Our Programs:

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Early Admissions BSN
- Accelerated BSN
- RN to BSN

The MSN program
- Nursing Education
- Nursing Leadership & Administration

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) has two program entry points:
- Post baccalaureate
- Post master

- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)
- Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP)

Mission:
To improve the health of the community by inspiring change in health care through innovation and excellence in nursing education, scholarship, practice, and service.

From the Chair

As faculty, we know the role of today’s nurse is quite different than it was 50, 25 and even 10 years ago. It keeps evolving. But one thing that will never change is the importance nurses play in the ever changing field of health care.

The IOM report on The Future of Nursing states, “What nursing brings to the future is a steadfast commitment to patient care, improved safety and quality, and better outcomes.” As the largest part of the nation’s health care workforce - over 3 million, nurses have been charged to take a greater role in American’s increasingly complex health care system. Faculty are taking this charge seriously and looking at ways to continually strengthen our instruction methods, curriculum and programs. We are actively engaged with our community partners in developing a strategic plan that will move us forward to meet the health needs of our community— at the local, state and national level.

Recently the School was featured in the Wichita Eagle, in an article titled “Nursing shortage: Good for nurses, bad for patients”. This brief article illustrates the growing demand for nurses and nurse educators. More agencies are moving to increase their numbers of BSN prepared nurses, because there is a strong body of evidence on the positive effect of a BSN prepared nurse.

Together, as a member of the KS Action Coalition, schools across the state of Kansas are working to meet the IOM recommendation that 80% of Registered Nurses be prepared at the baccalaureate level by 2020. We are also committed to increasing the number of faculty members. We admitted the first students to our MSN-Nursing Education concentration this Fall and our numbers of DNP students continues to rise. As the number of graduates continue to rise in these programs the hope is that the number of faculty will rise as well.

As you read the stories in the newsletter, I know you will see great exemplars of students, faculty and alumni meeting our Vision: INNOVATE INSPIRE EXCEL!

Betty Smith-Campbell, PhD, APRN-CNS
Chair and Professor

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The beginning of a new semester can be daunting. School of Nursing student Lan Thi thanh Nguyen said when she entered the new semester “Everything seemed strange and unfamiliar. Everybody had their own best buds and I was alone, by myself.”

Nursing instructor Patty Beamer believes no one should ever feel as if they are alone. She advocates nursing is a team concept. Inspired by her time spent in the military, Beamer designed a “Partners For Success” (PFS) contract for students in her Nursing Care of Adults class.

“When I was in the military and stationed overseas, all members were assigned a ‘Battle Buddy,’” says Beamer. Designed to keep anyone from being alone, Beamer said she implemented PFS into her class so that her students will always have someone they can count on when they need help in the class.

Beamer explains PFS, “In first semester the students all go onto blackboard and introduce themselves. This gives the students a chance to see if someone lives close to them or if they have things in common and choose a partner.”

Students who do not choose a partner on their own are paired up by Beamer at random. On the third week of class, each student signs the contract. The students exchange phone numbers and emails and are to contact each other with questions regarding assignments prior to contacting Beamer.

They must contact each other if they are going to be late or absent from class. They also get to take in class quizzes together and have a couple of assignments that each must complete for both to get the points. Says Beamer, “This allows for collaboration, communication, comradery and hopefully, prevents a student from ever telling me ‘I have no one’.”

School of Nursing students Lan Thi thanh Nguyen and Barbara Gera Da silva-Marroquin, were PFS last semester but were strangers before the class. They contribute PFS for improved studying habits and creating a friendship. “I think it helped me, and not in just Patty’s class, but in the whole program overall. Whenever we had questions over something, we would text or call each other. We would study together, save each other seats in class, and pick each other as partners in the other classes,” said Gera Da Silva-Marroquin.

Nguyen said, “It’s so helpful and I believe nobody will be left behind.”
Phyllis Jacobs, Assistant Professor and her husband Lou are receiving the 2013 Joel A. Gingras, Jr. Award from the American Brain Tumor Association. The award recognizes individuals, organizations or groups who through philanthropy, advocacy, discovery or patient care and support, have had a transformative impact on the advancement of the mission of the American Brain Tumor Association. Phyllis and Lou have facilitated a brain tumor support group called Headstrong at Victory in the Valley in Wichita for the last 14 years. The Award will be given at the American Brain Tumor Association national conference in Chicago in July.

Kim Johnson, DNP Candidate, whose submission titled “Does primary care provider advance directive education influence attitudes and practice?” was accepted as a poster presentation at the Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects. She was also selected to participate by WSU in the Rising Stars of Scholarship and Research Poster Program at Sigma Theta Tau International’s 42nd Biennial Convention.

Phyllis Jacobs

Jacqueline McClendon

Brandy Jackson

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Elaine Steinke

Susan Parsons, Assistant Professor, PhD, RN; Carla A. Lee, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN, NU and Seattle Pacific U; Debbie Strickert, MN, APRN, NU; Margaret Trumpp, ME, RRT, AE-C, NU are authors of an article entitled "Oral Care and Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia-An Integrated Review of the Literature" accepted for publication in the forthcoming May/June 2013 issue of Dimensions in Critical Care Nursing.

Elaine Steinke

Pamela O’Neal, SON Academic Writing Specialist and Michelle Dreiling, a graduate student at the Elliott School of Communication, was invited to Wiley College in Marshall TX to speak at the Ethical Student Leadership Conference and spoke about the WSU Hunger Awareness Initiative.

Jacqueline McClendon Senior Clinical Educator, Kelly Anderson (Dental Hygiene) & Mary Koehn (CHP IPE Coordinator) abstract, “Making IPE Discipline Relevant” was accepted for presentation at the Collaborating Across Borders IV Conference in Canada.

Brandy Jackson

Undergraduate Program Director, was approved to receive funding from the College of Health Professions’ IPE Fund to support participation in the Team STEPPS training program at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Elaine Steinke


Susan Parsons

Pamela O’Neal

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Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Alicia Huckstadt

A nurse of 36 years, Huckstadt has been a surgical intensive care nurse, a medical/surgical nurse, taught alcoholism counseling/education nationwide, and included roles such as nurse researcher, educator, administrator, and nurse practitioner. “I am very fortunate to be able to combine so many roles that complement each other and benefit the students and the school.”

Huckstadt says her mother was a great role model as a nurse and that she admired her. Says Huckstadt,” She took me to work on occasion and I saw her compassion with patients and her professionalism. She worked in every area of the hospital and seemed confident in any situation.”

Huckstadt has been involved with Interprofessional Education (IPE) activities in a number of ways. She has worked with psychology and professors in other departments on inter-professional research projects. She taught in the first multi university collaboration with physicians, physical therapists, pharmacists, nurses, and others educating nurse practitioners across the state of Kansas. Most recently she co-taught in an IPE course with faculty in the departments of physician assistant, communication sciences and disorders, and public health sciences. “All IPE activities are different but I think they have the same goal to provide the best learning experience or research project that the group can offer,” she says.

She says her favorite part about her role is, “Looking toward the future and helping faculty in our programs provide the best quality education for our students. I really enjoy being part of and guiding the tremendous energy of students, faculty, and staff in accomplishing activities.”
Even though Wichita State University is state assisted, the needs of our students, faculty & 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.

You can make a tax-deductible contribution by going to www.wichita.edu/give and on the first page, select “Please direct my gift to:” and then type in School of Nursing. Then, select a predetermined amount or type one in. For more information, contact Lynette Murphy, senior director of development, at (316) 978-3441 or lynette.murphy@wichita.edu.

EXCEL: Alumni make our community better

Shirley Orr earned her baccalaureate and, later, a nurse practitioner certificate and master’s degree in health administration at Wichita State University. A fellow at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, she is an example of the kind of nurses the Wichita State School of Nursing (SON) program produces.

Orr credits the SON for her success, “As a graduate of the WSU School of Nursing, I’ve been prepared to serve as a ‘system integrator’ to lead this change. Nurses are key to the success of health system transformation; our future nursing workforce must develop a diverse skill set to support and lead system change.”

Orr says although this is a challenging time for nurses, it is also a time “to be upbeat and positive” as changes in the health care system mean there are “more and more opportunities for nurses.” In 2010, the IOM launched the Future of Nursing report. Orr contends that although the IOM isn’t silent, it does not address public health nurses. Orr contends, "One thing that is apparent is that there is a huge need for interface for connection and collaboration between public health training schools and schools of nursing."

As the IOM calls for increasing the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in the workforce to 80% by 2020, Orr says, “Public health training must be in schools.” Orr notes that the systems integration is huge and that public health can be better integrated, improving population health.

According to Orr, the School of Nursing “is on the leading edge of preparing nurses to lead the health system of the future.”

Support the School of Nursing

Help make success stories like Shirley Orr’s 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.

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