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

This has been an interesting and challenging past year. As you will read in this newsletter, we graduated 17 DNP, 4 MSN, and 173 BSN degree well prepared individuals. Interest in all our nursing programs continues to remain strong. I was proud of the quality of our undergraduate nursing students’ poster presentations at the Provost’s Honors Symposium in May. The seventeen DNP Capstone project presentations that took place in April were well worth attending as they reflected scholarly work that is or has the potential to transform nursing practice.

Our faculty and teaching staff have been busy with teaching, research, advising, and service. Faculty have secured several grants, have published and presented, and have been involved in faculty/student research with undergraduate nursing students. Active learning has been embraced by many of the faculty and instructional staff as they continue to employ best teaching practices. In fact, we read and discussed the book Make it Stick following the College meetings this spring. The first Mary C. and Fred Bliss Endowment for Nursing Faculty Professional Development award was given to Dr. Charlotte Sortedahl in fall of 2014. The second recipient of this prestigious award, presented this past spring, was Dr. Rachael Haupt-Harrington. This award is targeted at tenure track faculty to help with their scholarship/research on their journey to tenure. We also welcomed two new faculty—Dr. Der-Fa Lu and Dr. Mohammad Alasagheirin. We are delighted that they have been part of our College. We also said farewell to seven individuals in our college through retirements or job relocations.

It is my administrative team that I want to honor in this newsletter, however. We knew last summer that the 2014-2015 academic year was going to be a challenge in terms of staffing and covering administrative duties that needed to get done. This was without knowledge of the two budget cuts that occurred. With my administrative team reshuffling work responsibilities and learning new roles, we successfully made it through the year. Can you hear the joy in my heart and sigh of relief? I am very grateful for my administrative team, Dr. Debra Jansen, Dr. Rosemary Jadack, Dr. Robin Beeman, and Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher.

Nurses for Wisconsin, the 3.2 million dollar incentive grant, of which UWEC College of Nursing was lead, came to a close on June 30, 2015. Thirty-eight pre-doctoral fellows, 3 post-doctoral fellows, and 10 loan forgiveness faculty hires were awarded. Two nursing education summits for the recipients occurred this past year, the fall summit taking place on the UWEC campus and the spring summit taking place in the new School of Nursing building at UW Madison. Based on the evaluations, both proved to be great successes. Jan Adams and Dean Emeritus Elaine Wendt were the driving forces for these two-day summits.

It would be remiss of me not to raise the concern of this academic year—the budget. Last fall, our College was faced with the first of two budget cuts. This was followed in January by the news of the proposed state budget which included a 300 million dollar reduction for the 2015-17 biennium. We are awaiting the final figure UW System schools are expected to realize. By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be known and the campus will be in the process of moving forward with the reductions. All I can say at this time is that we were cut to the bone in fall. The consequence to this next reduction is yet unknown but we have no more to cut. I want to thank all of you who have supported the College of Nursing and higher education in general in Wisconsin by contacting your representatives, the Board of Regents, the Governor, and the Joint Finance Committee. It is evident they heard the voices of UW alumni.

Soon all faculty and students will be returning to campus. It is at this time that our classrooms, labs, and offices become fully occupied again and the energy that comes from learning and teaching fills the environment. The added excitement of celebrating our 50th Anniversary as a nursing program is already igniting the joy in anticipating what is to come. I hope all of you will in some way join us in the planned celebration activities. UWEC College of Nursing has a rich and long history of contributing excellent nurses to the workforce and producing nurse leaders for the future. Let’s celebrate together this amazing contribution we have made to society.

Please do not hesitate to stop in and say hello if you are visiting the campus. It has been fun for me to meet our alumni and catch up with what is happening in their professional lives.

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

Come Celebrate our 50th Anniversary—See Page 2

Save These Dates:
October 9: Nursing 50th Anniversary Gala
October 10: Nursing Homecoming Walk and Dedication of our Nursing Hall of Fame
May 6: Nursing Research Day
Celebrating 50 Years of Nursing Excellence

The 2015-2016 academic year will mark the 50th anniversary of the nursing program at UW-Eau Claire. On July 14, 1965, the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing approved the establishment of a School of Nursing at what was then called the Wisconsin State University-Eau Claire, and later renamed the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. In September 1965, the first class of 22 sophomore nursing students was admitted and enrolled in the baccalaureate nursing program. In celebration of our 50th anniversary, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences will be hosting a number of events. We encourage you to please join us for the following:

**Nursing 50th Anniversary Gala** on Friday, October 9, 2015, 5:00-11:00 p.m. at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire. The event will include a reception, banquet, program, a dance and band (the Homegrown Tomatoes), and a silent auction to raise funds to purchase simulation equipment to enhance our clinical teaching laboratory technology.

**Nursing Homecoming Walk and Dedication of our Nursing Hall of Fame** on Saturday, October 10, 2015, 7:30-10:00 a.m. at the Nursing Building. Registration will begin at 7:30, with the walk (around and across campus) starting at 8:00, followed by a dedication of our Nursing Hall of Fame at 8:45 and a breakfast and update regarding our College at 9:00. Tours of the Nursing Building and Simulation Laboratories will be available beginning at 9:45. See pages 14-15 of this newsletter for Nursing Walk registration information.

**Nursing Research Day** on Friday, May 6, 2016 at Davies Center on the UW-Eau Claire campus. The event will be held in conjunction with the Delta Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Patricia Brennan, Lillian S. Moehlman-Bascom Professor of Nursing and Industrial Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Please watch for calls for abstracts for poster and oral presentations—we would love to see more alumni and community member presenters.

Please see this website [http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/](http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/) for more details as they become available and watch your mail and e-mail accounts for invitations. You may register for the Nursing Homecoming Walk and for the Anniversary Gala using this link [https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary](https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary). The Walk registration form for those registering by mail also is included on page 15 of this newsletter.

Please Send Us Your Photos!

In preparation for the 50th anniversary of the nursing program, we are creating photo displays and slideshows from the past 50 years. We would love to be able to represent all decades well, but we have a dearth of photos for some eras—curiously enough, we only have a few pictures from the 1970s. We have the feeling that a lot happened back then that wasn’t captured by our cameras.

Please send us your photos from all years—we will scan them and send them back to you. We will display the photos at the various scheduled 50th anniversary events and will try to make them available online as well. Some photos also may be featured in our 50th Anniversary Gala program booklet.

Photos can be e-mailed or mailed to Dr. Debra Jansen, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, 105 Garfield Avenue, P.O. Box 4004, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004; jansenda@uwec.edu; telephone number for questions: 715-836-5183.
On May 23, 2015, seventeen nurses received the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree through the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Thirteen of these graduates were part of the first cohort of students participating in the post-baccalaureate (BSN-to-DNP) program, while the remaining four graduates previously earned master’s degrees in nursing and had been admitted to our post-master’s (MSN-to-DNP) program.

With the launch of the DNP program in 2010, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences staggered the full implementation of the doctoral program. Students originally were admitted to the post-master’s option only, with the first cohort of MSN-to-DNP students graduating in May of 2012. The first cohort of post-baccalaureate students was admitted in 2012. The BSN-to-DNP program requires three years of study for those participating in the full-time plan; part-time four and five year plans also are utilized. The post-baccalaureate program prepares students to be adult-gerontologic primary care nurse practitioners (NPs), family NPs, adult-gerontologic clinical nurse specialists, or nurse administrators/nurse executives (with an adult-gerontologic or family population focus). The MSN-to-DNP program requires 2 years of part-time study and includes an advanced clinical practice option (for NPs or clinical nurse specialists) and a nurse executive option.

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 evidence-based interventions. They subsequently undertook leadership roles to develop, implement, and evaluate projects aimed at producing change or quality outcomes related to the initial problems and issues they identified.

For instance, Dr. Cassidy Phillips (see photo), one of the BSN-to-DNP graduates, recognized a need for organizations to develop human trafficking response policies. Human trafficking is considered to be a form of modern day slavery that communities are encountering with increasing frequency throughout the United States. The purpose of her project was to implement a domestic human trafficking after-care program for a small organization that serves northwestern Wisconsin victims of domestic and sexual violence. Dr. Phillips engaged six agencies in a coordinated community response (CCR), with each agency addressing specific social programs and domains including domestic and sexual violence, transitional housing, county health and human resources, life skills coaching and counseling, wellness through a hospital based program, and advanced practice nursing. The CCR met to ultimately produce a working aftercare policy to be used by the involved agencies in three different counties.

The DNP graduates presented their projects to nursing faculty and staff, students, clinical agency administration and staff, and family and friends. The following is a listing of the DNP Capstone Projects presented by the graduates on "Capstone Day" on April 29, 2015:

**Post-Baccalaureate DNP Graduates:**

- **Managing Alarm Fatigue in Inpatient Telemetry Units: A Nursing Intervention**, Dr. Jessica Blackford.
- **Cardiovascular Nurse Administered Post-MI Co-Morbid Depression Identification**, Dr. Marcus Burns.
- **Expanding Natural Family Planning Services in West Central Wisconsin**, Dr. Brittany Kadnra.
- **Increasing Advance Directive Awareness and Knowledge in a Rural Community Through an Advance Care Planning Community Event**, Dr. Dezeray Matott.
- **Transforming Cardiac Observation Care**, Dr. Wendy Mattlin.
- **Caring for Adults with Congenital Heart Disease in an Inpatient Adult Telemetry Unit**, Dr. Christie Newman.
- **Implementation of Health Literacy Screening in an Ambulatory Surgical Unit**, Dr. Zachary Noland.
- **Diabetic Self-efficacy in a Rural Mid-west Free Clinic Population**, Dr. Christine Ostendorf.
- **Implementation of Bedside Nurse Shift Report to Enhance Patient Satisfaction**, Dr. Laura Raucl.
- **Feasibility Study on Implementation of Daily Nurse-Provider-Patient Rounding on a Medical-Surgical Inpatient Unit**, Dr. Emilly Rude.
- **Needs Assessment and Development of Culturally Appropriate Information Tool to Address Declining Amish Immunization Rates in a Rural Wisconsin County**, Dr. Kirsten Spooner.
- **Smoking Cessation Quality Improvement Project in a Free Clinic Patient Population**, Dr. Jessica Witt.
- **Post-Master’s DNP Graduates:**
  - **Nurse Management of Pharyngitis and Uncomplicated Urinary Tract Infection at a College Health Service: A Feasibility Pilot Project**, Dr. Cynthia Chapek.
  - **Bringing Technology to the Bedside: Using iPads to Improve Postoperative Communication**, Dr. Pamela Maxson.
  - **Development and Testing of a Nursing Forgiveness Intervention**, Dr. Ann Recine.
  - **Effect of Professional Continuous Glucose Monitor (pCGM) on Alc in Type 2 Diabetes: A Clinical Practice Pilot Project**, Dr. Jodi Strong.

In addition to the DNP program, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. Students are prepared for roles in nursing education or nursing administration/leadership and management. Four individuals graduated with master’s degrees at the May 2015 graduation ceremony. These individuals developed and presented the following Scholarly Projects as part of the MSN degree requirements:

- **Nurses: Leading a Change in a Multidisciplinary Discharge Process**, Ms. Sharon Leppert.
- **Integration of Family in Nursing Care at the Undergraduate Level: A Proposal to the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**, Ms. Maria Stracke.
- **Compassion Fatigue and the Elijah Project**, Ms. Jane Weiler.
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:

Six faculty and instructional academic staff members were honored with awards from the College in August 2014 at the start of the 2014-2015 academic year (see center photo of College faculty/staff and award recipients). Ms. Cathy Berry received the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award; Dr. Norah Airth-Kindree the Suzanne Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness; Ms. Bonnie Solem and Ms. Jeanne Weggel (MSN Class of 1997, Palliative Care Coordinator at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, retired) the Ihle Family Award for Caring; Dr. Jill Hecker Fernandes and Ms. Heather Iverson the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction; and Ms. Donna Shellenger the Susan Peck Holism and Integrative Therapies Service Award.

Ms. Diane Marcyanik was promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor in August 2014.

Major Shaun Westphal (Class of 1997) received the Air Mobility Command and the U.S. Air Force Clinical Excellence in Nursing awards in 2014. He continues to serve in the U.S. Air Force and has been stationed at Pope Field in North Carolina as the Chief of Medical Aircrew Standardization and Evaluation for the 440th Operations Crew. Duties include flight nursing aboard C-130, C-17, and KC-135 aircraft.

Sister Joel Jacobi recently received the 2015 Distinguished Alumna Award from St. John’s College, Department of Nursing Alumni Association in Springfield, IL. She originally graduated from St. John’s Hospital School of Nursing in 1941 and earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from St. Louis University in 1955, followed by a master’s degree in nursing from The Catholic University of America in 1959. Sister Joel taught with us from 1967-1995. Besides teaching, Sr. Joel was instrumental in starting the St. Francis Food Pantry in Eau Claire. Now 98, she has been living at St. Francis Convent, Motherhouse for the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, in Springfield, IL since 2005.

Photo: Dr. Chuck Lucore, President & CEO of St. John’s Hospital, Sr. Joel Jacobi, and Dr. Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Chancellor of St. John’s College.

Nursing Convocation with a Naval Commissioning Ceremony

On graduation day each May and December, we continue to honor our BSN graduates with the Nursing Convocation. At the event, graduates from the traditional baccalaureate program (both the Eau Claire and Marshfield sites) and BSN completion program select speakers from within their peer cohorts to give addresses. The graduates also receive their nursing pins. For the December 20, 2014 Nursing Convocation, the Naval Commissioning Ceremony to rank of Ensign for one of our graduates, Mr. Patrick Marsh, was included as part of the event. Mr. Marsh is currently stationed in Okinawa, Japan, where he has been completing a nurse residency program and then will be working in an Emergency Department.

Photos: (Left) Mr. Marsh taking his oath; (Above) Mr. Marsh receiving his cover from his daughter, Savannah.
A new video, *A Look at the Work of a Nurse Educator*, was created this past winter to help make visible the work and time involved in being a nurse educator. Funded by the University of Wisconsin System, it was produced for the UW System Board of Regents, state legislators, and the public. This is the first of five such videos, with the remaining four addressing faculty workloads from other majors/professions. The video features Dr. Cheryl Brandt, Professor of Nursing, as she goes about her days as a nurse educator, balancing classroom and clinical teaching, advising students, nursing practice, research, and service. The video was well received by faculty and administrators across the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents, and by state legislators. Dr. Brandt received a standing ovation at the Board of Regents meeting. The video also has been shown nationally and is featured by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Please see the following link to the video: [http://youtu.be/S8ijjUZdBvo](http://youtu.be/S8ijjUZdBvo)
Best Wishes for . . .

With a tinge of sadness we said goodbye to three members of our College who retired from the University in May 2015.

Dr. Susan Moch, Professor, retired after teaching with us for 27 years, having joined UW-Eau Claire in 1988. She came to UW-Eau Claire, in part, because of the undergraduate research opportunities—and held on to that passion throughout her time here, until the day she retired, as she greatly enjoyed working with student research teams. Besides working with undergraduate research teams, highlights of her career have included interdisciplinary teaching and collaborating with Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students. Dr. Moch deeply appreciated the opportunities to make connections between students (graduate, undergraduate, and interdisciplinary) and clinical agency staff through classes, service projects, and research.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, Dr. Moch was selected as a faculty fellow in the UW-Eau Claire Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). The role further enabled her to explore models of client-based research, which could be used by faculty and staff to collaborate with community groups.

Prior to coming to Eau Claire, Dr. Moch taught nursing in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Alaska. She also was a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Anchorage, Alaska, and a school nurse and staff nurse at various other locations. In 2013, Dr. Moch was inducted as a Fellow in the National League for Nursing Academy of Nursing Education. Additionally, Dr. Moch was the recipient of many other prestigious awards (some she received multiple times), a few of which included the Academic Linkages Mary Adelaide Nutting Award, the UW-Eau Claire Excellence in Service Award, the UW-Eau Claire Excellence in Scholarship Award, the Suzanne Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness, the Ihle Family Award for Caring, and the Sigma Theta Tau Delta Phi Chapter Excellence in Mentoring Award. She is looking forward to playing with her grandchildren (see photo with one of them) and biking with her husband.

Ms. Catherine Berry, Clinical Assistant Professor, retired after beginning employment with us in 2003. As an exceptionally active member of the College, Ms. Berry served on numerous committees including, to name a few, the University Senate Executive Committee, the Academic Staff Personnel Committee, the College Technology and Facilities Committee, and the Nursing Awards Committee. Ms. Berry was active in additional community and professional groups, serving as president of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, Wisconsin Auxiliary, was a past president of the Wisconsin Nurses Association District 10, as well as president of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Indianhead Chapter, President of the Delta Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, a board member of the American Heart Association Chippewa Valley Division, and a president and leadership chair of various religiously affiliated councils. She also is a Certified Nurse Educator and holds Adult Critical Care Nurse Certification.

Prior to joining our College, Ms. Berry worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in critical care and at a cardiac center, was the division chairperson for an associate degree nursing program and the Brackenridge Hospital School of Nursing in Austin, Texas, served as an assistant professor and nursing instructor at multiple nursing programs, and worked as a staff and charge nurse at numerous hospitals and healthcare agencies. Ms. Berry is the recipient of several awards, including the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award, the Delta Phi Chapter Sigma Theta Tau Leadership Award, the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction, the Wisconsin Nurses Association Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year Award, and the Edith Ruppert Award for Contributions Significant to the Improvement of Nursing. We appreciated her research involvement with a diabetes prevention project led by Dr. Lee Ellen Kirkhorn in China and with the Wisconsin Technology Enhanced Collaborative Nursing Education (WI-TECNE) project, which helped to grow the use of simulation in our College.

We would be remiss not to acknowledge that Ms. Berry never slept, as she was always busy contributing in so many other ways to the lives of those around her, e.g., making apple butter (see the center photo of her with one of her apple trees) or grape jelly with home grown grapes for colleagues or joining her husband for outings as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Since retiring on May 24th, she had a total knee replacement and was expecting to make it to her high school reunion at an Iowa campground in June. And as President of the Wisconsin National Guard Enlisted Association Auxiliary, she will be representing Wisconsin at the
Retirements (Continued)

Enlisted Association of the National Guard Auxiliary Conference in Indianapolis in August. She's also looking forward to more time with her youngest grandchild (see photo).

Ms. Bonnie Solem, Clinical Instructor, retired after teaching in a variety of courses with us since 2003. For nearly ten years she supervised a pediatrics clinical experience at the Eau Claire Academy. She also initiated and participated in the first UW-Eau Claire nursing clinical immersion experience at the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 2004. During her many years with us, she also supervised an obstetrics clinical as well as public health experiences. Most recently, she, along with Dr. Jill Hecker Fernandes, worked with senior nursing students for a clinical immersion experience in El Salvador. Ms. Solem also had been a family planning clinic Nurse Practitioner (NP) at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, a clinic nurse manager of Student Health Services at UW-Eau Claire, a women's reproductive health NP and a public health nursing supervisor in Minnesota, a prenatal clinic NP in Kenosha, a program development advisor in nursing education in Bangladesh, and a primary health care practitioner in Cameroon, Africa. Ms. Solem recently received the Ihle Family Award for Caring from the College. With retirement, she hopes to spend time with her grandchildren as well as engage in volunteer work.

Transitions—Further Goodbyes and Welcomes

In May 2015 we said goodbye to a few additional members of our College, many of whom moved on to other opportunities. All are missed and we wish them the best.

Ms. Tiffany Ankeny, Clinical Instructor, started with our College in the fall of 2005. She taught in junior level clinical courses for several years and later was an adviser for pre-nursing students. She will be remaining busy with her four delightful children.

Ms. Angie Pack, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site, joined our College in the fall of 2012. She taught in a variety of classroom and clinical courses at the sophomore, junior, and senior levels. She will be the Development Educator for Berlin Memorial Hospital, part of the ThedaCare system in central Wisconsin.

Ms. Jeannette Schubkegel, Clinical Instructor, joined our College in the fall of 2012 and taught with us for two and a half years. She primarily taught clinical with our sophomore nursing students (both in the skills laboratory and on-site at clinical agencies) and with our senior nursing students (assisted with community health projects). She and her husband will be moving back “home” to Chicago.

Ms. Lorraine Smith, Student Services Coordinator for the BSN Completion Program, had been with the School/College for the past 22 years. Besides advising students in the BSN Completion Program, Ms. Smith also worked with students who were completing their associate degrees in nursing and were participating in alliances with the Chippewa Valley Technical College and with Western Technical College. She also had been the BSN@Home Statewide Program Director. Ms. Smith has taken a position as a Nurse Clinician at Stanley Correctional Institution while she completes the final year of her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

Mrs. Sandra Kurth, age 79, of Eau Claire, passed away at the age of 79 on May 17, 2015. She had been a nursing instructor at the UW-Eau Claire School of Nursing. In addition to teaching, she also had worked with the Eau Claire City County Health Department.

Besides saying goodbye to some people, we also welcomed a few others. Dr. Mohammad Alasagheirin, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Der-Fa Lu, Associate Professor, joined us in August 2014. Additionally, Ms. Stacey Stafne, Clinical Instructor in Eau Claire, began teaching with us in August 2014 (she also is now advising pre-nursing students); Mr. Eric Benson started in November 2014 as a University Services Associate for the BSN Completion Program; and Dr. Kristi Burdick, a family nurse practitioner, will be joining us as an Assistant Professor this August 2015.
Undergraduate Cultural Clinical Immersion Experiences at a Texas Birthing Center

For the past 17 years, students in the traditional undergraduate nursing program at UW-Eau Claire have had the opportunity to participate in a cultural clinical immersion experience at a free standing birthing center in Weslaco, Texas. The Holy Family Birthing Center is located just 10 miles from the Mexican border. Nearly 90% of the women served by the birthing center are Hispanic and close to 80% live below the poverty level. The birthing center is run by a nurse midwife with an RN staff, many of whom are new graduates hired by AmeriCorps. The birthing center includes a clinic, six birthing suites/duplexes (see photo) where the births occur, a classroom, a chapel, and staff/volunteer housing.

Dr. Sperstad, and later also Dr. Jill Hecker Fernandes, have been supervising this clinical immersion experience for students every year (with the exception of one year in which Dr. Sperstad was completing her doctoral studies). Students originally enrolled in the experience as a directed study, and later as a formal clinical course opportunity during the junior year, and now senior year. The faculty and students are gone for a total of 7 days during either spring break (for students who register for the spring semester) or winter break (for students who register for the fall semester). The experience is funded by Blugold Commitment funds (extra differential tuition paid by UW-Eau Claire students), which support the travel and housing expenses.

Every clinical group tends to have a different experience and is encouraged to “embrace whatever happens.” The students devote time to assessing the women in the prenatal clinic and are scheduled for labor call, an opportunity to observe and participate in a birth experience, including water births. They also go out on home visits to families at days 3 and 7 following a birth. Since many of the women only speak Spanish, Dr. Sperstad generated a list of standard questions in Spanish and in English for the students to use—all the students must practice these questions, even if they do not speak Spanish. Fortunately, the staff at the birthing center are able to translate for the students as needed. Additionally, the birthing center has a connection with Young Lives, a program the students experience that works with pregnant teens in the high schools.

In preparation for the clinical immersion opportunity, the students meet with the faculty for seminars related to the Rio Grande area, comparisons of Mexican and white American values and beliefs, the concepts of oppression and privilege, as well as midwifery care and birth centers. Debriefing including reflection occurs frequently during the clinical experience and upon their return.

The students gain insights and experience with the various labor and delivery roles and birthing options, including water births and low tech care. This clinical experience strongly challenges students in their personal and professional thinking. They are confronted with examining their own beliefs and assumptions related to population stereotypes, immigration, privilege, and low versus high tech nursing and health care. Many people have the misconception that nearly all the clientele are Mexican, but most are U.S. citizens of Hispanic origin who are from the local Hidalgo County within the Rio Grande area. Hidalgo is one of the poorest counties in the U.S.

Courtney Walin, a senior nursing student, was particularly struck by their experience in handing out food and clothing at the immigration center. The showers at the immigration center had a
Clinical Immersion Experience in Texas (continued)

slogan posted that read, “any person, any place, any time.” She felt the slogan summed up the belief they encountered that “every person matters.” Ms. Walin also appreciated seeing “the direct benefits of patient centered care” at the birthing center and how the staff tailored care to meet the needs of the individual. She felt the birthing center also was about empowering women to control their birthing experience, to create a therapeutic and non-stressful environment.

Caitlin Gardner, a recent graduate, valued being able to observe the diversity of cultures and the poverty that exists within the United States. Despite the poverty, she saw people exhibit the “true meaning of family. To the Hispanic families I observed and met, their family was everything to them. The women were at the birth center to receive excellent prenatal care while their husbands were out working to send money to them to make better lives for their families. Whole families (mom, dad, and all the little ones) went to the grocery store together, not something I often see here in Wisconsin.” Not fluent in Spanish, Ms. Gardner felt being in the minority by speaking English gave her “a true understanding for what some of my patients may feel when they do not speak the language.” Both students felt they returned with more open minds and acceptance of people and viewed the immersion clinical as a truly wonderful and life changing experience. They and the faculty passionately wish to see this opportunity continue for future students.

Nursing programs are expected to prepare students to work with increasingly diverse populations in need of culturally responsive, high quality health care. The College is attempting to ensure cultural clinical immersion experiences for all interested undergraduate students. Besides the birthing center immersion, currently, students in the traditional undergraduate nursing program are able to take part in 7-10 day immersive clinical experiences at an Indian Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota, at a palliative care hospital and orphanage in El Salvador, or at rural Wisconsin dairy farms with Hispanic migrant workers. Additional culturally immersive experiences are being developed.

These experiences enable students to participate in the provision of culturally appropriate and sensitive health care. Some but not all of these experiences have been funded through Blugold Commitment funds (extra differential tuition paid by UW-Eau Claire students) or through grants; others, particularly the El Salvador experience, have required the students to pay for their own travel expenses. Individuals interested in supporting these clinical immersion experiences are encouraged to visit this website https://connect.uwec.edu/nursing-health-sciences to donate to the Multicultural Clinical Experiences Fund or contact the College at nursing@uwec.edu.

BSN Completion Students Participate in Clinical Immersion Experiences in Rosebud, South Dakota

Interested students in the BSN Completion program (for nurses with associate degrees in nursing who are completing the baccalaureate degree) now have the opportunity to take part in a cultural clinical immersion experience at Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Ms. Diane Marcyjanik, Clinical Assistant Professor, has been traveling to Rosebud to supervise this experience for the students.

As part of their final senior capstone course, BSN completion students are required to complete approximately 84-90 hours of clinical. The focus of the clinical is on population-based health care, and thus emphasizes the provision of nursing care within public health and community settings. Recent clinical groups engaged in activities such as the creation of educational materials focusing on postpartum and newborn nursing care for staff at the Indian Health Services Hospital and educational presentations on safe medication administration, communicable diseases, HIPPA guidelines, and documentation at the annual Daycare Worker Blitz. In addition, students created patient educational materials for individuals receiving dialysis. Other activities included participating in a sweat lodge and delivering donated items to Buffalo Jump Youth Center and various other community organizations. The students are typically gone about 7-10 days for the experience.

Students not going to Rosebud are usually supervised by Dr. Norah Airth-Kindree, Assistant Professor. These students engage in projects closer to their homes in a diverse array of community settings, ranging from schools to public health departments to jails. Examples have included the development of a heart-health screening program for high schools, working with a public health department to develop a policy for utilizing and streamlining death records to improve the health of the community, creating educational materials related to improving HPV vaccination rates, implementing a sleep hygiene program for college students, and working to improve the health of prisoners and streamline visits with a free clinic.

The clinical experiences are tailored to meet the learning interests of the students as well as meet the needs of the community agencies—a win-win situation.
Simulation Teaching Project with Community Health Nurses

Ms. Nita Johnson, Skills Laboratory Coordinator, and Mr. Gunnar Larson, Skills Laboratory Instructor and Student Adviser, piloted a teaching project in April with the Indianhead Community Action Agency (ICAA). The project enabled community health nurses to refresh and acquire advanced nursing skills and adapt them for the home setting.

UW-Eau Claire master’s degree students in the nurse educator role preparation assisted in designing and implementing teaching sessions using simulation. They were under the guidance of Dr. Rita Sperstad, Assistant Professor, who teaches the graduate level nursing education role courses. A grant secured by ICAA provided funds for the teaching sessions. Ms. Pamela Guthman, Chief Executive Officer of the ICAA, contacted the College of Nursing and Health Sciences last fall to initiate the project and was involved throughout the pilot program. The College is hoping to continue to make simulation opportunities available for the community.

Photos: (Top) MSN graduate, Jane Weiler (2nd from the left), demonstrating feeding tube skills. (Bottom Left) Nursing Simulation Room. (Bottom Right) MSN graduate, Susan Dzubay (Right), demonstrating IV skills.

The Pacemakers—Running and Walking for a Cause

Nursing students, faculty, staff, and family members participated as the Pacemakers Team in the Shamrock Shuffle held on March 14, 2015. The event is a fun, non-timed 5K+ run/walk fundraiser hosted and sponsored by UW-Eau Claire’s University Recreation and Sports Facilities department.
Nurses for Wisconsin

In 2013, Dean Linda Young and Ms. Jan Adams, along with the UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Oshkosh nursing programs, applied for a UW System Economic Development Incentive Grant. With UW-Eau Claire as the lead, the four nursing programs received $3.2 million for the Nurses for Wisconsin initiative to address the nursing faculty shortage.

The 2013-2015 initiative supported three areas of funding in nursing education: 1) pre-doctoral fellowships that provided for an award of up to $43,000/year inclusive of tuition, fees, and a cost-of-living stipend for PhD and DNP students; 2) post-doctoral fellowships that provided for one or two years of funding consisting of a $60,000/year stipend award plus fringe benefits for PhD or DNP postdoctoral students; and 3) faculty loan forgiveness which repaid up to $50,000 of a new PhD or DNP faculty member’s student loans.

To receive these funds, the recipients had to commit to the equivalent of three years of full-time faculty employment at a UW system nursing program.

The grant has now ended, as of June 30, 2015. Thirty-eight pre-doctoral fellows, 3 post-doctoral fellows, and 10 loan forgiveness faculty hires were awarded within the four UW nursing programs. As part of the grant project, two successful nursing education summits occurred this past year. The fall summit took place on the UW-Eau Claire campus and featured Dr. Beverly Malone, PhD, RN, FAAN (see photo), Chief Executive Officer of the National League for Nursing, as the keynote speaker. The spring summit took place in the new School of Nursing building at UW-Madison and featured Dr. Juliann Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Nursing, as the keynote speaker and Dr. Marilyn Oermann, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, the Thelma M. Ingles Professor of Nursing and Director of Evaluation and Educational Research at Duke University School of Nursing. Ms. Jan Adams and Dean Emeritus Elaine Wendt were the driving forces for these two-day summits. We are hoping the fellows and faculty hires will help to meet the needs of the UW System nursing programs for nurse educators.

Grace Lutheran Foundation

The Grace Lutheran Foundation (GLF) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the College to offer a number of opportunities to benefit our community. GLF is a nonprofit faith-based healthcare organization in the local area that offers skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, independent senior apartments, adult day services, and school-age childcare. As part of the MOU, GLF is buying out part of a senior faculty member’s time to provide consultation to the organization to support quality and care improvement. They also are creating two scholarships on an annual basis to assist nursing students with special interests and past experiences in gerontology and/or long-term care. Additionally, GLF will provide sites for clinical placement of nursing graduate and undergraduate students, including at their new facility which is being built in Altoona, near Eau Claire. Space will be provided in the new building for UW-Eau Claire nursing faculty and student use. Following the opening of the new building, the nursing students and faculty will provide multiple educational offerings each year for the community in the community space of the new facility. We are greatly looking forward to this new venture.

For more information regarding all of our undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, please see our Programs page on our College website:
http://www.uwec.edu/conhs/

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

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 undergraduate and graduate students. We also appreciate our many donors. We would not be able to offer our programs without their continued support. Thank you!
The 14th annual Nursing Alumni Walk was held on Saturday October 4, 2014. Although some attendees woke to find snow on the grass around their homes, we were fortunate to have clear weather during the actual walk. Fifty-three people attended the event, including Chancellor James Schmidt and his family, and individuals from the classes of 1969, 1970, 1974, 1983, 1989, 1992, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2016, as well as a number of pre-nursing students. The class of 1974 in particular was well-represented (They were participating in a larger 40th class reunion event later that day.). We were pleased to have a number of emeriti present, including Dr. Marjorie Bottoms, Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks, Dr. Elaine Wendt, and Ms. Pat Garber (Class of 1969, 45th anniversary).

Dr. Rosemary Jadack and Ms. Shelley Mather led the walk around campus and Ms. Nita Johnson provided tours of our nursing skills laboratory and simulation rooms. The Eau Claire Student Nurses Association (ECSNA) was present to take orders for Nursing apparel and to accept recipes to be included in a cookbook. ECSNA assembled the cookbook to raise money to support a local cancer center.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to all those who came and to the many students and faculty who helped set up for the walk and made the morning run smoothly. The numerous individuals and organizations who donated door prizes also deserve recognition, including Acoustic Café, CHAASE, E.O. Johnson Office Technologies, Festival Foods, Fleet Feet, Impact Advertising, May’s Floral Garden, Mayo Clinic Health System-Eau Claire Nursing Administration, Oak Leaf Surgical Hospital Administrative Office, the Riedel family, Sacred Heart Hospital, Sodexo Dining Services, SourceHouse, St. Joseph’s Hospital-Chippewa Falls, St. Joseph’s Hospital Home Health Care-Chippewa Falls, 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, Dr. Elaine Wendt, Ms. Cathy Wilson, and Xcel Energy.

Photos: (Top) Nursing Alumni Walk attendees in the lobby of the Nursing Building; (Above) Class of 1974 with Dr. Rita Kisting Sparks (3rd from left).
Nursing Needs to Consider

Nursing education is ever 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 continuously 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.

**Nursing Advancement Fund:** Support this general fund that provides for student and faculty initiatives, special projects, and immediate needs not covered by the University’s budget.

**Multicultural Clinical Experiences Fund:** Support the University’s strategic plan to expand experiential, multicultural, and interdisciplinary learning by providing funds to enable nursing clinical experiences with diverse populations at an Indian reservation in South Dakota, at a birthing clinic in Texas, at Wisconsin farms with migrant workers, and at other sites more locally in Wisconsin. We also recently developed a new initiative to take undergraduate and graduate nursing students to El Salvador for a multicultural clinical experience. Additional opportunities are being developed.

**Student Scholarships:** Establish or contribute to scholarships for students in the traditional undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or BSN completion programs, or our Master of Science in Nursing (MSN, nurse educator or administrator role preparations) or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, or nurse executive role preparations) programs.

**Nursing Skills Lab/Clinical Simulation Center:** Provide needed simulation equipment (e.g., computerized manikins) as well as replacements of skills laboratory equipment as materials become outdated or nonfunctional. Funds are particularly needed now for new birthing manikins.

To designate a gift, see [https://connect.uwec.edu/nursing-health-sciences](https://connect.uwec.edu/nursing-health-sciences) or call 1-877-625-2473 (UW-Eau Claire Foundation).
Please Register for the 2015 Nursing Alumni Walk—October 10, 2015

Please join us for our 15th annual Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk on Saturday, October 10, 2015. We have altered our usual schedule slightly as we celebrate our 50th anniversary of the nursing program.

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, giving everyone an opportunity to see all that has changed on campus. The walk will conclude in the Nursing Building where we will hold a dedication of our Nursing Hall of Fame. The breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. With the breakfast, we will provide an update regarding recent events at the College and University. Although door prizes will not be available (due to the silent auction at the October 9th gala event), we will have small alumni giveaways. Interested attendees are invited to tour the building and simulation laboratories following the breakfast.

During the breakfast we will feature a special unveiling of a quilt being created by Ms. Vicki Vogler (class of 1976) made from 14 years of nursing walk t-shirts, including the very first t-shirt (which was white).

Newly designed commemorative tie-dye blue T-shirts featuring the 50th Anniversary logo, including youth sizes, are being ordered for the walk. To guarantee T-shirt orders, please pre-register online by September 21st using this link [https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary](https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary) or by paper/mail using the attached form (see page 15), also available at [http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/](http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/).

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 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. Donations also can be made to support multicultural clinical experiences; to purchase simulation equipment to enhance our clinical teaching laboratory technology; and for new and existing scholarships for our students.

While you are here for the walk, please consider attending the Nursing 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala scheduled for Friday October 9th at the Florian Gardens (please see [http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/](http://www.uwec.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/about/alumni-community/) for information). 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/](http://www.uwec.edu/alumni/) or by contacting the Alumni Office at 715-836-3266 or 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 21st 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!!

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**Homecoming and Nursing Walk Schedule of Events—October 10th**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration begins at the Nursing Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Walk (around and across campus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Dedication of our Nursing Hall of Fame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast and College of Nursing and Health Sciences Update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Tours of the Nursing Building and Simulation Laboratories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Homecoming Parade, starting on 1st Avenue (just past Lake Street)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>UW-Eau Claire Blugolds vs. UW-River Falls Falcons Football Game at Carson Park</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Registration Form on page 15. Please consider registering online at [https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary](https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary).**

Please return forms by **September 21st** to guarantee T-shirt orders.
Please detach and mail with check by **September 21st** 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakfast and Walk (T-shirts sold separately)</th>
<th>Number Attending</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults = $20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UWEC Students &amp; Children 12 yrs &amp; older = $15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children less than 12 yrs free</td>
<td></td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursing 50th Commmemorative Tie-dye Blue T-Shirts (remember to indicate sizes above &amp; below)</th>
<th>Number of T-Shirts &amp; sizes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult sizes = $15.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth sizes = $15.00</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Donation</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Amount Enclosed $____________________

☐ I plan to attend the Walk and pick up the T-shirt there.  
☐ I will not be attending the Walk; please mail my T-shirt.

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 21st*  
Consider registering online at [https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary](https://connect.uwec.edu/events/nursing-anniversary)  
Questions: E-mail nursing@uwec.edu or call 715-836-5287.
The Power of **AND**

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

**Nursing Alumni Newsletter**

and

**Nursing Walk Registration Form**

**Nursing 50th Anniversary Gala**

October 9, 2015

**Nursing Walk**

October 10, 2015

D. Jansen