

# THE GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

## *Fall 2000*

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<h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">GNN This Spring</h2>		

Welcome Back Graduate Students! The officers of the Graduate Nurse Network (**GNN**) hope all is going well with your semester and that your semester is exciting and challenging. The GNN continues to work toward the objectives of keeping graduate students informed of important information and events in the Graduate Program, the College of Nursing, and the Villanova community. The GNN newsletter is also a great tool for networking with other graduate students who have the same interests and career goals as you. We at the GNN understand your hectic work and home schedules and try to give you as much information as possible to make your graduate education less difficult and create balance. The GNN newsletter is generated each semester and recently has been put online for ease of viewing.

The officers of the GNN are willing to help you with any questions or concerns you may have. The officers are as follows:

**President** - Susan Evitts RN, BSN

Susan is the Graduate Assistant for the Undergraduate Nursing Program. You can contact Susan at

<http://www.nursing.villanova.edu/students/opportunity/scholarship/scholaraward/publications.htm>

[susan.evitts@villanova.edu](mailto:susan.evitts@villanova.edu)

**Vice President** - Yvonne Diehl, RN, BSN. Yvonne is the Graduate Assistant for the Graduate Nursing Program. You can contact Yvonne at [yvonne.diehl@villanova.edu](mailto:yvonne.diehl@villanova.edu)

**Secretary** - Katherine Carson, RN, BSN

Katherine is the Graduate Assistant for the Continuing Education Department. You can contact Katherine at [katherine.carson@villanova.edu](mailto:katherine.carson@villanova.edu)

**Treasurer** - Ray Kleposki RN, BSN

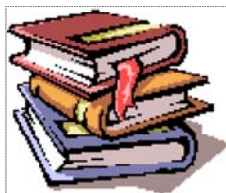
Ray is the Graduate Assistant to the Dean. You can contact Ray at [raymond.kleposki@villanova.edu](mailto:raymond.kleposki@villanova.edu).



## **GNN Fund-Raiser**

GNN is raffling off this year's Longaberger® Wrought Iron Snowman, Frosty and Frosty Jr. baskets (on display in the College of Nursing office after fall break). Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and can be purchased at Graduate Network Night, the Sigma Theta Tau luncheon or pre-purchased from Susan Evitts, Ray Kleposki or Yvonne Diehl in the College of Nursing office #610-519-7748.

The winner will be drawn December 15<sup>th</sup>. You need not be present to win. Thank you for supporting GNN.



## **Networking Night: How to Publish without Peril**

Thursday, November 2, 2000 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Please join us in welcoming Cheryl A. Barrett, RN, MSN, Editorial Director of Nursing Spectrum. Her presentation will focus on how to publish successfully. Come prepared to learn and seek answers from an expert. Light refreshments will be provided. Please plan on attending this informative session.



**From Dean Fitzpatrick**

Dear Graduate Students,

The focus on national politics during this election year underscores the importance of being informed on the issues and (for those of us who are American citizens) the importance of exercising our right to vote. Over the years, it has been my privilege to observe the increased involvement of nurses in the political process but we still have not achieved our potential. The lobbyists employed by ANA and the legislative and public policy committees of our national nursing organizations are only as effective as our ability to support their efforts through association membership.

Locally, regionally and nationally nurses have taken a more active role in politics and government. Many have sought and successfully won elections to public office. However, the Nursing Body Politic cannot rely on any of these groups of individuals to speak for all of us. What is required and what still has not been achieved (despite the urgings of our professional associations and the inclusion of course content in our nursing education programs), is the interest, investment and conversance about the issues on the parts of individual nurses.

Nurses are aware, (primarily through their own experience) of the problems plaguing the health care system, yet relatively few appear to have the ability to contextualize it. What are the public policies, legislative influences, lobbies, special interests that are determining what is happening? What are the roles of government, private interests, especially the insurance companies in both the financing and the delivery of care? What is the relationship among these variables and what political platform do we as individuals believe addresses the dilemmas best? Knowledge and an informed profession are absolutely required. Political ignorance or naiveté lead to the self-disenfranchisement of nursing. It is easy to say that without formidable financial resources, no group can effect change. The power of the ballot box is limited by pre-determined platforms and candidates that have been shaped by financial influence for political campaigns. That this is part of the picture cannot be denied. However, it is not the total picture, nor a reason for apathy. Certainly local activities on our parts can make a difference, so can regional and state participation. We can write checks, volunteer or at the very least, vote. If we are conversant with the national issues we are better prepared to intelligently choose which ticket we will support. Our opinions may not always coincide with the details of the party platform, which in general, we prefer but ultimately choices must be made and our rights should be exercised.

Nurses continue to be a large part of the American workforce and those employed in health care and its related industries. Issues that go beyond health care are certainly of concern to all Americans. However, we nurses need to be particularly well versed on those issues that will affect us, our profession and our ability to provide safe, competent patient care. Equally important is the development of solutions to workplace problems in health care that greatly contribute to the interest of young people in nursing as a career choice, or to the rejection of it. Recognizing the connection between recruiting the next generation of nursing students and retaining them is as much influenced by the level of reimbursement for patient care services as is the level of satisfaction among patients and nurses.

As graduate nursing students who are preparing for leadership roles in nursing and health care, I encourage each of you to inform yourselves and to actively participate in the political process because the outcomes affect all of us. Nurses need to get involved and it begins with knowledge, being informed and understanding the consequences before casting a ballot. **WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE POLLS.**

I hope you had a good summer and have a successful academic year. Enjoy the opportunity to study, to meet new colleagues and to prepare yourselves to shape nursing's future.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN

Dean and Professor

## **Graduate Program**

From the Desk of Dr. Claire Manfredi, Graduate Program Director

Welcome back to our returning students and welcome to our new students. I am sure you will recall we were extremely busy last year. In September, we were visited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). Following their visit, our Graduate and Undergraduate programs were accredited for a full eight years. In February, we were visited by CCNE (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education). Once again, the visit was a very favorable one and we were accredited for a full ten years. In April, we were visited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. They were extremely impressed with the Anesthesia track and we were accredited for a full ten years. Finally, in August we were notified that the National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Nurses approved our Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program. Despite the fact that our program is approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, students can take the national certifying examination only if they have graduated from a program approved by the National Certification Board. We are extremely proud of our success and the many positive comments shared by all of these accrediting agencies, and we are extremely proud of the quality of our students. You are, and continue to be, Villanova's finest!!!!!!

As you know from my previous communications, computerized registration will be a reality this Fall. **All** students will be registering on line in the Fall for Spring courses and computerized registration will become a routine process thereafter. What does this mean for our students? First of all, you need your permanent pin number. This number was sent to you by the Registrar's Office when you were admitted to our Graduate Nursing Program. Please find your pin number because you will need it in order to register. If you cannot find your pin number, contact the Registrar's Office. During registration you will be expected to talk with your advisor about the courses you will be taking. When you and your advisor agree on your course plan, your advisor will issue you a second pin number, which is temporary, since it changes each semester. You can then register for your courses on line according to the directions that you will receive from your advisor. Please note that you can also use your permanent pin number to check your grades on line each semester, once they have been entered by your professor.

We have some interesting international experiences for graduate students who might want to do something different for Independent Study. This summer, two of our students went to Spain with Dr. Patricia Haynor and looked at components of the

health care system in Spain. We also have several students who have been to Peru to look at health promotion opportunities. Please take the time to talk with students who have taken advantage of these international opportunities. If you are interested, please contact me and I will give you the information you need to get started.

Once again, we will be holding Graduate Scholars Day on April 19, 2001. I am requesting that all students who have completed Independent Study contact Dr. Suzanne Smeltzer or Dr. Elizabeth Keech, so that we can "showcase" our graduate students and their projects. It should be an interesting and exciting evening and you will receive more information about this in the future.

Best wishes as you continue through our program this semester. My door is open if you would like to come in to talk, explore ideas or just stop in to say hello.

Claire Manfredi, Ed.D., RN,



## Woman with Disabilities Conference

**Suzanne C. Smeltzer, RN, EdD, FAAN**  
**Associate Professor and Project Director**

**Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project**

**The Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project and the Continuing Education Department of the College of Nursing organized and sponsored a conference, Women with Disabilities: Quality of Care / Quality of Life on September 15 & 16, 2000. The conference was supported in part by a 3-year grant received two years ago from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation. The conference, attended by over 120 people brought together a group of health care providers, service agencies, and women with disabilities to discuss disparities in health care and barriers to access experienced by women with disabilities, research related to health promotion in this group of women, and programs that have been effective in addressing the issues and removing barriers to health care.**

**JoAnn Thierry, MSW, a public health advisor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta opened the conference on Friday morning with an overview of the issues and presented the results of a national study of health promotion in women with disabilities. She identified several specific lifestyle issues affecting women with disabilities that require research: smoking, obesity, stress, hypertension, depression and aging. Josef Reum, PhD, addressed health policy and suggested ways to effect health policy. Susan Blumenthal, MD, MPH, U.S. Assistant Surgeon General, discussed critical health issues for women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and identified their implications for women with disabilities.**

**On Saturday, Alexa Stuijbergen, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor at the University of Texas, presented "Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities: State of the Science." She provided an excellent and scholarly overview of the research as well as a historical perspective. Further, she identified directions for future research.**

**Other presentations at the conference included those of researchers from Villanova University College of Nursing as well as from other institutions and clinical settings. Among the College of Nursing faculty and project staff presenting at the conference were Dr. Nancy Sharts-Hopko, Dr. Maureen Sullivan, Dr. Linda Copel, Dr. Suzanne Smeltzer, Vanessa Zimmerman, and Janice Duffin.**

**The presenters also included several women and men with disabilities. This very successful conference was closed with a very moving reading of poetry written by Trena Pelham, MD, a woman living with a disability.**

**On Friday morning, an interview by Karen Phillips with Suzanne Smeltzer about the focus of the conference was broadcast over KYW radio.**

**Note: The Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project welcomes graduate and undergraduate students who would like to become involved in research and other activities within the project. There are exciting opportunities for students to do independent studies or other academic assignments with project faculty and staff. Please contact Dr. Suzanne Smeltzer (610-519-6828; Suzanne.Smeltzer@villanova.edu), Vanessa Zimmerman or Janice Duffin (610-519-4922; Vanessa.Zimmerman@villanova.edu) for information on how to become involved.**



## Learning Resource Center Services

**The Learning Resource Center (LRC) offers a variety of services to graduate students. There are numerous computers available for your use that contain many software programs. The following are just some of the skills you can perform in the LRC:**

- **Papers can be created in Word Perfect with the use of the APA Template and printed on the laser printer.**
- **You can access the Internet to browse on the World Wide Web, access Falvey Library to perform your library searches, or view the Villanova Home Page to access your organizations such as the GNN.**
- **You can access your own e-mail to read or send messages.**
- **Free transparencies can be created for your presentations.**
- **Your presentations using Power Point can be created in the LRC and you can reserve the equipment you need for your presentation through the LRC.**
- **You can review sample research proposals and independent study projects completed by other graduate nursing students.**
- **Graduate Program forms such as clinical practicum, independent study and graduation applications are available on the computers in the lab.**
- **There are copies of guidelines for citing electronic sources in APA format in the LRC..**
- **There is always someone available in the LRC to assist you if you need help accessing the information you need.**
- **Visit the LRC - it's an excellent resource for you..!**
- **The LRC is open:**

**Mon-Thur 8:00 AM - 9:30 PM**

**Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Saturday 10:00 AM -5:00 PM**

**Sunday 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM**

## **A few words from Dr. Haynor...** **GNN Faculty Advisor**

**EXCITED! CURIOUS? ANXIOUS! ENERGIZED!!**

**Whether you are a new or returning student or soon to graduate these adjectives probably describe each of you. The educational endeavor you are nursing is part of a life long process of**

describe each of you. The educational endeavor you are pursuing is part of a life-long process of continuous learning and personal/professional growth. As you search out new ideas, learn new skills and explore the meaning of the old remember that each of you has a responsibility to participate in creating a preferred future for nursing and health care. Use this time to network, share your knowledge and take action to make a difference. The future is yours to reshape!!



Did you Know. . . ?

Each semester this column is devoted to informing graduate students about services of which they may not be aware. If you know of a service or information that you would like to share, please let us know.

- ◆ There is a small resource library for graduate students/faculty in the Graduate Program office. Books can be signed out for a reasonable amount of time.
- ◆ There are several binders with information regarding previous clinical practicum sites in the Graduate Program office. Information provided is the site, area of concentration, preceptors and student evaluations of the experience.
- ◆ There is a folder in Barbara Nolan's office for students who are preparing for their independent teaching practicum. This folder contains a Graduate Student Handbook, a faculty Handbook, a Self-Study, courses of study, Rank & Tenure Policies and a Faculty Orientation Handbook.
- ◆ Every fourth week of the month the Falvey Library conducts orientations to the Internet. These are on a walk-in basis and tailored to meet your needs from basic to advanced levels. Falvey Library can be reached at # (610) 519-4270.
- ◆ The Writing Center is available to all graduate students for assistance in writing academic papers. Hours of operations: Sun-Thursday 1:30 - 9:30 pm, Fri 1:30 - 5:30. ☎ 519-4604.
- ◆ A new convenience store is located in St. Mary's adjoining the cafeteria for snacks, sodas, etc. St. Mary's cafeteria will continue to offer food items *a la carte* for breakfast, lunch and dinner! Dinner is served from 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. You may also obtain food from Connelly Center from 8 AM to 11PM, the Law School from 8AM to 2PM, Dougherty Hall from 11AM to 6:15PM
- ◆ There is a lounge room available at St. Mary's Hall next to the cafeteria during the hours of 8:30 am to 9:30 pm. It has a microwave and refrigerator for your convenience. You can obtain the key at the desk of the College of Nursing or from a faculty member.
- ◆ Computer workshops are held each month in the Unit Resource Center room G51-A in Mendel Hall. You can attend these workshops at *NO Cost*. A list of the programs offered is available on the UNIT web site. For more information call (610) 519-4409. Mon-Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.



## Mark Your Calendars....

### *Health & Human Values Lecture Series: Humanitarian Missions*

Lectures are held in the Connelly Center. Both lectures begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the community.

**Wednesday, October 11, 2000**

#### **"Reflections on Operation Baby Lift"**

**Regina Aune, PhD, RN, FAAN, Colonel, USAF will present her reflections and personal experiences from the evacuation of over 300 children from Saigon in 1975.**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2000**

#### **"An American Nurse Amidst Chaos: The story of the American University Medical Center during the Lebanese Civil War 1975-1998"**

**Gladys A. Mouro, MSN, RN will present an exceptional account of the events endured by the hospital and staff during Lebanon's civil war. Located at ground zero, the medical center treated thousands of wounded in a conflict that resulted in the loss of over 150,000 lives.**



## **Interested in a Tuition Free Education? Graduate Assistant Positions Available**

**Three Graduate Assistant Positions will be available beginning in Spring 2001:**

- Graduate Assistant with the Dean**
- Graduate Assistant with the Director of Continuing Education**
- Graduate Assistant with the Director of the Undergraduate Program**

**These positions require a commitment of twenty hours of work per week, and you must be a full-time student. They support full tuition and provide a stipend of \$9,870.00 per academic year (\$4,935 per semester). For more information contact Dr. Claire Manfredi, Graduate Program Director, #610-519-4907. You might want to talk with students who currently fill these positions: Susan Evitts—Graduate Assistant with the Director of the Undergraduate Program; Catherine Carson—Graduate Assistant with the Director of Continuing Education; Ray Kleposki—Graduate Assistant with the Dean, #610-519-7748.**

## **Resources Available for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are a rapidly growing minority on university campuses. Nationally, one in every eleven college freshman reports having a disability. At Villanova, the Office of Learning Support Services, in conjunction with faculty, provides reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable academic accommodations.

If you would like to request accommodations, you will need to submit current documentation of your disability, in accordance with our guidelines, to the Learning Support Office. Depending on the nature of the disability and the accommodations requested, the amount of advance notice provided may impact the University's ability to provide accommodations. Confidentiality is maintained and nothing will be shared with your professors without permission from the student.

For more information, visit the Learning Support Office on the first floor of Geraghty Hall or contact Nancy Mott at (610)-519-5636.

## Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care

The Continuing Education office is very busy this semester. In addition to offering our regular fall courses for clinical research, and the post masters certificate in nursing administration, we are also continuing the health and human values lecture series, as well as sponsoring three national conferences! The Continuing Education office with the Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project sponsored the Women With Disabilities: Quality of Care/Quality of Life Conference September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Twelve Caesars Conference Center. The Keynote speaker for this conference was Susan J. Blumenthal, U.S. Assistant Surgeon General. The conference showcased issues, initiatives, agendas and concerns related to health promotion for women with disabilities. Villanova also hosted the annual conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing this year from September 21-24 at the Villanova Conference Center. This conference was designed as a forum for sharing historical nursing research in a variety of areas. Elizabeth Norman PhD, RN, noted author of *WE BAND OF ANGELS: The Untold Story of American Nurses Trapped in Bataan by the Japanese*, was the featured speaker. In October the College of Nursing and Rutgers University Continuing Education are co-sponsoring a conference for nursing education. The conference, Innovative Education for the New Century, is being held in St. Louis. This conference allows nurse educators in academic, clinical, entrepreneurial, professional and practice settings to learn and share information to use in the new century. Look for our spring course flyers in your mailbox or go our web site [www.nursing.villanova.edu/cont\\_ed](http://www.nursing.villanova.edu/cont_ed) for more information about conferences or our course offerings.



**Suggestions...**

**GNN is always looking for feedback, comments and suggestions for improvement. Please contact one of the Graduate Assistants at (610)-519-7748 or via e-mail. Thank you.**

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