

THE GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Spring 2001

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GNN This Spring

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. Just E-mail us! The officers are as follows:

President – Yvonne Diehl, RN, BSN

Yvonne is the Graduate Assistant for the Graduate Nursing Program. You can contact Yvonne at yvonne_diehl@villanova.edu

yvonne.diehl@villanova.edu

Vice President – Cynthia Hoens, RN, BSN. Cynthia is the Graduate Assistant for the Undergraduate Nursing Program. You can contact

Cynthia at cynthia.hoens@villanova.edu.

Secretary – Dimitra Georgelos RN, BSN. Dimitra is the Graduate Assistant to the Dean. You can contact Dimitra at dimitra.georgelos@villanova.edu

Treasurer – Patricia Dundas RN, BSN.

Patricia is the Graduate Assistant for the Continuing Education Department. You can contact Patricia at patricia.dundas@villanova.edu.



GNN Fund-Raiser

GNN is raffling off a Jajoba Toiletries basket by Crabtree & Evelyn. Valued at \$100. (On display in the College of Nursing office). Raffle tickets are for \$5 and can be purchased everyday including Scholars Night on April 19, 2001. Please support your student organization. Tickets can be purchased from Cynthia Hoens, Dimitra Georgelos, Patricia Dundas or Yvonne Diehl in the College of Nursing office #610-519-7748.

The winner will be drawn April 19, 2001. The winner does not need to be present to win. Thank you for supporting GNN.



From Dean Fitzpatrick

Dear Graduate Students,

Developing an international perspective is no longer an option in our lives. Technology heightened global awareness has made it possible for us to communicate with others around the world on a daily basis. Email diplomacy may not replace face to face negotiations but the workings of governments as well as corporations have been greatly impacted by our expanded opportunities to communicate long distance in seconds. Professions and disciplines are also affected.

Opportunities for scholars thousands of miles apart to share data and discuss their work abounds, medical consultations with physicians continents away is commonplace and options to learn and earn academic credit via Distance Learning programs is no longer unusual.

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

Nursing, like medicine, has utilized the tools of technology and adapted as each new innovation is made available for clinical practice. Nursing, like corporations uses technology to organize and administer its service more efficiently. Similarly, technology gives us new options for collaboration with colleagues on research, professional organization affairs and teaching and learning within the context of educational programs. Irrespective of your selection of focus in the masters program, I hope that you will take full advantage of the University's services to develop your view of the field beyond a local and narrowly defined perspective and that you will make full use of the technology to help you achieve that goal.

M. Louise Fitzpatrick, EdD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Graduate Program

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

Welcome back to what should be an exciting and challenging Spring semester. We have one new international student, Saada Al-Barwani who started with us in January. Saada is from Oman and completed our Undergraduate Program last year. She is in our Nursing Education track, and we are delighted that she has returned to our College of Nursing.

This year, Scholars' Day will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2001, at the Radnor Hotel, 4:00-7:00 pm. Those of you who attended last year will remember how exciting it was to see colleagues present their Independent Study projects. This year, some of our faculty will be presenting their research. Scholars' Day provides you the opportunity to talk with your colleagues, review their Independent Study projects, and, if you have yet to do your own Independent Study, you can obtain ideas for the future. It also gives you the opportunity to learn about our faculty and the kinds of studies they are conducting. I look forward to seeing you on that evening.

Pre-registration materials will be sent to you some time in March. Please contact your advisor to discuss your courses for the Summer and Fall. You will obtain two pin numbers for on-line registration; one for Summer and one for Fall. Please register as soon as you receive the pin numbers, since on-line registration closes at the end of the pre-registration period, which runs from March 19-April 6, 2001.

We will be having our Open House for those interested in our Graduate Nursing Program on Tuesday, March 20, 2001. If you know of nurses who might be interested in applying to our Graduate Nursing Program, please tell them about our Open House. If you are interested in attending the Open House to talk with prospective applicants, please contact me. I would love to have you join us on March 20. Also, please know that we have recruitment materials available in the Graduate Program office. If you would like to distribute this material at your work place, please stop in to talk with Geri Hansen, who will provide you with the materials you need.

I would like to remind you that applications for practicum and Independent Study are due in the Graduate Program office on February 1, for the Summer and Fall, and October 1 for the Spring. Applications for graduation are due on February 1 for those completing the program in the Spring, and December 1 for those completing the program in the Fall. All applications are available on-line.

Since many of our graduate students use the copy machine in St. Mary's in the evening, you need to know that there will be a change in the location of the copy machine. It will be relocated to the area outside the mailroom near the convenience store, and will be maintained by the Purchasing

outside the mainroom near the convenience store, and will be maintained by the Purchasing Department, which should facilitate service and repairs.

Finally, don't forget to check the Graduate Student Handbook and Advisement Guide for information about snow closings. Use common sense in bad weather. If you are unable to get to class, contact your professor and discuss alternatives.

My door is always open. If you have questions or would like to come in to talk, please feel free to do so. Best wishes for a good semester.

Claire Manfredi
Graduate Program Director



Woman with Disabilities Seminar

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

Upcoming Nurse Practitioner Seminar:
Quality of Care for Women with Disabilities

One of the goals of the Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project, funded by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation is to increase the knowledge and sensitivity of health care providers about the health issues of women with disabilities. One strategy to accomplish this goal is an exciting 1-day seminar the Project faculty and staff are planning for Saturday, June 23, 2001, targeted to nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and primary care physicians.

Topics will include an overview of the issues, health care of women with epilepsy, aging with a disability, pregnancy and childbearing issues of women with disabilities, care of women with developmental disabilities, osteoporosis risk and management, abuse in women with physical disabilities, and legal issues for primary health care practitioners. In addition, a panel of women who are health care providers (nurses, primary care physician) and have a disability will discuss "views from both sides of the table."

The presenters at the seminar will include nurse practitioners, nurse researchers, physicians, and an attorney with expertise in disability law. A case study approach will be used to address identification and use of resources that assist women with disabilities to lead healthy lives.

You have probably been hearing *about* the women with disabilities project. Here is an opportunity to attend an event sponsored by the Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project. Although the seminar specifically targets primary care practitioners, you are invited and encouraged to attend. 7.6 contact hours are being provided by the Continuing Education program, a nationally accredited provider of CE for nurses. CMES are pending. Registration fee is \$65; a discounted fee will be for students. As more details become available, the information will be added to the project's website:

<http://www.nursing.villanova.edu/WomenWithDisabilities>. Also in the Continuing Education web page, www.nursing.villanova.edu/cont_ed.

Please contact:

Vanessa Zimmerman (610-519-4922); Vanessa.Zimmerman@villanova.edu) or Suzanne Smeltzer (610-519-6828); Suzanne.smeltzer@villanova.edu).

Suzanne Smeltzer, RN, EdD, FAAN
Associate Professor & Project Director
Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project



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 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Sunday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM



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

The famous groundhog tells us that spring is still several weeks away! But, you can feel it in your bones—birds are singing again, the flowers are peeking their heads up and your brain is getting into high gear. The renewal feeling of the upcoming season is a boost for the winter blahs and the needed burst of energy to prepare and finish those presentations and papers. As you "spring into action" remember to make all your work fun and purposeful—how can it improve your life, that of your clients, of the communities you live and work in and can I share it with colleagues through a publication? As you create build a repertoire of expertise to take with you in an area that you are passionate about. Spring only comes once a year, use her exuberance to help you "bloom".

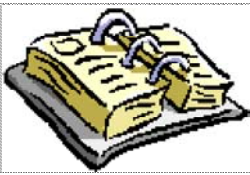


Did you Know. . . ?

- 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.
- Opening available for this year's trip to Barcelona to do your Independent Study. Scheduled to leave on May 9th. Interested? Questions? Contact Dr. Haynor at (610) 519-7751 or patricia.haynor@villanova.edu
- 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 11:30am - 7:30 pm, Fri 11:30am - 3:30pm. 519-4604.
- A new convenience store is located in St. Marv'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.

Thursday, February 22, 2001

"Humanitarian Mission at Home: meeting the needs of at risk populations"

Walter Tsou, M.D., M.P.H. Health Commissioner, Department of Public Health. City of Philadelphia

Monday, April 9, 2001

"Operation Smile: bringing new hope and new lives"

William Magee, Jr., D.D.S., M.D. Founder & Chairman of the Board of Directors, Operation Smile

Kathleen Magee, M.S.W., B.S.N. President, Board of Directors, Operation Smile

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

For 22 years the College has provided continuing education to already practicing professionals. Every six years the CE program undergoes an accreditation review. In continuing education the national accrediting body is the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation. ANCC is the organization that does certification exams for many nursing specialties. As a part of the accreditation process a self-study was written and submitted in January. Two site visitors will spend a day amplifying, verifying and clarifying the operations of the program in late May. ANCC accreditation is reciprocal in all states and for all specialty organizations that recognize the ANCC approval mechanism. We are one of approximately 35 colleges and universities around the country who have earned this recognition. It is the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval" for continuing education providers.

We had a busy fall hosting two national conferences, The American Association for the History of Nursing conference held at the Villanova University Conference Center in September and an educator conference in St. Louis in October, cosponsored by Rutgers College of Nursing and in cooperation with the American Nurses Association. One of the goals for the CE program is to support continued professional competence. While courses are aimed at a variety of target groups, a new audience is the focus for a unique Institute that will be held at the Villanova Conference Center during the week of June 11th. The program has been developed for faculty in schools of nursing around the country. The *Faculty Institute* is being jointly cosponsored by the College of Nursing and the National League for Nursing. The program goal is to help faculty develop innovative curricula and creative approaches to implementing the curriculum, appropriate methods to evaluate outcomes and ways to enhance critical thinking. Registrants will choose one of the following areas for the development of their own materials:

- **Critical Thinking: Defining, Promoting and Measuring**
- **Curriculum Development and Program Evaluation/Outcomes Assessment**
- **Creative Teaching Strategies in the Classroom and Clinical Setting**

Other offerings this spring include pharmaceutical research courses; electives on change, money management and organizational conflict are also on the docket. We are working this year with Catholic Health Initiatives to provide a six courses management certificate program to the nursing managers in the regional CHI hospitals. Dr. Patricia Haynor is assisting with the program.

There is such opportunity and need to offer professional development courses within the nursing

profession that two part time positions have been approved for the continuing education department by the University. A Program Coordinator and a secretary will allow for expansion of services and activities. These two individuals will join the College of Nursing staff this spring.

For further information about these or other continuing education activities, stop by the office, call the Continuing Education Program at 610-519-4930, or go to the CE web page www.nursing.villanova.edu/cont_ed/.

Lynore DeSilets, Ed.D., R.N.,C.
Director of Continuing Education in Nursing and Health Care



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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