University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Nursing Alumni Newsletter

Greetings from the Dean



Dear Blugold Nursing Alumni and Friends of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

We as nurses were called heroes this past spring as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the United States and our frontline nurses became visible to the public through media coverage. But this is not surprising to us who know what we as nurses do daily to transform the lives of others. Nursing and nursing's voice are needed now more than ever as we navigate this pandemic, the future of healthcare, and social justice.

I am so proud of the members of the College of Nursing and the resiliency, perseverance, and flexibility demonstrated over this year of immense change. Not only did we have the pandemic which resulted in classes going all online midspring semester, we also said goodbye to a record number of colleagues in the college, starting in December. The holes in the fabric of

the college are large due to the departures but we have been busy weaving together those voids as people stepped up into leadership positions, participated in a college teambuilding professional development day, and identified our strategic planning priorities needed for going forward in our new reality. We are EXCELLENCE. We are BLUGOLDS. We have this!

Please take the time to read the stories of our retired faculty and staff in this newsletter. Their contributions to the college and department, individually and collectively, have been immeasurable. I am so grateful for all they have done for the college, the department, and our students, faculty, and staff and in preparing us for our future. Daily I will especially miss Ms. Cathy Wilson, Deans Assistant. I am thankful for her unwavering support of the deans and the college over the many years she served in this role.

I celebrate this stage in life for our college members who are retiring and wish them the best in this new phase. And yes, our hearts continue the journey of healing in the loss of Dr. Diane Marcyjanik. Please take the time to view her Nightingale Tribute. She keeps on inspiring us daily.

I also want to acknowledge the life and contributions of Dean Patricia Ostmoe. Her work was critical to moving the School of Nursing to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences we know today. I had the priv-

College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS)

ilege to get to know Pat over the years and came to admire her strength, vision, and dedication to nursing education and our college. She leaned in when it would have been easy to step away. She held to nursing values and the place nursing should have as part of academia. It is on her shoulders and the shoulders of all the deans that have gone before me that I now stand. I am reminded of that every day when I walk past their portraits in the hall-way outside of Room 103.

Blugolds are entrepreneurs. We were stirred to think about what this means for nursing as one of our entrepreneur alums, Ms. Jane Johanos, visited with us this past academic year and shared her journey of successfully opening the first PMS clinic in the United States. She continues to be a support to the college and helps with entrepreneurial thinking. Please see the article in the newsletter with the details.

And finally, if you have served on the frontlines of COVID-19, please let us know. I would like to host a virtual panel discussion of several of our alumni who have cared for patients, families, and communities, or managed health care organizations during this pandemic. This discussion would be made available to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the community.

Stay well and take care.

Until next year, Dean Linda Young

Adapting to a Virtual Educational World

People likely are suffering from COVID-19 fatigue as the pandemic seems to permeate our daily work, educational, family, and leisure activities. This past spring semester was one in which students and faculty and staff had to rapidly adapt from face-to-face classroom, skills laboratory, and clinical-site courses to a virtual world. On March 12,

2020, the Chancellor announced students would be going on an extended 3-week spring break and not returning to campus. Classes were to be virtual starting on April 6th.

The Year of the Nurse, 2020, became one in which we saw how resilient, caring, brave, flexible, and creative nurses in all areas, nursing students, and faculty and staff are in facing challenges. Faculty and staff rapidly worked to convert un-

dergraduate and graduate classes, including clinicals, to online and virtual platforms. We saw the resourcefulness of all involved.

For the normally face-to-face classroom courses, faculty tended to use a combination of recording lectures or pieces of content and posting them online for students, utilizing online discussion boards, and holding classes synchronously (live, in real time) using virtual platforms, usually during normal class hours. For the synchronous classes, students and faculty connected via one of the platforms such as BlueJeans or Collaborate Ultra that enabled everyone to see and hear each other; additionally, faculty were able to share presentation and document screens.

Feedback from the students reflected they appreciated when the synchronous classes also were recorded for them to watch later if they had internet connectivity issues or simply wished to review the content again. One technology feature liked by a few faculty members was a virtual whiteboard screen on which they could "write" in real time, similar to how instructors would utilize chalkboards or whiteboards with markers in classrooms (see screenshot image below by Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler, Professor and Director of Assessment

A vacant campus as in-person classes were converted to online/virtual means, following an extended spring break that began March 16, 2020.

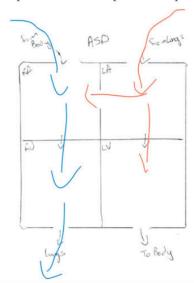
& Evaluation). Students were keen on open virtual office hours and "chat bar" features in which they could post questions during lectures and get them answered by the faculty. The College appreciated the technological support provided by Ms. Jan Adams, Learning Resource Center Coordinator, and Mr. Andrew Hanson, Distance Education Coordinator and Technology Specialist, as we adjusted to the new ways of teaching and meeting.

Completing clinical hours virtually required considerable creativity and imagination on the parts of the faculty and students. The hours and ingenuity extended by Dr. Meg Lagunas, the Director of the Clinical Learning Center, Dr. Gunnar Larson, the Associate Director of the Clinical Learning Center, and Ms. Vickkie Zietlow, the Clinical Learning Center Coordinator at the Marshfield Site, were praised by the faculty. As clinical sites were becoming off-limits to

students, with a positive can-do approach, Dr. Lagunas immediately set about working with clinical course coordinators to develop and implement online clinical and simulation plans. Some of these involved replacing clinical hours with case studies, virtual simulations, recorded demonstrations, and virtual skills practice sessions with students.

For instance, Ms. Zietlow set up her own mini skills laboratory at home in her dining room, complete with the Chester Chest central line manikin chest, to record demonstrations for the students. Her husband became a standardized patient for some of the skills demonstrations (and likely was not overly excited when she started an IV on him but

forgot to push the record button) however, she admitted "he was a trooper" when she repeated the pro-

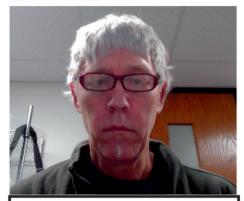


Virtual whiteboard image Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler created in class to explain the functioning of an atrial septal defect in a child.

Adapting to a Virtual Educational World (continued)

cedure with him. Like Ms. Zietlow, other faculty borrowed body parts from the Clinical Learning Center to improvise demonstrations from their homes.

Rather than working from home, others such as Dr. Larson, regularly came into the Nursing Building to create and act out simulations. He was known to utilize the manikins and himself to develop some rather imaginative characters, including an "Andy Warhol," complete with white wig (admittedly, we are not sure how many undergraduate students were aware of the real Andy Warhol; see photo). The students responded to questions for these recorded simulation scenarios and participated in debriefing sessions with their instructors.



Dr. Gunnar Larson, Associate Director of the Clinical Learning Center, with his "Andy Warhol" wig for a virtual clinical simulation.

For Blugold Beginnings students (underrepresented, low income, or first-generation middle schoolers), Dr. Larson even developed a virtual tour of the Clinical Learning Center. In support of diversity in our College, the tour was led by a nursing student who was transgender that he fashioned using a manikin wearing a student uniform (See photo).

Dr. Lagunas also partnered with a simulation colleague at the University of Arkansas (UA) at Little Rock for standardized patients for both the graduate and undergraduate classes. The standardized patients were students in a UA course which required them to complete hours acting as patients in their simulation laboratory. Since UA's laboratory was not operating as their campus

closed, the students needed additional opportunities for meeting the course requirement. Dr. Lagunas worked on assisting the UA students to act as standardized patients, enabling our UW -Eau Claire students to practice history taking and effective communication virtually with them.

For a first semester junior medicalsurgical clinical course, Dr. Jeanette Olsen, Assistant Professor, described how the clinical instructors used an online simulation resource, complete with a full electronic health record, realistic patient charts, notes, and medications, which was already purchased by the students, to plan out one virtual simulation clinical activity per week for each of their clinical sections. According to Dr. Olsen, the instructors were quite pleased with the outcome, as they felt "valuable learning" occurred as "students were able to effectively develop their critical thinking, decision making, and communication skills." The instructors desire to "retain this activity in some format in the future even when not online." As Ms. Zietlow acknowledged, "through these simulations, I could see their critical thinking and clinical reasoning developing even faster than if they had been in clinical."

For first semester senior public health clinical sections, Dr. Pam Guthman, Assistant Professor, worked with students and their community partners to alter or substitute their originally planned in-person projects for virtual ones. For instance, one group of students changed a Lunch & Learn Series for primary health care providers to a Meals on Wheels meal security telephone assessment of over 300 frail elders on behalf of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC).

Undergraduate and graduate students described practicing physical assessments on captive family members, pets (several cats were corralled), and large teddy bears and dolls. Others dressed pillows or stuffed clothes to create lifesize manikins (see photo, next page, submitted by Ms. Donna Shellenberger, Clinical Instructor, from a second semester sophomore student). Ms. Maria Stracke, Clinical Instructor, described

how a sophomore student drew the outline of her mother's body on a wall for a head-to-toe assessment.

Ms. Leah Much, a DNP student, acknowledged the challenges associated with her graduate physical assessment course, "like practicing assessment skills on my son's stuffed ninja turtle, or talking my husband into letting me assess his cranial nerves . . . again." She related that "it was fun to be creative," such as "using an actual fork as a tuning fork." As a nurse, "I've had plenty of experience having my entire day thrown for a loop when working on the floor . . . being a nurse for all these years has given me a pretty go-with-the-flow perspective at dealing with sudden changes like we did when classes went online.'

Faculty and staff appreciated the flexibility and patience extended by the students. Similarly, the students needed the faculty to be accommodating with due dates and requirements. Faculty and many undergraduate and graduate students alike struggled with balancing their own school needs, work commitments, and meetings with those of siblings, children, and other family members who likewise were attending classes or virtual meetings. Ms. Stephany Andres, Clinical Instructor at the Marshfield Site, described how "with so



A manikin dressed as a UW-Eau Claire Nursing student served as a virtual tour guide for the Clinical Learning Center for Blugold Beginnings students.

Adapting to a Virtual Education World (continued)

many clinical groups all trying to share content and meet with students, recordings on Canvas [the online course management platform] were challenging." She experienced surprisingly few internet issues, "though when it happened, we switched to telephone calls." She personally also had to compete for internet usage with her returned-home college-age daughter and high school senior. To compensate, "some meetings were scheduled after 4:00 pm and into the evening to spread out our 'peak' times. Our dog Penny also quickly learned to listen for the connection chime for Zoom, BlueJeans, or my phone and would run into the office to 'see' who was on the screen. She loves to see other pets"including a student's cat named Noodles.

Students with younger children at home particularly dealt with obstacles. Ms. Leah Much indicated, "by far, the most challenging part of all of this was having to home-school my three grade-school-aged children. My 4, 6, and 8-year-old kids were home every day, all day, so balancing their needs with my work and school needs was definitely challenging." The children also had to "meet with their teachers online, complete hours of homework every day" on top of figuring out "what other things to keep them busy with without the freedom to hang out with friends or visit all their grandparents."

Students described numerous other difficulties, including the compressed nature of the remaining weeks of the term, as the two extra weeks of spring break required the shifting of some important course content. Although they may have grumbled about having to attend face-to-face classes and lectures in the past, many confessed they now missed them. Several students also admitted they struggled with staying motivated and creating a routine.

The majority of the undergraduate students returned to their permanent residences; however, some of them stayed in the local area in order to continue at their places of employment. Depending on the work area, several undergraduate and graduate students experienced many added shifts and hours, whereas others were furloughed or lost their jobs, creating financial hardships and worries. Some students picked up extra shifts to assist frontline staff. One DNP student declared, "I am proud to call myself a nurse and know I have dedicated myself to the right profession." A few undergraduate and graduate students were activated as part of the National Guard during the pandemic. Other students and nursing faculty volunteered at the COVID-19 Call Center that was set up by the Eau Claire City County Health Department in Brewer Hall on the UW-Eau Claire campus as a resource for the public.



A life-size manikin created by a sophomore nursing student for practicing physical assessment skills for a clinical course section taught by Ms. Donna Shellenberger.

A few of the graduate students were employed in public health and put in many extra hours managing positive COVID-19 cases, securing resources for the homeless—especially for those needing to isolate or quarantine, and implementing policies. Ms. Ellen Jacobs, a local public health nurse in the DNP program, described the frustration of "the public doesn't understand we are trying to protect people" and "how to get people to

understand public health—getting them to isolate. How to get people to care about prevention—this is not over." She indicated "people don't know what public health does—we do more than vaccinate people or just give out rules." Her schedule has been "nonstop" with staff working seven days a week and on call to manage positive cases and contacts to positive cases, with this year being "the craziest time in public health in 100 years."

Although the need for adaptation and innovation was forced upon people, some positives often result from times of upheaval and challenge. For instance, from a faculty and staff perspective, it's likely that many of the technologies used to conduct meetings and even some class segments remotely will continue far into the future as people have become more comfortable with the platforms. (Admittedly, this April was the first time many of us were able to present at the Midwest Nursing Research Society annual conference while wearing suitcoats combined with unseen old jeans and bedroom slippers.) Videos, simulations, and case studies created this past spring may be used for future classes and student orientations and presentations.

By the same token, students could see positives coming from the situation. Like the faculty, they acknowledged becoming more tech savvy. To that end, rather than simply emailing or speaking over the phone, they appreciated being able to connect and meet "face-to-face" virtually with peers and faculty. And because many students were quite busy juggling ever-changing work schedules and family commitments, they appreciated the greater flexibility built into classes that otherwise didn't exist. Plus, they admitted that at times it is nice to participate in classes from the comforts of home, after being in work meetings or at the health care agencies all day long.

Additionally, students took on greater independence, e.g., learning how to make a poster presentation online.

Adapting to a Virtual Educational World (continued)

A new pre-nursing student coming this fall described getting "better at being able to work by myself" and completing assignments well ahead of due dates rather than procrastinating.

Mr. Nate Caves, a DNP student and ICU nurse and hospital supervisor, believes the pandemic will produce many positive outcomes. He noted that "the pandemic has demonstrated healthcare is not a privilege rather a basic human right that all citizens of the world should enjoy in the 21st century." He believes "many policy leaders and news outlets are slowly but surely changing their narrative on prioritizing preventive health measures and giving all peo-

ple equal and equitable access." Mr. Caves further described the renewed emphasis on vaccination, as the U.S. has been regressing in this area. "Now people actively talk about the power of vaccines and the need for vaccines to keep modern life functioning." He also pointed out "COVID-19 has demonstrated the power working from home has on our planet's environment and ecosystem" and hopes "we can allow work from home to continue."

Mr. Caves has "seen firsthand the crushing power a virus has on my patients. I have talked to family members on the phone about their loved ones dying as they are not allowed to say

goodbye in person, I have performed CPR on many patients who no longer have the capacity to oxygenate or perfuse their hearts, lungs, and brains despite being on full life saving measures. Through all the trepidation, chaos, and endless terrors the healthcare team I work with and have the honor of leading has risen to and succeeded through all the challenges." He emphasized, "we must learn from this chaos and create for ourselves a better order and way of being. I am hopeful lessons will be taken from these dark times and that we will forge for ourselves a new brighter, stronger, and more empathetic society." We at the College likewise are looking forward to such a world.

Remembering Dean Patricia Ostmoe



We are saddened by the passing of Dr. Patricia Ostmoe, former Dean of the School of Nursing and Professor, age 79. She died peacefully on March 29, 2020 at her home in Panama City, Florida. Dr. Ostmoe was Dean of the School from 1982-1995 and served as Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University from 1989-1990. She retired in June 1997 after 15 years at UW-Eau Claire.

Under her leadership, Dr. Ostmoe presided over many changes in Nursing, including the strengthening and growth of the master's degree program and its initial accreditation and subsequent reaccreditation by the National League for Nursing, undergraduate curriculum revisions, expansion of the Nursing Building with a west side addition, departmental reorganization, and the attainment and implementation of Indian

Health Service grants to enable BSN degree achievement by Native American students, thereby further promoting diversity within the School and Nursing profession. She was instrumental in developing the partnership between then Saint Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield and the School of Nursing that created our distance education site in Marshfield.

While at UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Ostmoe was active on many committees locally and nationally, including chairing the University's Commission on the Status of Minority Students and serving on the National League for Nursing Board of Review for Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs. She strongly believed that scholarship and teaching were inseparable and encouraged faculty to engage in research and pursue doctoral education. Dr. Ostmoe taught graduate level nursing education courses and coauthored a graduate textbook related to the principles and practice of teaching.

Dr. Ostmoe enjoyed speaking with the undergraduate and graduate classes and helped to "keep students on course for graduation." She maintained high standards for students and faculty and staff, but was able to interject hope and encouragement when people were struggling.

Prior to coming to UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Ostmoe had been a faculty member and

Assistant Dean at the University of Iowa, where she also taught both undergraduate and graduate courses. Additionally, she had worked as a staff nurse in the intensive care unit of Saint Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. She earned her bachelor's degree at the College of St. Catherine in Minnesota, a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of California at San Francisco, and a PhD from the University of Iowa.

We were treated to a message from Dr. Ostmoe at our 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration held on October 9, 2015. In her letter, she praised the members of the School of Nursing and College and noted, "Students always have been the best and the brightest, open to change and lots of studying." In recognition of faculty and instructional academic staff, she also supported the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction. an award which has been used to honor countless members of the School of Nursing and later College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

In retirement, Dr. Ostmoe enjoyed visiting with family, traveling to places such as Scandinavia to see cousins (and hosted them in return), as well as trips to Tanzania and Russia, and spending time with her St. Catherine classmates. Dean Ostmoe and her invaluable contributions to Nursing will be missed.

Remembering Dr. Diane Marcyjanik



We experienced a tremendous and unexpected loss this spring. Dr. Diane Marcyjanik, Assistant Professor, age 57, passed away on April 14, 2020. She is survived by her husband and two college-age children. Dr. Marcyjanik earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College-Buckhannon, a Master of Science in Nursing degree from UW-Eau Claire, an Education Specialist Degree from UW-Stout, and a PhD in Education from Capella University in 2016. She had served in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps, stationed in Misawa, Japan.

Dr. Marcyjanik began teaching with us in 2007, after earning her MSN degree. She primarily taught a first semester senior community/public health clinical course at the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Through this cultural clinical immersion experience, she touched the lives of many students as well as the people in Rosebud. She knew and valued the importance of building and maintaining relationships with the people there and of preparing the students prior to the experience and of debriefing following it, as they often needed help processing all of the different emotions and insights gained.

While at UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Marcyjanik served as President of the Delta Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society and Chair of the Nursing Student Affairs and Undergraduate Admissions Committee. In addition to teaching, she also was the Nursing Director at a summer camp in Lake Delton, WI for many years.

Dr. Marcyjanik received a number of accolades from the College, including the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction in 2013, the Ihle Family Award for Caring in 2017, and the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award in 2019. In addition, she was recognized by the

Delta Phi Chapter with a Clinical Excellence Award in 2011.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, she received a Gritzmacher Science Education Fellowship through the UW-Eau Claire Foundation for her project, Vaping: A New Public Health Safety Concern. Her project with senior student (now May 2020 graduate) Heidi Pardon garnered considerable attention by the UW-Eau Claire News Bureau and local TV stations, and even a feature in the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing newsletter.

Dr. Marcyjanik was lauded by peers and students for her kindness, generosity, ready smile, laughter, and hugs. After her passing, many alumni reached out to express how she increased their awareness of and need to address health disparities for all cultures. She will be missed but not forgotten.

The College held a virtual Nightingale Tribute in her honor on May 12, 2020, the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale. Ms. Nightingale would have been proud of Dr. Marcyjanik. The video from the tribute and tribute booklet are available at this website: https://www.uwec.edu/news/college-of-nursing-health-sciences/nightingale-tribute-for-diane-marcyjanik-4173/

Goodbyes and Wishes for Happy Retirements

This past academic was met with far too many retirements and premature goodbyes. All will be missed.

Dr. Robin Beeman, Department of Nursing Chair and Professor and Assistant Dean -Marshfield Site, retired in January 2020 after beginning work with UW-Eau Claire in 1993, originally as a Clinical Instructor at the Marshfield Site. Dr. Beeman is an alumna of the School of Nursing, having earned her BSN and MSN degrees from UW-Eau Claire; she earned her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She had been the Site Coordinator at the Marshfield Site since 1999 until that position was



changed in 2007 to an Assistant Dean role. When the Department of Nursing needed a department chair in July 2015, Dr. Beeman reduced her Assistant Dean responsibilities to assume an interim chair position and later in July 2016 became the Chair of the Department of Nursing.

While in the chair role, she managed to juggle her administrative responsibilities for both the Eau Claire campus and Marshfield Site by spending a few days per week at each location, logging

countless miles on the road in her car.

As a faculty member, Dr. Beeman primarily taught medical-surgical content in the undergraduate junior nursing theory and clinical courses in addition to some graduate teaching, including serving as adviser for several students completing DNP Projects. She was the recipient of a number of awards, including the Ihle Family Award for Caring from the College in 2007 (along with the Marshfield Site Faculty) and in 2018 and was recognized for outstanding teaching, mentoring, and encouragement of nontraditional students at UW-Eau Claire. In terms of scholarship, Dr. Beeman contributed multiple chapters to a popular pathophysiology textbook and published journal articles related to her interest in distance education and nursing education. Prior to joining UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Beeman had been a nursing instructor at Western Wisconsin Technical College and Viterbo University in La Crosse and worked as a staff nurse in La Crosse and in Durand.

With her retirement, she is spending time with her grandbaby (a little Packer fan born in February) and other family and friends. Additional plans include traveling, "decluttering and reorganizing my house, and things yet to be discovered." We are missing her upbeat, positive attitude and ready laugh, as well as her distinctive walk down the halls. Now that she is not driving back and forth between Marshfield and Eau Claire on a weekly and sometimes biand tri-weekly basis through all kinds of inclement weather, we wish her much quality time and enjoyment and are waiting to hear about those "things yet to be discovered."

Dr. Rachael Haupt-Harrington, Assistant Professor at the Marshfield Site, returned to clinical practice following the Fall 2019 term. She is a UW-Eau Claire alumna, as she was a member of the first class to graduate from the DNP program in 2012. She started teaching at the Marshfield Site as a Clinical Instructor in September 2010, before becoming an Assistant Professor in 2012. Dr. Haupt-Harrington taught in both the undergraduate and graduate programs and was the Marshfield Site

Skills Lab/Simulation Coordinator for several years and worked with the Nursing Student Success Center. She was the 2015 recipient of the Mary C.



and Fred Bliss Endowment for Nursing Faculty Professional Development Award for her project entitled, Students' Lived Experience with Team-Based Learning in a Nursing Course and Clinical Practice.

Prior to beginning her career at UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Haupt-Harrington was a neonatal intensive care unit nurse manager and a nurse practitioner at various clinics. We appreciated her creativity and flexibility in taking on new challenges, including coordinating the simulation experiences for students in Marshfield.

Ms. Julie Knetter, Clinical Instructor at the Marshfield Site, returned to



clinical practice after completing the Fall 2019 term. She was an alumna of the undergraduate nursing program and had been a nursing faculty member at Northcentral Technical College and a School Nurse, among other positions, prior to teaching at the Marshfield Site, starting in Fall 2018. She supervised senior level OB clinicals and simulations, in addition to roles in sophomore and junior courses. We are grateful for her time with us.

Ms. Tara Kolodzik, Clinical Instructor at the Marshfield Site, has returned to clinical practice in pediatrics with the Marshfield Clinic Health System, following the completion of the spring 2020 semester. She started teaching with us in Fall 2012 and primarily supervised pediatric clinicals for a first semester senior course.

We particularly appreciated her dedicated efforts and expertise as she taught students from both the Eau Claire campus and the Marshfield Site. Due to limited pediatric hospital oppor-



tunities in the Eau Claire area, some of the Eau Claire clinical section students have been driving to Marshfield for acute care pediatric experiences at the Marshfield Children's Hospital. Additionally, Ms. Kolodzik taught in the senior pediatrics theory course and an online nutrition course for the beginning nursing students. We are going to miss her commitment to the students and wish her continued success.

Dr. Cheryl Lapp, Professor, retired in May 2020 after joining the Department of Nursing in 2007. Dr. Lapp has a rich educational history, having originally graduated from the Winnipeg General Hospital nursing diploma program in Manitoba, Canada (see 1972 graduation photo below), followed by earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (BScN) from the University of Alberta. She later earned a Master of Public Health, a Master of Arts in Family Studies: Sociology, and a PhD from the University of Minnesota.



A giving and scholarly person, she was the recipient of numerous accolades from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, including the Ihle Family Award for Caring in 2010, the Suzanne Van Ort Award for Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness in 2015, and the Sue Peck Holism and Integrative Therapies Service Award in 2019. Other awards received while at UW-Eau Claire include the Delta Phi Chapter Sigma Theta Tau Excellence in Mentorship Award in 2010 and a Leadership Award from the Chapter in 2014, in addition to Senior GRAD-itude Recognition from students.

At UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Lapp taught several nursing graduate courses and courses within the traditional and BSN Completion undergraduate programs. Additionally, she developed and taught Empathy Enhancement for the Helping Professions and co-taught Critical Is-

sues in Global Health and Introduction to Public Health for the University Honors Program. Furthermore, for many years she was part of the Human



Development Center (HDC), an interprofessional program that provides behavioral health and educational support services to western Wisconsin individuals, families, and schools. She also served on the University Senate.

Dr. Lapp has multiple publications in research areas including, for example, family nursing clinical immersion experiences, human trafficking, and stress and coping of deployed military spouses. An elegant speaker with a passion for and belief in the need for the arts and scholarship, her most recent research has been in utilizing theater to teach empathy to health professionals. Consistent with her love for travel, she was a frequent presenter at international conferences, with some occurring within the U.S., as well as Spain, Denmark, and Iceland.

Prior to coming to UW-Eau Claire, Dr. Lapp taught at the University of Manitoba, the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, UW-Oshkosh, and Edgewood College. In terms of practice, she worked in neurosurgery, behavioral health, and public health with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada. In recent years, she was a weekend oncall supervisor in long-term care, as she found that "keeping one foot in clinical practice made me feel like a

better teacher."

As for retirement, she indicates not having a plan, other than looking for a dog and visiting family in Canada (once the border opens and it is safe to travel). She also will be spending more time with her significant other, with whom she hopes to travel (after he retires), "and I'll finally have time to marry." We congratulate Dr. Lapp and wish her and her significant other much happiness and opportunities to travel!

Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler, Professor and Director of Assessment and Evaluation for the Department of Nursing, will be retiring from the University in August 2020 after teaching with us since 2011.

Dr. Pehler considers herself to be both a Blugold, as a BSN alumna, and a Hawkeye, having earned her MSN and PhD degrees through the University of Iowa. An expert clinician and educator, undergraduate and graduate students have benefited from her considerable pediatric and obstetrical clinical experience as well as her passion for the care of children. Dr. Pehler took her first nursing position in Eau Claire on a local hospital obstetric unit. Next, she worked in La Crosse in obstetrics and then on a pediatric unit before serving as a nursing service educator in Arcadia, Wisconsin.



Subsequently, Dr. Pehler moved to Davenport, Iowa where she was a maternal child/pediatric clinical nurse specialist at Genesis Medical Center from 1996-2003. During that time, she also began teaching at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. She taught at St. Ambrose from 2000-2011 before moving to Eau Claire and starting her teaching position with our College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dr. Pehler is a Fellow in the Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness at the University of Iowa. This prestigious distinction is in honor of her work in developing nursing outcomes for the Nursing Outcome Classification (NOC). Additionally, Dr. Pehler was recognized multiple times by students for the positive influence she had on their lives. She has numerous publications, including some for which she generously mentored undergraduate students, junior faculty, and instructional academic staff as co-authors. Recent publication areas pertain to an innovative civility intervention created by a faculty/student action research team and the development of a longing nursing diagnosis.

Dr. Pehler worked to promote the social engagement of faculty, staff, and students in the College. She was a strong advocate for meeting the various needs of the students, especially in terms of helping them to be successful with the NCLEX exam. As Director of Assessment and Evaluation, we benefited from her attention to the details and standards required for the assessment of our programs and ensuring we worked to improve upon areas that could be strengthened. We are grateful she stayed with us this summer as she mentored our new Director of Assessment and Evaluation and assisted us with the writing of our self-study document in preparation for our CCNE Accreditation visit in March 2021.

Following retirement, she and her husband Adrian are hoping to continue their travels (when the pandemic eases up) as well as see their grandchildren face-to-face. Dr. Pehler's wisdom, expertise, and sly sense of humor and smile

(with a friendly chuckle) will be missed!

Dr. Ann Recine, Assistant Professor, retired at the end of May 2020, after teaching with us since 2013. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with her BSN degree and from UW-Eau Claire with her MSN and DNP degrees. Additionally, she was a Nurses for Wisconsin award recipient for an adult-gerontology nurse practitioner post master's certificate from



Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Clinically, Dr. Recine worked as a behavioral health nurse, a charge nurse, a hospice and home care nurse, and an Adult Nurse Practitioner in area hospital, long term care, and home care facilities and agencies. Plus, Dr. Recine was a pastoral care minister

Dr. Recine taught in both the undergraduate and graduate programs at UW-Eau Claire, primarily in the adult/older adult courses for advanced clinical practice graduate students and in psychiatric mental health, among other areas, for the undergraduate students. She was honored by the College with the Sue Peck Holism and Integrative Therapies Service Award in 2016. Dr. Recine has been a frequent speaker at community events, addressing topics such as living a longer, healthier life; forgiveness and healing; adding quality years to life; and positive aging.

Following retirement, Dr. Recine will be volunteering for the UW-Eau Claire Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, serving as a research mentor for undergraduate students. She also will continue to see patients as part of her private clinical practice, Holistic Therapy, LLC, and speak, research, and write about forgiveness. And most assuredly, she plans to spend more time with her children and five grandchildren and "try to grow some peas and carrots." We will miss the kind notes and thoughtful words of gratitude she often took the time to share with colleagues. We wish her much happiness (and bountiful luck with the peas and carrots).

Ms. Donna Rozar, Clinical Instructor at the Marshfield Site, retired in May 2020, having instructed with the Department of Nursing since January 2009. An expert, caring nurse and strong advocate for the students, she taught both in the classroom and the



skills laboratory and supervised students at the clinical sites, including in rehab and long-term care and on various hospital units. Teaching in all three settings enabled her to assist students with applying the classroom content to practice and vice versa. In the classroom, she primarily taught pharmacology to the beginning students but was in both early and senior-level clinical courses, which enabled her to see the students grow to become competent and compassionate nurses.

"A clinician at heart," in addition to teaching at the Marshfield Site, Ms. Rozar continued working as a casual nurse on the cardiac medical-surgical unit at Marshfield Medical Center. Additionally, she has been repeatedly elected to serve on the Wood County Wisconsin Board of Supervisors since 2000.

In terms of what is next, Ms. Rozar is running for the Wisconsin 69th Assembly District seat being vacated by Representative Robert Kulp, making plans to embark on mission trips with her church and travel east to see family and friends, and working casual at Marshfield Medical Center. She indicated, "I am a lifelong learner and look forward to increasing my knowledge base on a variety of topics. Life is exciting and I look forward to the days and years ahead. Boredom is not a word in my vocabulary." We agree and wish her much success and joy!

Ms. Suzanne Voros, Clinical Assistant Professor at the Marshfield Site, returned to clinical practice at the end of December 2019. She began teaching with us at the Marshfield Site in January 2009 after earning her MSN in



Nursing Education from Viterbo University. A strong believer in providing quality education for the undergraduate nursing students, Ms. Voros attained the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credential in 2015. Numerous

students benefited from her teaching and clinical expertise over the years, as she managed to teach while still working casual in perianesthesia care. Primary instructional areas included junior year medical-surgical theory and clinical content. She was the 2018 recipient from the College of the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction.

In addition to teaching, Ms. Voros maintained multiple service commitments, including serving as the Eau Claire Student Nurses Association (ECSNA) adviser at the Marshfield Site and as a member of the Department of Nursing undergraduate curriculum committee, and was an adviser for undergraduate students in Marshfield. Ms. Voros has returned to a fulltime RN position at Marshfield Clinic Health System, working with the orthopedic hand surgeons. We are grateful for the 11 years she taught with us and appreciated the high standards she held for nursing education.

Ms. Cathy Wilson, Dean's Assistant, retired in July 2020. Ms. Wilson began her career at UW-Eau Claire in 1983 in the Accounts Payable Office, followed by the Parking Office, Children's Center, University Bookstore, and Activities & Programs, before taking a position in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences in 2004 with the Public Health Professions Department and the Nursing Systems Department in 2005. She became the Dean's Assistant for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences in 2007.

For many of her UW-Eau Claire positions over the past 37 years, she was known to review outdated manual processes and work to update them to electronic means, e.g., the scholarship application process, an automated parking ticket system, electronic ballots, invoicing and payment systems, and bookstore book return processes, among others. She originally began her career in the UW System in Learning Resources at UW-Stout in 1981.

Ms. Wilson was a master at creatively and diligently managing multiple different events for the College, such as scholarship receptions and banquets, alumni events, including seeking door prizes for the annual Nursing Alumni Walk, and requesting and collecting undergraduate student information for the convocation (pinning) ceremony and licensure. Much of what she did was



akin to organizing a wedding, complete with table arrangements—yet she somehow always managed to remain calm and kind. She continually went the extra mile, striving to ensure the best experiences for everyone, often making provisions to accommodate individual needs.

Ms. Wilson says she is "looking forward to a COVID-19 free retirement" in which she can spend time with friends, family, and her new grandson. She also hopes to garden and continue her stamping hobby (she makes beautiful cards).

As a UW-Eau Claire Blugold with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, she feels that ending her career in an academic setting is very satisfying.

We wish Ms. Wilson much welldeserved enjoyment in her retirement, but we are going to greatly miss her.

Honors, Recognitions, and Awards

We are proud of the excellence demonstrated by the students, faculty, and staff in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as by our alumni. Highlights of many who were recognized this past year include:

Several faculty and instructional academic staff members were honored with awards from the College in August 2019 at the start of the 2019-2020 academic year (see center photo of the College faculty/staff). **Dr. Meg Lagunas** and **Dr. Charlotte Sortedahl** received the Ihle Family Award for Caring; **Dr. Jeanette Olsen** and **Dr. Rachel Merkel** the Suzanne Van Ort Award for

Faculty Creativity and Scholarliness; Dr. Mohammad Alasagheirin, Ms. Heather Iverson, and Dr.

Amanda

A number of promotions also were announced at the College meeting, including **Dr. Debra Hofmann** to Associate Professor and tenured; **Dr. Catherine Kenney** to Clinical Associate Professor; and **Ms. Stacey Stafne** to Clinical Assistant Professor. **Dr. Lisa Schiller** became the Nursing Graduate Programs Director and **Ms. Vickkie Zietlow** was named the Clinical Learning Center Coordinator for the Marshfield Site.

Dr. Norah Airth-Kindree, Associate Professor and alum of our MSN program, received the University Excellence in Teaching Award at the UniverDepartment Chair, starting in January 2020 and later as Department Chair beginning this August, following a national search and the retirement of Dr. Robin Beeman. She has been teaching with us since 2010.

With the retirement of Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler in August 2020, **Dr. Jeanette**Olsen, Assistant Professor, has been appointed as the Director of Assessment and Evaluation. The Director provides leadership for the College in measuring the effectiveness of our undergraduate and graduate nursing programs and facilitating our achievement of Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

and nursing accreditation requirements.

Two Nursing faculty with collaborating undergraduate students are receiving Gritzmacher Science Education Fellowships

through the UW-Eau Claire Foundation. Dr. Pamela Guthman. Assistant Professor, with second semester senior student Payton Kaldenberg, are accepting a fellowship for their project, Educating Rural Communities on Climate and Environmental Health: Partnering with a Local Newspaper. Dr. Lorraine Smith, Clinical Assistant Professor, along with first semester senior student Lindsey Boehm, are receiving funds for their project, Teen Education on E-cigarettes and Vaping. (Dr. Smith will be assuming a tenure track Assistant Professor role this Fall.) The students and faculty are given

The students and faculty are given small stipends and funding for project transportation and supplies through the fellowship award.

Ms. Jane (JJ) Trimble Johanos, undergraduate class of 1976, was the December 2019 recipient of the UW-Eau Claire Lifetime Excellence Award, which was presented during the December commencement ceremonies. She was being honored for her work as the founder and president of the PMS

Clinic of Minneapolis. A master's de-



Seeley the Patricia M. Ostmoe Award for Faculty and Academic Staff Excellence in Clinical Instruction; Dr. Diane Marcyjanik and Dr. Mary Zwygart-Stauffacher the Rita Kisting Sparks Faculty Service Award; and Dr. Cheryl Lapp the Sue Peck Holism and Integrative Therapies Service Award.

Additionally, at the August 2019 College meeting, Dr. Jeanette Olsen, Assistant Professor, received the Mary C. and Fred Bliss Endowment for Nursing Faculty Professional Development Award for junior faculty for her research project entitled, Prenatal Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences: An Exploration of Patient Perspectives. Dr. Olsen is working with first semester senior student Elizabeth Galloway. The research has been a bit delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is being altered to enable alternative methods of data collection (interviews originally were going to be done face-to-face). If all goes well, data collection will begin in August 2020 we will keep our fingers crossed for them!

sity's opening meeting in August 2019. She was nominated for the award by several past students because of the exceptional care and encouragement she showed them while maintaining high standards. One alum noted, "she has always encouraged me to push myself to achieve what I worked so hard for." Another described her "huge heart for both patients and her students. Norah was someone I looked up to throughout the program as the type of nurse I wanted to become." Dr. Airth-Kindree frequently teaches the final capstone clinical course for the BSN Completion students and a junior community and public health nursing course, in addition to some graduate classes. She has been teaching with us since 2005. In 2016, she was invited to speak to the UW System Board of Regents at one of their meetings regarding the importance of preparing health care professionals to understand the impact of social and economic factors on health outcomes.

Dr. Charlotte Sortedahl, Associate Professor, was appointed as Interim

Honors, Recognitions, and Awards (continued)

gree-prepared psychiatric/mental health advanced practice nurse, Ms. Johanos established the clinic in 1982 to focus on the holistic treatment of



premenstrual syndrome using the Trimble (her professional name) Model. The providers and staff at the clinic helped change the percep-

tions of women experiencing premenstrual symptoms from victimhood to one of manager. Additionally, as Dean Linda Young noted, "JJ's pioneering independent nursing practice sets her apart as a significant leader who laid the groundwork for the autonomous advanced nursing practice in our country today."

We were privileged to have a visit by Ms. Johanos in November 2019 when she spoke to the undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff, and emeriti faculty. We heard about

her ground breaking efforts as she sought to redefine the premenstrual experience for women, their families, medical professionals, and society.

Lieutenant Patrick Marsh, U.S. Navy, and BSN class of 2014, served as an emergency room nurse on the hospital ship USNS Mercy, which was docked at the Port of Los Angeles as part of the COVID-19 relief efforts. The 1,000-bed ship included 800 medi-



cal personnel and 70 support staff members. Lt. Marsh and the other Navy personnel treated non-COVID-19 patients onboard the ship to enable staff at the Los Angeles area hospitals to focus on patients with the infection. The relief effort also helped to separate patients positive with COVID-19 from the other patients. We are grateful for

his service and for his support of our College in his press interviews, in addition to his offers to mentor new graduates. We just this July received from Lt. Marsh an American flag flown on the USNS Mercy and will be proudly displaying it.

Lieutenant Colonel Shaun S. Westphal, USAF, and BSN class of 1997, completed his Command tour at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. Over the past two years he had served as the 17th Medical Group Chief Nurse and the 17th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron Commander. His next assignment is within US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. A link to the Change of Command ceremony can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/272768846178135/videos/327547904899865.

We remain honored to have on display in the College the American flag he presented to us that had flown on an aircraft during a medical evacuation mission by then Captain Westphal into Qatar and Iraq in July 2007. Lt. Col. Westphal stays in touch with the College and is happy to mentor those considering Military Nursing. We appreciate his continued service to the country.

Welcomes

Although we had many goodbyes this past year, we were pleased to greet new faculty and staff members. In August 2019, we were joined by Ms. Stephany Andres, Clinical Instructor at the Marshfield Site and Dr. Sara Baars, Clinical Assistant Professor. In Spring 2020, we welcomed Dr. Kathy Bloechl, Clinical Assistant Professor at the Marshfield Site; Dr. Brianna Czaikowski, Clinical Assistant Professor: Dr. Michelle Miland. Clinical Assistant Professor; Dr. Marie Walsh, Clinical Assistant Professor at the Marshfield Site; and Dr. Ginger Zien, Clinical Assistant Professor.

Dr. Mary Canales, Professor, returned in May 2020 to a tenured faculty position to begin the BSN Completion Program Director role. She had

left the campus in May 2017 and taken another position out East. The person in the Director role oversees the implementation of the BSN Completion program, including serving on the BSN@Home steering committee for the six UW nursing programs participating in the statewide collaborative. The position had been left unfilled in recent years due to severe budget cuts.

Dr. Geeti Farrahi, Assistant Professor, will be joining us at our Marshfield Site this Fall 2020. Dr. Farrahi previously taught at National University, the Fresno, California campus and has worked as a heart failure specialist, nursing supervisor, and ICU nurse, among other positions. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist with a DNP degree from Walden University.

Dr. Pamela Guthman, Assistant Professor, was hired into a tenure-track faculty role, effective January 2020. Dr. Guthman, an alum of our BSN program, had been teaching with us as a Clinical Assistant Professor since 2017.

Dr. Lorraine Smith, Clinical Assistant Professor, will be continuing with us this Fall 2020 as an Assistant Professor in a tenure track role. Dr. Smith is an alum of our BSN, MSN, and DNP programs and has served in many positions with the School of Nursing and College including as a senior student services coordinator and assistant to the dean and as a clinical assistant professor, among others. She was a Nurses for Wisconsin Fellow.

Highlights from the 2019 Nursing Alumni Homecoming Walk

The 2019 Annual Nursing Alumni Walk was held on October 12th and was quite well attended, with at least 79 adults and children present. Three people participated from the class of 1969, their 50th anniversary year; six people came from the class of 1974 (45th anniversary); four came from the class of 1979 (40th anniversary); and two were from the class of 2009 (10th anniversary). Other represented classes included 1970, 1973, 1975, 1983, 1984, 1989, 1993, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2007, and 2013, along with the future class of 2023 as several students attended.

Because it was the 50th anniversary of

the completed construction and occupancy of the Nursing Building, we had a special slide show and celebratory anniversary

cake. Our changes to the usual breakfast menu, combined with the cake, appeared to have been hits.

The walk was led by the late Dr. Diane Marcyjanik, Assistant Professor and MSN alum, with Dr. Theresa Dachel (Assistant Professor and BSN alum) and also Dr. Shelley-Rae Pehler (Professor and Director of Assessment and Evaluation and BSN alum) with her husband Mr. Adrian Pehler (Business/Accounting alum). The groups were able to see the new gateway arch at the entrance to the University (see photo on the right of one of the groups). The Chancellor arrived during the walk and stayed to talk with those not venturing outside (it was a blustery cold day with snowflakes flying).

During the breakfast, Dean Young provided an update regarding the College, including the progress of our Department Chair and Jane W. and James E. Moore Chair in Nursing Research searches, as well as the status of a new Science Building to house our Clinical

Learning Center. Dr. Meg Lagunas, Director of the Clinical Learning Center and Assistant Professor, provided tours of the simulation and skills laboratory spaces both during and after the walk.

Since 2016, Dove Healthcare has generously donated the T-shirts worn by attendees (see photos of attendees wearing the heather royal blue shirts... under heavy winter coats). We continue to be thankful for their support.

Besides our appreciation of Dove Healthcare, we are grateful to the numerous individuals and organizations Inc., Mayo Clinic Health System, *Mel* Naturel Products, Menards, Oak Leaf Surgical Hospital, Royal Credit Union, Silver Spring Foods, Sodexo Dining Services, Tangled Up In Hue, UW-Eau Claire Alumni Association and Foundation, UW-Eau Claire Bookstore, UW-Eau Claire College of Nursing and Health Sciences, UW-Eau Claire Continuing Education, UW-Eau Claire Student Nurses Association, Xcel Energy, and Dean Linda Young.

Thank you also to everyone who attended and to the many students, alumni, faculty, and staff who helped set up for and assisted with the walk, including

cleaning up at the end. We could not have done this without all of you!

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nurs-

covidence to the Nursing Alumni Walk for 2020 has been cancelled. We hope to hold a virtual alumni event around homecoming; therefore, please stay tuned for e-mail updates. The year 2020 marks the 10 year anniversary of the first class offer-



who donated door prizes, including Ms. Catherine Berry, Brent Douglas Floral, Burrachos, Coldstone Creamery, Culvers, Famous Dave's, Festival Foods, Houligans Steak & Seafood Pub, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Impact Advertising, Mancinos, May's Floral Garden



Updates to College and Department Mission, Vision, and Value Statements

At least every five years, we review our College and Department mission, vision, and value statements. This past November, the Department of Nursing's mission was updated to better reflect the use of "innovative and diverse teaching methods" and the sharing of the missions of the University and College "by building upon the foundational values of transformative liberal education, inclusivity, and educational excellence." The Department's vision statement also underwent minor wording changes (see below).

Department Vision Statement
Members of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Nursing, as a learning community, honor our successes while we pursue new avenues of excellence.

Vision: Educating nurse leaders to challenge boundaries and build bridges for a healthier world.

Department Mission Statement

The purpose of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Department of Nursing is to provide a scholarly environment in which faculty and students gain and extend knowledge of health, health care, and the practice of professional nursing. The Department of Nursing is dedicated to accomplishing this mission using traditional, as well as technology-based instructional strategies and a variety of innovative and diverse teaching methods.

The Nursing Department shares the mission of the University and the College by building upon the foundational values of transformative liberal education, inclusivity, and educational excellence.

The select mission of the Nursing Department is to:

- Educate nurses to lead within diverse, complex environments
- Promote health and the public good through ethical leadership, collaboration, and practice
- Contribute to knowledge development for health and nursing
- Serve the broader missions of the College and University

Similarly, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences mission was modified in April 2019 to update and more strongly reflect our values, particularly in eliminating barriers to participation, civility, social responsibility, and innovation. The College vision also was revised then to reflect our endeavors to "transform the lives of our students." These College and Department revisions are consistent with the UW-Eau Claire Select Mission and overall values (see College statements below).

<u>College of Nursing and Health Sciences</u> <u>Mission Statement</u>

Building on a foundation of excellence, liberal education, and inclusivity, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences fosters the transformation of individuals at the undergraduate and graduate levels into leaders in professional nursing practice, education, and scholarship. High-impact educational experiences, scholarship, and service to our communities enhance the personal and professional growth of students and

faculty while promoting life-long learning.

College Values

Excellence in*:

- Education
- Practice
- Scholarship
- Leadership
- Experiential Learning
- Life-Long Learning

Diversity

• Eliminating Barriers to Participation*

Health
Integrity
Civility
Innovation*
Quality of Life
Social Responsibility*:

- Respect
- Positive Influence on Health
- Social Justice
- Accountability
- Sustainability

Note*: Those values with an asterisk are held in common with the overall University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire values.

College Vision

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences strives to be a leader for exemplary education in nursing. In doing so, we endeavor to transform the lives of our students, the practice of our profession, and the health of populations.

We welcome feedback regarding these revised statements and can be reached at 715-836-5287; nursing@uwec.edu.

CCNE Reaccreditation Site Visit March 10-12, 2021

On March 10-12, 2021, we are planning to host site visitors as part of the reaccreditation process of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Our Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs were previously reaccredited through December 31, 2021 and our Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program was reaccredited through December 31, 2026. We are requesting reaccreditation of the BSN, MSN, and DNP programs.

As required by CCNE, we are in the process of writing a self-study document in which we describe how we meet their quality standards. In the spirit of continuous quality improvement, we are always interested in feedback regarding means to strengthen our programs and processes—please feel free to send thoughts and suggestions. We can be reached at 715-836-5287; nursing@uwec.edu. The accreditation is by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

Special Thanks to Clinical Agencies, Preceptors, and Donors

We extend our gratitude to the many health care agencies, individuals, and preceptors at those agencies for the wide array of rich clinical and mentorship opportunities they provided for our undergraduate and graduate students.

We also appreciate our many donors who funded scholarships for our students, provided funds for our simulation laboratories, enabled clinical and classroom offerings in Eau Claire and Marshfield as well as faculty development opportunities, or supported our general Nursing Advancement Fund.

Additionally, the time many of you gave serving on committees and advisory boards or otherwise volunteering for or assisting the College are deserving of praise and recognition.

We would not be able to offer our programs without this continued support.

Thank you!



College of Nursing and Health Sciences Areas of Need

Nursing education is ever changing as we work to prepare nurse leaders to meet the demands of a more diverse and globally aware and impacted society. Your gift to any of the following will help enhance student learning experiences and provide valuable faculty resources.

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.

Multicultural Clinical Experiences and Student Travel Fund: Support the College's strategic plan to expand experiential, multicultural, and interprofessional learning by providing funds to enable nursing clinical experiences with diverse and other difficult to access populations locally in Wisconsin, nationally, and internationally. Funding is needed to facilitate student travel to these and other clinical sites. For instance, the students in Eau Claire must travel to St. Paul and to Marshfield for the opportunity to care for hospitalized children as there are no local pediatric hospitals.

Student Conferences Fund: Support opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to attend professional conferences. Examples include annual conferences by the American Assembly for Men in Nursing, the Wisconsin Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International, and the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Endowed Chair, Professorship, and Faculty Professional Development Awards: Support the College through endowments that enable us to attract and retain strong faculty members. Such talent will help us to educate generations of future nurses.

To designate a gift, see https://connect.uwec.edu/nursing-health-sciences or call 715-836-5630 (UW-Eau Claire Foundation).

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233-2-331004



Nursing Alumni Newsletter

July 2020

Please Update Contact Information

If your contact information has changed, please kindly update your current mailing address, phone number, email address, and job information by going to the following website: https://uweauclaire.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV exKr7wPAaLHXdid

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences can be reached at 715-836-5287; nursing@uwec.edu.