

The GNN Newsletter

The Official Publication of
The Graduate Nurse Network

Villanova University
College of Nursing

As Another Year Arrives...

Dimitra H. Georgelos, BSN, RN

With the turn of each new year, I cannot help but become overwhelmed with an intense sense of anticipation, rejuvenation, and hope. Anticipation of what this new year may hold for me. Success? Happiness? Love? New friends? Old friends? Rejuvenation that the possibilities are endless! I can and will take on the world! Those New Year's Resolutions will not only mark the start of the new year, but also mark the start of my new life. Hope that the world may see peace again, that we will no longer live in fear, and that my friends and family may live a life full of health and happiness. Maybe it is the optimist in me, but somehow these feelings involuntarily encompass my entire being as Dick Clark sounds the start of the countdown to the Times Square Ball Drop...ten, nine,

eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one...



Dimitra Georgelos, BSN, RN is this semester's GNN President and Editor in Chief of the GNN Newsletter

Not until I had a conversation with my brother not long after New Years Day did I realize that not everyone had similar feelings, which I had thought were universal, with each turn of a new year. He spoke of new years as a time when he looks back on the year and recalls things he may have

regretted, things he would have liked to change, or things that really didn't go his way. I absolutely found this bizarre. I thought, "Are we related? Are you really my brother?"

Looking back? Honestly, I don't think I have ever found myself looking back. I always find myself looking ahead, ahead to tomorrow, ahead to next month, ahead to the future...Like I said, maybe I'm an optimist.

In light of the tragic events of 2001, I make a plea to everyone (including my brother) to look ahead to 2002 with anticipation, rejuvenation, and hope. Become empowered to change things in your life that need changing! Don't look back on the year with regret, but instead look ahead to the challenges that will face us tomorrow...and smile!

A Message from Dean M. Louise Fitzpatrick

Dear Graduate Students,
Happy New Year! I hope your break between semesters was restful, enjoyable and productive. Welcome to the new students who are joining us and beginning their graduate work during

the Spring semester. A very special "welcome home" to those of you in that group who are alumni of our Undergraduate Program. As our Omani students would say to you in greeting, "Ahalan wa Sahalan."

Last semester was unique in all our lives and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on it. Only five weeks after our new undergraduate students from Oman arrived,

(continued on page 2)

**Volume 21
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Spring 2002

Inside this issue:

<i>From the Desk of Dr. Manfredi</i>	3
<i>New Tax Benefits for Higher Education</i>	3
<i>Women with Disabilities Project</i>	5
<i>Calendar</i>	5
<i>Education for a Lifetime</i>	6
<i>News from Anesthesia</i>	11
<i>Sigma Theta Tau International</i>	13



Dean's Message Continued...



Dean Fitzpatrick has played an instrumental role in broadening the ethnic and cultural diversity within the College of Nursing

“We value life; we are protective of the weak and advocates for the vulnerable. We care for those who are unable to care for themselves, and we promote health, growth and self-actualization.”

we were all shocked by the events of September 11th. Despite that horrific tragedy which touched some of us personally, there were also consequences that—believe it or not—can be placed on the positive side of the ledger. At Villanova and specifically the College of Nursing, our bond as colleagues and nurses was tested. I believe our understanding and respect for one another and the diversity of cultures we represent was strengthened by the crisis. In addition to the dialogue and coming together of our faculty, administrators and international students, our American students made a special effort to extend themselves to those from other lands. Our Middle Eastern students trusted us and our genuine, protective concern for them and they remained at Villanova. Among the things that happened was the receipt of

many emails from our alumni in Jordan, the West Bank, Lebanon and Oman expressing their concern for us and for the United States. For all of us, September 11th was a tragedy but through it we were reminded that evil and good are not the preserve of any one group. Respecting legitimate differences of religion, political beliefs and national origin is a universal good. Terror and destruction are universal evils. Regardless of our political views or religious affiliations, there are basic tenets of our humanity. Nurses and all people are increasingly citizens of the world. We must be alert to risk and danger, yet unafraid to move our mutual agendas along without being paralyzed by even the most tragic events, of which September 11th is an unequalled example.

Nurses, regardless of where they live and who they are, have socialized by a common ethic. We value life; we are protective of the weak and advocates for the vulnerable. We care for those who are unable to care for themselves, and we promote health, growth and self-actualization. I am proud of our ability to respect differences and to transcend the barriers that some would have us erect. I am proud of our success in building bridges of mutual understanding within our Villanova community. If outcomes matter, then we can feel confident that our values and our collegialship as nurses when put to the test, will endure.

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



Dr. Haynor is an Associate Professor and Faculty Advisor for The Graduate Nurse Network

Thoughts from Dr. Patricia Haynor

Welcome to Spring! You've successfully navigated the fall semester and now you're ready to blossom. April 11th is Research and Scholars Day and your day to showcase what you've learned or produced from your Independent Studies this past year. Noted researchers like Karen Morin from Penn State and others will also be sharing their new research findings.

I came across this Dr. Seuss poem about Leadership and I believe it applies to each of us:
*Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to great places!
You're off and away!
You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself*

*Any direction you choose
You're on your own.
And you know what you know
And you are the guy who'll
decide where to go.*
(Seuss, Dr. (1990). *Oh, the places you'll go*. New York: Random House, pp. 1-2).
Patricia Haynor, DNSc, RN

From the Desk of Dr. Claire Manfredi

Welcome back to our returning students and welcome to our new students. I hope you had a happy holiday and I wish all of you a peaceful New Year.

Spring is a time of new beginnings and new ventures. We have 24 new students who started our program this spring; four nurse anesthetists, nine nurse practitioners, ten nursing education, and one health care administration. Among our new arrivals are six international students; five from Oman and one from Indonesia. All of our international students are in the nursing education tract.

Congratulations to 29 students who completed our Graduate Nursing Program in December 2001; 14 nurse

anesthetists, 10 nurse practitioners, 1 case management, and 4 nursing education students. We wish them success in future endeavors.

Congratulations to Susan Paparella, a student in our Nursing Education track. Susan was featured on the cover of the December 10, 2001 issue of Advance for Nurses. She is currently employed at the Institute for Safe Medication Practices in Huntingdon Valley, PA.

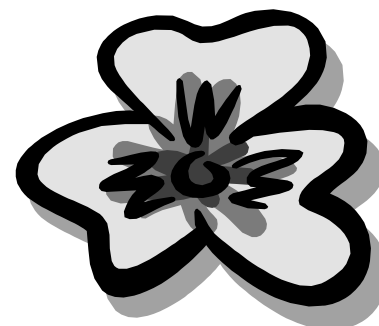
We will be having our Open House for those interested in our Graduate Nursing Program on Tuesday, March 12, 2002 at 4:00 pm. If you know of colleagues who might be interested in graduate nursing education, please tell them about our Open House. If you would like to

attend the Open House to talk with prospective applicants, please contact me. I would love to have you join us on March 12. 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.

If you have comments or suggestions related to our Graduate Nursing Program, I would love to hear from you. Please feel free to stop in to talk with me.

Best wishes for a challenging and productive semester.

Dr. Claire Manfredi, EdD,
RN



Dr. Manfredi is a Professor and Director of the Graduate Nursing Program

Mark your calendars!

Villanova University's

College of Nursing

Open House

March 12, 2002

4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

New Tax Benefits for Higher Education

Employers can sometimes be a rich source of financial aid for workers. Several thousand companies offer tuition assistance programs as a fringe benefit for employees who want to further their college studies. The tax treatment of these educational assistance programs is also generous. Up to \$5,250 a year of tuition assistance is tax-free to the employee.

In 2001, the exemption applies only for undergraduate courses. But beginning in

2002, the exemption will also be allowed for graduate-level courses, as a result of a provision in the Tax Relief Act of 2001. The new law also made the tax exemption a permanent fixture of the tax code.

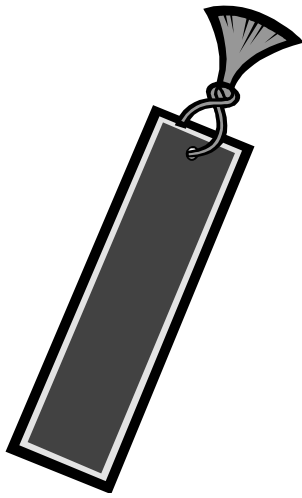
Despite the restriction on graduate-school courses prior to 2002, not all graduate students will be stuck paying tax on their tuition assistance for 2001. If the graduate school courses are directly related to your current job, a separate section of the tax code may

protect the employer assistance from being taxed. Specifically, the educational assistance is considered a tax-free "working condition fringe benefit" if the coursework will help maintain or improve your skills in your current job but is not part of a program of study that can qualify you for a new career.

For more information visit: <http://www.taxplanet.com/taxguide/education/employeraid/employeraid.html>



Article taken from IRS Publication 970 "Tax Benefits for Higher Education" (PDF).



“A Nurse is Knowledge”

Thoughts on Graduation... *Anonymous*

Over two years ago when I began this graduate program, I received a birthday card from my mother and inside this card was a bookmark entitled *What is a Nurse?* Written on the bookmark was a poem about nursing which discussed the gentle touch and smile of the nurse. I placed the bookmark in a textbook, and moved on to something else, quickly forgetting about this bookmark (do not tell my mother).

As I was rummaging through

my graduate materials, papers, texts, and notes deciding what would be needed as I prepared for my nurse practitioner boards, I stumbled upon the bookmark. This time I viewed the bookmark through different eyes. What I did not realize was that the poem opened with the line “*a nurse is knowledge.*” Often times when people think of the nurse, they think gentle, caring, reassuring, and other wonderful thoughts. The term *knowledge* never occurred to

me until now. I realize that nurses ARE knowledge, and that is why patients place their trust in our hands day in and day out. That is also why I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to return to school to obtain a Masters’ Degree and to increase my knowledge base. So along with my soothing voice, gentle touch, dedicated heart, watchful eye and smile, as the poem reports, I must also remember and to relay to others that a nurse IS knowledge!

The Learning Resource Center *Dimitra H. Georgelos, BSN, RN*

In need of a computer to type a paper? Looking for a reference book or maybe a video to supplement your oral class presentation? Interested in simply checking your email? Then check out the Learning Resource Center!

The Learning Resource Center, commonly referred to as the LRC, is located on the ground floor of St. Mary’s Hall. The experienced staff of Colleen Meakim, MSN, RN, LRC Coordinator, Mimi Snyder, LRC Assistant, along

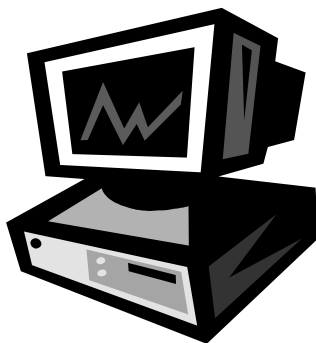
with work study students serve as knowledgeable resources! Seek their help for your academic needs. Here’s just a sampling of what you can do!

- Papers can be created in Word with the use of the APA Template and printed on the laser printer.
- You can access the Internet to browse the Web, search Falvey Library, find out who’s who in

your classes, or read and send email.

- Free transparencies can be created for presentations. Or, create your presentation using Microsoft Power Point.
- Reserve equipment needed for presentations.
- Review a sample of research proposals and independent study projects.

The possibilities are endless!



The LRC purchased 22 new computers in 2001

The LRC’s Hours of Operation

Monday thru Thursday

8:00 am to 9:30 pm

Saturday

12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Friday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Sunday

2:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Hours are subject to change during Spring and Easter Breaks. Please plan accordingly!

LRC Phone Number:

(610) 519-4925

Reaching the Hard to Reach: Phase II of the Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project

Suzanne Smeltzer, RN, EdD, FAAN

The Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project faculty and staff are pleased to announce that additional funding just awarded by Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation will enable us to continue our work to improve the health status of women with disabilities. The specific purpose of the next phase of the project is to reach "hard-to-reach" groups: women with disabilities isolated because of their disability and those who are deaf, hard of hearing or blind; health providers and third party payors who often lack awareness of and sensitivity to the health care needs of women with disabilities; and faculty and students in the health professions schools.

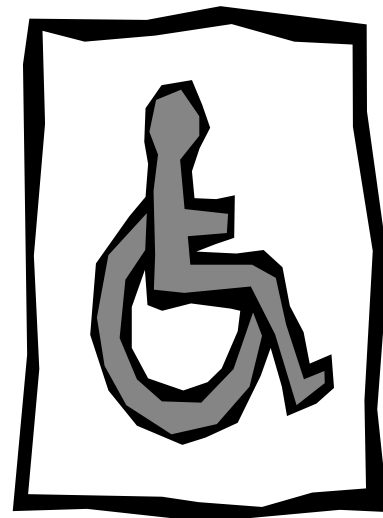
We will be meeting with Foundation staff as well as representatives of these hard-to-reach groups to determine what strategies and approaches are needed to reach the target audiences. With this additional funding, we anticipate creating and designing innovative approaches to disseminate information about health issues beyond our immediate reach.

During the fall of 2001, we sponsored two one-day workshops for women with disabilities. Faculty members and outside speakers gave presentations on the following health-related issues of women with disabilities: overview of health issues, osteoporosis prevention, nutrition, aging with a disability, maintaining healthy relationships, negotiating the insurance maze and managing one's own health care. We used the opportunity to provide bone mineral density screening to participants and stroke risk screening. Additionally, sessions were held on breast self-examination.

One of the many things we have learned is the need to assure accessibility when presenting programs to persons with disability. Specific steps were taken to assure that the workshop site, the programming, the written materials and slides were accessible to all persons with disabilities. We had signers, closed captioning, and large print and Braille versions of the written program materials available for participants.

We have been busy with many other presentations and with developing manuscripts for publication to get the word out about the unmet health care needs of women with disabilities to women themselves and to health care professionals. Additionally, we have submitted grant applications to support subsequent research related to the project. Our website (www.nursing.villanova.edu/WomenWithDisabilities) will soon have added to it sections on aging with a disability and menopause in women with disabilities.

We currently have an undergraduate student working on a special project with us and invite any and all graduate students to participate in our activities. There is much going on with the project...and much more work to be done. If you are interested in learning about how to participate or more about the project, please contact Dr. Suzanne Smeltzer (610-519-6828) or Vanessa Zimmerman (610-519-4922).



Dr. Smeltzer is an Associate Professor and Project Director of the Health Promotion for Women with Disabilities Project

“There is much going on with the project...and much more work to be done.”

Upcoming Events in the College of Nursing

March 12th

*Open House 4pm to 6:30pm
Villanova Room*

March 14th

*Health and Human Values
Lecture 7:30pm*

A Nurse as State Legislator:

Blending Nursing with Political Action

*Mary Ann Dailey, DNSc, RN
Bartley Hall Amphitheatre*

April 11th

Alpha Nu Research Day 4pm to 7pm

Radnor Hotel

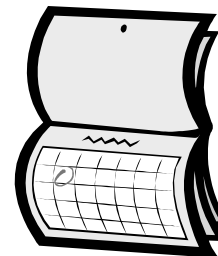
May 18

Convocation 9:30am

St. Thomas of Villanova

May 19

Graduation



Check out the College of Nursing's Calendar on www.nursing.villanova.edu



Dr. DeSilets is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Continuing Education Program

**The College of Nursing's
Continuing Education
Program received a full six-
year accreditation in August
by the American Nurses
Credentialing Center's
Commission on
Accreditation**



Education for a Lifetime Dr. Lyn DeSilets, EdD, RN, BC

During 2001, the Continuing Education program was reaccredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation. In May, two site visitors reviewed our self-study and came to Villanova for one day to verify, clarify, and amplify all of the ANCC criteria. The Commission met in August and gave us full six-year accreditation as a provider of continuing education, with no limitations. We are now one of approximately 27 colleges and universities throughout the country who are accredited as providers of nursing continuing education.

Faculty Development Institute - Planning is well underway for the 2nd annual Faculty Development Institute, co-sponsored by the National League for Nursing, to be held at The Villanova Conference Center in June. Last year 45 nursing educators representing 24 states, journeyed to Villanova to participate in this unique forum. The weeklong, residential institute, focused on the development and enhancement of the educator's role. Faculty chose one area of focus—critical thinking, teaching strategies, or program evaluation/outcomes assessment. This year a new track on web-based teaching has been added. On the last morning of the Institute, each of the groups reported on their activities and projects. One of the participants in the critical thinking tract wrote the following poem. I think it exem-

plifies her creative experience at Villanova.

A Critical Journey on the Enterprise

My mind was open and willing when I crested the Villanova door. / I was expecting some profound experience and I received that and so much more. / I chose the critical thinking tract and it was like a trip on the enterprise, with Captain Roz / and Marycarol at the helm, the facilitators of this ride. / We started our 5-day mission boldly going where only some have gone before. / We took off at warp nine speed, with critical thinking at the core. / We soared high above the stars learning the concepts one by one. / In our quarters we developed some guidelines, and the follow are just some: / Captain, an alien vessel is trying to contact the Enterprise: / -Teach students to understand and interpret, don't repeat and memorize / Bones, Bones, is there anyone else in the sick bay? / -Strive to think less "I" and more "We" and the patient will have a shorter stay. / Scotty, are our shields down, we're losing life support? / -If you reward their critical thinking, they will value it all the more. / Mr. Spock, give us your thoughts, what do you suspect is going on? / -Try to keep a sense of humor, Captain, think out loud, and use your intuition. / Captain Kirk, there are Romulan vessels on our port and star-board sides, / Use modeling, right and left brain thinking, this

helps our students to synthesize. / Lt. Chekov, it's time to go, set a course for home, / -Change "No" to "Oh," "I" to "Why," and they will begin to think more on their own. / As we land from our out-of-space journey, we'll each take back something new, we hope we're not seen as / aliens when we present our critical thinking views. Our special thanks goes to our daring captains who / helped expand our minds, Now we'll take off to brave new worlds with our student's at our side./

(with permission of Louise Mitchell, June 14, 2001)

In addition to the usual activities, new CE courses are available this spring including a Nurse Management Certificate, a Palliative Care Certificate and a Parish Nurse Retreat Day. Furthermore, the Alpha Nu Research Day will be co-sponsored by the College of Nursing so that CE credit can be awarded.

Over the past year the Continuing Education Program has provided on-site nursing management courses to the managers of seven hospitals in the Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) System, and to the nurse managers at Mercy Fitzgerald Medical Center (MFMC). The series will be repeated at MFMC and offered to the non-nurse managers in the CHI System this spring.

For further information on continuing education activities, stop by the Continuing Education Office in St.

Code Blue in Labor and Delivery

Cynthia S. Hoens, MSN, RNC

Over the course of my career as a labor and delivery nurse at a large tertiary hospital in Central New Jersey, I have had the unique opportunity to see hundreds of infants born over the last five years. My job entails coaching prospective mothers and fathers through the laboring process, and finally, through these efforts, joining awaiting parents with their healthy and vigorous infant. In the hospital's 15 labor rooms and 5 cesarean section rooms, we deliver almost 7,000 children a year. Our high-risk doctors see the sickest mothers and babies in Central New Jersey. In an effort to deal with the enormity of this, our unit equips each shift with 10-14 well prepared nurses. With approximately 20 babies born daily, each nurse becomes a critical element to the team of residents and physicians.

As much as we take part in high-risk obstetrics on a daily basis, nothing could prepare the night shift for what was about to happen. In the wee hours of January 28, 2002, a mother, who had no obstetrical or medical issues, would take the entire labor and delivery unit to another realm. That night a mother would suffer an amniotic fluid embolism while 5 labor room nurses, 4 OB-GYN residents, 2 attending

physicians, 1 nurse anesthetist, 1 anesthesiologist, 2 MICU nurses, 1 medical resident, and 2 pulmonary attending physicians tried everything to save her. Five minutes after her son was born by emergency cesarean section, this mother would go into respiratory arrest, cardiovascular collapse, and a coma. At 1:45 am, approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes later, a previously healthy mother was declared dead.

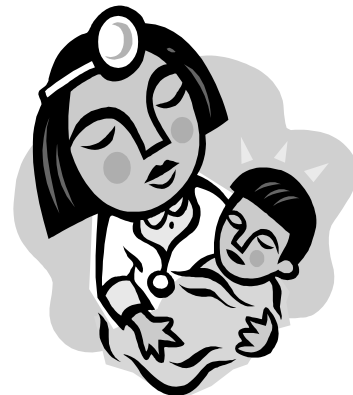
Gei and Hankins (2000) report that an amniotic fluid embolism occurs in 1 out of 20,646 deliveries, and remains the leading cause of mortality during the labor and delivery process. Fetal debris, usually meconium, amniotic fluid, or vernix penetrates the mother's blood stream causing an acute occlusion of the pulmonary microvasculature. This can occur during rupture of membranes, onset of labor, fetal death, trauma, and uterine over-distention by multiple gestation, polyhydramnios, or fetal macrosomia. In a matter of seconds, a mother's respiratory system will suffer. Initial symptoms can range from cyanosis, respiratory distress, and cardiopulmonary arrest. The next phase concerns the hemodynamic system causing pulmonary

edema, coagulopathy, DIC, and shock. The final phase involves the neurologic system, causing confusion, seizures, and coma. Of those who survive the initial phase, only 40% will enter into the second phase. Current data from the National Amniotic Fluid Emboli Registry conclude that an amniotic fluid embolus has a 61% mortality rate, with only 15% of patients surviving without neurologic damage. The neonatal survival rate is 68%, with only 32% suffering from neurologic deficits.

That morning I watched a once happy family prepare for a funeral of a 30 year-old mother. I watched her husband leave the hospital with his family carrying all of her clothes and possessions. I wondered what was in store for this family, and how this unexpected turn of events would not only alter their lives, but also the lives of everyone who witnessed her death that night in OR #1.

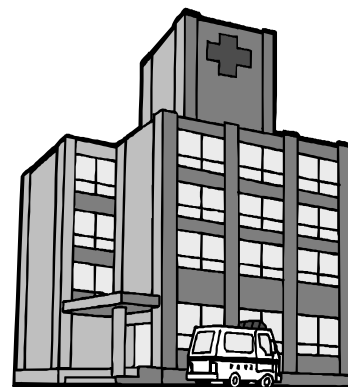
Resources

Gei, A. & Hankins, G.D. (2000). Amniotic fluid embolism: An update. *Contemporary OB-GYN*, 45 (1), 53.



Cynthia Hoens, MSN, RNC received her Masters' Degree in Nursing Education from Villanova University

“As much as we take part in high-risk obstetrics on a daily basis, nothing could prepare the night shift for what was about to happen.”





Jessica Wetzel is a graduate assistant and the new Graduate Nurse Network Treasurer

Back By Popular Demand: College of Nursing Tote Bags Jessica Wetzel, BSN, RN

The Graduate Nurse Network has heard your requests for commemorative Villanova University College of Nursing apparel and has taken action! In response to the tremendous success of the Graduate Nurse Network's fall fundraiser, the organization is again sponsoring a tote bag sale. Tote bags are ivory with navy blue handles displaying Villanova

University's seal with the words "Villanova University College of Nursing." What a great way to show off your Wildcat pride! However, supplies are LIMITED! Please complete the enclosed order form and send a check made payable to The Graduate Nurse Network in the amount of \$10 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling for each bag to

Villanova University, College of Nursing, c/o Jessica Wetzel, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085. Or, come to the College of Nursing office with a \$10 check in hand and pick up your tote today! Order now before they are sold out!

THE GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK'S TOTE BAG SALE

QUANTITY	PRICE	SUBTOTAL

Order Total: _____
 Shipping: _____
 Total: _____

Method of Payment

Check Number

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____



The GNN Wants To Hear From You!

The GNN welcomes students to comment on our current fundraising event. Was this a good idea? What did you like? What didn't you like? We would also appreciate any suggestions for possible future fundraising events. Please send your comments via email to:

Jessica.Wetzel@villanova.edu



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The Graduate Nurse Network

Get Hooked on the GNN! Cynthia S. Hoens, MSN, RNC

Looking for something to volunteer your time? Need to become more involved with the College of Nursing and Villanova University? The Graduate Nurse Network is looking for YOU!

The GNN is calling on all graduate student members who would like to volunteer their time to the organization. This could involve a few hours a week or month. We are hoping to bring the GNN

to new heights! But this is only possible with YOU!

The Graduate Nurse Network is especially in need of individuals to volunteer to produce the GNN Newsletter, recruit speakers and develop programs, and promote GNN events. Maybe you have an idea that could be of benefit to the GNN and the College of Nursing? We want to hear your ideas! Don't let your idea of graduate school be 45

credits and graduation! Make it an experience that is both valuable, meaningful, and enjoyable! Get hooked on the GNN!

If interested, return the form below and place in Cynthia Hoens' mail folder on the first floor of St. Mary's hall or contact us at (610) 519-7748 or via email at Cynthia.Hoens@villanova.edu



Return your sign-up sheet to Cynthia Hoens' mail folder located on the 1st floor of St. Mary's Hall



Mark Your Calendars!

**APRIL 11, 2002 is
RESEARCH DAY!**

~~~~~  
*Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma  
Theta Tau International  
and Villanova University  
College of Nursing present  
a conference...*



*"Research Shaping Clinical Practice"*

*Keynote Speaker: Karen Morin, DSN, RN*

*Professor in Charge, Graduate Program,  
Pennsylvania State University*

*4:00 pm to 7:00 pm*

*Radnor Hotel*

*Radnor, PA*

*Graduate students will also be presenting their Independent Study projects in Poster Presentations*



**The Graduate Nurse Network**

### THE GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK'S VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

I am interested in volunteering my time to:

- The GNN Newsletter
- Developing Programs
- Promoting GNN Events
- No Preference
- Other:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

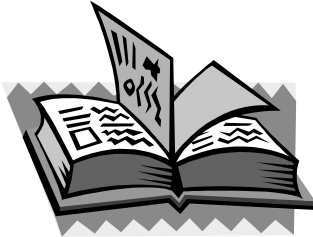
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

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www.nursing.villanova.edu



The Falvey Library is located on Main Campus

## Falvey Library Hours This Spring!

### Regular Hours

Monday: 8am to 2 am  
 Tuesday: 8am to midnight  
 Wednesday: 8am to midnight  
 Thursday: 8am to midnight  
 Friday: 8am to 8pm  
 Saturday: 9am to 8pm  
 Sunday: 10am to midnight

### Spring Break Hours

March 1: 8am to 5pm  
 March 2: 9am to 5pm  
 March 3: CLOSED  
 March 4: 9am to 5pm  
 March 5: 9am to 10pm  
 March 6: 9am to 10pm  
 March 7: 9am to 5pm  
 March 8: 9am to 5pm  
 March 9: CLOSED  
 March 10: 2pm to midnight

### Easter Break Hours

March 27: 8am to 10pm  
 March 28: 9am to 5pm  
 March 29: CLOSED  
 March 30: CLOSED  
 March 31: CLOSED  
 April 1: 2pm to 2 am



## 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! Call us at (610) 519-7748.

Share your information with us!  
 Call us at (610) 519-7748 so that we can include your contribution in next semester's newsletter!

- There is a small resource library for graduate students and 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 include the site, area of concentration, preceptors, and student evaluations of the experience.
- There is a folder in Barbara Nolen's (Office Manager for the College

of Nursing) office for students who are preparing for their teaching practicum. This folder contains various documents that may be useful to students enrolled in this course.

- Every fourth week of the month the Falvey Library conducts orientations to the Internet. These are on a walk-in basis and are tailored to meet your needs. The 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 operation are Sunday through Thursday 1:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday 1:30pm to 5:30pm. Call them at (610) 519-4604.
- The 2nd Storey, a convenience store adjacent to

St. Mary's Cafeteria, offers a wide variety of foods and snacks for the busy graduate student. St. Mary's Cafeteria is also now offering food items *a la carte* for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Dinner is served from 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

- There is a lounge available next to the St. Mary's Cafeteria from 8:30am to 9:30pm. It has a microwave and refrigerator for your convenience. Please obtain the key from the front desk of the College of Nursing office.
- Computer workshops are held each month at NO COST! A list of workshops and times can be obtained by calling (610) 519-4409 Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm.

## News from the Nurse Anesthesia Tract

### Angela Willson, BSN, RN

With the beginning of the spring semester, all the anesthesia students are now in clinical at least 3 days a week and are all very busy juggling class schedules, assignments and early morning clinical days!

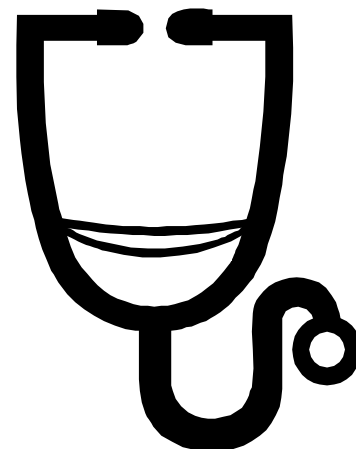
The junior students have just completed their first semester and have reached some major student nurse anesthesia milestones. I am happy to announce that most of them have successfully completed their first tracheal (and esophageal!) intubation! They are now also responsible for ensuring that their assigned operating room is adequately set-up for the expected and unexpected activities of the day. They do so by arriving early to ensure that the anesthesia machine, supplies, and necessary drugs are prepared. They are also working on

becoming proficient at starting intravenous lines and planning different anesthetic care plans based on each patient's specific needs. But clinical is not all they are maneuvering; they continue to attend lectures and workshops two days a week and Villanova classes one to two evenings a week as well. They are all doing an incredible job at handling the stress and succeeding in becoming top Villanova graduate students!

For the senior students, they have now begun the countdown to graduation in December. They are in clinical areas at various hospitals throughout Pennsylvania and Delaware four days a week, while continuing to attend classes at Villanova and Lankenau. They are completing specialized rotations in learning the anesthetic management of

obstetric and open-heart surgery patients, as well as the management of pediatric populations with a three-month rotation at A.I. duPont or St. Christopher's Hospitals for Children. At this point in the program, the clinical facilities' expectations are that senior students have the ability to think critically and function as nurse anesthetists. All of the senior students have gained the ability and knowledge to do just that!

All of the students, faculty and staff of the anesthesia school are anticipating the relocation of our program to Crozer-Chester Medical Center. Crozer-Chester is an excellent clinical site where the students are a top priority, and will be a great "home base" for our Anesthesia program!



*Angela Willson, BSN, RN is the Graduate Assistant for the Anesthesia Program and works as an emergency room nurse at Springfield and Pennsylvania Hospitals*

***The Anesthesia Program awaits its move to Crozer-Chester Medical Center in August of 2002***

## Meet the New GNN Board!

### **PRESIDENT:**

*Dimitra H. Georgelos, BSN, RN*

Dimitra is currently enrolled in both the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Nursing Education tracts. She works as a staff nurse at A.I. duPont Hospital for Children's cardiac step-down unit. In addition, she serves as the Graduate Assistant for the Office of the Dean.

### **VICE-PRESIDENT:**

*Cynthia S. Hoens, MSN, RNC*

Cynthia received her Masters' degree in Nursing Education from Villanova University in December and is now pursuing a Post-Masters' certificate in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner tract. She works as a labor and delivery nurse at St. Peter's University Hospital and as the Graduate Assistant for the Un-

dergraduate Program.

### **TREASURER:**

*Jessica Wetzel, BSN, RN*

Jessica is enrolled in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner tract and hopes to receive a Post-Masters' certificate in the Nursing Education tract. She is currently a PICU nurse at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Graduate Assistant for the Graduate Program.

### **SECRETARY:**

*Elizabeth Hudson, BSN, RN*

Beth is currently enrolled in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner tract. She works as a nurse for The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's primary care clinics. In addition, Beth serves as the Graduate Assistant for the Office of Continuing Education.



*Please contact us with any questions, comments, or ideas via email or at (610) 519-7748. We would love to hear from you!*



*Robyn Januszewski graduated from Villanova University's Undergraduate Program in May of 1999 and began the Graduate Program in January of 2002*

***“Villanova is known for its smaller class size, the incredible support of professors who make a point of getting to know all of their students on a personal level, and the impeccable education and clinical skills.”***

## Words from a New Student... *Robyn Januszewski, BSN, RN*

Hey guys! My name is Robyn Januszewski and I am a new graduate student this semester aiming for the Adult Nurse Practitioner Tract. I am very excited to have started graduate school, especially back at good old Villanova. For those of you who are fellow alumni, welcome home! For the rest of you who are new to Villanova, I hope you have felt welcome joining our family!

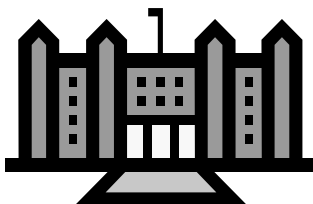
Since I completed my undergraduate degree from here, I figured why not come back for more fun? Villanova is, as I tell everyone I know, my second home. After I graduated in May of 1999, I moved down to Baltimore, Maryland where I worked at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit. What an incredible experience! I learned more in that year alone than I ever thought I could! I have no doubt that a major contributing factor to my job offer at Hopkins was directly related to my education at Villanova University. As I look back on my first year as a professional nurse through my present career, I am convinced that the training I received in my undergraduate education at Villanova more than adequately prepared me for nursing in the real world. After

only a year down in Baltimore, due to family medical issues, I left my job at Hopkins and purposefully moved back to the Villanova area. I needed to be closer to my family back in New Jersey, without actually moving back home. I thought, “Where area can I move where I know the location, am closer to home, and have the most emotional support of friends? Villanova!”

Now a year and a half later, I can easily say that moving back to this area was one of the best decisions of my entire life. I am currently working at The University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in the Multi-Trauma/Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Though I continue to learn on the job with my daily experiences, about three months ago I found myself searching for a different type of challenge to further my career development. After determining that graduate school was in my future, I began speaking to many graduate students at different universities who all gave me their impressions on which school to attend. One common theme repeated itself over and over again with regards to our university. Villanova is known for its smaller class size, the incredible support of professors who make a

point of getting to know all of their students on a personal level, and the impeccable education and clinical skills. After examining many different graduate programs in the Philadelphia area, it was not a difficult decision in choosing to come back home to Villanova. After all, I already knew how supportive and focused the professors were, was familiar with the campus and faculty, and understood the nursing program. I can honestly say that after only attending these first few weeks of graduate school, I know that I made the right decision. With qualities like these, why would anyone go anywhere else?

Villanova has always been an environment where you meet lifelong friends, learn a wealth of knowledge, and are a part of a loving family of professors and staff that truly care. Always remember when the studies get difficult, you are not alone! Hang in there and reach out to the faculty and to all of us, your fellow colleagues. We will all succeed together! I wish all of you much luck in your graduate studies this semester and hope to get to know each of you in the coming years. Go Wildcats!!



**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF NURSING GRADUATE PROGRAM IS RANKED AGAIN AMONG THE "TOP 60" GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

## Sigma Theta Tau's Alpha Nu Chapter: A Call for Nominations—Awards and Scholarships

*Anne Marie Greco, BSN, RN*

Alpha Nu Chapter presents awards and scholarships to recognize those individuals whose contributions to nursing further the goals of Sigma Theta Tau International. These awards are presented to individuals each year at the induction ceremony.

We all know many individuals whose daily practices in the diverse field of nursing deserve recognition. Alpha Nu encourages all members to submit a letter of nomination in support of nurses who exemplify the qualities for the following awards.

### Excellence in Nursing Practice

Criteria include demonstrating a breadth of knowledge in practice, developing creative approaches to quality care, possessing clinical expertise, advancing the scope and practice of nursing, serving as an inspiring mentor/preceptor, enhancing the image of nursing through practice, and participating in community af-

fairs, legislation, and/or organizations that affect nursing practice.

### Excellence in Nursing Research

Criteria include conducting distinguished research in nursing, communicating findings, writing scholarly works related to nursing theory/research, giving evidence of a history of research activities, and encouraging research activities within STTI, nursing, and/or the public.

### Excellence in Nursing Education

Criteria include demonstrating excellence in teaching, advancing the science of nursing, promoting the theory/research base for nursing curricula, influencing scholarly development in nursing education, practice, and/or research through teaching, and influencing the professional practice of nursing and the public image of nursing.

### Excellence in Leadership

Criteria include demonstrating excellence in teaching, advancing the science of nursing, promoting the theory/research base for nursing curricula, influencing scholarly development in nursing education, practice, and/or research through teaching, and influencing the professional practice of nursing and the public image of nursing.

Alpha Nu, Villanova's Sigma Theta Tau chapter, invites graduate students to apply for membership during the spring of 2002. Information about the process and criteria will be emailed to you and placed in

your mail folders. Applications will be available at the front desk of the College. The deadline is May 15, 2002. We encourage all graduate students to apply. Please contact Dr. Mary Anne Dolen if you have any questions at (610) 519-6814 or at MaryAnne.Dolen@villanova.edu

Criteria include receiving local, national, and/or international recognition as a nursing leader, influencing leadership in nursing through visionary and innovating approaches to leadership, creating an environment that enhances the image of nursing, and participating in the development of nursing leaders.

### Academic Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a member enrolled in a masters' degree program in nursing or a doctoral program.

### Research Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a member involved with conducting or having conducted a research study.



*Anne Marie Greco graduated from Villanova University in May of 1999 and is Scholarship and Awards Co-Chair of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International*

**Please submit all nominations and applications by August 1st to:**  
**STTI Scholarship and Awards Co-Chairs, Alpha Nu Chapter**

**310 Sussex Blvd.**

**Broomall, PA 19008**

**With comments or inquiries, please contact via email at:**

**Agreco77@yahoo.com**

## Join Now!—Sigma Theta Tau International

*Mary Anne Dolen, DrPh, RN*

Sigma Theta Tau International is the national honor society of nursing. The society is dedicated to improving the health of people worldwide by increasing the scientific base of nursing practice. Members are nursing scholars committed to the pursuit of excellence in clinical practice, edu-

cation, research, and leadership. Alpha Nu, Villanova's Sigma Theta Tau chapter, invites graduate students to apply for membership during the spring of 2002. Information about the process and criteria will be emailed to you and placed in

your mail folders. Applications will be available at the front desk of the College. The deadline is May 15, 2002. We encourage all graduate students to apply. Please contact Dr. Mary Anne Dolen if you have any questions at (610) 519-6814 or at MaryAnne.Dolen@villanova.edu



*Dr. Dolen is an Associate Professor and Graduate Counselor of the Alpha Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International*



## The GNN Newsletter

The Official Publication of  
The Graduate Nurse Network

Villanova University  
College of Nursing

The Graduate Nurse Network  
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*The Graduate Nurse Network aims to inform the student body of events and service activities available through the College of Nursing and Villanova University. In addition, it facilitates networking among graduate students, faculty, alumni, and community leaders.*

*The GNN Newsletter is published each semester.*

*Contact any of the Graduate Assistants at...*

*(610) 519-7748*

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## The Graduate Nurse Network



*The GNN Newsletter is published every semester*

## The GNN Newsletter's Editorial Board

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Cynthia S. Hoens

Jessica Wetzel

Angela Willson

Robyn Januszewski

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The GNN would like to thank everyone who was involved in the preparation, contribution, revision, and assembly of The GNN Newsletter.

The GNN is looking for a GNN Newsletter Editor and contributors. Contact any of the Graduate Assistants via email or at (610) 519-7748 if interested!