

# University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire Nursing Alumni Newsletter

## Greetings from the Dean

College of Nursing and  
Health Sciences (CONHS)



Warm greetings to you, our Nursing Alumni and Friends of the Nursing Program.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will read about some of the highlights of this past year. Additionally,

we are using this newsletter to invite you to our annual **Nursing Alumni Walk** scheduled for **Saturday, October 12, 2013**. Please come to enjoy the camaraderie of the walk and the many other activities planned for the UWEC Homecoming weekend.

This has been a very busy, intense and exciting year for the College of Nursing at UWEC. I can say that change, indeed, is our new normal. Having come to know the people more deeply this year who are the College of Nursing, I see more clearly the commitment to excellence in nursing education, the wealth of talent within our College and the caring community that is our culture. I am honored to be a part of this College and am excited to share some of the highlights of this past year.

We celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partnership with Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital in bringing our Baccalaureate program to the Marshfield Site. An evening of storytelling and reflection by administration, faculty, and nursing students in the first and current classes entertained us all. There was joy and applause when it was announced at the celebration that 531 students have graduated from the Marshfield site over the years.

Could you also hear the cheers when we completed our undergraduate curriculum revision this spring? This academic year culminated in approval

of the new curriculum by the State Board of Nursing. Groups of nursing faculty have been meeting this summer to create the beginning nursing courses for the new curriculum which will be implemented Spring semester, 2014.

Our nursing programs continue to be in high demand. We are enrolling a record number of approximately 256 pre-nursing freshman this fall. Our BSN Completion program has doubled in enrollment in the past 5 years and we continue to get well qualified Master's and DNP applicants for our graduate programs. We graduated our second class of 10 post master's DNP students this May and enrolled our first class of 27 BSN-to-DNP students this past fall.

Given the interest in our undergraduate nursing programs, the number of well qualified applicants we turn away, the demand for baccalaureate and graduate nurses now and in the future, the University informed me this past week that they are investing over 1 million dollars in our nursing programs. This money is to be used to raise our faculty salaries and to provide salaries to new faculty that are competitive in the market place. In being able to attract and keep faculty, it is our hope to expand enrollment in the traditional baccalaureate program in the future. This decision is indeed cause for celebration as it will impact our future in a very meaningful way. Thanks are extended to all who have helped over the years to maintain a standard of excellence in our nursing programs as this well positioned us for this funding.

This year has been one of international activity for members of our college. I traveled to China in November with a delegation from UWEC led by Interim Chancellor Gilles Bousquet, visiting ten colleges of nursing and several businesses. As a result of my trip, Professor Susan Moch and two of our graduate students traveled to China to

meet with faculty and students at four of the Universities I had visited. They also established a relationship with a hospital and surrounding community with the hope of potential research collaborations in the future. The academic year concluded with our Interim Chancellor returning to China with the Governor's delegation in Spring. During this trip an agreement of intent was signed between Fudan University College of Nursing in Shanghai and UWEC College of Nursing which sets the stage for student and faculty exchange and teaching and research partnerships.

This fall was particularly hard for our College as we said our goodbyes to Evalee Kunkel. An article about Evalee was written by two of our faculty and can be seen in the April issue of *Nursing Matters*. Her spirit and passion for nursing lives on in our college and the wind chimes outside our entry way honor her love of music.

We also are wishing our colleagues from the Environmental Public Health program well, as the program has moved from our college to the Watershed Institute in the College of Arts and Sciences, as of July 1st. We now are a college of one department and plan to remain so as we go forward.

And finally, we have been busy learning and integrating technology, promoting active learning, and pondering flipped classrooms. Trust me, there are few dull moments in the College of Nursing!

We hope that you will be able to attend the Nursing Alumni Walk on October 12th and that you always feel welcome to stop in for a visit or email us at [nursing@uwec.edu](mailto:nursing@uwec.edu). We hope to see or hear from you soon.

In the spirit of partnership,  
Linda K. Young, PhD, RN, CNE, CFLE  
Dean, Professor

## Honors and Recognitions

We are proud of the excellence demonstrated by our students, faculty, and staff in our College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Highlights from this past year include:

Five faculty and instructional academic staff members were honored with awards from the College at the start of the 2012-2013 academic year. **Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher** received the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award; **Dr. Mary Canales** the Suzanne Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness; **Dr. Debra Jansen** and **Ms. Evalee Kunkel** the Ihle Family Award for Caring; and **Mr. Gunnar Larson** the Patricia M. Ostmo Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction. **Ms. Pamela Guthman**, our former Clinical Agency Coordinator for Post-Licensure Programs, received the Friends of Nursing Award for her work with the LEAP Project (Linking Education and Practice for Excellence in Public Health Nursing). **Mr. Mark Larson**, a custodian for the College, earned the distinction of receiving the University's Excellence in Performance Award for Classified Staff.

**Dr. Rachael Haupt-Harrington** and **Ms. Lorraine Smith** received Concern for Adults Returning to Education (CARE) certificates of appreciation from the Eau Claire Nontraditional Student Services Office in May.

**Ms. Gail Hanson Brenner** was promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor and **Dr. Robin Beeman** and **Dr. Cheryl Brandt** were promoted to Professor in August 2012. **Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher** was appointed Assistant Dean of Post Licensure Programs (BSN Completion, MSN, DNP). **Ms. Diane Marcyjanik**, Clinical Instructor, earned an Education Specialist Degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in May.

**Dr. Angela Stombaugh**, Assistant Professor, was named director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at UW-Eau Claire, with the position starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. Her term as director will be for 3 years. CETL supports faculty and staff with professional development activities aimed at improving student learning.

**Brenda Kaczmariski**, a senior nursing undergraduate, was the winner in the Wisconsin Public Health Association student poster contest. The poster, "The Meaning of Food Insecurity in Eau Claire County," was part of the collaborative efforts of **Dr. Mary Canales** from the College of Nursing & Health Sciences; Nancy Coffey & Melissa Gullickson from UW-Extension; and Emily Moore from Feed My People.

**Dr. Lisa Schiller** and three undergraduate nursing students assisted in providing flu shots for Point in Time, an event held in January to count the number of homeless people in Eau Claire and provide assistance.

The **Eau Claire Student Nurses Association (ECSNA)** received the September Student Organization of the Month Award from the UW-Eau Claire Organizations Committee. ECSNA had been very active in raising funds for the Foundation for Children with Cancer—Jalyn's Chapter. In the 2012-2013 academic year, ECSNA also partnered with Sacred Heart Hospital and Be The Match to run a very successful Bone Marrow Registration drive on the Eau Claire campus. Additionally, ECSNA donated presents to the Salvation Army's Adopt a Family program and sponsored a donation drive for the Rosebud Indian Reservation.



ECSNA members with presents donated to the Salvation Army's Adopt a Family program.

**Kendra Hanson**, a May 2013 graduate and former ECSNA President, received the Leader of Leaders Award and ECSNA received the Chapter Achievement Award at the Wisconsin Student Nurses Association (WSNA) Convention in February 2013 in Wisconsin Dells. **Erin Stone** and **Melissa Finley** will be serving on the WSNA Executive Board for 2013-2014.

Members of the **Eau Claire Student Nurses Association—Marshfield Site** held very successful donation drives in the 2012-2013 academic year to collect personal items for Shirley's House of Hope, a domestic abuse shelter in Marshfield, and also The Hannah Center, a home for women in crisis. In addition to those activities, the Marshfield Site members organized and assisted in a blood drive for Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital.



Both students from Eau Claire and Marshfield attended Nurses Day at the Capitol in Madison in March (see below).



The undergraduate nursing **Class of December 2012** established a "Nursing Giving Tree" for the College. The intent of the tree is to provide a method to collect donations for the Eau Claire Beacon House – an organization that provides emergency assistance to homeless families, pregnant women, and children. The class is hoping this will become a tradition that will carry on year after year during the winter holiday season. They were able to collect multiple boxes of



hats, mittens, coats, scarves, boots, diapers, baby wipes, bottles, children's underclothes, etc.

## Honors and Recognitions (Continued)



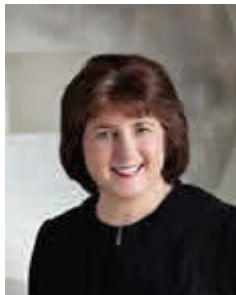
**Dr. Susan Moch**, Professor of Nursing, received a number of accolades in 2012-2013. She started off the academic year by being awarded the 2012 Academic Linkages, Mary Adelaide Nutting Award. The award presentation occurred on August 21,

2012 at the Annual Public Health Nursing Conference in Stevens Point. Her nominators acknowledged that “Dr. Moch is truly a professional academic nursing leader who has provided significant leadership for years in academic/practice linkages in Wisconsin public health nursing. Due to her vision and leadership, the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, College of Nursing and Health Sciences has extended and solidified collaborative partnerships which not only benefit local health departments, but the health of the populations we serve.” The award was sponsored by the Wisconsin Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section, and is meant to honor a public health nurse, supervisor, local or tribal health department manager, or academic faculty person who demonstrates exemplary linkages between academia and practice that promote the advancement of public health nursing practice. Dr. Moch had been active in the grant development committee and the advisory

council for the statewide Linking Education and Practice for Excellence in Public Health Nursing (LEAP) project.

Dr. Moch also will be inducted as a Fellow in the National League for Nursing (NLN) Academy of Nursing Education. Fellows must have demonstrated substantial and enduring contributions to nursing education. The induction ceremony will occur on September 20<sup>th</sup> during the 2013 NLN Education Summit in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Dr. Moch!!

**Ms. Donna Rozar**, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site, recently was named the Wisconsin Association of Local Health



Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) 2013 Board of Health Member of the Year. Ms. Rozar has been serving on the Wood County Board since 2000 and is the current chair of the Wood County

Health and Human Services Committee and had been the chair of the Wood County Board of Health. She also was President of the National Association of Local Boards of Health in 2010. Ms. Rozar has been a clinical instructor at our Marshfield Site since 2009 and continues to work casual in a staff nurse position at Ministry

Saint Joseph’s Hospital. Somehow, on top of all of those other activities, she has managed to serve on and lead a number of committees within our College, including chairing the Department of Nursing Academic Staff Council. Our College is fortunate to have such a strong leader and advocate for public health services, our nursing programs, and our students!

**Sister Joel Jacobi**, OSF, celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee as a Hospital Sister of St. Francis in June 2013. The Jubilee marks the anniversary when a sister makes First



Profession of Vows. Sister Joel taught for many years at UW-Eau Claire, initially in 1967-1988. In 1970 she returned as a nursing faculty member and also later served as a department chair, eventually retiring in 1995. Besides teaching,

Sister Joel was instrumental in starting the St. Francis Food Pantry in Eau Claire. She returned to the Mother House for the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis in Springfield, Illinois in 2005. Congratulations, Sister Joel! We wish you the best. Greetings can be sent to her attention at 4849 LaVerna Road, Springfield, IL 62707 or [webcontact@hsosf-usa.org](mailto:webcontact@hsosf-usa.org).

## Remembering and Honoring Evalee Kunkel



**Ms. Evalee Kunkel**, a dearly missed and multi-talented Clinical Assistant Professor in our College, passed away on November 4, 2012, following a cancer diagnosis. She was an alumna of our undergraduate and graduate nursing programs and taught with us from 2006-2012, on topics ranging from the dying process, hospice and palliative care, holistic healing practices, and caring for people with chronic illness. Ms. Kunkel also was a parish nurse and award winning Suzuki violin teacher and longtime member of the hand bell choir for her church. She was honored at her funeral service with a Nightingale Tribute, which included the reading by Dr. Susan Peck of the poem, “She was There,” and the nurses in attendance at the service presenting white roses to Evalee. As a way to remember Ms. Kunkel, the University donated wind chimes to our College which now hang at the front entrance of the Nursing Building.

The faculty and staff of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences created the **Evalee Kunkel Memorial Scholarship** to honor the memory of Evalee and recognize her dedication to the students and to nursing. In keeping with her interests, this scholarship is preferentially given to students interested in parish nursing, complementary therapies, or end of life and palliative care. People wishing to contribute to her scholarship can make checks payable to the UWEC Foundation and indicate the “Evalee Kunkel

Memorial Scholarship” in the memo line. They can be sent to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences or directly to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation Office (Schofield Hall 214, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004).



## Goodbyes . . . .

We said goodbye to a few members of our College who retired from the University this past year or moved on to other positions.

**Dr. Lee-Ellen Kirkhorn**, Professor, retired in May, 2013 after eight years of service to the University. Dr. Kirkhorn has accepted a position as Professor and Chair in the College of Health and Human Sciences at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. While



at UW-Eau Claire, in addition to her undergraduate and graduate teaching responsibilities, Dr. Kirkhorn continued to update and publish her book, *Pathophysiology*, now in its 5<sup>th</sup> edition and nominated for a Capstone International Nursing Book Award. During her tenure in Eau Claire, she also published articles in the *Journal of Nursing Education Perspectives*, *Nurse Practitioner World News*, and *Nursing Matters*. Dr. Kirkhorn spent a summer as a nurse educator in Guangzhou, China in 2007. She also served as a camp nurse at a Jewish residential summer camp, and used her experience to co-create a domestic intercultural immersion experience there for undergraduate students. Dr. Kirkhorn was instrumental in taking graduate students to Washington, DC for a clinical immersion experience with homeless persons; and (along with Ms. Catherine Berry) undergraduate students to China as part of a UW-Eau Claire International Research Fellowship. Personal highlights for her were working with students on faculty-student research collaborations, attending National Collegiate Undergraduate Research Days with students, teaching

a global health honors course with nursing and other university honors students, and presenting at multiple international conferences. Dr. Kirkhorn was the invited keynote speaker for the Indiana University-Purdue University Nursing Spectacular held this past April. Her presentation focused upon the importance of international nursing work in China and the role of nurses in international and global health. In Indiana, she hopes to continue efforts to create new international programs of study and to provide leadership in the development of their DNP program. She has loved working at UW-Eau Claire and hopes the same level of excellence and grace will be hallmarks of the many new students and colleagues she'll encounter. She also looks forward to taking lots of new photos and promises to stay in touch!

**Dr. Susan (Sue) Peck**, Professor emerita, also retired in May 2013 after 24 years of service to the University. Following her retirement, Dr. Peck continues to work as a holistic nurse practitioner at Optima Health and Vitality Center in Eau Claire and at St John's Housing for elders and adults with disabilities. The focus of her practice is to identify and treat changes in health early before problems occur, using non-



drug options whenever possible. While at UW-Eau Claire, she was recognized with many awards including the Ihle Family Award for Caring in 2011, the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service

Award in 2008, the Sigma Theta Tau, Delta Phi Chapter Excellence in Mentoring Award in 2008, the Delta Phi Chapter's Excellence in Clinical Practice Award in 2007, and the Patricia M. Ostmo Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction in 1991. Dr. Peck established the Sue Peck Faculty Service Award this summer, for faculty/staff member(s) of the College whose initiative fosters the practice of holism and/or integrative therapies by nurses, as part of the required nursing curricula. She has been a certified Gerontology Nurse Practitioner since 1996 and a Certified Healing Touch Practitioner since 1995 (and instructor since 2008). Recently, she had been arranging for and supervising a senior nursing student clinical immersion experience with immigrant farm populations in the surrounding counties. The project involved nursing students with Spanish language proficiency delivering health screening and farm safety prevention at the farms in both Spanish and English languages. Dr. Peck will continue to teach classes in Healing Touch at level I and at level II. Dr. Peck has a couple of quilts in the making and is excited to gain some progress with those. She and her husband, Tom, make trips to see their 3 sons and daughters-in-law who live around the world -- currently in Spain, Rwanda, and Vancouver. You'll also see them around town walking their two dogs, Koa and Jenny.

Additionally, **Ms. Debbie Martin**, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site, took a clinical ER position at Rochester Mayo last fall. **Ms. Katherine German-Olson**, Clinical Instructor and Clinical Agency Coordinator, attained a health officer position at Douglas County Department of Health & Human Services in Superior. **Ms. Dianne Shane**, an LTE, also has left after nearly 9 years of working in the College. **Ms. Sue Luedke**, a custodian with us for many years, retired after 15 years of service to the University. We also experienced the loss of **Ms. Evalee Kunkel**, Clinical Assistant Professor, in November (please see p. 3).

All are missed and we wish them the best. We invite everyone to keep in touch with us.

## ... And Warm Welcomes!

Several people joined our College in August 2012, including **Dr. Genevieve Thul**, Assistant Professor; **Ms. Ann Bob-erg**, Clinical Instructor; **Ms. Cynthia Chapek**, Clinical Instructor; **Ms. Jeanette Schubkegel**, Clinical Instructor; **Mr. James Wirth**, Clinical Instructor; **Ms. Tara Elder**, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site; **Ms. Barbara Mueller**, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site; **Dr. Anna Nummelin**, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site;

and **Ms. Angela Pack**, Clinical Instructor at our Marshfield Site. **Ms. Jan Adams** also joined us in Fall 2012 as our new Media Specialist/Learning Resource Center Coordinator.

**Dr. Kimberly Radtke**, Assistant Professor at our Marshfield Site, and **Ms. Ann Recine**, Clinical Instructor, joined our faculty in January 2013. **Ms. Linda Feeney-Schroeder**, one of our former Clinical Instructors, came back in late spring as our Clinical Agency Coordinator

for Post-Licensure Programs; and **Ms. Melissa Boellaard** became our Clinical Agency Coordinator for our pre-licensure programs this July.

**Dr. Debra Hofmann** had been teaching with us at our Marshfield Site as a Clinical Instructor but will return this fall as an Assistant Professor, after earning her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at UW-Eau Claire!

## Special Thanks to Clinical Agencies and Preceptors!!

We would like to extend our gratitude to the many health care agencies and individuals and preceptors at those agencies for the wide array of rich clinical opportunities they have provided for our students. We would not be able to offer our programs without their continued support.

*Thank You!*

## Building Connections and Bridges to China

In November, Dr. Linda Young and members of a UW-Eau Claire delegation that was led by Interim Chancellor Gilles Bousquet, traveled to Hong Kong, Guangdong, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai China. The delegation was charged with strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new relationships with universities, businesses, and alumni in China. Special emphasis was given to fostering university relationships in the areas of health care and business. Dr. Young visited several nursing programs, including those at Chinese University of Hong Kong, Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong, Jinan University, Zhejiang Chinese Medicine University, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Fudan University, in order to learn more about the nursing programs and discuss the possibility of faculty and student exchanges. She also toured several hospitals to better understand the role of nurses and nursing students in China.

This spring, a memorandum of intent for educational and scientific collaboration was signed by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and the Fudan University School of Nursing in Shanghai. The agreement was meant to encourage the exploration of nursing faculty and student ex-

changes for teaching and research. It was signed during a later April 2013 trade mission to China that was led by Governor Scott Walker.



Photo: Hu Yan, Dean of Fudan University's School of Nursing and Dean Linda Young, during the November trip to China.

Continuing to explore the possibilities for partnerships, Dr. Susan Moch and two graduate nursing students, Ms. Cassidy Phillips and Ms. Jessica Witt, traveled to China in March. Their trip was funded in part by monies from the Chancellors Office. They visited 5 different universities

to promote connections between the universities and UW-Eau Claire. They also toured hospitals in addition to going on home visits. Two possibilities being explored are creating an opportunity for students at UW-Eau Claire to learn more about Traditional Chinese Medicine and for faculty from China to visit our College of Nursing and Health Sciences during the 2013-2014 academic year.



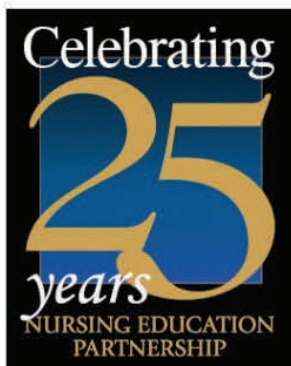
Photo: Pulse simulators used in teaching the identification and meaning of the different pulses in Traditional Chinese Medicine. Photo taken at the nursing laboratory at Polytechnic University, Hong Kong.

## 25th Anniversary Celebration of Partnership with Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital

How time flies. It has been more than 25 years since our first cohort of undergraduate students started taking nursing courses in 1987-1988 at our distance education site at Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. An initial class of 18 graduated from the program in May 1990. Since then, 531 nurses have earned their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from UW-Eau Claire through the Marshfield Site, with the majority of them continuing to work as nurses in central Wisconsin. The partnership to create the distance education site in Marshfield was established with Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital in 1986. Around that time, the hospital administration had decided to phase out its three-year diploma program which it had operated for many years; however, it determined there was a need for nurses with baccalaureate degrees in central Wisconsin and thus sought out the relationship with UW-Eau Claire. Dr. Patricia Ostmo, Dean of the School of Nursing from 1982-1995, was instrumental in establishing the partnership.

A 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of our nursing education partnership was held at Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospi-

tal on April 29, 2013. Alumni in the area were invited to attend.



Featured speakers included UW-Eau Claire Provost and Vice Chancellor Patricia Kleine and Dr. Linda Young, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Mr. Brian Kief, current President and CEO of Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital; Mr. Mike Schmidt, former President and CEO of Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital; Dr. Marjorie Bottoms, Associate Dean and Educational Administrator Emeritus; Ms. Marcia Bollinger, our first distance

education specialist; Ms. Karen Maddox, the first faculty member to teach using the original distance education audiographics system; Ms. Judy Vanderwalker, an early Marshfield Site Coordinator; Ms. Patricia Burbach, the first office assistant at the Marshfield Site; Ms. Anna Alexander-Doelle and Ms. Nancy Danou, two of the first nursing faculty members at the Marshfield Site; Ms. Linda Duffy, a long-standing faculty member at the Marshfield Site; Ms. Michelle Johnson, Mr. Mark Knauf, and Ms. Paula Thompson, three graduates of the very first class; and Ms. DeAnn Dickinson, Ms. Kate Filla, Mr. Brian Tessmer, and Ms. Rachel Zaleski, current students (and graduates) at our Marshfield Site. A plaque to commemorate and celebrate the partnership was presented by Dean Linda Young to Mr. Brian Kief.

Since the inception of the program, approximately 24 students had been admitted once a year to the Marshfield Site. Later grant funding in 2008 enabled us to expand the Marshfield Site, such that 16 students are now admitted each semester, for a total of 32 students per year. The 60 credits of nursing courses required for the major are taught by UW-Eau Claire faculty located in Marshfield, by faculty from Eau Claire who travel to Marshfield, and via interactive distance education classrooms located at both sites.

Clinical experiences take place at Ministry Saint Joseph's Hospital as well as at other health care facilities in the area. Students also have been able to participate in some of the same cultural immersion experiences available to the students in Eau Claire, including clinical experiences at Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Thus students at the Marshfield Site receive the same, high quality education as those enrolled at the main campus in Eau Claire. Students take prerequisite courses at a variety of institutions, including UW-Marshfield/Wood County,



One of the distance education rooms in Marshfield, with Dr. Rachel Merkel leading the class (Dr. Angela Stombaugh is in the background at the Eau Claire campus).

*(continued on page 7)*



## 25th Anniversary Celebration (Continued)

UW-Marathon County, and UW-Stevens Point. The Marshfield Site has been particularly advantageous for place bound students unable to relocate to pursue higher education because of family and work responsibilities.

The initial distance education offerings involved an audiographics system that did not enable students or faculty to see each other. Although the technology was cutting edge at the time, it seems rather basic now. Since then, we have expanded and upgraded to three interactive distance education classrooms located at the Marshfield Site and another three on the Eau Claire campus. These rooms and their video and audio equipment enable students and faculty to see and interact live with each other. Given the many advances we have seen over the years, it is exciting to imagine what the next 25 years will be like!



Ms. Suzanne Voros, clinical instructor at the Marshfield Site, and Ms. Kay Wiedenbeck, former student (and now graduate), in the clinical skills laboratory in Marshfield.

## Highlights from the 2012 Nursing Alumni Walk

Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Nursing Alumni Walk held on September 29<sup>th</sup> was a bit different than our usual walk. Our two faculty walk leaders, Dr. Norah Airth-Kindree and Ms. Catherine Berry, created a theme of “Extreme Construction” – the “EC” in UWEC, as they donned construction hats and vests and led a tour through the newly built and opened Davies Center. Interim Chancellor Gilles Bousquet joined them for part of the walk and provided greetings. Following the walk, Dean Linda Young invited everyone to join in the breakfast and delivered an update regarding the College. Seventy-three people attended the walk, including individuals from the classes of 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1989, 1998, 2000, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2016. Participants received T-shirts

with a design created by Ms. Hannah Lesko, a UW-Eau Claire graphics design student. E.O. Johnson Office Technology donated water for all those present. The Eau Claire Student Nurses Association held a raffle during the breakfast in order to raise money for the Foundation for Children with Cancer.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to all those who came and to the many students and faculty who helped set up for the walk and made the day run smoothly. The numerous individuals and organizations who donated door prizes also deserve recognition, including Ms. Catherine Berry, Community Health Partnership, Eau Claire Express Baseball, Eau Claire Student Nurses Association, E.O. Johnson Office Technologies, Green Bay Packers, Lee’s Uniform Center, Mayo Clinic Health System-Eau Claire - Nursing Administration, May’s Floral Garden, Inc., Menards, Milwaukee Bucks, Minnesota Twins, Oak Leaf Surgical Hospital - Administrative Office, Sacred Heart Hospital, Sodexo Dining Services, St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls, St. Joseph’s Hospital Home Health Care in Chippewa Falls, UW-Eau Claire Activities, Involvement & Leadership Office, UW-Eau Claire

Alumni Association, UW-Eau Claire Bookstore, UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences, UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education, UW-Eau Claire Foundation, and Xcel Energy.

Mark your calendars for the next homecoming walk on Saturday October 12, 2013. See you there!!



Walking between the McIntyre Library and the new Davies Center (photo by S. Berry).



Walkers on the grand staircase of the new Davies Center (photo by S. Peck).

## Nursing Alumni Recollections

During the last few years, a number of requests have been received to solicit stories and pictures from alumni regarding their memories of graduation celebrations and interactions with the Council Oak Tree, the tree pictured in the University seal and the Nursing pin. The original Council Oak Tree was situated just north of the Nursing Building and was where the Ojibwe and Dakota tribes had met to make peace in the 19<sup>th</sup> century after 150 years of war. Through the years, other tribes also gathered by the tree to have council. Although the tree had been rather severely damaged by a lightning strike in 1966, it wasn't until 1987 that it finally came down in a windstorm. After a number of failed attempts, a new tree was planted at that location in 1990.

Over the years, graduating nursing students have been known to hang their uniforms (and sometimes shoes) from the original Council Oak Tree. When that tree no longer was available, several classes resorted to utilizing the nearby catalpa tree. Such actions were an informal (and not particularly condoned, including by Dean Marguerite Coffman) part of graduation week, marking the end of their time as nursing students and their transition to their new roles as nurses. The tradition seemed to die down after the 1980s, but uniforms appeared again in

the catalpa tree a few years ago; faculty gathered up those uniforms after they blew down (and the nursing dean at the time graciously laundered and donated them).

A number of alumni from the 1970s shared their recollections of their time as students. Lee (Rosalie Meyer) Griffin, class of 1976, remembers working with her roommate and fellow nursing student, Darlene Pawlik Plank, to not only hang their uniforms from the Council Oak Tree, but to also “jazz things up a little” by making their uniforms three-dimensional with balloons and nylons. They enlisted the help of Amy Converse Hunter, class of 1976, to hang them from the tree (see the photo of Ms. Hunter in the tree). Ms. Pawlik Plank believes that “in the true spirit of the School of Nursing, we probably created a specific care plan and followed it up with SOAP notes to capture the event!”

Ms. Hunter also recalls how she and another classmate used to ride small motorcycles to clinicals at Luther Hospital (now Mayo Clinic Health System-Eau Claire) and Sacred Heart Hospital.

She described how they needed to wear slacks underneath the nursing uniform dresses because of the cold. That is, until, “one day Dean Coffman drove by us and had a serious frown on her face.” Although “there was a reprimand,” they still graduated on time (and even went on to graduate school).

Besides hanging the uniforms from trees, one graduate from the 1970s recollected how a prior class had hung their uniforms from hangers on all of the parking meters on campus. The School of Nursing had to pay to have the uniforms removed and thus Dean Coffman, the first dean of the School of Nursing, a bit angered, cautioned subsequent classes to not engage in such activities.

Ric Johnson also remembers that “our class of 1978 toilet-papered the large lecture hall on the eve of our last class, and then Dean Coffman was ready to suspend our graduation if the perpetrators didn't come forward.” No perpetrators came forward, but somehow “we all did graduate, and Dean Coffman survived.”

Appreciation is extended to those alumni who shared their memories and photos. A common theme expressed by many was their respect for the School of Nursing and their appreciation for the quality education they received from the faculty and administrators.

If there are other memories or topics you would like to read about, please contact Dr. Debra Jansen at [jansenda@uwec.edu](mailto:jansenda@uwec.edu).



Amy Converse Hunter hanging “three dimensional” uniforms in the Council Oak, 1976 (photo courtesy of R. Griffin).



Nursing uniforms in the Council Oak Tree, 1976 (photo courtesy of R. Griffin).



## Nursing Needs to Consider

Nursing education is ever changing as health care technologies advance and as we work to prepare nurse leaders to meet the demands of a more globally aware and diverse society. We are continuously working to update our teaching methodologies and skills laboratory equipment to be current with the realities of modern nursing practice and to prepare for the future. We also are taking steps to ensure opportunities for cultural immersion experiences for all of our students. ***Your gift to any of the following will help enhance student learning experiences and provide valuable faculty resources.***

**Multicultural Clinical Experiences:** Support the University's strategic plan to expand experiential, multicultural, and interdisciplinary learning by providing funds to enable nursing experiences with diverse populations in Alaska, at Indian reservations in South Dakota, at a birthing clinic in Texas, and more locally in Wisconsin. We also are working on a new initiative to take undergraduate and graduate nursing students to El Salvador for a multicultural clinical experience.

**Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program Scholarships:** Establish a DNP program scholarship. These graduate students are enhancing their clinical leadership skills as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and nurse administrators to promote quality health outcomes for individuals and communities. Scholarships for students in all of our programs also are appreciated.

**Endowed Chair:** Create a named senior faculty position. Such a funded position would assist in attaining a highly qualified faculty member with a gerontologic nursing advanced practice focus or nursing education research emphasis.

**Nursing Faculty Scholarship/Named Professorships:** Support our ability to enhance faculty development of scholarship, including the creation of named professorships.

**Skills Laboratory Simulation and Replacement Equipment:** Provide needed simulation equipment (e.g., computerized manikins, birthing manikins) as well as replacements of skills laboratory equipment as materials become outdated or nonfunctional.

**Electronic Health Record System:** Purchase an electronic health record system, complete with simulated patients. Such a system would enable students to practice charting patient cares and assessments, review patient histories and laboratory reports, document medication administration, and engage in quality improvement activities.

**Nursing Advancement Fund:** Support this general fund that provides for student and faculty initiatives, special projects, and immediate needs not covered by the University's budget.

To designate a gift, see [www.uwec.edu/fndn/giving.htm](http://www.uwec.edu/fndn/giving.htm) or call 1-877-625-2473.

For more information regarding all of our undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, please see our Prospective Student page on our College website: <http://www.uwec.edu/conhs/>



## Please Register for the 2013 Nursing Alumni Walk— October 12, 2013

Please join us for our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk on **Saturday, October 12, 2013**. The Nursing Walk will start at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Nursing Building (with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m.). The walk will be a rather short one across and around campus, giving everyone an opportunity to see all that has changed on campus.

We will have a continental breakfast at 8:30 following the walk. With the breakfast, we will provide an update regarding recent events at the College and University and draw names for door prizes. We plan on finishing before 10:00 a.m. so that you may attend the Homecoming Parade.

Newly designed College of Nursing and Health Sciences T-shirts, including youth sizes, are being ordered for the walk. **To guarantee T-shirt orders, please pre-register by September 20<sup>th</sup> using the attached form (see page 11), also available (along with an**

image of the T-shirt design) at <http://www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news/nurs/>.

At the same time you are completing the registration form, please consider making a donation to build up our Nursing Advancement Fund. Monies from this fund are used to support student and faculty initiatives, special projects, and immediate needs not covered by the University's budget. Donations also can be made to new and existing scholarships for our students; to assist us in attracting and retaining doctorally prepared faculty; and to enhance our teaching facilities and clinical laboratory technology.

While you are here for the walk, please take advantage of the many other University activities scheduled for Homecoming Weekend. The events start on Friday October 11th at 7:00 p.m. in Zorn Arena with the Varsity Night Live show. On Saturday, the Homecoming Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (just past the Lake Street ar-

ea). Then watch the 1:00 p.m. UW-Eau Claire Blugolds vs. UW-Stevens Point Pointers football game at Carson Park. More information about the University's homecoming activities can be found at the UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association web site at <http://www.uwec.edu/alumni/> or by contacting the Alumni Office by telephone at 715-836-3266 or by e-mail at [alumni@uwec.edu](mailto:alumni@uwec.edu).

While you are at the Alumni Association web site, be sure to update the University and College of Nursing and Health Sciences with your contact information and any news you would like to share.

Please do not forget to return the **registration form** for the walk by **September 20<sup>th</sup>** to guarantee t-shirt orders. We hope to see you at the walk and if you are unable to attend we appreciate your support and hope you will come visit your alma mater soon!!

### Homecoming and Nursing Walk Schedule of Events—October 12th

7:30 a.m.	Registration begins at the Nursing Building
8:00 a.m.	Walk (around and across campus)
8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast at the Nursing Building
9:00 a.m.	College of Nursing and Health Sciences Update
9:15 a.m.	Door Prizes
10:00 a.m.	Homecoming Parade, starting on 1st Avenue (just past Lake Street)
1:00 p.m.	UW-Eau Claire Blugolds vs. UW-Stevens Point Pointers Football Game at Carson Park

**Registration Form on page 11. Forms and a view of the T-shirt design image also available at <http://www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news/nurs/>.**

**Please return forms by September 20th to guarantee T-shirt orders.**



Please detach and mail with check by **September 20<sup>th</sup>** to:  
**College of Nursing and Health Sciences**  
**Attn: Nursing Alumni Walk, Rm 103**  
**University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**  
**105 Garfield Avenue**  
**P.O. Box 4004**  
**Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004**



## Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk Registration Form

- I plan to attend the Nursing Alumni Walk.     I also would like a T-shirt\*.
- I cannot attend the Walk; however, please accept my donation of \$25.00 and send me a T-Shirt.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Other Name as Student (e.g., maiden) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Check if:

Alumnus    Emeritus Faculty    Faculty/Staff    Friend of Nursing    Family    Student

Adult T-shirt size:  Small;  Medium;  Large;  XLarge;  XXLlarge;  XXXLarge

Youth T-shirt size:  Small (6-8);  Medium (10-12);  Large (14-16)

The following family/friends plan to attend and also request T-shirts: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested donations\*:

Alumni	\$20.00 (\$25.00 if register on day of walk)	
Emeriti Faculty	\$15.00 (\$20.00 if register on day of walk)	
Faculty/Staff	\$20.00 (\$25.00 if register on day of walk)	
Friends and Family	\$20.00 (\$25.00 if register on day of walk)	
Students & Youth	\$15.00 (\$20.00 if register on day of walk)	
Not attending, but would like T-shirt mailed. <b>Please indicate size:</b> \$25.00		
<b>Additional Donation</b>		
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>		\$ _____

Make check payable to the UW-Eau Claire Foundation and indicate the "Nursing Advancement Fund" in the memo line.

\*Note: If accepting a T-shirt, part of the donation may be used to defray T-shirt expenses.

**T-shirts are guaranteed to those who pre-register by September 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Registration forms (& T-shirt design) also available at [www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news/nurs](http://www.uwec.edu/CONHS/news/nurs)**



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EAU CLAIRE, WI

233-2-331004

***University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire July 2013***

***Nursing Alumni Newsletter***

***and***

***Nursing Walk Invitation/Registration Form***

***Nursing Walk  
October 12, 2013***

***Please register by  
September 20<sup>th</sup>***



*D. Jansen*