



College of Nursing

VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

THE GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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the GNN

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The **Graduate Nurse Network** (GNN) is the graduate student organization in the College of Nursing with the goal of keeping the graduate nursing students informed while providing networking opportunities. In the past, the GNN, has prepared a Newsletter to provide information about programs, activities, and services here at the College of Nursing. This information is now included in the spring and fall letter you receive from Dr. Marguerite Schlag, Assistant Dean and Director, Graduate Nursing Program.

This format of the GNN Newsletter is to foster opportunities for networking by featuring a Sharing Forum. The **Sharing Forum** will highlight research, conferences, and rewarding experiences of which the master's and doctoral students wish to share. If you would like to learn more about the students' experiences, you may contact the students via e-mail.

SHARING FORUM

Abdullah Al Mahrouqi (Education) Is happy that he got married on July 5, 2007. He and his wife came for their honeymoon in the United States. They had a nice tour of Philadelphia and New York and explored different sights and ate different food. In his professional life, Abdullah finished his independent study which was on comparing the role of the staff development coordinator/clinical nurse educator between Oman and the United States. He hopes his recommendations for Staff Development Department in Oman will be useful. He is going to work as a nurse educator in Oman upon his graduation in December.

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Amy Weaver (PhD) is a full time student in Villanova's doctoral program and a full time faculty member at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, OH. She recently presented at a local Ohio Nurses Association meeting and the topic was "Safe Patient Handling." She usually teaches health assessment and adult health clinicals and labs. Her background is in geriatrics and staff development. On a personal note she has been married for 9 years, has no children but she has four dogs, two puppies and a cat. She has a soft heart for stray animals and volunteers for a local animal shelter. She considers herself a paper artist. She is involved with card making, book making, altering existing books, and scrapbooking. Unfortunately, this creative outlet went on the far back burner when she started doctoral classes.

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Michele Dougherty (Education) was married on October 20th in Pittsburgh to Andy LaMora. They are planning a honeymoon to Prague and Vienna over Christmas.

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Jo Ann Platko (PhD) is an Assistant Program Administrator of the School of Nurse Anesthesia at Wyoming Valley Health Care System/University of Scranton. She is also President of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) District II and an Editor for *The International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthetists*. She is a Health Resources and Service Administration Grant Reviewer and an On-Site Reviewer for the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. She has been asked to be a participant at the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists Fall Symposium Roundtable Discussion, "The Future of Nurse Anesthesia in Education in Pennsylvania" which was held October 5-7, 2007 at the Society Hill Sheraton in Philadelphia. Additionally, Jo Ann was a representative to the Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States Ambulatory Surgery Center Guideline Consensus held on September 8, 2007 at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
joanne.platko@villanova.edu

Jeannie Carroll (Health Care Administration) is anticipating graduation in December of this year. She has been enjoying a field work placement with the PSNA this Fall. It reminds her again how important our professional membership is to protecting and promoting our practice. This past summer, she worked collaboratively with colleagues to write two chapters for a book volume on pediatric palliative care. One focused on hospice homecare issues and the other on the psychosocial bereavement issues for children at the end of life. When not studying or writing, she enjoys ballroom dancing with her husband and yoga and pilates classes.
jean.carroll@villanova.edu

Jen Specht (PhD) is a first year student who currently works at DeSales University as full time faculty. She is enjoying the challenge of working full time and attending school full time. Jen is married and her husband of five years are building a house that they will move into at the end of October. They are very much looking forward to their new house. They have a dog, Abby, who is a five year old Dalmatian. Abby is often naughty, but super cute! Jen and her husband travel frequently and their favorite spots are Europe and Hawaii. They have put most of their travel plans on hold with her work and school commitments. They plan on taking long weekend trips to view the changing leaves this fall and probably will attend the Oktoberfest in New England.
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Brian Peach (Education) became engaged to his girlfriend Julia Ulrich on September 12th. They met when they were nurses on the same floor at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Julia went to Penn for her BSN and MSN, and now works as a nurse practitioner in the Hospital University of Pennsylvania ER and in a Broomall family medicine office. No date has been set yet, but they're hoping for a late spring/early summer wedding.
brian.peach@villanova.edu

Gary Guldin (Education) is the coordinator of the Penn State-Lehigh Valley Practical Nursing Program. Their first class graduated in September. It is an exciting time for Gary and the 20 graduates. He is a one man show for the most part. He developed the curriculum for the program, implemented the program, coordinates clinical experience, acts as a liaison with the State Board of Nursing and has also done some clinical. He will be expanding his program to the Penn State's Berks Campus for the fall of 2008.
gary.gulden@villanova.edu

Lisa Wetzel-Effinger (Education) is the Graduate Assistant for the Center for Nursing Research and will be resuming her position as clinical instructor for first year nursing students at Delaware County Community College. She instructs on a med-surg floor. Lisa just sent her first child off to York College.
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Dawn Beard (formerly Dawn Peters) (Adult Nurse Practitioner) is coming to the end of her program. It has been a busy, but fun 2 years. She has already interviewed for several positions, one job in particular looks very promising. As a Tuition Scholar she has enjoyed working in the Learning Resource Center with the undergrads this year. She is very excited about her new role as an Adult Nurse Practitioner and cannot wait to begin her professional career.

Anne Vitale (PhD) published an article titled "An integrative review of Reiki touch therapy research" in the *Holistic Nursing Practice Journal*. She is the scheduled presenter at the Sigma Theta Tau International Convention, in Baltimore, Maryland. Her topic is: An Integrative Review of Reiki Touch Therapy: Implications for Nursing Practice and Research, She is attending this conference with a dear nursing colleague, Dr. Priscilla (Patt) O'Connor! Patt is a former professor of Anne's from graduate school at The College of New Jersey. She will be in the audience during her presentation, not to judge her, only to cheer her on! Anne hopes everyone experiences having a Dr. Patt in their lives, and embraces how we can do the same for our students and colleagues.
anne.vitale@villanova.edu

Laura DeMare (Pediatric Nurse Practitioner) has been a Registered Nurse in the Emergency Department at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for the past five years.
laura.demare@villanova.edu

Fran Adamo (Anesthesia) was accepted in the nurse anesthesia track in 2009. She is currently working at Christiana Care full time in the MICU while taking two grad classes. She is still adjusting to going back to school after so many years.
frances.adamo@villanova.edu

Kelly Nestor (Adult Nurse Practitioner) is a fulltime student and is working towards a concentration in palliative care as well. She works part time as a hospice nurse for a neighborhood hospice in West Chester. Her husband Dan and she celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary in September. The past year has been busy! She got married, inherited three step children, is now a grandmother to Chase Robert Nestor born on 6/15, moved from the city to Chester County, has a new job and started grad school just to name a few of the changes! She did the Breast Cancer 3 day, 60 mile walk in October. To date she has raised almost \$4000 from friends and family!
kelly.nestor@villanova.edu

Betsey Romeo (PhD) started her summer with two weeks at Villanova taking her first doctoral course, which she enjoyed immensely. She was inspired by meeting the faculty and staff at the University and her cohort bonded almost immediately. Later in the summer her family (she has 5 children ranging from 4-22 years of age) was able to spend a week at the Jersey shore and the rest of the summer was spent at the pool and visiting family and friends. She began her second year at Gwynedd-Mercy College teaching the incoming freshman. It still amazes her to see the tremendous amount of change and growth that they will experience this next year. She anticipates that she will experience a similar transformation herself in the PhD program at Villanova University.
elizabeth.romeo@villanova.edu

Jennifer Nymark (Adult Nurse Practitioner) is currently a per-diem/weekend ICU nurse at Pottstown Medical Center. Two years ago she and her husband built a house in Gilbertsville, PA. They and their two-year old daughter Maryn Ashley really enjoy living in the country. Her prior experience includes graduating from DeSales University in 2000 and beginning her nursing career at Chestnut Hill Hospital as a Oncology Medical-Surgical nurse for three years and then working at Abington as a critical care nurse in the Medical ICU for three more years. She is currently pursuing her Nurse Practitioner degree on a part-time basis and is really enjoying the program. Jenna is looking forward to meeting more students in the adult nurse practitioner track.
jennifer.nymark@villanova.edu

Cynthia Hoens (PhD) currently working full time as a school nurse, per-diem as an Adolescent NP, and per-diem as a L&D nurse. She is getting ready to go to San Antonio in October to present on her dissertation topic of "Food Allergies in Children". She is working very hard to change her school district's policy and procedures for the treatment of food allergies in school. She will be featured on the show, "The Baby Story" some time in December. So look out for the nurse with the red hair in a Villanova scrub jacket!
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VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK OFFICERS

President:	Lisa Wetzel-Effinger
Vice President:	Sarah Klein
Secretary:	Janey Ierubino
Treasurer:	Michelle Dougherty
Sharing Forum Chairperson:	Janey Ierubino
Member-at-Large:	Suzanne Foley
Faculty Advisor:	Dr. Patricia Haynor

OPPORTUNITIES:

The College of Nursing has tuition scholar positions available for next semester, as well as, various opportunities for educational funding. If interested, contact Dr. Marguerite Schlag, EdD, RN, Assistant Dean and Director, Graduate Nursing Program

marguerite.schlag@villanova.edu

NEXT GNN MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2:30 IN THE GA's OFFICE

INFORMATION:

For information regarding the Graduate Nurse Network, or general questions on graduate programs, feel free to contact the members of the GNN Executive Committee:

Michelle Dougherty (Nursing Education) - michelle.dougherty@villanova.edu

Jane Ierubino (Nursing Education) - jane.ierubino@villanova.edu

Lisa Wetzel-Effinger (Nursing Education) - lisa.wetzel.effinger@villanova.edu