



College of Nursing

VILLANOVA
UNIVERSITY

THE GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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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.

Many fellow students reported that their semester was busy and they didn't have much news to report. But, here is what some of us have been doing:

Suzanne Foley (2nd Year PhD) completed her practicum as an intern at the WHO in Geneva, Switzerland. She was there from Jan 15 to March 4th and worked on several projects related to the 30th anniversary of Primary Health Care. One was setting up a compendium of contacts for a larger collection of current case studies that showcase nurses' and midwives' contributions to primary health care around the globe. The other project was writing the initial draft of a paper titled *Nurses' and Midwives' Contributions to Primary Health Care*. She found that WHO was a very fascinating place and there were interesting lunch time seminars on all types of topics that she was able to attend. She was able to visit the ICN headquarters which are also located in Geneva.

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Michelle (Dougherty) LaMora (MSN Education) is doing her clinical practicum this spring at the Unity Clinic. She is working with translators to provide diabetic care and teaching to Indonesian-speaking patients.

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Jennifer Ross (1st Year PhD) is a visiting clinical instructor for Villanova. Thus far, she reports that her doctoral studies have been interesting, challenging, and really has forced her to stretch her mind to look at the world differently. She is thrilled that she has finally decided on a specific topic for her dissertation, though she is still working on research questions and research design. On a more personal note, she and her husband are excitedly expecting their first baby at the end of August. Balancing work, school, and pregnancy has been challenging at times, but she wouldn't trade any of it! (Those sleepless nights now are just getting her ready for what's to come in the fall!) She does plan on continuing her school work next semester with her little one at her side- one of the many benefits of online classes!

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Prolung Ngjin, (MSN Anesthesia) will start the Nurse Anesthesia tract in the Fall of '08. Right now she is taking a few courses to get into the groove of things, while working as a critical care transport nurse. She got engaged in December '07 in Paris on the Eiffel Tower and is getting married on 08/08/08 outside of Philadelphia. She just returned from an Operation Smile Mission to Honduras/ Tegucigalpa. This was her third international mission with Operation Smile.
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Kendra Locurcio (MSN Education) will finish school in May and is currently teaching for Villanova in the OB clinical setting. Her Independent Study project has become a large initiative in her unit at HUP. She is creating orientation manual for mothers in preterm labor who will probably have their child admitted to the Intensive Care Nursery. Currently there are no educational materials for families regarding what goes on in the ICN and parents come to the unit very nervous and unprepared. Kendra will be creating a video that mothers and families will be able to view while on the labor floor which will give them an introduction to the ICN.
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Anne Vitale (PhD) reports her dissertation is moving along and is making excellent progress. She hopes to be finished sometime between May-July 2008. She will be receiving the Jean Watson Student Award from the International Association of Human Caring, in April, 2008 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The recognition comes with a cash award that enables her to attend the entire 3 day conference and spent some time with Dr. Watson! The abstract submitted was her doctoral research on Reiki and self-care among nurses. She did doctoral cognate coursework with Dr. Watson at the University of Colorado in May, 2006 and is looking forward to seeing her again.
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Gary Guldin (MSN Education) is currently seeking his second Master's degree. Currently, he is the Coordinator of the Practical Nursing Program at Penn State-Lehigh Valley where he started the program in April of 2006. It is an 18 month, part time evening weekend program. In September 2007, 20 students graduated and had an 85% pass rate for the first class. The pass rate is not as high as he would have liked it, however considering he is the only full time faculty and was writing the curriculum while teaching the program, he thought they did well for the first class. The State Board of Nursing gave them full approval of the program in January 2008. He started his second PN class in January, 2008 with 21 students. PSU-LV hopes to add a smaller cohort of approximately 15 students in late July 2008. The curriculum he has developed will possibly be implemented at other PSU campuses around the state.
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Mary Beth Hoban (MSN Education) is part time student and is the Staff Development Specialist at The Home Care Network, Main Line Health. She has worked in home care for 15 years and is responsible for the scheduling of all of the nursing students who come to their agency for home care clinical rotations. Currently they are hosting nine different schools. She has also been involved for the past two years in teaching nurses and therapists electronic documentation on laptops. The Home Care Network has implemented a telemonitoring program and she served as the project manager of the research study they conducted on the usability of telemonitoring equipment for their home care patients. She is enjoying being a part of the graduate program and has learned so much from the classes and all of the wonderful clinicians she has met. She has a son who works for TV Land in New York, a son in his second year at Villanova Law School and a daughter who is a Jr. at Temple, majoring in theater.
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Janey Ierubino (MSN Education) traveled to Peru with undergraduate nursing students in the Health Promotion class. She reported the experience to be exceptional and hopes to teach a class like this in the future. Her independent study is looking at methodologies to teach cultural competence. She has two daughters majoring in Nursing at Penn State and Cedar Crest College.
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VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
GRADUATE NURSE NETWORK OFFICERS

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

SPRING NETWORKING EVENT

Please join us during the week of April 8th. We'll be bringing snacks to your classes to encourage socializing and networking

OPPORTUNITIES:

The College of Nursing will have several Tuition Scholar and Graduate Assistant positions available for spring semester, 2009 as well as, various opportunities for educational funding. If interested, contact Dr. Marguerite Schlag, EdD, RN, Assistant Dean and Director, Graduate Nursing Program

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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:

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