

# University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire Nursing Alumni Newsletter

## Greetings from the Dean

College of Nursing and  
Health Sciences (CONHS)



Greetings  
Alumni  
and  
Friends  
of the  
College  
of Nursing  
and  
Health  
Sciences,

The College of Nursing continues to actively search for the Jane W. and James E. Moore Chair in Nursing Research. See this link <https://www.uwec.edu/human-resources/employment-opportunities/job-openings/> for more information regarding the position. Please consider applying or forwarding the link to colleagues and potential candidates. It is our hope that in next year's newsletter we will be announcing the name of the person hired for this prestigious appointment.

We continue to enjoy clinical affiliations with over 300 clinical agencies. We also celebrate our academic/practice partnerships. Our ongoing partnership with Marshfield Clinic Health System is enabling us to admit about 17 students each semester at the Marshfield Site. We continue to collaborate with Mayo Clinic Health System both with joint appointments as well as with the research partnership.

UW-Barron County has become

part of UW-Eau Claire. This coming year we may see the expansion of our BSN completion program to the UW-Eau Claire - Barron County campus. We await the final decision about the state budget to know if we can begin implementation this fall.

The year 2019 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Nursing Building, which was completed in 1969. This building has served us well and has been a space where many students, faculty, and staff have lived over the years. We look forward to a re-definition of space in the building as the Clinical Learning Center (CLC) will be moving to the new science building if the state budget is approved.

This May I traveled to China, my second time doing so as dean of the College. Accompanying me were Dr. Robin Beeman, Chair of the Department of Nursing, and Mr. John Haven III, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and (greetings continued on p. 12)

This newsletter provides the opportunity to reflect on all that has transpired this past Academic year. We indeed have much to celebrate and much to be grateful for.

Graduation is always a time of celebration in the College and this year was no different. Twenty-one Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students and three Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) students graduated this past academic year as well as 113 traditional program Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and 21 BSN Completion students.

## Save the Dates:

**August 21, 2019:** Nursing Alumni Reception, Marshfield Clinic Laird Center, Marshfield, 5-7:30 p.m. All nursing alumni invited (see p. 11 for more information).

**October 12, 2019:** Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk  
(see p. 15 for Registration Form)

**May 1, 2020:** Sigma Theta Tau-Delta Phi Chapter Kaleidoscope of Nursing  
Scholarship Day, UW-Eau Claire Davies Center

## Nursing Building 50th Anniversary—Memories and Reflections

This year marks a significant event in our history at UW-Eau Claire. To quote Associate Dean and Educational Administrator Emerita Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks, "Oh my! Can't believe it has been 50 years!" We have reached the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nursing Building, as construction was completed, and classes were held there for the first time in Fall 1969. Groundbreaking for the School of Nursing building occurred in July 1968 (see photo). It was dedicated in April 1970, with speakers including Ms. Margaret Dolan, past president of the American Nurses Association (1962-1964), and Ms. Jesse M. Scott, the Director of the Division of Nursing, Health Resources Administration Public Health Service, of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The timing of the construction and completion of the building in 1969 didn't exactly coincide with the start of our undergraduate nursing program. The first class of 22 sophomore nursing students was admitted and enrolled in the baccalaureate nursing program in September 1965 with 17 students graduating by June 1968. However, with the Luther Hospital diploma program in October 1965 suddenly closing and no longer accepting students earlier than anticipated (the

last class graduated in August 1967), the UW-Eau Claire nursing program was asked to rapidly expand. Fifty-three students were admitted for the second class with more students added in each subsequent year to quickly

ty offices. The first floor had big classrooms with wide windows looking out onto the large grassy areas which proved to be "quite interesting and distracting" as this was where students from the dormitories often congregated to enjoy the sun. These sun worshippers frequently "forgot" that the faculty and students in Crest Commons could view their activities, according to Dr. Kisting Sparks. The building also afforded skills laboratory practice space, which housed a limited number of Mrs. Chase manikins. Faculty did not rely heavily on manikins back then as students tended to practice some skills on each other, such as inserting nasogastric tubes, starting IVs, administering injections, and giving bed baths.

With the rapid expansion of the nursing program, soon the Crest Commons Building became too limited and three mobile office facilities (i.e., trailers

ers) were placed next to the building for faculty offices. Dr. Kisting Sparks and Associate Professor Emerita Ms. Marilyn Burgess both started teaching in the nursing program in 1967 and recalled the two years they occupied the trailers. With so many new faculty brought onboard in a short amount of



Photo (above): July 1968 groundbreaking for the School of Nursing building. Front: Ms. Clara Smith, Dean Marguerite Coffman, Ms. Josephine Gibson, Ms. Berniece Wagner, and Ms. Athene Dale. Back: Ms. Inez Smith (secretary), Ms. Patricia Crisham, Ms. Marilyn Burgess, and Ms. Mildred Woletz (secretary).

reach an admission rate of 90 students to start each fall term. In 1965 there were only 3 faculty members and by 1967 there were 16. Office, classroom, and skills practice spaces were desperately needed. For the first year of the nursing program, from 1965-1966, the School of Nursing operated out of Schofield Hall while the first floor of the new Crest Commons

Building on upper campus was completed for temporary use by the School in 1966.

Initially the Crest Commons Building could accommodate the nursing administrative and few facul-



School of Nursing building, circa 1969.



Nursing students in the conversation well in the lobby area, circa 1969.



## Nursing Building 50th Anniversary (continued)

time and the tight quarters, the faculty bonded quickly as they developed a pleasant camaraderie and learned from each other and the more experienced educators among them. As Ms. Burgess noted, “we were a family.” They also appreciated the views afforded by some of the trailer offices, as various animals could be observed wandering about. However, they also humorously remembered that the trailers

new School of Nursing building was completed. As Dr. Kisting Sparks further noted, “I had my own office!!!” Joining the faculty in 1969 as the building was opening was Dean Emerita Dr. Elaine Wendt. Besides offices and access to secretarial support (all were under one roof now), they appreciated the many classrooms and large skills laboratory spaces afforded by the new building. They credit Dean Marguerite Coffman

and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Berniece Wagner with doing a tremendous job in planning the building. Admittedly, despite these efforts by Dean Coffman to have Nursing integrated into the rest of the University, the interviewed faculty acknowledged that some on campus weren’t even aware of the nursing program. In terms of nursing’s acceptance on campus, they also noted that nursing brought in a lot of women faculty, making it hard to differentiate between issues of being a woman versus being a nurse on a university campus. As one of them indicated, she would say something in a University meeting and be ignored; whereas a male faculty person from another department would state the same thing and be told, “good idea.”



Dr. Elaine Wendt teaching in Room 114, circa 1980.

lacked any type of plumbing (that wasn’t hooked up), necessitating trips to Crest Commons.

The need to hire faculty quickly for the rapidly expanding program created a bit of stress for the department chairs as they were charged with recruiting and hiring the instructors. Ms. Burgess initially was brought in as a faculty member but within three months was made the Chair of the Community Health Nursing Department. Budgets were carefully watched as Ms. Burgess recalled having to request permission from Dean Marguerite Coffman before making any long-distance phone calls—which was challenging when trying to recruit and hire new faculty.

Each of the three trailers tended to house up to six faculty members, necessitating the need to eventually share office spaces as their numbers grew. This created privacy issues when meeting with students in their offices (desks were situated together, front to front)—the faculty often had to ask an office mate to step out for a while.

Although they “had a great time in our trailers” and “laughed a lot,” according to Dr. Kisting Sparks, the faculty and administration were quite happy when the

pus. Dean Coffman was adamant that nursing faculty were integrated with the rest of the University faculty. She monitored to make sure they were on Universi-

ty committees and attended the Artists Series and Forum lectures on campus. She chided faculty when they went off for lunch or dinner together after class or clinical rather than dining and socializing with the broader University faculty at popular hangouts (the Flambeau). Dean

Acknowledgment also was given to Dean Coffman, with her strong army background, in ensuring that the Nursing program was held in high esteem on campus.



Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks teaching CPR, circa early-to-mid-1980s.

school rather than on a university campus. The technologies utilized in classroom teaching and the skills laboratories evolved over the years. The early faculty relied heavily on overhead projectors,

Nursing also had to navigate issues associated with the different levels of preparation for nurses. We were educating BSN-prepared nurses in a community which had had a diploma program for many years. Some in the community “had a hard time” with the change and it took a few hospital staff, although helpful, “a while to get used to baccalaureate nursing education and students,” according to Dr. Wendt and Dr. Kisting Sparks. There were people on campus and in the area who believed nursing belonged in a technical

school rather than on a university campus. The technologies utilized in classroom teaching and the skills laboratories evolved over the years. The early faculty relied heavily on overhead projectors,

Admittedly, despite these efforts by Dean Coffman to have Nursing integrated into the rest of the University, the interviewed faculty acknowledged that some on campus weren’t even aware of the nursing program. In terms of nursing’s acceptance on campus, they also noted that nursing brought in a lot of women faculty, making it hard to differentiate between issues of being a woman versus being a nurse on a university campus. As one of them indicated, she would say something in a University meeting and be ignored; whereas a male faculty person from another department would state the same thing and be told, “good idea.”

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## Nursing Building 50th Anniversary (continued)

slides, and movie projectors (they had to thread the films into the projectors themselves). A few depended on chalk and blackboards, but most preferred the overhead projectors. Unlike today, the skills laboratory had only a limited number of manikins and not many training models. Faculty were responsible for setting up the space, checking out equipment lent to students, includ-

and print indices for the latest literature.

Following the original construction, several changes have occurred to the building structure, most notably being the completion of a west side addition in 1985. This addition provided more office spaces (it had gotten to the point where faculty were once again sharing

gess lived in Katharine Thomas Hall for about a month when she initially arrived in Eau Claire, until she bought a house in the area; and Dr. Wendt stayed in the Hall while she interviewed for a faculty position. Nursing is expected to have space in the Science and Health Sciences Building for a simulation center.



Nursing Building, in the present, showing the west side addition completed in 1985, and the removal of the front step and ramp following the construction of the new Davies Center in 2012.

ing blood pressure cuffs and community health bags, and ensuring the equipment was properly calibrated. Today we are fortunate to have the assistance of directors and coordinators for our Clinical Learning Center in Eau Claire and in Marshfield.

When computers became available, interested faculty initially had to purchase their own. The arrival of the test scoring service on campus to electronically correct exams was lauded as a wondrous event in their lives. Hooray for bubble sheets and number 2 pencils! Dr. Wendt also appreciated the electronic library databases that by the 1990s took the place of searching through the old library card catalog

offices), clinic exam rooms, a student lounge, the Learning Resource Center (LRC), a computer laboratory, small classrooms, and seminar rooms with teleconferencing equipment. Since the late 1980s, multiple remodeling projects have occurred as three distance education classrooms were created, along with multiple simulation rooms.

More changes are expected in the coming years as construction begins on a new Science and Health Sciences Building to replace L. E. Phillips Science Hall (contingent on funding for phases 1 and 2 of the project), to be located in the footprints of Katherine Putnam Hall and Katharine Thomas Hall. As an interesting aside, Ms. Bur-

contact the UW-Eau Claire Foundation (<https://foundation.uwec.edu/>) for information regarding the process to name the Building after Dean Coffman or others.

Nevertheless, regardless of where it is located or what a building is called, Nursing “is not a building” as Dr. Kisting Sparks pointed out. We are looking forward to many more years of Nursing being a strong part of the excellence of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated at the Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk on October 12, 2019. Hope to see you there! ■

With marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nursing Building, it was noted that unlike most other buildings on campus, it does not have a “name.” Efforts have been made over the years without success to name the Building, for instance, the Marguerite Coffman School of Nursing. Interested alumni are welcome to



## The Future Looks Bright and Simulated

As we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nursing Building, we are enjoying recalling how much has changed over the years as we went from simple practice labs with Mrs. Chase manikins to sophisticated simulation rooms with computerized human patient simulators. Numerous remodels have occurred within the original skills lab itself as well as to other former room spaces that were transformed into new simulation areas. The latest renovation was completed in 2018 when a former small classroom attached to our skills laboratory was converted to a simulation suite. We are now referring to our skills laboratory and simulation spaces in Eau Claire and in Marshfield as our Clinical Learning Center at each site.

In Eau Claire we currently have four simulated hospital rooms with two attached audiovisual control booths and combination nursing stations/debriefing centers. Additionally, there is a maternal/infant care lab, a pediatric care lab, and 20 hospital bed spaces in ward-like rooms. We also have eight clinic rooms set up with two-way mirrors and microphones that enable instructors to see, hear, and communicate with students.

All four of the hospital simulation suites, the maternal/infant and pediatric labs, and three of the clinic rooms have audiovisual equipment to enable recording of the simulations, as well as some live viewing in the Eau Claire and Marshfield classrooms of the activities, and in some cases, even at partner community agencies.

In Marshfield our Clinical Learning Center has four clinic-type rooms and six hospital bed spaces. Audiovisual equipment enables live viewing in both the Marshfield and Eau Claire classrooms. Recording capabilities are possible in three of the simulation rooms.

Technologies have certainly advanced over the years in terms of the types of equipment expected within modern educational practice laboratories. Since our

early days of static low fidelity (not very realistic or life-like) manikins like Mrs. Chase, our manikin purchases have become much more sophisticated. In Eau Claire we have multiple high-fidelity human patient simulators such as SimMan 3G, as well as medium and lower fidelity manikins. The high-fidelity

lower fidelity multicultural adult manikins. Generous donor, federal, and University of Wisconsin-System funding has enabled these purchases.

Of course, all of these simulators are enhanced by the talented acting voices of the faculty and instructors who direct

and manage the skills and simulation laboratories including Dr. Meg Lagunas, Director of the Clinical Learning Center, Dr. Gunnar Larson, Associate Director of the Clinical Learning Center in Eau Claire, and Ms. Vickie Zietlow, the coordinator of the Clinical Learning Center at the Marshfield Site. Ms. Nita Johnson, who retired in 2017, also was a mainstay in providing the sophisticated scenarios. Besides running the simulations, they and the faculty have been key to facilitating these learning opportunities by carefully guiding the stu-



Dr. Meg Lagunas leading a debriefing session with three undergraduate students as they review their performance from a simulation scenario.

manikins enable students to listen to lung, heart, and abdominal sounds, palpate pulses, assess pupils, feel and observe diaphoresis, see cyanosis, etc.

Additional simulators assist students with more specialized populations, including infant and pediatric simulators, multicultural adult manikins, and a birthing simulator. In Marshfield we have a high-fidelity human patient simulator, a birthing simulator, as well as several mid-to-

dents through pre-briefing and debriefing sessions before and following the simulations, thereby enabling students to prepare for and reflect on their performances in a safe environment. Faculty have been impressed with the depth of the student learning during the debriefing sessions, particularly as the students



Dr. Gunnar Larson operating the equipment from a control booth for one of the simulation rooms.

## The Future Looks Bright and Simulated (continued)

engage each other (see photo of students debriefing with Dr. Lagunas).

The nursing faculty and simulation coordinators do their best to provide similar educational experiences for students at the Marshfield Site and Eau Claire campus locations. Dr. Lagunas stressed that as we grow the use of simulation in the curriculum, she and the other coordinators and faculty are committed to ensuring that by this fall, the students at the Marshfield Site will receive in Marshfield “*EVERY* formal simulation” also done by the students in Eau Claire. We are invested in growing the faculty and personnel in Eau Claire and Marshfield in the pedagogy of simulation.

Some type of simulation is used in each of our traditional undergraduate

nursing program semesters. The simulations are not meant to detract from real-life experiences and patient and staff interactions at clinical sites. Rather, they enable students to practice scenarios prior to experiencing them at the clinical sites and ensure

real live birth (believe it or not, a rather unpredictable event!).

Next fall, besides taking part in a two-hour obstetric simulation scenario in which they care for a woman in labor, *all* first semester senior students will



Second semester senior students practicing skills in the Clinical Learning Center in Eau Claire with Ms. Anna Rickman, Clinical Instructor.

participation in experiences that tend to be unavailable for students. For instance, birthing simulations are used to prepare students in advance of seeing the experience in the clinical setting and accommodate those who may have missed participating in a

participate in caring for a 5-year-old with a subdural hematoma. As Ms. Zietlow noted, students are seeing great value in simulation and are asking for more simulation opportunities, including early in their program. Simulations are a “vital part of preparing students for their clinical experience,” according to Ms. Zietlow. Dr. Lagunas further added that the simulations provide for consistent and safe student learning opportunities that otherwise are often not available in our communities.



Simulations also have been used to manage snow days that couldn't be made up at the clinical facilities. Plus, they have helped students missing some on-site clinical due to illness and injury. (Besides contending with a particularly brutal and snowy winter, we swear we had a record number of students with broken bones this past year!) Regardless of whether students do some clinical hours in the simulation labs or all at the clinical sites, course faculty carefully assess that students are meeting the objectives expected in the clinical courses.

Ms. Vickie Zietlow with students at the Clinical Learning Center in Marshfield.



## The Future Looks Bright and Simulated (continued)

The simulations tend to progress developmentally from those suitable for beginning students to the more advanced scenarios for students preparing for graduation. The simulations are used for both formative assessments to provide students with helpful feedback on their performance and summative evaluations to assess competency. For instance, the sophomore nursing students are introduced to simulations with high-fidelity manikins to evaluate their ability to take vital signs and perform head to toe assessments. They also participate in interview/communication simulations that we continue to build on throughout the program.

On the other hand, the second semester senior students take part in a cardiac unfolding or evolving simulation scenario in which they care for a woman as she presents in the emergency department

with chest pain and then follow her through her hospitalization and to the point of discharge home. Some of the simulations involve the high-fidelity manikins whereas others utilize faculty volunteers who role play various patients and characters in the scenarios. (Please note, we frequently are looking for emeriti and alumni volunteers to help—just let us know if you are interested in an opportunity to practice your thespian skills.)

In addition to the use of simulations in the clinical laboratories, Dr. Lagunas is thrilled to see faculty embracing modified simulations in the classrooms. They have used the birthing manikins to deliver babies *live* during class and likewise the infant manikins have been valuable for demonstrating respiratory assessments.

Aspects of simulation have been part of various graduate courses over the years, ranging from role playing scenarios involving families to histories and physicals of adult individuals, to the use of

high-fidelity manikins and virtual simulation. The role-playing simulations tended to involve families with children and individuals who volunteered to participate in the scenarios. Standardized patients also have been hired for some aspects of physical assessment practice. The nurse practitioner students in the doctoral program especially heavily use the clinic rooms as part of their physical assessment course.

Moreover, audiovisual equipment has been used to stream demonstrations of procedures and physical assessments



DNP student practicing physical assessment skills in one of the clinic rooms in Eau Claire.

The students have benefited from the ability of the cameras to zoom in on particularly delicate procedures.

For the nurse practitioner students, we additionally are exploring increasing the use of audiovisual equipment to record student performance to assist with reviewing clinician/patient practice and interaction. Likewise, experience working with undergraduate nursing students in the Clinical Learning Center also has become a vital part of the pedagogy of the master's degree students interested in the nursing education role preparation.

As the use of simulation in classes is increasing, more and more faculty are utilizing the Clinical Learning Center in their research projects and scholarship, including studies in which they are collaborating with undergraduate student researchers. Faculty and student researchers recently presented their work at the Sigma Theta Tau-Delta Phi Chapter Kaleidoscope of Nursing Scholarship Day in May—some topics included devel-

oping professionalism and communication through acute care nursing simulation; and application of the Outcome Present State Testing (OPT) Model across the undergraduate nursing program. Dr. Gunnar Larson is conducting an ongoing study on the use of video for simulation debriefing and has presented preliminary findings at three conferences to date.

We also are excited about simulations being used as part of interprofessional education (IPE). At the Marshfield Site, undergraduate nursing students have participated in scenarios with Marshfield Clinic Health System medical and pharmacy residents. The nursing students and residents found this experience to be valuable and appreciated that the relationships established with the different disciplines during the simulations continued onto the clinical units. The students and residents also engaged in an interprofessional tabletop scenario aimed at improving communication with patients and with the disciplines. In Eau Claire, nursing students have participated in IPE with students from other departments at the University, including social work and kinesiology. Faculty hope to integrate more IPE experiences across the curricula in both Eau Claire and in Marshfield.

As we extend our reach beyond the University, we are making the Clinical Learning Center in Eau Claire available for community groups and organizations. To that end, for instance, Dr. Larson has provided skills training to agencies requesting education and refreshers for community/public health nurses; and Dr. Lagunas and Dr. Larson recently offered obstetric simulation experiences to medical residents from a nearby healthcare agency. They can be contacted for more information for groups interested in health-related simulation training in Eau Claire.

In summary, we are looking forward to a bright future with faculty and staff dedicated to providing excellent learning opportunities for our students and our community. We are further intrigued by the possibility in coming years of moving our Clinical Learning Center to a new Science and Health Sciences Building and are eagerly watching developments.

## Goodbyes and Remembrances

This past year was one of many significant transitions as we said goodbye to a number of our past and present colleagues.

**Dr. Kathryn E. Hoehn Anderson**, Professor in Family Health Nursing, passed away on October 25, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. She was 71 years old.



She had taught in the School of Nursing from 1984 until 2003 when she retired from UW-Eau Claire but continued on with her well-lauded career. She was born in Eau Claire and earned a BSN degree from UW-Madison; three master's degrees in Counseling and Guidance with an emphasis in Mental Health and Chemical Dependency from UW-Stout, in Marriage and Family Therapy from UW-Stout, and in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing from the University of Minnesota; and a PhD in Nursing and Family Science from the University of Minnesota. At the time of her passing she was a Professor of Nursing and Director of the Center for Nursing Scholarship and Research at the School of Nursing-Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia, positions she had held for nine years. Besides UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Anderson also taught at the University of Minnesota, the University of Washington, Miami-Dade College, and the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Within the UW-Eau Claire School of

Nursing, she was recognized in 1995 with the Suzanne Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness. Dr. Anderson was an esteemed and highly recognized international expert in family and psychiatric nursing. She created the *Family Health Systems Approach*, a family nursing theory used in countless textbooks, health departments, and research studies. Dr. Anderson was a founding member of the International Family Nursing Association (IFNA) and received the national Outstanding Educator Award in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing from the American Psychiatric Nursing Association in 2007. Peers noted that through her work with IFNA, including serving as co-chair of the IFNA Family Nursing Practice Committee, her vision, passion, and leadership made it possible for family nurses from different regions of the world to work together to generate new evidence and approaches for improving family nursing practice. Dr. Anderson was dedicated to improving the care of vulnerable families.

**Ms. Roberta Joyce Bowdish**, a former nursing instructor, taught for two years in our undergraduate nursing program from 1972-1974. She passed away on April 9, 2019 at the age of 72, in Des Moines, Iowa. She had retired as a geriatric nurse practitioner in 2012, after more than 45 years of experience in nursing. Ms. Bowdish was



originally from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She earned a diploma in nursing at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park, IL, completed a BSN degree at the University of Iowa, and received a master's degree in nursing and geriatric nurse practitioner certificate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Besides teaching at UW-Eau Claire, she taught graduate nursing students at the University of Arizona. Additionally, she performed in various nursing roles in Iowa at the Veterans Administration Hospital, University of Iowa Hospitals, and the Visiting Nurse Association; served as a geriatric specialist in the Iowa Department of Public Health and as a clinical manager in the United Healthcare EverCare Program; and provided care for older adults at the Sierra Vista VA Outpatient Clinic in Sierra Vista, AZ.

**Ms. Karen Danielson**, Associate Professor in Family Health Nursing, passed away at age 80 on August 27, 2018 in San Antonio, Florida, where she had been staying with her granddaughter and great-granddaughter. Ms. Dan-



ielson began teaching with the School of Nursing in 1972 and retired in 2001, after many long years dedicated to a legacy of promoting and upholding the success and quality of the nursing program. She originally was from Amery, Wisconsin and had lived with her husband in Eau Claire for the past 46 years. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Gustavus Adol-



## Goodbyes and Remembrances (continued)

phus College in Minnesota in 1960 and a Master of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1972. While at UW-Eau Claire, Ms. Danielson was a kind mentor to countless students and faculty as she guided them in achieving the high standards she held for them as nurses and educators. She assisted faculty in realizing and valuing the importance of excellence in teaching and the privileged honor of being able to work with students. She was recognized with multiple awards within the School of Nursing, including the Ihle Family Award for Caring in 1997 and the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction in 2000. She promoted a strong nursing program as she selflessly chaired nursing curricular committees for numerous years. Ms. Danielson was an aspirational role model for excellence.

**Ms. Sally (Seeker) Feeny**, former Assistant Professor and Chair of the Psychiatric Nursing Department of the School of Nursing, passed away on April 12, 2019 at the age of 88, in Wyoming where she had been living near family. Ms. Feeny was born in Jefferson City, Missouri and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Iowa and a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the

University of Missouri. She lived for a number of years in Eau Claire where



she raised five children, in addition to teaching psychiatric nursing at the School of Nursing from 1971 until 1984. Ms. Feeny later resided for 26 years in Nova Scotia, where she eventually retired as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist.

**Dr. Cynthia (Cindy) Chapek**, Clinical Assistant Professor, returned to clinical practice, after teaching with us for seven years, from September 2012 through May 2019. She taught in both the undergraduate and graduate nurs-

ing programs, while also working part-time as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the UW-Eau Claire Student Health Service. She is an alumna of our DNP and MSN programs. Additionally, Dr.



Chapek had been active with the University Senate and served on the Chippewa Valley Immunization Coalition. She will continue to work in Student Health Service.

**Ms. Lisa Blochwitz**, Academic Department Associate, worked with us briefly at the Marshfield Site in 2018, from January through August, before returning to the Madison area. ■

## Welcomes

Although we said goodbye to several individuals this past year, we were pleased to greet many new faculty and staff members. In August 2018 we welcomed **Dr. Ann Aschenbrenner**, Assistant Professor. She received a PhD and MSN degree from Marquette University and had been a clinical associate professor and Master of Nursing Program Director at the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing. Dr. Aschenbrenner is primarily teaching in the undergraduate nursing program.

**Dr. Theresa Dachel**, Assistant Professor, joined us in January 2019. She received DNP and master's degrees from UW-Madison and is an alumna of

our undergraduate nursing program. She had been a Clinical Assistant Professor at UW-Madison in addition to working as a Nurse Practitioner in Madison. Dr. Dachel earned the rank of Captain in the United States Air Force. She is teaching in the graduate program and also practices as a nurse practitioner at the UW-Eau Claire Student Health Service.

Besides the new tenure track faculty, in August 2018 a number of instructional academic staff joined us for the first time, including **Dr. Kelley Gaedtke-Farber**, Clinical Assistant Professor at the Eau Claire campus, and **Ms. Julie Knetter**, Clinical In-

structor at the Marshfield Site. Others began teaching with us in Spring, 2019 including, **Ms. Sarah Conlin**, Clinical Instructor, **Dr. Sara Hungerholt**, Clinical Assistant Professor, and **Dr. Emma Stoflet**, Adjunct Clinical Instructor.

Greetings were also extended to **Ms. Kari Vanden Busch** who joined our College as the Academic Department Associate at the Marshfield Site in November 2018.

In August 2019, we will be welcoming **Ms. Stephany Andres**, Clinical Instructor at the Marshfield Site. ■

# Honors, Recognitions, and Awards

We are proud of the excellence demonstrated by the students, faculty, and staff in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as by our alumni. Highlights of several who were recognized this past year include:

Four faculty and instructional academic staff members were honored with awards from the College in August 2018 at the start of the 2018-2019 academic year. **Dr. Robin Beeman** received the Ihle Family Award for Caring; **Dr. Der-Fa Lu** the Suzanne Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness; **Dr. Lisa Schiller** and **Ms. Suzanne Voros** the Patricia M. Ostmoie Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction; **Dr. Pamela Guthman** the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award; and **Dr. Norah Airth-Kindree** the Sue Peck Holism and Integrative Therapies Service Award.

Also at the August College meeting, Assistant Professor **Dr. Amanda Seeley** received the Mary C. and Fred Bliss Endowment for Nursing Faculty Profes-

scholarship development for pre-tenured faculty, assisting them in building their portfolios for tenure and promotion. The funding can be used to support research studies including faculty-student collaborative research, manuscript development, professional travel for presentations, and other types of scholarly activities. We were treated to a visit by the Blisses in May.

A few promotions also were announced in August, including **Ms. Linda Sargent** and **Dr. Lorraine Smith** to Clinical Assistant Professor; and Associate Professor **Dr. Der-Fa Lu** received tenure. Following the retirement of Dr. Rita Sperstad in May 2018, Associate Professor **Dr. Arin VanWormer** was named the Traditional Undergraduate Program Director.

Assistant Professor **Dr. Diane Marcyjanik** and undergraduate student **Ms. Heidi Pardon** will be receiving a Gritzmacher Science Education Fellowship for the 2019-2020 academic year for their project, *Vaping: A New Public Health Safety Concern*. The award includes a student stipend, faculty mentor award, and a small budget for travel and supplies. Ms. Christine Gritzmacher is a UW-Eau Claire College of Arts and Sciences alumna who established a science education fellowship for students to be trained by faculty/staff in performing science outreach activities. The fellowship has existed for several years; however, Ms. Gritzmacher asked that this opportunity also be made available to nursing students and faculty on a rotating basis. With Dr. Marcyjanik's guidance, Ms. Pardon will develop an evidence-based educational presentation for a culturally diverse community on the effects of vaping, juuling, and e-cigarettes. Possible presentation venues include middle and high schools, as well as a poster for the Kaleidoscope of Nursing Scholarship Day in May.

**Ms. Kristin Brunsell**, who graduated with a BSN degree from UW-Eau Claire

in December 2018, received a Wisconsin Nurses Association Future Nursing Leader Award at the UW-Eau Claire Nursing Convocation (pinning) ceremony held in December. She intends to pursue a PhD in Nursing with a focus on health policy.



Ms. Kristin Brunsell with Ms. Gina Dennik-Champion

**Mr. Michael Jaeb**, who graduated with a BSN degree in May 2019, also was the recipient of a Wisconsin Nurses Association Future Nursing Leader Award at the May Nursing Convocation. Mr. Jaeb's goals are to earn a PhD in Nursing and become a nurse educator and researcher. Both awards were presented to the graduates by Ms. Gina Dennik-Champion, the



Ms. Gina Dennik-Champion with Mr. Michael Jaeb



Dr. Amanda Seeley

sional Development award for junior faculty for her research project entitled, *Care Coordination Interventions and Outcomes for Children with Medical Complexity*. The project is a continuation of her collaborative nursing research work between UW-Eau Claire and a Midwest children's hospital. Dr. Seeley is investigating best practices for care coordination for children with medical complexity and their families. The purpose of the award is to facilitate the



## Honors, Recognitions, and Awards (continued)

Executive Director of the Wisconsin Nurses Association (see photos). The awards include one-year free memberships to the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Wisconsin Nurses Association.

**Two MSN students and 21 DNP students** presented their projects on the MSN Scholarly Project and DNP Project Presentation Day held in the Nursing

Building on May 8, 2019. A celebratory reception was held following the event. The DNP projects are nursing practice projects in phenomena of interest that serve as the culmination of the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. Through the projects, students demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability in the design, delivery, and evaluation of evidence-based practice to im-

prove healthcare outcomes for the phenomena of interest. The MSN Scholarly Projects serve as the culmination of the research thread in the nursing master's degree program. The projects focus on participation in research and research utilization and may be implemented through proposal development, synthesis of research literature, data collection, data analysis, dissemination, or research utilization projects. ■

### You are Invited—Nursing Alumni Reception on August 21, 2019, Marshfield Clinic Laird Center, in Marshfield

Please plan to attend the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Nursing Alumni Reception on **August 21, 2019**. All Nursing Alumni and current and past faculty and staff are welcome! Come and reunite and connect with BSN, MSN, and DNP Nursing alumni from the Eau Claire and Marshfield sites, as well as current and former faculty and staff, and student representatives from the Marshfield Site Eau Claire Student Nurses Association (ECSNA).

The event will take place from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at the Marshfield Clinic Laird Center in Marshfield, WI, with the reception occurring in the Erdman Lobby. Please join us for a short program, hors d'oeuvres, and door prizes. RSVPs are kindly appreciated by August 12, 2019 at this link: <https://connect.uwec.edu/events/20190821-nursing-alumni-reception-marshfield-area>. The event is free with parking available outside of the Laird Center (no permit is required). If you have questions, please contact the Alumni Office by e-mailing [alumni@uwec.edu](mailto:alumni@uwec.edu) or calling 715-836-3266. The Laird Center is located at 1000 N. Oak Avenue, Marshfield, WI.

### Special Thanks to Clinical Agencies, Preceptors, and Donors

We extend our gratitude to the many health care agencies and individuals and preceptors at those agencies for the wide array of rich clinical and mentorship opportunities they have provided for our undergraduate and graduate students.

We also appreciate our many donors who funded scholarships for our students, provided funds for our simulation laboratories, enabled clinical and classroom offerings in Eau Claire and Marshfield as well as faculty development opportunities, helped sponsor our Sigma Theta Tau-Delta Phi Chapter Kaleidoscope of Nursing Scholarship Day, or supported our general Nursing Advancement Fund.

Additionally, the time many of you have given serving on committees and advisory boards, participating as "patients" in our simulations, or otherwise volunteering for or assisting the College are deserving of praise and recognition.

We would not be able to offer our programs without this continued support. Thank you!

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## 2018 Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk Highlights

We were pleased to see about 55 people of all ages at our 2018 Nursing Alumni Walk held during Homecoming on Saturday morning, October 6<sup>th</sup>. We had at least one representative from the very first few classes, those being alumni from 1968 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary), 1969, and 1970. Other classes included individuals from 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1996, 2002, and 2004, in addition to several future classes. Multiple individuals came from the classes of 1975 and 1993 (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary), as well as the class of 1974 which again was well represented this year (see their photo below).

Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler, an alumna of our undergraduate nursing program and Pro-

had been Garfield Avenue—a few attendees even lit some of the fire pits along the mall, near Putnam Park. Mr. Adrian Pehler led a particularly hearty small group of walkers to upper campus to show them where a new dormitory is being built (opening August 2019). Ms. Cathy Berry, Clinical Assistant Professor emerita, came with her family and quite the assortment of nursing buttons she had

Health System—Eau Claire, Milwaukee Burger Company, Oak Leaf Surgical Hospital, Royal Credit Union, Saint Joseph's Hospital Chippewa Falls, Sodexo Dining Services, UW-Eau Claire Activities, Involvement & Leadership, UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association, UW-Eau Claire Bookstore, UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences, UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education, UW-Eau



Claire Foundation, UW-Eau Claire Student Nurses Association, Xcel Energy, and Dean Linda Young. Thank you

collected over the past thirty-plus years. Attendees were invited to help themselves to the collection, which proved to be quite popular.

also to everyone for attending and to the many students, alumni, faculty, and staff who helped set up for and assisted with the walk, including cleaning up at the end. It takes a team!!



Members of the class of 1974 with Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks (middle)

fessor and Director of Evaluation (pictured in the large group photo back row with the Blugold flag), along with her husband Adrian (business alumnus, to the right of Dr. Pehler in the photo), led one group of walkers. Dr. Diane Marczyjanik, Assistant Professor and MSN alumna (pictured in the front row with the Blugold scarf), toured another group.

A highlight this year was being able to walk on the new pedestrian mall which

Although hard to see under all the coats and sweatshirts (it was a bit chilly outside), many of the attendees wore the blue nursing alumni walk T-shirts generously designed and donated by Dove Healthcare. We are thankful for their support!

In addition to our appreciation of Dove Healthcare, we are grateful to the numerous individuals and organizations who

donated door prizes, including Acoustic Café, Ms. Catherine Berry, Eau Claire Express Baseball, Famous Dave's, Festival Foods, Impact Advertising, Ms. Nicole Lauffer and Essence for Health, May's Floral Garden Inc., Mayo Clinic

Please plan to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> annual walk on Saturday, October 12, 2019. The year 2019 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Nursing Building which was completed in 1969. Once again, we are fortunate to have Dove Healthcare – West Eau Claire, Dove Healthcare – South Eau Claire, and Dove Healthcare – Wisconsin Health & Regional Vent Center sponsoring the T-shirts. ■



# Please Register for the 2019 Nursing Alumni Walk— October 12, 2019

Please join us for our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk on **Saturday, October 12, 2019**. We will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Nursing Building.

The Nursing Walk will start at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Nursing Building (with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m.). The walk will be a rather short one across and around campus and will conclude in the Nursing Building where we will enjoy a breakfast. With the breakfast we will provide an update regarding recent events at the College and University and draw names for door prizes. Interested attendees are invited to tour the building and simulation laboratories following the breakfast. We plan on finishing before 10:00 a.m. so that people may attend the Homecoming Parade.

For a fourth year in a row, as a special treat, **Dove Healthcare—West Eau Claire, Dove Healthcare—South Eau Claire, and Dove Healthcare—Wissota**

**Health & Regional Vent Center are providing the T-shirts:** All attendees who register for the walk will receive a free blue UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences T-shirt.



**To guarantee T-shirt orders, please pre-register by September 30<sup>th</sup> using the attached form (see page 15),**



also available at <http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/>.

While completing the registration form, please consider making an additional donation to help us build

up our Nursing Advancement Fund. Monies from this fund are used to defray the costs of the breakfast and to support student and faculty initiatives, special projects, and immediate needs not covered by the University's budget.

More information about the University's homecoming activities can be found at the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association web site at <http://www.uwec.edu/alumni/> or by contacting the Alumni Office at 715-836-3266 or [alumni@uwec.edu](mailto:alumni@uwec.edu).

While you are at the Alumni Association web site, be sure to **update** the University and College of Nursing and Health Sciences with **your contact information** and any news you would like to share.

Please do not forget to **pre-register** for the walk **by September 30<sup>th</sup>** to guarantee T-shirt orders. We hope to see you at the walk and if you are unable to attend we appreciate your support and hope you will come visit your alma mater soon!!

## Homecoming and Nursing Walk Schedule of Events—October 12th

7:30 a.m.	Registration begins at the Nursing Building, Lobby area
8:00 a.m.	Walk (around and across campus)
8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast at the Nursing Building, Rooms 119/119A
9:00 a.m.	College of Nursing and Health Sciences Update
9:15 a.m.	Door Prizes
9:45 a.m.	Tours of the Nursing Building and Simulation Laboratories
10:00 a.m.	Homecoming Parade, starting on 1st Avenue (just past Lake Street)
1:00 p.m.	UW-Eau Claire Blugolds vs. UW-River Falls Football Game at Carson Park

**Registration Form on page 15 and at this website:**

<https://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/>

**Please return forms by September 30<sup>th</sup> to guarantee T-shirt orders.**



Please detach and **mail** with check by **September 30th** to:

College of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Attn: Nursing Alumni Walk, Rm 103  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
105 Garfield Avenue, P.O. Box 4004  
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004



## Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Other Name as Student (e.g., maiden) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Check if:

☐ Alum ☐ Emeritus Faculty ☐ Faculty/Staff ☐ Friend of Nursing ☐ Family ☐ Student

The following family/friends plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Adult T-shirt size: ☐ Small; ☐ Medium; ☐ Large; ☐ XLarge; ☐ XXL Large; ☐ XXX Large

<b>Breakfast and Walk Registration (T-shirts complimentary courtesy of Dove Healthcare)</b>	<b>Number Attending</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>Suggested donations:</b> Adults = \$20.00 (\$25.00 if register on day of walk)		\$
Emeriti faculty/staff, Students, & Children ≥ 12 years = \$15.00 (\$20.00 if register on day of walk)		\$
<b>Nursing T-Shirts</b> (courtesy of <b>Dove Healthcare</b> ; please indicate sizes above & below; one T-Shirt per registrant—must attend to receive complimentary)	<b>Number of T-Shirts &amp; sizes</b>	
Adult sizes		
Adult sizes		
Not attending, but would like T-shirt mailed or purchasing extra T-shirts at \$25.00 each (purchases are not considered donations)		\$
<b>Additional Donation</b>		
	<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>	\$

Make **check payable** to the **UW-Eau Claire Foundation** and indicate the “Nursing Advancement Fund” in the memo line.

**\*T-shirts are guaranteed to those who pre-register by September 30th**

Questions: E-mail [nursing@uwec.edu](mailto:nursing@uwec.edu) or call 715-836-5837.

Form also at: <http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/>

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**Eau Claire**

**Nursing Alumni Newsletter**  
*and*  
**Nursing Walk Registration Form**

***July 2019***

***Nursing Walk October 12, 2019***

