Innovation—expanded RN to BSN Online Program

Meeting IOM Future of Nursing Recommendation

In moving forward with Wichita State President John Bardo’s strategic initiative to expand online offerings, the RN to BSN program has been modified. Working to expand this completely online program, the School of Nursing has made exciting and relevant changes to the curriculum. The University has expanded their online offerings, so all non-nursing required courses will now also be offered online. The University Senate has approved automatic acceptance of all general education requirements for Associate Degree Nursing graduates- Kudos to the Faculty Senate! The expansion will help meet the need for the rising numbers of baccalaureate prepared nurses.

This expansion aligns with the Institute of Medicine report: “The Future of Nursing,” which recommends increasing the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020. This is supported by increasing studies that show nurses prepared at the baccalaureate-level are linked with lower mortality, complication and failure-to-rescue rates, as well as shorter lengths of stay. The market is also changing, many hospitals are moving to require or recommend bedside nurses be baccalaureate prepared.

What has changed? First, this is a “value-added” program, building on the skills established in a RN’s previous nursing educational program. The BSN builds on the nurse’s current knowledge base to provide a means to meet the needs of a rapidly changing health care system that mandates documented care to improve patient outcomes.

Secondly, it will continue to support advancement to meet requirements for pursuing a graduate degree in nursing.

Finally, in turn it will help the growing need for Advanced Practice Nurses, Nurse Administrators and especially Nursing Faculty.

Students in the RN to BSN program have the advantages of being able to finish quicker, pay less and gain career-boosting leadership skills. What’s new:

- Earn the BSN degree in as little as one year;
- Take courses anytime, anywhere, full or part time;
- Dedicated RN to BSN advisors;
- Automatic acceptance of all WSU general education requirements on meeting nursing requirements;
- Earn up to 25 hours of credit for prior coursework;
- Obtain a Nurse Manager Certificate as part of the program;
- Get a value-added education at a reasonable price, one of lowest tuition rates in the state.

Learn more @

http://www.wichita.edu/rmtobsn
Students Practice Interprofessional Education

Haiti Experience

Brown (right) examines a young patient.

Brown enjoys her time in Haiti.

SON Students, Hannah Riley and Christina Brown recently visited Haiti at the Pierre Payen Clinic. Brown said, “I expected that I would come back with an eye widening experience. Further knowledge of Haitian knowledge and medical knowledge, but what I came back with was much more than that.”

Riley echoes her sentiments, “I look at everything differently now, and don’t take small things for granted – a hot shower with water pressure, air conditioning, soap, and shoes. This trip has put my life into perspective and I am extremely grateful for the life I live.”

Brown fondly recalls her time spent in Haiti, “My favorite memory of that trip was a visit up to the clinic in the mountains. Here held a village that was using the education they got to clean their water, and raise chickens. Although this village tangibly had little to offer in terms of buildings, clothes, or items, they were healthy and happy.”

Riley continues, “I was taking in the land when a little girl came up to me. She did not speak a word of English, but looked up to me smiled and took my hand. Every language barrier, cultural barrier, and religion barrier was gone. It was humanity in its purist. Two worlds combined when she grabbed my hand. She said nothing and we just stood there hand in hand looking at the village.” Riley said, “Slowly but surely the country is making progress and rebuilding what was lost.

They have a nursing school we were able to visit where they train young women for 4 years on basic skills. We worked with the Haitian nurses side-by-side in the hospital and it was great to see them being able to hold their own when we weren’t available. The country is still in dire need of help but they need education and guidance, not free services.”

Brown sums up her trip, “No matter what setting, whatever country you are in, no matter who your patient is. Nursing is more than applying a dressing or administering medications. Nursing is being that human that is there for any patient in their most vulnerable state. To eliminate all barriers between one another. Nursing is providing the light at the end of the tunnel when all else is dark.”

Service to Homeless

by Travis Gillespie
Story adapted for the SON Newsletter

Many prospective college students are put off by the notion of an “ivory tower” academic experience, but WSU’s focus on community involvement and experienced-based learning makes it stand out from other institutions.

More than 80 students from WSU’s School of Social Work and College of Health Professions (CHP) got firsthand experience with that difference as participants in the annual homeless count Jan. 30.

In conjunction with Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita, the team of Shockers gathered at Century II for the United Way Point in Time Homeless Count. In collaboration with University of Kansas medical students, Guadalupe Clinic and the Lions Club, the Wichita State group of students and faculty provided comprehensive health services and screenings for the county’s homeless population.

“When the United Way brought (us) together to discuss including the vulnerability index as part of the services,” said SON Instructor Jolynn Dowling, “we felt it would be a wonderful opportunity to collaborate cross-college to implement the index."

Working with professionals and students from other disciplines gave the participants valuable practical experience. “My perspective of the homeless individual was completely changed by this activity” said Hayley Schuessler, a senior nursing student in WSU’s traditional BSN program. “Before the event, I felt almost fearful of homeless people and could not see things from their perspective. During the activity I was able to speak with the homeless and realized they are no different from myself and have just fallen into unfortunate circumstances. My interest in public health has been greatly increased.”

Accelerated BSN students have been involved providing services for the homeless count for two years, and traditional BSN students joined them last year. The project is part of the CHP Professions’ advocacy of “interprofessional education” which, evidence suggests, leads to improved patient outcomes.

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Graduate Students Spend Day at Capitol

When students in Kellie Thiessen’s Health Care System Policy/Politics class traveled to Topeka to learn about legislation, they were surprised at what they learned.

Student Belinda Bagby said, “To be honest, I expected the day at the capitol to be a long and possibly boring day, an assignment. Instead, I learned so much from the legislators, and the other students!”

She continues, “This is what I miss about on-campus versus on-line classes- the excitement, insight and experiences of the other students. I felt as though we made a difference and enlightened many of the legislators regarding ‘our’ bill. I have never felt as though I could make a difference, so I have always avoided politics. Yesterday I found out individuals CAN make a difference.”

Erin Burns, a student in the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program said, “The day was not only informational on the legislative process, but it was inspiring to see the Ah Ha! moments when students recognized that they can be part of making a change for their profession.”

Theissen said she took the students to Topeka to learn about how nursing and healthcare is affected by legislation.

Student Molly Mansur said, “It was very informative, and was so nice to see people that are experiencing what I am, and realizing together that

1. What is going on in politics can and WILL directly affect us and our careers, and that
2. What can we do to change this?”

Silver Haired Legislator Scholarship Awarded to Student

Every year, the Silver Haired Legislators award a scholarship to a nursing student from Kansas. This year, the award went to WSU SON student, Emily Tysick.

Tysick, who began the accelerated program in May said, “I decided to go into nursing because I knew I always wanted to go in the healthcare field.”

Tysick continues, “Nursing sparked my interest when my grandma was put in hospice. The nurse was so kind and caring. I knew then that, that is what I wanted to do. I wanted to be knowledge but be able to help people the same time.”

Undergraduate program director Brandy Jackson said this is the first time in her tenure that a student from Wichita State has won the award.

The Silver Haired Legislators is a non-partisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization composed of 125 representatives from every county in Kansas to advocate for legislation of concern to senior citizens.

The nursing scholarship award was established after seeing the need for registered nurses that would work with elderly populations such as retirement centers. Information and application forms are sent yearly to all nationally certified schools of nursing in the state of Kansas. Eligibility criteria includes:

- Must be a resident of Kansas.
- Must be enrolled full-time in nursing courses at a KS college or university.
- Must commit to work two (2) years as a geriatric nurse after graduation and passing state boards.

All applicants composed a 500 word minimum essay titled, “How Can I Contribute to the Care of Geriatrics.” Tysick’s essay was chosen out of all the essays that were entered.

Hawkins said, “The needs of our aging population are many and ongoing. And, there are not a large number of nurses with a focus on the elderly in the workforce.”

Tysick said she was honored and happy to receive the scholarship and says she looks forward to going into the field of geriatrics once she graduates.
Reflections of Leadership

Students in Pam Martin’s class, N460 Leadership and Clinical Decision Making responded to the definition of leadership by M. M. Chemers:

“Leadership is the process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task.”

“Leadership is an art form of persuasion based upon a foundation of experience. One needs to convince peers, subordinates and superiors that there is a plan and a means of execution that has more than a modicum of a chance of success. Nursing specifically, involves developing effective working relationships with more than just colleagues, subordinates and other members of the interprofessional team—we must engage our patients and their families in the plan of care. Nurses are constantly “on stage”, persuading through competency and compassion and leading their patients to improved health or best possible outcomes.” - Johnathan Clark Sp’14

Students Ginny Smith and Cynthia Walker presented their posters at the Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects (GRASP) Symposium.

The title of Waller’s poster was “The Role of a Self-Directed Technology to Improve Medication Adherence in Heart Failure Patients. Betty Elder was her faculty advisor.

The title of Smith’s poster was, “Comparison of Maternal Perceptions of Perinatal Care at a Midwest Medical Center With a Free Standing Birth Center and a Traditional Labor, Delivery, Recovery Unit.” Her faculty advisor was Barbara Morrison.

GRASP is a university wide symposium that is held every year to showcase graduate research at WSU.

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Faculty Awards and Accomplishments

Publications


Posters

Dowling, J. & Hazen S. Interprofessional Education to Enhance Student Understanding of the Homeless Population 41st Annual National Conference on Professional Nursing Education and Development Conference.

Accomplishments
Theresa Cooper MSN, MBA, RN was accepted into the Faculty Development Collaborative Program in Geriatrics for 2014.

Barbara Morrison PhD, APRN, CNM is hosting a new call-in radio show. The show will be on I Heart radio. It can also be accessed at www.BBMGlobalNetwork.com

Pamela O’Neal MA was awarded a certificate in Career and Education Advising from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL).

Susan Parsons PhD, RN was appointed to the LaFamilia Senior/Community Center Board of Directors for the April 2014-2016 term.

Awards
Betty Elder PhD, RN & Deb Pile DNP, APRN, RCNS-BC were awarded a MURPA grant “Development and Evaluation of a Diet and Exercise Monitoring System for Elementary School Children in grades K-4”

Alicia Huckstadt PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, GNP-BC received the President’s Distinguished Award at the Shocker Pride Celebration.

Stephanie Nicks MSN, APRN-FNP received the Excellence in Teaching Award at the Shocker Pride Celebration.

Elaine Steinke PhD, APRN, CNS-BC, FAHA, FAAN, received the inaugural Excellence in Research Award from the College of Health Profession. She also received the Excellence in Research Award from WSU.

Betty Smith-Campbell PhD, APRN-CNS will be honored at the American Association of Nurse Practitioner (AANP) awards ceremony during the National Conference June 20, 2014 in Nashville, TN. Dr. Smith-Campbell is the recipient of the prestigious AANP 2014 State Award for Excellence as a nurse practitioner advocate—for her work with the statewide taskforce to remove policy barriers to APRN practice. The State Award for Nurse Practitioner Advocate was added to recognize the efforts of individuals who have made a significant contribution toward increasing the awareness and acceptance of the NP.

Kellie Thiessen PhD, APRN, CNM Successfully completed her doctorate at the University of Manitoba in the Applied Health Sciences Doctoral Program—dissertation “A Case Study of the Implementation of Regulated Midwifery in Manitoba.”

Kellie Thiessen PhD, APRN, CNM was awarded an Institute for Gender and Health Community Support Program travel award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to support an oral presentation in Prague this summer.

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After 26 Years of Service, Phyllis Fletcher Retires

Phyllis Fletcher became a nurse when she received her diploma in nursing in 1971. She then received her BSN in 1976, and finally her Masters in Nursing in 1980.

She says she became a nurse because she enjoyed learning how the body worked and found she enjoyed taking care of people as a Certified Nurse’s Assistant.

Brandy Jackson, Undergraduate coordinator remembers Fletcher as her first teacher at the SON. “She is the reason I am here today,” Jackson said “I don’t know anyone like Phyllis, She’s a rock. We’re losing someone we can depend on.”

Fletcher has served in various roles as a faculty member at the SON. Her primary focus was in teaching in adult Medical/Surgical with a passion for critical care (CC) nursing.

She developed the Critical Care course taken by all undergrad students beginning in 1999. She helped in clinical for all courses except Pediatrics/Obstetrics. Fletcher also maintained clinical practice in CC until 2008.

She says the favorite part of her job is working with students in lab or clinical setting. After spending many years as a nurse teaching at WSU, she said she would tell students who want to become nurses that they need to have passion for how the body works, and possess caring and strong communication skills.

Alicia Huckstadt, Graduate Director said she and Fletcher had “been together through thick and thin.” Huckstadt said, “You know [Phyllis] is exemplifying what nursing is.”

Fletcher continued to exemplify nursing in her parting words saying she would like to see everyone use the word we. “It’s we–we value and support each other.”

SON hosts IPE Presentation for China delegation

This story is adapted from University Relations.

A delegation from the China Christian Council visited Wichita State University as part of its quest to explore how to meet the challenges of caring for the aging Chinese population.

Hosted by the School Of Nursing, the group spent the day learning from Wichita State presenters, including Alicia Huckstadt, graduate program director for the SON, Susan Parsons, SON assistant professor, Kathryn Trilli, Dental Hygienist, Nicole Rogers Director of the Aging Studies Program, Mike Rogers, director of the Center for Physical Activity and Aging, Xiao-Ming Sun, associate professor, and Cathy Cofal, chair of the Communication Sciences and Disorders department.

The delegation was assisted in translation by WSU student Jingdi Zhang, past coordinator of outreach in Beijing, and Lijun Zhu, an instructor for Bethel College and Wichita public schools. Betty Smith-Campbell, Chair of the SON, believes that hosting the China Council at Wichita State is one avenue to showcase the work faculty are doing that have a positive impact on the health of elders, across disciplines, both nationally and internationally.

Members of the Chinese Delegation visited SON and CHP faculty to explore how to meet the challenges of caring for the aging Chinese population.

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Alumni Gives Advice

Alumni Jeff Barton, is the Vice President of Patient Services at Newton Medical Center in Newton, Kansas, a non-profit, community-based acute care hospital. Barton’s many responsibilities include serving as the Chief Nursing Officer of the organization and having the administrative responsibility for the development and implementation of the Nursing Department which delivers patient and nursing care based on standards of practice.

His responsibilities include serving as the administrative leader for non-nursing departments such as Quality and Case Management Services, Hospitalist program, and Emergency Department Physicians. Barton says he enjoys what he does because he likes the opportunity the position gives him to “make a difference for the better no matter whether it’s at an organizational or individual level.”

Barton contributes his success to the School of Nursing. “My graduate degree in nursing gave me three things. First of all it gave me the credential I needed to position myself as a Nursing leader/administrator so that I could help make a difference. Second, it taught me the discipline needed to investigate/analyze and understand research studies as well as how to document your findings. Finally, the wealth of new perspectives I attained while in association, discussions and sharing among fellow graduate students from all areas of Nursing helped to broaden my problem solving capabilities.”

As a nurse who has been out of school for more than 30 years, Barton has good advice for those just starting out in the profession, “My first recommendation is to focus on learning your craft to the point that you will be able to add value to whichever position you hold. Secondly, work on building trusting relationships with your peers. Nursing has a long history of working well together during any crisis/disaster situation. And typically the provision/execution of patient care at the “nurse to patient” level continues to reinforce the public’s opinion of Nursing as the most trusted profession in the country.” Barton asserts, “Be that Nurse your peers can trust.”

We will say goodbye to Yvonne Fast, Jeannie Harris and Kellie Thiessen this semester. We want to thank them for their hard work and wish them well in their new endeavors. We also want to wish the best of luck to Lynette Murphy, Senior Director of Development for the College as she moves on in her career.

Alumni Update

Lisa McKenzie recently shared the following with us:
I graduated in 2006 as Lisa M. Colwell, shortly after I got married and became a MacKenzie. My husband is active duty army and that has allowed me the opportunity to practice in many different settings state to state.

We currently live in Harlingen, Texas with our five year old daughter and I work in Brownsville at Valley Regional Medical Center as the Director of Medical Telemetry, and Inpatient Wound. We love it here. I started here July 2nd, 2013 and since then have transitioned into a designated inpatient stroke unit. We are prepared for our TJC Stroke Accreditation Survey on March 17th!!! Wish us luck! I

I have also led the development of a Cardiac Telemetry War Room and now my other medical unit is transitioning from General Medical to Cardiac Telemetry. We are in Phase 3 of this transition. So excited!!!!! Of course none of this would be possible without great Clinical Managers and dedicated staff who have owned these initiatives from the beginning. They deserve all the credit!

It has been an exhilarating and humbling experience!

I really do believe that WSU was the best choice for my nursing degree. From what I’ve seen in the field, students from WSU are just more prepared for the clinical environment than your average new grad. WSU is top notch!!!! I’m proud to be a Shocker!!!!

We love to hear from our alumni. Send us information on where you are or what you are doing. Email us at wssusonews@wichita.edu

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Director, Undergraduate Nursing Program

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Donor Support Makes a Difference

With support of donors to the School of Nursing, eight students attended the 62nd Annual National Student Nurses’ Association Conference in Nashville, TN.

Students who attended are Molly Warren, Anna Nelson, Taylor Bell, Whitney Lenz, Megan Janusz, Mieka Serene and Abby Tedlock.

Students benefited from the conference and took away valuable information. Taylor Bell, Kansas Association of Nursing Students (KANS) President, who attended the conference said, “I personally enjoyed the whole convention experience. The NCLEX Mini-Review sessions I felt were very beneficial, and the focus sessions gave us extra information about specific nursing specialties that we may want to go into.”

Whitney Lenz, who also attended the conference added, “I really enjoyed the NCLEX Mini-Review sessions. I thought they were very informational and beneficial!”

Bell recommends the conference to students, “The booths were beneficial because they gave us an opportunity to meet with various schools to learn about their masters/DNP programs, and ... to gain an insight as to what each school offers. All in all, I really enjoyed the convention and would recommend it to anyone thinking of going!”

Help make student success stories possible by donating to the School of Nursing. The mission of the School is to improve the health of the community by inspiring change in health care through innovation and excellence in nursing education, scholarship, practice, and service. Your gift helps us live out our mission.

Even though WSU is state assisted, the needs of our students, faculty and staff are well above what support the state provides. The WSU Foundation fills that gap by accepting private support from corporations, foundations and individuals. Donors provide undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, endowed professorships, faculty support, equipment upgrades and more.

For more information, contact J. Michael Lamb, Vice President for Planned and Annual Giving at (316) 978-3804 or mike.lamb@wichita.edu.

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Save the Date
1st Annual APRN Conference
November 13 and 14, 2014

“Where We Are and Where We’re Going”

Featuring Nationally and Internationally Known Keynote Speaker:
Phyllis Arn Zimmer, MN, FNP, FAAN, FAANP
President, Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation

Also:
David L. Knowlton President & CEO New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
Former Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health

Contact Hours Available for:
- Pharmacology
- Diabetes
- Palliative Care
- Cardiac Care

Watch our website for more information to come: http://www.wichita.edu/conferences/APRN

20th Anniversary of WSU’s Nurse Practitioner Program
Come and Celebrate with the School of Nursing!

The School of Nursing will host our First Annual APRN Conference on November 13th and 14th. The conference coincides with the 20th anniversary of WSU’s Nurse Practitioner Program. We hope you will join us for the celebration.

This will also be a great opportunity for those needing contact hours. The conference will be at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport.

Our keynote speaker is Phyllis Arn Zimmer. Zimmer, a Family Nurse Practitioner has practiced in the areas of adult health, women’s health, and family practice in both urban and rural areas. She is the President of the Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation (NPHF) and has guided the portfolio of work of the NPHF in public policy, patient education, public health awareness campaigns, provider education, and national scholarship, fellowship, and awards programs.

Zimmer holds a part-time faculty position in the Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle, Washington.

David Knowlton will also be a featured speaker. He is New Jersey's preeminent expert on health care quality issues. He has been a leader on health care issues generally in New Jersey for the better part of four decades.

As President and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute for the past five years, he has directed their advocacy on health care quality and the reduction of medical errors.