

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

School of Nursing

Alumni Newsletter



September 2003

Greetings from the Associate Dean

It's hard to believe another school year is upon us. Where does the time go? It seems only yesterday we were planning the 2002 Homecoming Walk and here it is time for another gathering. I hope many of you will be able to join us again (or for the first time) at the Homecoming Walk. This year we plan to honor graduates from the classes of 1968, 1973, 1978 who are celebrating their 35th, 30th, and 25th anniversaries. Let me take this opportunity to update you on what has happened since I talked with you last fall.

I am pleased to share that the nursing major continues to be one of the most popular majors at UW-Eau Claire. Prenursing admissions to the university are at an all time high. It is apparent that the word of the nursing shortage is out and many persons seek the opportunity for a career in nursing. Because of resource constraints we are able to admit 40 students each semester at the Eau Claire site and 24 students annually at the Marshfield site.

Enrollments in the Collaborative Nursing Program (CNP) continue to grow. One of our goals is to increase the enrollments in the CNP. Our student service coordinator will be providing outreach to Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC) and regional clinical agencies in an effort to increase enrollments in that program.

Last year the graduate faculty completed a curriculum redesign. The changes will involve additional clinical experiences in many of the course offerings.

We are proud of our faculty accomplishments. Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. CeCelia Zorn was honored as the CA Professor of the Year for the state of Wisconsin. Faculty continue to serve as mentors for students in collaborative research projects. Dr. Kathy Anderson and Dr. Rose Jadack and other student research collaborators received awards for their poster presentations at UW-Eau Claire Student Research Day.

One of our continuing projects is developing the skills laboratory into a Clinical Simulation Laboratory. Last fall we received a significant contribution to the Foundation from Jane and Jim '73 and her husband, Jim, allowing us to purchase SIM Man, a patient simulator. Faculty and students have had the opportunity to practice clinical skills and clinical decision making using the new patient simulator. We are all excited to continue to develop opportunities to enhance our learning resources. Thank you again to Jane and Jim for your assistance in our educational endeavors.

We are always happy to have our alumni stop in for a visit. This past summer we had alumni visit us from Singapore--Cheryl Puls, and from Japan--Cheryl Lynn Brandt. I am so proud to have the opportunity to share all the exciting things that are happening here.

Please keep in touch with the School of Nursing.



2002 School of Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk a “Rainy” Success

The weather may not have cooperated last October, but that didn't quell the spirits of the many alumni, family members, emeriti and current faculty members, and students who came for the 2nd Annual School of Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk. More than 86 people attended the 2002 walk and another 82 alumni were unable to attend but ordered T-shirts. The turnout far exceeded our expectations (You may have heard about our 1st Walk in which only 5 of us made the trek.). We were glad to see that the rain did not stop people from participating. In preparation for the 2003 walk, Sister Joel Jacobi has been given the special assignment of praying for good weather.



UW-Eau Claire and the War in Iraq

This has been a rather difficult year for the country and for students and faculty at UW-Eau Claire. A number of pre-nursing students were placed on active duty during the war and many have now returned; other pre-nursing and nursing students have been on alert and are awaiting orders for active duty. One of our newer faculty members, Ms. Rhonda White, was called up for active duty last Spring and has been stationed with her Army Reserve unit, first in Georgia and now in Kuwait. We hope for the safe return of all involved. We are saddened by the loss of a family member of one of our graduate students who was killed in Iraq in July. Our condolences go to the many families who have experienced losses.

Faculty Honors

Two outstanding School of Nursing faculty members were recognized this past year for their exceptional work and accomplishments. Dr. CeCelia Zorn, a professor in the Nursing Systems department, was named the 2002 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Wisconsin Professor of the Year. Dr. Zorn has been profiled in a number of publications, including the Third Quarter 2003 issue of *Reflections on Nursing Leadership*, from Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, professor and chair of the Nursing Systems department, was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. This is considered to be nursing's highest honor and is reflective of her achievements in gerontological nursing practice and education.

A Step Back in Time

Much has changed over the years in nursing, including the wearing of the nurse's cap. The UW-Eau Claire School of Nursing cap was designed by Nancy Fugate Woods, a member of the first graduating class in 1968. The following is an excerpt taken from a 1987 School of Nursing Student Handbook regarding the care of the cap (which was optional by that time):

The caps must be stiffened with a very heavy starch mixture. They may be soaked in the starch and, while wet, smoothed onto a very smooth, flat surface (such as a refrigerator door) to dry; or they may be ironed. The half-inch royal blue velvet ribbon is attached about one inch from the outer edge, using K-Y lubricant jelly as paste, which is readily available from drug stores.



Does this bring back memories for some of you? We'd love to hear about your experiences and stories from your days as students and nurses. For your information, a limited number of original School of Nursing caps will be available at the walk for donations to the School of Nursing Advancement Fund, UW-Eau Claire Foundation.

A Step into the Future

Numerous requests have come your way for donations to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation's "Fulfilling the Promise of Excellence" capital campaign. We are quite appreciative of your generosity, as the donations help us to move forward. We would particularly like to acknowledge the generous contributions of Jane and James Moore and the Saint Joseph's Hospital Foundation. Jane (Weber) Moore, a 1973 School of Nursing graduate, and her husband, James, have made a \$40,000 gift to support the renovation and technological update of the School of Nursing simulation laboratory. (Another \$10,000 was designated to fund purchases for the gymnastics program.) This money has been used to purchase a Laerdal SimMan Universal Patient Simulator that faculty are learning to incorporate into their teaching. Additional purchases will include a CathSim Intravenous Training System and a Noelle maternal and neonatal birthing simulator. Saint Joseph's Hospital Foundation has purchased a SimMan and Noelle simulator for use by the students at our Marshfield Site.

When contributing to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, you may designate specific departments and programs on campus. Indicating the "Nursing Advancement Fund" in the memo lines of your checks ensures that the monies will be reserved for School of Nursing program initiatives and students.

Sigma Theta Tau-Delta Phi Chapter Activities

The Delta Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International has many activities in the planning stages for the 2003-2004 year. Events currently on the calendar include: Welcome Back Pizza Party—September 11th in Eau Claire and September 12th in Marshfield; Alzheimer Association Memory Walk at Carson Park--September 20th in Eau Claire; and the Fall Business Meeting on October 16th.

The Delta Phi Chapter recently approved a new Board position. The Leadership Intern position welcomes a student member who accepts the duties of learning about the leadership opportunities and growing in leadership potential in our chapter. The Leadership Intern also attends an international Sigma Theta Tau event with the support of the chapter—either the Leadership Academy or the Biennium Convention. Our first Leadership Interns are Amy Fish and Melyssa Heintz; both are second semester senior nursing students.

The Sigma Theta Tau, International 37th Biennial Convention will be held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada November 1-5. The Delta Phi Chapter will be represented at the convention by 5 active members.

Alumni Office: Willing and Able

Thinking about organizing a class reunion? Let the Alumni Office be of help. They assist in planning alumni activities of all kinds—residence hall gatherings, class reunions, and even receptions in cities, towns, and places of business where alumni live and work. The staff at the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Office can help with mailings, scheduling events, and processing reservations. For assistance, please contact John Bachmeier, Director of Alumni Relations, at UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association, 216 Schofield Hall, 105 Garfield Avenue, P.O. Box 4004, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004; phone: 715-836-3266; fax: 715-836-4375; e-mail: alumni@uwec.edu. More information about the Alumni Association can be found at the following web address: <http://www.uwec.edu/Alumni>.

Also let the School of Nursing know if we can be of any assistance in your class reunion activities. We can provide School of Nursing representatives and tours of the building. We are interested in hearing about any plans you may have. Information can be directed to Dr. Elaine Wendt, Associate Dean and Educational Administrator, School of Nursing, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 105 Garfield Avenue, P.O. Box 4004, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004; Phone: 715-836-5287; e-mail: wendtle@uwec.edu. More information about the School of Nursing is available at the following web address: <http://www.uwec.edu/nurs>.

Stay Involved in School of Nursing Activities

In the future, we would like to bring alumni and friends together again for other events. We also hope to continue a School of Nursing alumni newsletter—it has been many years since the last publication. If you are interested in becoming involved with various School of Nursing alumni planning/work committees, or if you have questions or stories to share, please contact Dr. Debra Jansen at the School of Nursing (class of '89) at 715-836-5183 or Jansenda@uwec.edu.

Let us Hear From You

We like to hear about School of Nursing alumni. Be sure to keep the School of Nursing and University updated with your current contact information and any news you would like to share. News can be posted on the Alumni Association web site <http://www.uwec.edu/Alumni>. The School of Nursing, however, would like to hear from you directly also (715-836-5287; <http://www.uwec.edu/nurs>).