health Clinic for Hispanic Women with Depression)
Megan Schoff, Danielle Shumski, and Erin Wilkinson (Evidence-Based Treatment of Depression)

Masters Complete:
Michel Benz, Courtney Holtegaard, and Stephanie Vanderboom (Examining the Relationship Between Literacy Level and Healthcare Accessibility Among Underserved Populations of a Free Community Clinic Within an Adult and Family Literacy Center in the Upper Midwest)
Stephanie Ahrens, Meghan Bos, and Emily Olson (Secondary Analysis Examining the Relationships between Age, Fear of Recurrence, Symptom Distress, and Psychological Distress in Younger versus Older Women with Recurrent Ovarian Cancer)
Sarah Hayden, Chinda Douangmala, and Lindsay Young (Factors Influencing Healthcare Utilization Within a Free Community Clinic at an Adult and Family Literacy Center)

Masters in Progress:
Wendy Worden and Leanne England (Levels of and Relationships Between Family Uncertainty, Struggling and Connection in Chronic Illness)
Lindsay Tippetts and Jamey Bina (Decisional Involvement: Desired and Perceived Involvement in Decision Making among Registered Nurses)
Kristyn Maixner, Lora Briese, and Janelle Wozniak (Healing Touch and Health-Related Quality of Life in Breast Cancer)
From the desk of Craig Johnson, Director of Student Services WSU-Rochester:

WSU-Rochester Graduate Students:

In the past, you have been required to provide your own paper for any print jobs on the printer in the EA 235 Graduate Study Room. In return, none of the printing in that room was charged against the student WSU print allocation for each semester.

This policy will change in response to the preferences of a majority of our graduate students. 75% of the students who responded to our December 2010 survey indicated that they preferred to not have to provide their own paper to print in EA 235, and preferred instead to have all printing in EA 235 charged against student print allocations for each semester.

We have responded accordingly and asked our IT department to begin charging all EA 235 printing to each individual student account effective immediately. You will no longer have to provide your own paper in EA 235.

Thanks to all of you who responded to our survey. Given the strong majority of responses favoring this change, we feel it is the correct course of action to respond to student interests.

** If more paper is needed for the Graduate Study Lounge, please contact Sue Parks in EA 201 (WSU-R College of Education/Psychology)
Graduate Programs in Nursing Faculty News

Congratulations to Dr. Ann Olson, she has been awarded the rank of Professor at Winona State University!

Graduate Clinical Coordinator
On September 12, 2011 we will welcome our new Graduate Clinical Coordinator, Rachel Herman, M.S., R.N., C.P.N.P. to the Graduate Programs in Nursing faculty and staff. She is a certified pediatric nurse practitioner and has experience teaching pediatric lecture content in our program as well as other programs.

Ms. Herman will be responsible for assessment, development, oversight and management of clinical site experiences within the Graduate Programs in Nursing in collaboration with the Graduate Nursing Faculty and clinical agencies. Funding for this position is derived from graduate student differential tuition. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Herman to WSU.

Publications from Dr. Cindy Scherb, Dr. Diane Forsyth, Dr. Sonja Meiers and Gayle Olsen have been added to Graduate Programs in Nursing scholarship display for your reading experience. Informative Articles & Book Chapters are located in the Graduate Programs in Nursing office, EA 129-136.


Future graduates get ready to participate in WSU’s Alumni Survey!

Points to ponder:

- Winona State University Nursing sends out a mailing every fall semester to all graduates of one year.
- Fall 2009, 8 Master level graduates and 54 UG level graduates responded to our survey from the cohorts of Dec. ‘08 and spring ‘09.
- All graduates were asked to give their employers a survey. As a result 2 Master level employers responded and 18 UG employers responded.

To improve our feedback from the alumni and employers survey, we need all graduates to participate.

- It’s extremely important that WSU receive accurate/current addresses from graduates.
- WSU needs more master’s graduates to contribute their feedback with the alumni survey.
- The Alumni Survey is tied to our accreditation and accreditation takes place in fall semester.
- WSU needs the graduate to request the employer to also provide feedback.
- Please keep this process in mind after you graduate.

“Alumni and employer feedback is critical to our assessment process.”

— Kathryn Lammers PhD, PHN, RN
Asst. Professor WSU
Dept. of Nursing Stark 335

Student Representatives are needed for Graduate Committee!

We invite you to join your Graduate Faculty as a Graduate Student Representative. This committee meets the 2nd and 4th Monday’s of each month from 9:00—11:30 am. We need the student voices on this committee so that we continue our tradition of relevance and excellence.

Please contact Dr. Meiers at smeiers@winona.edu

We really could use two (2) great voices!
# Reunion for all Winona State Nursing Alumni
(graduate and undergraduate)

## Saturday, October 22, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>National Child Protection Training Center Tour, Maxwell Hall, 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Brunch, Tour of the Nursing Building and Visit with Professors, Stark Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>National Child Protection Training Center Tour, Maxwell Hall, 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Special Seating for Nursing Alumni on Parade Route, Huff Street and 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 am – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Tailgate for Nursing Alumni, Verizon Wireless Stadium Parking Lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Nursing Dinner, East Hall, Kryzsko Commons, $10 per person, cash bar</td>
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**RSVP ONLINE!**
For more information or to RSVP by phone, contact the office of Alumni Relations at 1-800-342-5978 ext. 5027 or at alumni@winona.edu.

"Let's make Homecoming 2011 a weekend to remember! I'm so excited and can't wait to hear from you!"

---

"Jo Stejskal"
Exciting News from Goddard Library

DROP-IN LIBRARY ORIENTATION TOURS!

Beginning the third week of fall semester the library will offer ten 40-minute sessions designed to familiarize students with the library.

TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

--- Library services
--- Finding books/articles on the new library website
--- Finding books on the shelf
--- Tour of the library

Tours are scheduled as follows:
- Monday, Sept. 12  3 PM
- Wednesday, Sept. 14  11 AM
- Tuesday, Sept. 20  2 PM
- Thursday, Sept. 22  7 PM
- Monday, Sept. 26  9 AM
- Wednesday, Sept. 28  6 PM
- Tuesday, Oct. 4  5 PM
- Thursday, Oct. 6  10 AM

FALL 2010 LIBRARIANS SET A NEW RECORD BY TEACHING INSTRUCTION SESSIONS TO ALMOST 900 STUDENTS!!!

Gwenn M. Neville
Librarian
Goddard Library

Graduate Programs in Nursing encourages students who have not used the Goddard Library to consider this if you would like more in depth information about its operation and how you can conduct literature searches to support your coursework.

“A real book is not one that's read, but one that reads us.”
--W.H. Auden

The UCR Comprehensive Learning Center provides learning support for everyone on campus: development students, regular students, honors students, and WSU students, all the way to doctoral students and faculty/staff members.

The CLC offers tutoring in math, statistics, computer applications, writing, resume writing, MLA or APA format, the sciences, reading, speech, and other academic disciplines. CLC also offers test proctoring.

Please be sure to sign in at the computer sign-in terminal every time you enter the CLC. This data provides the necessary information to assure that the CLC remains funded. Without it, we close.

RCTC also has Student Support Services (TRIO, etc.) and that much valuable help can be received in that area also, including disability services.
“When you’re a nurse you know that every day you will touch a life or a life will touch yours.”

~ Unknown