

University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire Nursing Alumni Newsletter

Greetings from the Dean

College of Nursing and
Health Sciences (CONHS)



Greetings Nursing Alumni and Friends of the Nursing Program.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will read about some of the many happenings at our College

over the past year. Additionally, we are using this newsletter to invite you to our annual **Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk** scheduled for **Saturday, September 29th, 2012**. Please come to enjoy the camaraderie of the walk and the many other activities planned for the UW-Eau Claire Homecoming weekend.

I cannot believe it has been one year since I began my journey as Dean of the CONHS at UW-Eau Claire. It has been a time of exploring, connecting, learning, and leading with the support of our outstanding faculty and staff. I have some exciting news to share with you and hope you can join us in our celebration.

Last fall, we received full CCNE reaccreditation of our BSN and Master's programs and full accreditation of our DNP program reflecting our commitment to excellence in nursing educa-

tion. We graduated our first class of 15 post-master's DNP students and admitted our first cohort to the post-baccalaureate DNP program, with 26 students to start classes this fall, 2012.

We had a record number of graduates, 38, from our MSN program as we transition it to the post-baccalaureate DNP program for the nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, and nurse administrator role preparations. We continue to admit students to the MSN program who are interested in the nurse educator role preparation track. One hundred and nine students graduated from our traditional BSN program in Eau Claire and in Marshfield in 2011-2012. Regarding our BSN Completion program, we had a record number of students graduate this academic year (40 graduates in 2011-2012). Eighteen students graduated from our accelerated program in spring. We unfortunately had to put the accelerated program on hold for this coming year as a result of limited human and financial resources.

We continue to use simulation in our undergraduate courses and have increased its use in our graduate programs. The addition of two new simulation rooms and a laboratory classroom has been welcomed by all. Students frequently request the use of even more simulation experiences in

their classes.

This July, Dr. Debra Jansen began her role as our Associate Dean for the CONHS. After a national search, we are delighted that she accepted the position. Dr. Jansen serviced as Interim Associate Dean and Professor this past academic year.

And finally, we have been busy with an undergraduate curriculum revision and have worked as a college to identify focus areas and strategies for turning our college vision into reality.

For more news and information regarding our programs, please check out our Nursing website: www.uwec.edu/CONHS and College news page:

www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news.

Alumni, if you have news you would like to share, please contact Dr. Debra Jansen at jansenda@uwec.edu or 715-836-5183.

We hope that you will be able to attend the Nursing Alumni Walk on September 29th and that you always feel welcome to stop in for a visit or e-mail us at nursing@uwec.edu. We hope to see or hear from you soon.

Linda K. Young, PhD, RN, CNE, CFLE
Dean, Professor

Become a Lifetime Blugold

The Alumni Association offers Lifetime Blugold benefits to all UW-Eau Claire graduates. As a Lifetime Blugold, you will have access to UW-Eau Claire's MyBlugold Web site — which allows you to access your academic record, make online transcript requests, and view and maintain your address and phone information.

Please see the following web site for more information and to sign up: <http://www.uwec.edu/alumni/benefits/lifetime.htm>

First Doctoral Class Graduates from UW-Eau Claire

On May 19, 2012, one by one, fifteen nurses stood proudly on the stage in Zorn Arena as they were hooded and received the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. These pioneering nurse graduates earned the first doctoral degrees ever awarded by UW-Eau Claire. They had been admitted to our post-master's DNP program; 12 attended classes part-time over a two-year period that included summer sessions; and 3 of the graduates attended classes full-time over a one-year period. Their courses were offered via a combination of online technologies and in-class immersion days. The graduates' previous master's degrees were in the areas of advanced clinical practice (nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) or nursing administration and their prior work experiences varied widely, ranging from a few years to thirty or more years.

As part of the DNP degree requirements, each of the graduates completed a capstone project. For these projects, the graduates identified problems or issues in the health care arena and utilized the research literature to determine possible interventions or actions. They then took on leadership roles to develop, carry out, and evaluate projects aimed at producing change or quality outcomes related to the initial problems and issues they identified. They presented their projects to nursing graduate faculty, students, and clinical agency administration and staff.

The following is a listing of the Capstone Projects completed by the DNP graduates:

Engaging Staff Nurses in Improving Patient Care through Transformational Leadership, Dr. Josephine Arriola.

Moving Toward Best Practice Guidelines in the Care of Intellectually Disabled Persons with Epilepsy, Dr. Theresa Stovern Buckley.

Pediatric Sedation in a Community Setting: Acknowledging a Need for



Change and Moving Forward, Dr. Jill Hecker Fernandes.

Reducing Risk of Cardiovascular Disease through Community Education, Dr. Marlene Filipiak.

Implication of Provider Education on Improving Antibiotic Use in the Management of Pediatric Acute Upper Respiratory Infections in Rural Health, Dr. Stacey Gusman.

Evaluation of an Educational Program on Adolescent Abstinence and Contraception during a Well-Child Examination at a Family Health Clinic, Dr. Crystal Harn.

An Investigation of Utilization and Feasibility: The Post-Discharge Car Seat Challenge, Dr. Rachael Haupt-Harrington.

A Clinical Approach to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Epidemic: Creating Policy and Process for Prescribing Medications of Potential Abuse, Dr. Paula Hensel.

Reducing Nosocomial Pressure Ulcers in the Operating Room Using a Silicone Self-Adherent Foam Dressing, Dr. Laura Kenney.

Introducing Evidence Based Practice in a Long Term Care Facility, Dr. Debra Knapp.

Reasons Adult Patients at an Urban Hospital Use the Emergency Department Rather Than Primary Care for Non-urgent Complaints, Dr. Joni Kowitzke.

Functional Needs Support Services and Disaster Sheltering: Developing a Manual for Nurses, Dr. June McLachlan.

Effects of an Evidenced-Based Practice Intervention on Real Time Documentation with Registered Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants, Dr. Kathryn Olson.

Transitional Care: A New Case Management Strategy for Patients with Chronic Critical Illness Syndrome, Dr. Kimberly Radtke.

Adolescent Transition: Implementing Best Practice, Dr. Laura Rohowetz.

Note: A 16th student is expected to graduate later in 2012. Photo above by B. Hoepner.

The graduates of the DNP program will be serving the region, state, and nation in new and innovative ways, enhancing the quality of care for the patients they serve. The changes they already have begun in their health care agencies and the roles they will take on in the future will truly be transformative. We are proud of these pioneering nurses!! Way to go, Nursing!!!

The Meeting of Past, Present, and Future Nursing Leadership

On December 14, 2011, the post-master's DNP students were treated to a lunch and discussion about leadership with a panel comprised of past and present UW-Eau Claire School of Nursing and College of Nursing and Health Sciences nurse administrators. The event occurred during one of the on-campus immersion days for NRS 821 DNP Seminar & Practicum I, co-taught by Dr. Susan Moch and Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher. The students participated at both our Eau Claire campus and from the Marshfield Site at Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital, due to December weather concerns that interfered with travel to Eau Claire.



Pictured above: Associate Dean Emerita Marjorie Bottoms, Associate Dean Emerita Rita Kisting Sparks, Dean Emerita Elaine Wendt, former Interim Dean and current Graduate Nursing Programs Director Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher, and Dean Linda Young, standing in front of the nursing dean gallery of portraits in the Nursing Building, December 2011.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree is a clinical doctorate designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in the areas of advanced clinical practice (nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) or nursing administration. In 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) recommended that the level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice roles be moved from the master's degree to the doctorate level by 2015. In keeping with the AACN *Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing*, the last class of MSN students seeking nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or nursing administration role preparations was admitted for the summer of 2011. The first class of 26 post-baccalaureate DNP students was admitted for the Fall of 2012. The College of Nursing and Health Sciences continues to admit students interested in the nursing education role preparation to the MSN program.



Pictured Right: The past and present deans, along with Dr. Susan Moch (turquoise top), and the post-master's DNP students both in Eau Claire and in Marshfield (on the screen).

Full Accreditation by CCNE

In early December we received notification from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) that all of our nursing undergraduate and graduate programs are fully accredited by CCNE. The reaccreditation for the baccalaureate and master's programs is for the maximum limit of 10 years, through December 31, 2021. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program also received full initial accreditation through December 31, 2016. Consistent with CCNE's policy, any new program pursuing initial accreditation, as was the case with our DNP program, is eligible for a maximum term of accreditation of up to 5 years. CCNE determined

that our undergraduate and graduate programs met all four accreditation standards, which related to program mission and governance, institutional commitment and resources, curriculum and teaching-learning practices, and aggregate student and faculty outcomes. They also determined that there were no compliance concerns. The accreditation of the BSN, MSN, and DNP pro-

grams is through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 887-6791.

We extend our thanks to the students, alumni, and community agencies who supported us during the accreditation process. Preparing for accreditation is an intensive process involving years of work to prepare a self-study report and a visit by CCNE. We additionally are appreciative of the clinical agencies who participated in the site visit, which occurred April 18-20, 2011.



Best Wishes for . . .

We said goodbye to several members of our College who retired from the University this past year and moved on to other positions.

Dr. Sheila Smith, Assistant Dean for Evaluation and Strategic Initiatives and Professor Emerita, retired in July 2012 after 23 years of service to the University. She is now living in Elizabethton, Tennessee as she has accepted an associate dean position at East Tennessee State University, College of Nursing. As they settle in, she and her



husband have been enjoying the beautiful Tennessee views and hiking the Appalachian Trail. While at UW-Eau Claire, in addition to her teaching and administrative responsibilities, including being Director of Evaluation for the nursing programs, Dr. Smith also worked as an Adult Nurse Practitioner at Student Health Services and was a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation site visitor and team leader. Prior to her Assistant Dean position, she had been the Adult Health Nursing Department Chair and interim department chair for the Department of Public Health Professions. She received numerous recognitions over the years, including, for example, the Lifetime of Distinguished Feminist Service Award from the UW-Eau Claire Women's Studies Program, the Western Region National Ski Patrol Critical Care Recognition Award, Sigma Theta Tau Delta Phi Chapter Leadership Awards, and the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Excellence in Clinical Instruction.

Ms. Lori Waltonen, Clinical Instructor, retired in January 2012 from the

University to work in clinical practice on a pain management resource team and also a wound/ostomy care resource team. This is in addition to managing her brood of Golden Retrievers (see the picture below with Diva after earning the TDX



[Tracking Dog Excellent] title). Ms. Waltonen taught at our Marshfield Site for 11 years and was appreciated for her genuine caring dedication to the students. In recognition of her commitment to the students, along with her clinical and teaching expertise, both in the skills laboratory and classroom,

as well as on the hospital units, she was awarded the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Faculty & Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction in 2010. She received the Ihle Family Award for Caring in 2007. Ms. Waltonen previously had worked as a nurse practitioner, school nurse, nurse consultant, and hospital and clinic nurse.

Ms. Barbara Davis, Clinical Instructor, retired this May after 11 years of teaching at UW-Eau Claire and is now living in Rosebud, South Dakota where she is working as a community health nurse for Rosebud Indian Health Service Public Health Department. Ms. Davis began teaching as a clinical instructor at UW-Eau Claire in August 2001 and also was an adviser for our pre-nursing students, for which she received an award. She served on the University Senate, along with being a member of multiple community advisory committees and coalitions. Ms. Davis was particularly appreciated for teaching numerous clinical groups of UW-Eau Claire junior nursing students participating in cultural immersion experiences at the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, since 2005. Over the years, Ms. Davis worked as a



Public Health Nurse, a home care and hospice nurse, labor and delivery nurse, a public health manager and health services manager, and a

director of a maternal child health nursing department of an area hospital. She hopes to continue her relationship with UW-Eau Claire and our students by possibly serving as a mentor or preceptor for our students participating in the Rosebud clinical immersion experience.

Additionally, **Dr. Cara Gallegos**, Assistant Professor at our Marshfield Site, will be leaving this August for a clinical position in Boise, Idaho.

All are missed and we wish them much happiness. We invite everyone to keep in touch with us.

. . . and Warm Welcomes

Several people joined our College in August 2011, including **Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler**, Associate Professor; **Ms. Debra Hofmann**, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site; **Ms. Catherine (Kitty) Kromrie**, Clinical Instructor; **Ms. Melissa Weise**, Clinical Instructor; and **Ms. Lois Slattery**, Senior Media and Technology Specialist. **Ms. Donna Shellenberger**, Clinical Instructor, joined us later in the year. **Dr. Rachael Haupt-Harrington** had been teaching with us at our Marshfield Site as a Clinical Instructor but will come back this fall as an Assistant Professor, after earning her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at UW-Eau Claire!! Another clinical instructor who has completed her doctorate at UW-Eau Claire is **Dr. Jill Hecker Fernandes**. We also are welcoming **Dr. Genevieve Thul**, Assistant Professor, who will begin teaching with us in fall.

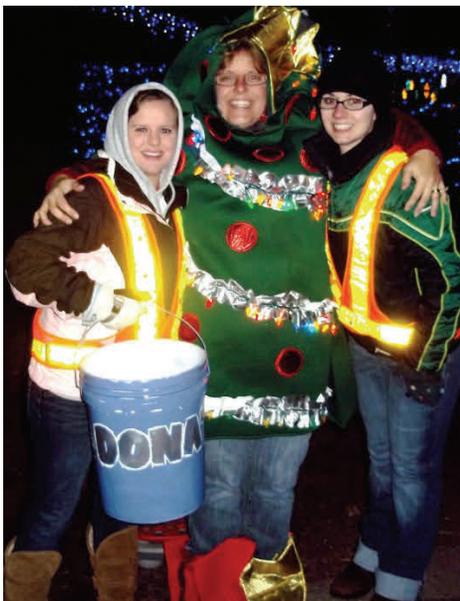
Honors and Recognitions

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

Five faculty and instructional academic staff members were honored with awards from the College at the start of the 2011-2012 academic year. **Dr. Rita Sperstad** and **Dr. Susan Peck** received the Ihle Family Award for Caring; **Ms. Melissa Boellaard** the Patricia M. Ostmo Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction; **Dr. Rachel Merkel** the Suzanne Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness; and **Dr. Charlotte Sortedahl** the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award.

The **Eau Claire Student Nurses Association (ECSNA)** and **Ms. Gail Hanson Brenner** (Clinical Instructor and ECSNA advisor) received the I Am Proud to be a Nurse award from the Nurses Association of Botswana. The award was in recognition of their work on a campaign to improve the image of nursing in Botswana.

The **Eau Claire Student Nurses Association-Marshfield Site** was recognized with the Best Community Health Project Award in February at the 2012 Wisconsin Student Nurses' Association Convention in Wisconsin Dells. The students in at-



Above from left: Randi Erdman, Suzanne Voros (Clin. Instr.), & Lana Maki collecting donations at the Rotary Winter Wonderland, Marshfield.

tendance at the convention, Randi Erdman, April Weiler, Brittany Boney, Kay Wiedenbeck, and Tony Crisafulli, wrote about the efforts of the students at the Marshfield Site in collecting food for the Rotary Club in Marshfield.

Ms. Kelsey Lewandowski, a first semester senior nursing student, was elected as the Nominations Director for the 2012-2013 Wisconsin Student Nurses' Association Board of Directors.



Pictured above: Ms. Gail Hanson Brenner along with members of the Eau Claire Student Nurses Association at the 2012 Wisconsin Student Nurses' Association Convention in Wisconsin Dells.

Four undergraduate students at the Marshfield Site, **Brittany Boney**, **Randi Erdman**, **Tonya Gabriel**, and **April Weiler**, with the support of their faculty mentor, **Dr. Cara Gallegos**, had the honor of presenting on "Underage Binge Drinking: Effects and Programs to Reduce Prevalence" at the second annual Provost's Honors Symposium held on May 4, 2012 at UW-Eau Claire.

Ms. Deb K. Martin, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site, was named a section editor of "Author Mentoring" for Air Medical Journal.

Dr. Cheryl Brandt, **Dr. Rachael Haupt-Harrington**, **Ms. Victoria Lieske**, **Dr. Susan Moch**, and **Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher** received the Concern for Adults Returning to Education (CARE) recognition awards from the UW-Eau Claire Nontraditional Students Services Office.

The Delta Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau presented awards in April to **Dr. Cheryl Brandt** (Leadership); **Ms. Barbara Davis** (Service to Rosebud); **Dr. Lisa Schiller** (Excellence in Clinical Practice); and **Dr. CeCelia Zorn** (Excellence in Mentoring).

Dr. Sheila Smith was awarded the Lifetime Distinguished Feminist Service Award from the UW-Eau Claire Women's Studies Department for her work with Women's Studies over the past 22 years.

Ms. Catherine Berry was promoted from Clinical Instructor to Clinical Assistant Professor in August 2011.

Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler was named the Nursing Programs Director of Evaluation/Assessment in our College and **Dr. Rita Sperstad** was named the Department of Nursing Coordinator of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). These two positions recently were created following the retirement of Dr. Sheila Smith, who served as Assistant Dean for Evaluation and Strategic Initiatives. Dr. Pehler and Dr. Sperstad will be receiving partial reassignments of their teaching responsibilities so that they can accomplish their new charges.

Dr. Mary Canales, Associate Professor of Nursing, along with Dr. David Jones from the Department of English, will serve as the UW-Eau Claire Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Fellows. As a fellow, Dr. Canales will work with various departments across campus, the University Senate, and University administration to identify and promote best practices to advance EDI initiatives.



Above from left: Brittany Boney, Tonya Gabriel, Randi Erdman, April Weiler, & Dr. Cara Gallegos. Provost's Honors Symposium.

Selected Nursing Faculty and Instructional Academic Staff Publications and Presentations

- Beeman, R. Y., & Henderson, C. J.** (2012). Videoconferencing technology brings a homebound middle grades student to the classroom. *Middle School Journal*, 26-33.
- Boellaard, M., Johnson, N., Brandt, C. L., & Zorn, C.** (2011, July). *Fast & furious: Scaffolding simulation in a second-degree accelerated BSN program*. Poster presented at the Centennial AHEC Nurse Educator Conference, CO.
- Brandt, C., Boellaard, M., & Zorn, C.** (2011). The faculty experience: Thriving in the midst of intensity while pursuing excellence. In L. Zhan & L. Finch (Eds.), *Accelerated education in nursing: Challenges, strategies, and future directions*. New York: Springer.
- Cady, R., Finkelstein, S., Lindgren, B., Robiner, W., Lindquist, R., **VanWormer, A.**, & Harrington, H. (2010). Exploring the translational impact of a home telemonitoring intervention using time-motion study. *Telemedicine Journal and E-Health*, 16, 576-584.
- Canales, M. K., Weiner, D., Samos, M., & Wampler, N. S.** (2011). Multi-generational perspectives on health, cancer, and biomedicine: Northeastern Native American perspectives shaped by mistrust. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 22(3), 894-911.
- Canales, M. K., Weiner, D., & Spindler, T.** (2010). Strength & courage: The development of a Native American cancer survivor archive. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 21(3), 815-822.
- Craft-Rosenberg, M., & **Pehler, S. R.** (Eds.). (2011). *Encyclopedia of family health* (Vols. 1 & 2). Los Angeles: Sage.
- Cronje, R. J., & **Moch, S. D.** (2010). Part III. Reenvisioning undergraduate nursing students as opinion leaders to diffuse evidence-based practice in clinical settings. *Journal of Professional Nursing*, 26, 23-28.
- Friedrich, L.A., Prasun, M.A., Henderson, L., & **Taft, L.** (2011). Being a seasoned nurse in active practice. *Journal of Nursing Management*, 19, 897-905.
- Guthman, P., & German-Olson, K.** (2012, June). *Collaborating for creative curriculum design: Improved Public Health Nurse (PHN) student field experiences*. Presentation at the ACHNE 2012 Annual Institute, Portland, OR.
- Jansen, D. A., Berry, C., Hanson Brenner, G., Johnson, N., & Larson, G.** (2010). A collaborative project to influence nursing faculty interest in simulation. *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, 6, e223-e229.
- Jansen, D. A., Druga, S. M., & Sauve, J. L.** (2011). The meaning of variety for community-dwelling elders. *Activities, Adaptation & Aging*, 35, 223-240.
- Judd, A., & **Stombaugh, A.** (2012, March). *Comfort level of nursing students with basic nursing skills*. Poster presented for the National Conference of Undergraduate Research, Ogden, UT.
- Kirkhorn, L. E., Berry, C., Wieseman, L., Nerison, R., & Meerwald, A.** (2011). Nín hảo (Hello), China! *Nurse Practitioner World News*, 16 (11/12), 10-12.
- Kirkhorn, L. E., Grady, E., Hayes, K., Legare, J., Schilling, B., Van Sistine, A., & Zais, S.** (2010). Family NP students care for homeless persons in Washington, DC. *Nurse Practitioner World News*, 15(5-6), 19-20.
- Kirst, J., & **Peck, S.** (2010). Older adult relocation: Considerations for nurse practitioners. *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 6(3), 206-211.
- Lapp, C.** (2012). Clinical immersion in family nursing practice in Lac du Flambeau. In M. De Chesnay & B. Anderson (Eds.), *Caring for the vulnerable* (3rd ed.). Jones & Bartlett Learning.
- Lindquist, R., **VanWormer, A.**, Lindgren, B., Harrington, K., Robiner, W., & Finkelstein, S. (2011). Time-motion analysis of research nurse activities in a lung transplant home monitoring study. *Progress in Transplantation*, 21, 190+.

Selected Nursing Faculty and Instructional Academic Staff Publications and Presentations (cont.)

- Marcyjanik, D., & Zorn, C. R.** (2011). Accessibility in online nursing education for persons with disability. *Nurse Educator, 36*, 241-245.
- Merkel, R., & Wright, T.** (2012). Parental self-efficacy and online support among parents of children diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. *Pediatric Nursing, 38*(3).
- Moch, S. D.,** Harper, R., Thyssen, B., Philipps, R., & Coughlin, T. (2012, June). *Teaching evidence-based practice through academic-service collaboration: A three year evaluation.* Presentation for the National League for Nursing-Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Education Research Conference, Indianapolis, IN.
- German-Olson, K., Guthman, P.,** Ringhand, T., Nash, M., Bailey, M., Armour, T., Odden, D., **Moch S.D,** Buchholz, M., Morris, K., Lindberg, S., & **Maddox, K.** (2012, May). *E-LEAP: Public Health Nursing LEAPing to excellence: "The fruits of collaboration."* Poster Presentation for the WPHA-WALHDAB Annual Conference, Wisconsin Dells.
- Guthman, P.,** Lochen, K., **Moch, S. D.,** Morris, K., Ringhand, T., & Giese, L. (2011, October). *LEAPing with collaboration: Evidence-based public health practice through undergraduate students, regional offices, & local health agencies.* Presentation at 2nd International Public Health Nursing Conference, St. Paul.
- Kolis, M.W., Stow, R., Krusack, E., **Stombaugh, A., & Hanson Brenner, G.** (2011, October). *Transforming the academy through learning cycle lesson plans.* Presentation for ISSOTL, Milwaukee, WI.
- Peck, S., & Meise-Grochowski, R.** (2011). Diagnosis and management of celiac disease in adults. *Clinical Advisor*, March.
- Rantz, M. J., Alexander, G., Galambos, C., Flesner, M. K., Vogelsmeier, A., Hicks, L., Scott-Cawiezell, J., **Zwygart-Stauffacher, M.,** & Greenwald, L. (2011). The use of bedside electronic medical record to improve quality of care in nursing facilities: A qualitative analysis. *CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing, 29*(3), 149-156.
- Rantz, M. J., **Zwygart-Stauffacher, M.,** Hicks, L., Mehr, D., Flesner, M., Petroski, G. F., Madsen, R. W., & Scott-Cawiezell, J. (2012). Randomized multilevel intervention to improve outcomes of residents in nursing homes in need of improvement. *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association, 13*, 60-68.
- Schiller, L. F.** (2011). *Patterns and predictors of personal protective equipment use among a cohort of Wisconsin Farmers.* Presentation for the Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum Annual Conference, Des Moines, IA.
- Schiller, L. F.,** Donham, K., Anderson, T., Dingledein, D. M., & Strebel, R. R. (2010). Incorporating occupational health interventions in a community based preventive health program for farm families: A qualitative study. *Journal of Agromedicine, 15*.
- Smith, S.K., Hecker-Fernandes, J., Zorn, C.R., & Duffy, L.** (2012, April). *Precepting and mentoring needs of nursing faculty & clinical instructors: Fostering career development and community.* Poster for UWEC S'TT Research Day.
- Smith, S.K.,** Turell, S., Jagusch, S., Mercer, L., & Liffrig, E. (2010, November). *LGBT healthcare needs and concerns.* Poster presentation for the AACN Baccalaureate Nursing Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Sortedahl, C.** (2012). Effect of online journal club on evidence-based practice knowledge, intent, and utilization in school nurses. *Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing, 117-125*.
- Stombaugh, A., & Judd, A.** (2012, April). *Does nursing assistant certification increase comfort levels in nursing school?* Poster presented for the Nurse Educator Institute, Branson, MO.
- Wendler, M. C., Samuelson, S., **Taft, L., & Eldridge, K.** (2011). Reflecting on research: Sharpening nurses' focus through engaged learning. *The Journal of Continuing Education, 42*(11), 487-495.
- Young, L. K.** (2012, March). *Health care without borders.* Poster presented at the UW-Madison Global Health Institute Global Health Symposium, Madison, WI.

Migrant Farms Clinical Immersion

For the past three terms, first semester senior nursing students have had the opportunity to participate in a clinical immersion experience aimed at promoting the health of Mexican and local rural farm workers in Buffalo, Dunn, and Pepin counties. Dr. Susan Peck, Professor, Department of Nursing, Dr. Lisa Schiller, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing, and Ms. Dale Omtvedt-Gable, Instructor, Department of Foreign Languages, received funding through a UW-Eau Claire Domestic Intercultural Immersion Experience grant to provide this learning opportunity for the students.

As part of their clinical experience, the nursing students visited about 10 farms where migrant workers from Mexico are employed in western Wisconsin. Planning was done in conjunction with Jennifer Rombalski, RN, Director of the Buffalo County Public Health Department and UW-Eau Claire alumna. Under the supervision of the faculty, they offered health screenings and care, education regarding health and farm safety, and administered immunizations. The students provided the care in Spanish with the help of a translator (Shaun Judge Duvall) as needed, although all of the students were proficient in conversational and medical Spanish, having minors in Spanish for the Health Professions.

In preparation for the clinical, the students developed health screening and teaching materials in English and then translated them into Spanish. Dr. Peck

also arranged for a trip to the Mexican Consulate in St. Paul. The consul provided an overview of the supports the Mexican government provides for immigrants, such as education and health care. Dr. Peck and Dr. Schiller are working with the consul and a local clinic to develop services for migrants, funded through the Consulate.



Above: Shannon Carufel and Jenna Earley performing cholesterol testing.

Besides benefiting the workers, the clinical immersion experience enhanced the Spanish language skills of the students and their knowledge of the Mexican culture and history. Laura Holt, a senior who participated this past spring semester, added that "it also taught me a lot about cultural competence. This clinical is a win-win for everyone involved." Moreover, the students gained greater recognition of the

challenges the Mexican people face in this country and the importance of civic duty. Natalie Nicholas, a member of the first cohort of students participating in this clinical experience, observed that witnessing the working conditions opened her eyes to the hardships that migrant and rural workers face in accessing basic health care. "This clinical helped me to realize that diversity is not just a difference in language, but that location and occupation also impact diversity."

One of the other student participants, Carissa Volbrecht, felt the experience confirmed her desire "to reach out to my community and underserved populations." She found the workers to be "overjoyed and incredibly thankful to have students reach out to them in their native language, and I felt that what we did for them truly made a difference." Ms. Volbrecht hopes this clinical experience continues to be offered to future students "so that they may be impacted as well." Ms. Nicholas echoed that sentiment, "As this clinical option offers diversity right in our region and inspires student nurses to consider positions in public and preventative health settings, I hope it continues to receive funding."

The faculty have funding to offer this clinical immersion experience through the 2012-2013 academic year. Further economic support is needed to continue to offer these or similar cultural immersion experiences for more of our undergraduate and graduate students.



From left: Natalie Nicholas, Carissa Volbrecht, Dr. Susan Peck, Jennifer Rombalski, and Dale Omtvedt-Gable.

Senior students at one of the farms, Fall 2011. Front row: Jessica Miller & Brianna Larson. Back row: Ann Henry, Elise Ritter, Katie Osieczanek, Julia Cox, & Sarah Pitts.

Other Cultural Clinical Immersion Experiences

In addition to the migrant farms clinical immersion experience, our nursing faculty and instructors have been engaging students in numerous other cultural clinical opportunities for many years now. For example, this past year, graduate nursing students completed clinical hours with a family population focus at the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation in northern Wisconsin with Dr. Cheryl Lapp; and a couple of undergraduate students in the accelerated program for second degree students took part in community health activities with the Ho-Chunk Nation with Ms. Karen Maddox. Dr. Lapp also participated in a two-week immersion experience with BSN Completion students working with Hmong/Southeast Asian, Latino, African American, and Armenian populations in Fresno, California. Under-

graduate nursing students in our traditional program engaged in a junior level clinical with Dr. Rita Sperstad and Dr. Jill Hecker Fernandes at the Holy Family Birth Center in Weslaco Texas, near the border of Mexico. Ms. Barbara Davis and Ms. Diane Marcyjanik supervised undergraduate nursing students at the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota; and Dr. Jill Hecker Fernandes and Dr. Angela Stombaugh also worked with senior nursing students at Children's Hospital and Clinics in Minneapolis, where the students encountered diverse populations.

Many of the undergraduate student activities have been assisted by Blugold Commitment funds, student-supported differential tuition monies intended for academic programs that add value to the

Blugold degree through, for instance, collaborative undergraduate research, international and multicultural study, and internships. These clinical immersion experiences are in keeping with UW-Eau Claire's "Transforming Our Future" Centennial Plan, the University's strategic plan, which includes the goal of increasing accessible and affordable intercultural immersion experiences for all students. Through these experiences, the students are supported in attaining the UW-Eau Claire liberal education learning goals of respect for diversity among people, knowledge of human culture and the natural world, individual and social responsibility, integrative learning, as well as effective communication and creative and critical thinking skills.

Highlights from the 2011 Nursing Alumni Walk

Our 11th annual Nursing Alumni Walk, held on Saturday morning, October 8th, was a warm, sunny affair with temperatures in the 70s. No coats or mittens were needed this time! Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich extended greetings, as well as did Provost and Vice Chancellor Patricia Kleine, who also joined us for the walk. Dean Linda Young provided an update regarding the College and introduced Dr. Elaine Wendt, Professor and Dean Emerita of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, for the first awarding of the new Elaine Wendt DNP Nursing Scholarship. Dr. Wendt established the scholarship to assist Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students, particularly those who have a record of supporting the nursing programs in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Ms. Marge Belisle, a family nurse practitioner with the

Stillwater Medical Group—Somerset Clinic, was selected as the recipient. (For the record, Ms. Belisle kicked off her week by going sky diving for the first time!) Associate Dean Emeritus Marjorie Bottoms was present for the Walk, along with Ms. Winnie Fossum, who began teaching with the School of Nursing in 1967. The Walk provided a bit of adventure as people navigated around the construction site of the new Davies Center. That didn't deter the many attendees—78 total, including individuals from the classes of 1969, 1970, 1971, 1975, 1984, 1989, 1992, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2015.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to all those who came and to the many students who helped set up for the walk and made the day run smoothly. The

numerous individuals and organizations who donated door prizes also deserve recognition, including Ms. Catherine Berry, Community Health Partnership, Eau Claire Student Nurses Association, Famous Dave's, Lee's Uniform Center, Mayo Clinic Health System, May's Floral Garden, Milwaukee Burger Company, Oak Leaf Surgical Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital-Chippewa Falls, Sodexo Dining Services, Team Riedel, University Bookstore, UW-Eau Claire Activities, Involvement & Leadership Office, UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association, UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences, UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education, UW-Eau Claire Foundation, and Xcel Energy. Mark your calendars for the next homecoming walk on Saturday, September 29, 2012. See you there! The new Davies Center will be open!!



Posing in front of the Clock Tower on the Campus Mall (photo by L. Slattery).



Walkers on new footbridge crossing the Little Niagara River. The new Davies Center is in the left background.

Please Register for the 2012 Nursing Alumni Walk— September 29, 2012

Please join us for our 12th annual Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk on **Saturday, September 29, 2012**. An official grand opening of the new Davies Center will be held that weekend. 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 the new Davies Center), giving everyone an opportunity to see all that has changed on campus.

We will have a continental breakfast at 8:30 following the walk. With the breakfast, we will provide an update regarding recent events at the College and University and draw names for door prizes. We plan on finishing before 10:00 a.m. so that you may attend the Homecoming Parade.

Newly designed College of Nursing and Health Sciences T-shirts, including youth sizes, are being ordered for the walk. **To guarantee T-shirt orders, please pre-**

register by September 12th using the attached form (see page 11), also available at <http://www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news/nurs/>.

At the same time you are completing the registration form, please consider making a donation to build up our Nursing Advancement Fund. Monies from this fund are used to support student and faculty initiatives, special projects, and immediate needs not covered by the University's budget. Donations also can be made to new and existing scholarships for our students; to assist us in attracting, retaining, and "growing our own" doctorally prepared faculty; and to enhance our teaching facilities and clinical laboratory technology.

While you are here for the walk, please take advantage of the many other University activities scheduled for Homecoming Weekend. The events start on Friday September 28th at 7:00 p.m. in Zorn Arena with the Varsity Night Live show.

On Saturday, the Homecoming Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. on 1st Avenue (just past the Lake Street area). Then watch the 1:00 p.m. UW-Eau Claire Blugolds vs. UW-Stout Blue Devils football game at Carson Park. 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 by telephone at 715-836-3266 or by e-mail at 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 return the **registration form** for the walk by **September 12th** 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—September 29th

7:30 a.m.	Registration begins at the Nursing Building
8:00 a.m.	Walk (around and across campus)
8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast at the Nursing Building
9:00 a.m.	College of Nursing and Health Sciences Update
9:15 a.m.	Door Prizes
10:00 a.m.	Homecoming Parade, starting on 1st Avenue (just past Lake Street)
1:00 p.m.	UW-Eau Claire Blugolds vs. UW-Stout Blue Devils Football Game at Carson Park

Registration Form on page 11. Forms also available at
<http://www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news/nurs/>.

Please return forms by September 12th to guarantee T-shirt orders.

Please detach and mail with check by **September 12th** 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

- I plan to attend the Nursing Alumni Walk. I also would like a T-shirt*.
- I cannot attend the Walk; however, please accept my donation of \$25.00 and send me a T-Shirt.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Other Name as Student (e.g., maiden) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ County _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address: _____ Class of _____

Check if:
 ___Alumnus ___Emeritus Faculty ___Faculty/Staff ___Friend of Nursing ___Family ___Student

Adult T-shirt size: ___Small; ___Medium; ___Large; ___XLarge; ___XXLarge; ___XXXLarge
 Youth T-shirt size: ___Small (6-8); ___Medium (10-12); ___Large (14-16)

The following family/friends plan to attend and also request T-shirts: _____

Total Number Attending _____

Suggested donations*:

Alumni	\$20.00 (\$25.00 if register on day of walk)	
Emeriti Faculty	\$15.00 (\$20.00 if register on day of walk)	
Faculty/Staff	\$20.00 (\$25.00 if register on day of walk)	
Friends and Family	\$20.00 (\$25.00 if register on day of walk)	
Students & Youth	\$15.00 (\$20.00 if register on day of walk)	
Not attending, but would like T-shirt mailed. Please indicate size:	\$25.00	
Additional Donation		
	Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

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

*Note: If accepting a T-shirt, part of the donation may be used to defray T-shirt expenses.

T-shirts are guaranteed to those who pre-register by September 12th.
Registration forms also available at www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news/nurs

Special Thanks to Clinical Agencies and Preceptors!!

We would like to extend our gratitude to the many health care agencies and individuals and preceptors at those agencies for the wide array of rich clinical opportunities they have provided for our students. We would not be able to offer our programs without their continued support.

Thank You!



Hats on Day—Eau Claire Student Nurses Association

The Eau Claire Student Nurses Association (ECSNA) will be hosting a “Hats on Day” on September 24th. During the prior week, the students will be on the UW-Eau Claire campus mall to raise money for the Foundation for Children with Cancer-Jalyn’s Chapter. Members of ECSNA also will be present at the Nursing Alumni Walk to raise additional funds for the foundation. The money raised goes directly to families in Wisconsin to help pay for rent, electricity, hospital expenses, and other daily needs for families dealing with childhood cancer. Although the Foundation for Children with Cancer was originally established in St. Louis, Missouri in 1998, the Wisconsin Chapter has been active since 2010. Please contact Nicole Loeffler (loefflnd@uwec.edu), ESCNA Legislative Vice President, for more information. Both the Eau Claire and Marshfield ECSNA chapters successfully collected donations for Hats on Day/Week last spring.

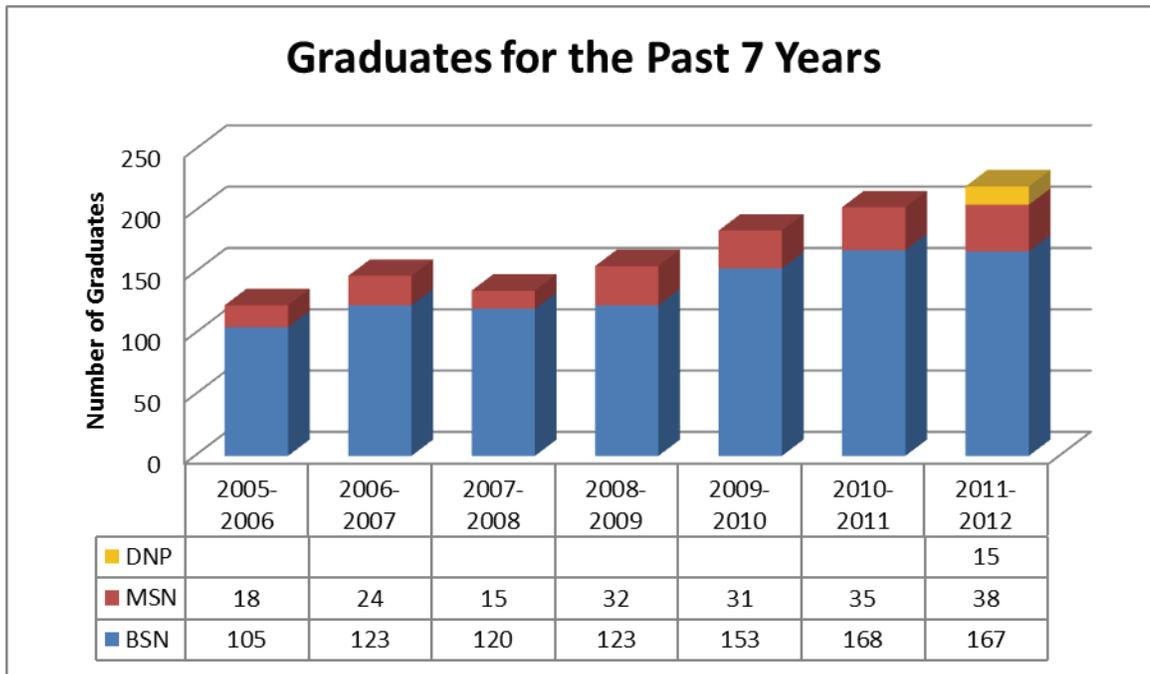
Hat and Chocolate Day in the Nursing Building

With all of the business of the accreditation process, planning curricular revisions for the traditional BSN and BSN completion programs, the transitioning of the MSN program, preparing for the graduation of the first doctoral class, completing assignments prior to spring break, etc., faculty and students were ready to laugh together and enjoy some camaraderie. A Hat and Chocolate Day was held on March 9th. The only requirement for participation was to “wear a red hat or your favorite of any color or style and share chocolate with everyone.” The hats made for some rather interesting classes and meetings that day!!



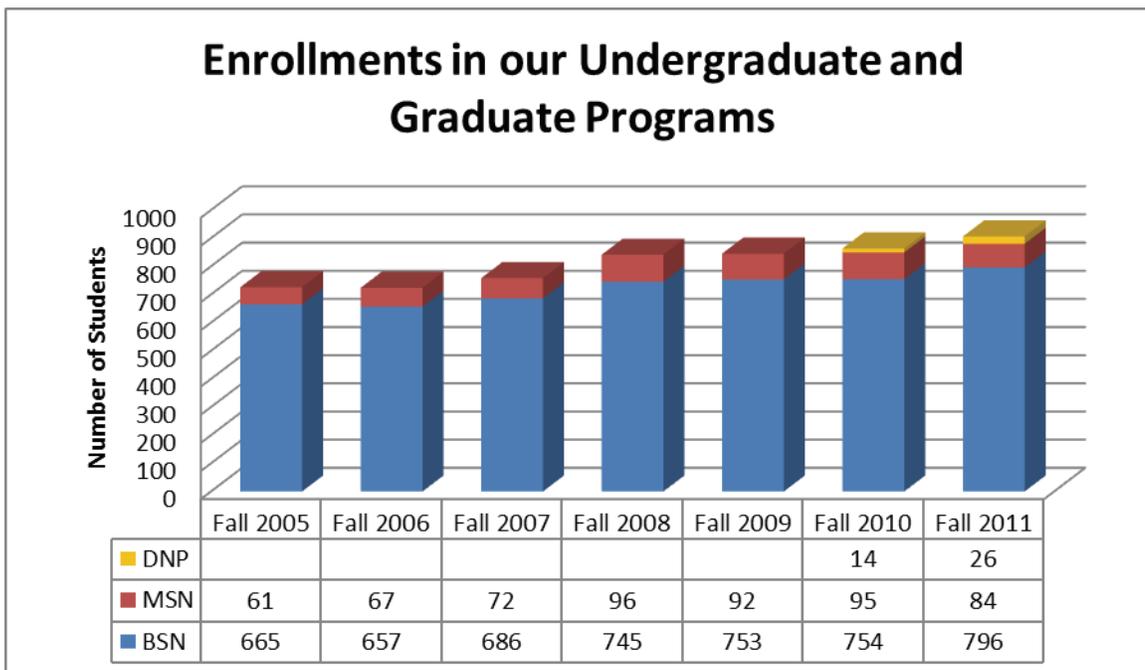
Above: Faculty and staff wrapping up a Friday afternoon of meetings.

Growth in our Undergraduate and Graduate Nursing Programs



The above chart illustrates the increase in the numbers of graduates from our BSN, MSN, and now DNP programs. The escalating enrollments in our BSN Completion Program (Collaborative Nursing Program/ BSN@Home Program for nurses with associate degrees), the expansion of our Marshfield Site, and the offering of our accelerated program for second degree students (on hold for 2012-2013) enabled us to graduate more baccalaureate-prepared nurses. For the graduate program, we saw a steady increase in MSN applicants in recent years and graduated our first post-master's DNP cohort in May 2012.

The chart below illustrates the growing numbers of students enrolled in our undergraduate (includes pre-nursing students) and graduate (MSN and post-master's DNP) programs.



Nursing Needs to Consider

Nursing education is continually changing as health care technologies advance and as we work to prepare nurse leaders to meet the demands of a more globally aware and diverse society. We are persistently working to update our teaching methodologies and skills laboratory equipment to be current with the realities of modern nursing practice and to prepare for the future. We also are taking steps to ensure opportunities for cultural immersion experiences for all of our students.

Your gift to any of the following will help enhance student learning experiences and provide valuable faculty resources.

Multicultural Clinical Experiences:

Support the University's strategic plan to expand experiential, multicultural, and interdisciplinary learning by providing funds to enable nursing experiences with diverse populations in Alaska, at Indian reservations in South Dakota, at a birthing clinic in Texas, and more locally in Wisconsin.



Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Scholarships:

Establish a DNP program scholarship. These graduate students are enhancing their clinical leadership skills as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse administrators to promote quality health outcomes for individuals and communities. Scholarships for students in all of our programs also are appreciated.

Nursing Faculty Scholarship/Named Professorships: Support our ability to enhance faculty development of scholarship, including named professorships.

Skills Laboratory Simulation and Replacement Equipment: Provide needed simulation equipment (e.g., computerized manikins, control room monitors and cameras) as well as replacements of skills laboratory equipment as materials become outdated or nonfunctional.

Electronic Health Record System: Purchase an electronic health record system, complete with simulated patients. Such a system would enable students to practice charting patient cares and assessments, review patient histories and laboratory reports, document medication administration, and engage in quality improvement activities.

To designate a gift, see www.uwec.edu/fndn/giving.htm or call 1-877-625-2473.



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EAU CLAIRE, WI

233-2-331004

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire July 2012

Nursing Alumni Newsletter

and

Nursing Walk Invitation/Registration Form

**Nursing Walk
September 29th, 2012**

**Please register by
September 12th**



D. Jansen