Welcome back, to ongoing students! Welcome aboard, to new students! Welcome to a journey that will certainly enhance your knowledge and understanding of nursing scholarship and practice and ways to improve health outcomes. I have it on good authority from our graduates that your program is one of high quality, rigor, and challenge and your program will prepare you well for what is to come after your graduation. Enjoy the ride!

You are joining a program of over 200 students (graduate and graduate special). Of these students, 112 are MS students and 14 are DNP students in the Fall 2013 class. This is an excellent cadre of persons to learn with, and some of these persons will be in your personal and/or professional network for a long time. Enjoy the ride!

Be confident, engage, dive in, stretch yourself, partner with student colleagues and faculty, celebrate accomplishments along the way, learn from mistakes, grow new patterns of thinking, take care of yourself, and enjoy the ride!

Sincerely,
Sonja J. Meiers, PhD, RN
Director and Professor
Graduate Programs in Nursing
507-536-5671
smeiers@winona.edu

Dr. Meiers has office hours by appointment. Please call our office to schedule an appointment. We may be reached at 507-285-7473.

Office hours for the Graduate Programs in Nursing are Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Dear Graduate Nursing Students (MS and DNP):

The Midwest Nursing Research Society will hold its annual conference March 27-30, 2014 in St Louis, MO. A “Graduate Student Poster Exchange and Competition” will be held during this annual nursing research conference. Winona State University can select up to THREE graduate student thesis and/or EBP or DNP projects for the Graduate Student Poster Exchange.

The WSU Graduate faculty invites you to submit an abstract of your research or evidence-based project for consideration as a WSU representative at the MNRS Graduate Student Poster Exchange. Abstracts must be submitted to Ann C.F. Olson (aolson.edu) and Jane Foote (jfoote@winona.edu) no later than October 15, 2013 at 8:00 AM. A faculty committee will review the abstracts and select those representing WSU at the conference. You will be notified within the following 7-10 days. The three abstracts selected by the WSU faculty need to be submitted to MNRS by October 31st. If selected to represent WSU, you will receive further directions for your final abstract submission.

Contact your thesis/EBP project or DNP advisor if you have questions about your abstract or about the conference. All abstracts are limited to 350 words. The abstract should also include a description (not counted in the 350 words) of the student’s role in the research or EBP project. Information from MNRS about this opportunity and judging criteria can be viewed at the MNRS student poster web site: http://www.mnrs.org/students-amp-post-docs/posters/posters. Please refer to this URL for updates.

If you plan to submit a thesis (research) abstract:
Completed research and research in progress can be submitted. The 350 word abstract must include the title, and the following key elements:

- Purpose and Background/Significance: What was the purpose of the study, and why was it important to nursing science, practice and/or patient care?
- What was the theoretical / conceptual framework for the study?
- Method: What was the study design? What was the sample? What instruments were used? How was data collected? (Include proposed data collection and analysis if project is not complete.)
- Results and interpretation of results.
- Conclusions: What do the findings mean for the science of nursing?

If you plan to submit an evidence-based project abstract:
Follow these headings (in bold) on your abstract, and include the title. The headings must be in each section in the abstract and poster, so the 350 words will include the headings.

- Nature and scope of the project (introduction, problem identification, significance, project objectives)
- Synthesis and Analysis of supporting and related literature: Describe the evidence-based solution? How was it developed and implemented theoretical framework if applicable.
- Project implementation
- Predicted and actual outcomes: What were the outcomes of the project? How were the outcomes measured?
- Recommendations: What are the recommendations for clinical practice and policy based on the outcomes of the evidence-based practice project?
The graduate students selected to represent WSU at the poster session will be required to pay registration fees and be a member of MNRS. Conference (student) registration is $220 (before Feb.) if you are a member of MNRS, or an additional $100 if not a member (which covers one year’s membership). A scholarship of up to $400 per student or a total of up to $800 per thesis/EBP project Master’s group will be provided through the WSU Graduate Nursing Program to help students defray expenses. If your abstract is accepted, you will be expected to apply for the MNRS Student Scholarship ($500) see the application at http://www.mnrs.org/scholarship-award). MNRS student scholarships may be submitted between the dates of December 3, 2013 to January 2, 2014. The MNRS ($500) scholarship and the WSU scholarship ($400 individual; $800 group) are separate awards, and the award of one does not prohibit the receipt of the other. Several faculty are planning to attend the 2014 MNRS Conference; as an option, transportation (car pool) and hotel costs may be shared.

If your research is selected to represent WSU, a MNRS Committee will judge it during its display. Posters are rated according to the criteria noted on the website. Student Poster awards are announced at the annual business meeting (usually held on Saturday; final program schedule is not yet posted). All graduate students who present a poster are expected to attend at least two days of the conference (student posters are usually presented along with all posters for that specialty area). Students are expected to be present at the award ceremony.

The Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference provides an opportunity for MNRS members to participate in ongoing and completed research and evidence based practice projects with a variety of nursing colleagues. We hope you will participate in this effort to provide a forum for graduate students to share their research and evidence based practice projects. We encourage you to apply, even if you have not completed your thesis or evidence based practice project. However, you should plan to have finished it by the beginning of March. WSU has a solid tradition of excellence in its scholarly presence at MNRS and that we highly encourage students to submit a proposal for their work. It is a fantastic opportunity, and we would love to see them apply and be accepted. Please contact your faculty advisor, or Dr. Olson or Dr. Foote if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Ann C. Falkenberg Olson, PhD, RN, CNP, FAANP
Professor, Graduate Programs in Nursing,
WSU Faculty Co-Coordinator for MNRS Graduate Student Session

Jane Foote EdD, RN
Associate Professor, Graduate Programs in Nursing
WSU Faculty Co-Coordinator for MNRS Graduate Student Session
Graduate Nursing Peer Mentorship Program

The purpose of the **Graduate Nursing Peer Mentorship Program** is to provide new graduate nursing students the opportunity to be mentored by peers who are nearing their graduation date and have valuable knowledge and experience related to the graduate nursing program. The goal of this program is to foster socialization, networking, and professional growth within the graduate nursing programs.

The Peer Mentoring program is off to a great start. We have **17 wonderful volunteer mentors** who are reaching out to the newly admitted students through a D2L Discussion Forum. The mentors are monitoring the discussion board and will be available to answer any questions posted. They are willing to be your resource and to offer support.

The peer mentoring program is available through the **D2L Discussion Forum** on the “Graduate Programs in Nursing Helpful Resources and Info” site. It is a newly formed site for graduate nursing students that you are able to join by self-registering on the D2L home page. To self-register, you would go to the D2L home page, click on self-registration at the top of the page, locate this course, and then enroll. The peer mentoring discussion is a “student only” discussion forum and will not be monitored by faculty. All interactions on the discussion board should be respectful and professional. This discussion board can be viewed by anyone who registers for the course.

We hope that everyone (newly admitted or even if you have been in the program for a while) will use this discussion forum to get some peer answers for questions that are important to you.

*Cindy A. Scherb, PhD, RN*  
Professor  
Graduate Programs in Nursing  
Winona State University - Rochester  
Rochester: 507.280.5565  
Rochester (fax): 507.292.5127  
Office: EA135  
cscherb@winona.edu
As President of Kappa Mu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, I am pleased to announce that our chapter has received the 2013 Chapter Key Award. Chapter Key Award recipients are recognized at each biennial convention. The Chapter Key Award, established in 1991, honors STTI chapters who excel in chapter-related activities. Our chapter recently celebrated our 25th anniversary, and we are very excited to receive recognition for all of our efforts. In order to receive the award, we have had to meet the criteria below as well as the eligibility of effective operations.

- Membership recruitment and retention
- Professional and leadership development
- Local, national and international collaboration
- Publicity and programming

Eligibility
In order to apply for the 2013 Chapter Key Award, which recognizes chapter activity for the timeframe between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2013, chapters must have met all chapter responsibilities as outlined in STTI bylaws.

According to Article IV, Section 8 of the International Bylaws, a chapter’s responsibilities include:

- Supporting the purposes of the STTI
- Observing the provisions of the bylaws and complying with STTI's policies and regulations
- Participating in the biennial convention House of Delegates and other business brought forth before the House of Delegates during the term
- Selecting and inducting eligible members a minimum of one time annually
- Meeting all financial obligations
- File required reports according to established guidelines

It is my honor to serve you as President and to continue assisting the Chapter to provide exceptional programming and opportunities for its members. The Chapter Key Award also would not have been possible without an active and committed Board and members willing to plan and meet above the usual meeting times. Thank you to all who have served as officers and active members this last biennium to make this award possible!

Sincerely,
Stephanie J. Sulla, MS, RN, CPHQ
President, Kappa Mu Chapter Sigma Theta Tau International
Faculty Publications ~


**Congratulations Dr. Sonja J. Meiers!**


**Congratulations Dr. Cindy A. Scherb!**


**Congratulations Dr. Jane Foote!**

Student Receives Prestigious Award

**Margot Melanson-Arnold** recently received the **Mae Berry Award for Service Excellence** awarded by Mayo Clinic! Margot is a current student in the Graduate Programs in Nursing in the Nursing and Organizational Leadership program with Winona State University!

The Mae Berry Award for Service Excellence is awarded annually, by Mayo Clinic, to allied health professionals who provide outstanding service to patients or co-workers.

**Congratulations Margot!**
**Gentle Reminders . . .**

- **Graduate Students** accepted into the program, have a **three-week window to register for classes, (before classes may open to Graduate Special Students)**. This is to allow accepted Graduate Students the opportunity to register for classes they need to stay on track in their plans of study.

- **Is your clinical information up-to-date?** Please remember to update your clinical information, such as; Nursing License renewal, CPR re-certification, 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 the “**Application for Admission to Candidacy for a Master’s of Science (MS) Degree in Nursing**”. Please complete this form in consultation with an advisor, and prior to completing 16 credits. This form can be found on the Graduate Nursing website at [http://www.winona.edu/graduatenursing/Images/Application_for_Candidacy - Semesters (BS to DNP)_ (FORM UPDATED 8-24-11).pdf](http://www.winona.edu/graduatenursing/Images/Application_for_Candidacy - Semesters (BS to DNP)_ (FORM UPDATED 8-24-11).pdf)


**Do you like to “give back” to the community?**

**Do you like to decorate?**

**Do you like to have a great time?**

If you answered, “**YES**”, to any of these questions, we have a wonderful opportunity for you!

For at least the past five years, WSU’s, Department of Nursing Professors, **Dr. Carole Jenson** and **Dr. Patricia Thompson** have coordinated the designing and decorating of the WSU Holiday Tree for the **Festival of Trees** event held each November, in Rochester, MN. The Festival of Trees is a fundraiser for **Hiawatha Homes, Inc.**

Tree decorations have been purchased, Professors Jenson and Thompson are seeking volunteers to help in putting all the special touches on the tree to make it spectacular! This is a great opportunity to show off your decorating skills for a great cause!

Please email **cjenson@winona.edu** or **pthompson@winona.edu** for more information.
Graduate Programs in Nursing
East Hall, EA 129-136
859 30th Avenue, SE
Rochester, MN  55904
Phone: 507-285-7473
Fax: 507-292-5127

WSU-R Mission:

“Winona State University-Rochester provides relevant and innovative life-long learning experiences to educate, enlighten and serve our citizenry to meet the needs of the community and region.”

“See it.....Own It.....Solve It.....and Do It!”