

The Synapse

A Communication Impulse

Connecting the Bethel University Nursing Department with its Alumni

Fall 2009 Vol. 13, No. 2

New Space, New Lab, New Opportunities



August 10th marked a milestone when the nursing labs were expanded and relocated two floors down. Yes, the previous dining center area has been converted into a spacious 10,000 square foot student learning area. It includes two nursing skills labs, a classroom for 45 students, a computer lab/classroom, a lobby area, and a simulation area consisting of three client care rooms, one med/supply room, debriefing room, state-of-the-art control room, and one faculty office. The simulation area and faculty office is permanent space but the other areas will be revised as money becomes available. Even the temporary space is beyond words. As senior nursing students entered the area for the first time, they were commonly speechless with jaws dropped.

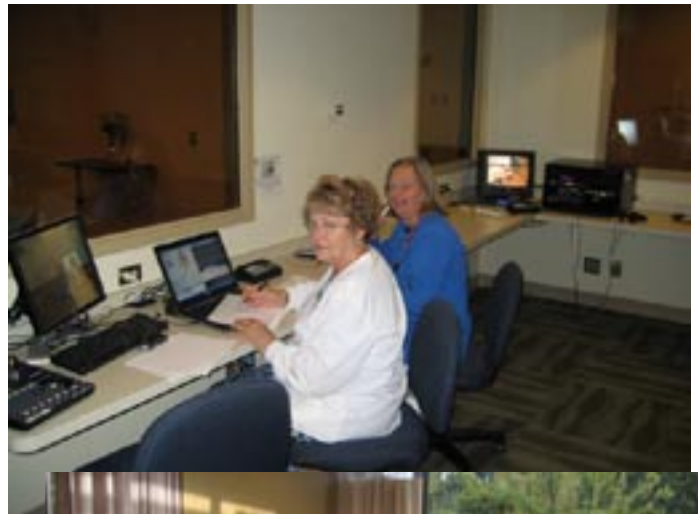
When words could be found, the comments included, "It really feels just like a hospital." "I wish I was a junior starting over." "It is hard to believe how great this is!" "If I had to be a patient, I'd want to come to this hospital!"

One big asset is the fact that there is more space. With two skills labs, the junior and senior classes are not vying for room to work. There's a peaceful, healthy learning environment. The simulation rooms allow for a rich learning environment where the students can experience real life situations in a safe environment. The technology permits videotaping of the simulation experience to another room where others can observe without decreasing the effectiveness of the experience. Please come and see our beautiful new facility!

Many graduates, faculty, and staff have contributed to the simulation technology, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to you! A plaque was put up in honor of graduates who have donated but there is still time to help out!

Renewal of Baccalaureate Program Approval Granted

The Nursing Department was granted renewal of its baccalaureate program approval by the Minnesota Board of Nursing. This was effective May 15, 2009. This approval reflects the hard work of many students and faculty, especially LeAnn Rogstad, Master's Program alum, who did much of the organizing of the preliminary material.



Partnership with Diakonova University College in Oslo, Norway

The Bethel University Nursing Department is entering into a partnership with Diakonova University College to promote collaborative research and educational initiatives that are of interest to both institutions. In 2005, while in Oslo for a Fulbright Award, Marge Schaffer presented the Public Health Intervention Wheel to public health nursing students and faculty at Diakonova. As a result of this exchange, two public health nursing faculty members from Diakonova, Kari Glavin and Lisbeth Kvarme, travelled to Minnesota in October 2009. They are working on doctoral degrees and spent time at the University of Minnesota. They visited Bethel University and attended public health nursing clinical sites with Bethel students. Kari is conducting research on postpartum depression and Lisbeth is investigating school bullying.

Mardon Breimoen, Rector from Diakonova, received a grant from the Ministry of Education and Research in Norway to establish the partnership. Goals include having meetings to develop the collaboration, possible exchange of students, and collaboration with post-graduate programs. Sandy Peterson, Barb Hogle, and Marge Schaffer will travel to Norway in mid-October to begin the partnership conversation. Marge will also be presenting at the International Conference on Public Health Nursing at Diakonova October 15 and 16 on ethical problems in end-of-life decisions for elderly Norwegians and will offer a workshop on the Public Health Intervention Wheel.

Diakonova University College is a private Christian College in Oslo, Norway. The college offers specialization in Public Health Nursing, Cancer Nursing, and Nephrology Nursing. They also offer a Master's degree in Deaconea. All courses are taught in Norwegian, but students are proficient in English. In Norway, students complete a bachelor's degree in nursing before they pursue specialization in nursing areas such as public health. Diakonova University College is planning to develop a master's program in public health nursing.

New Curriculum for Nursing

The Nursing Department has been planning a baccalaureate nursing curriculum that prepares nurses in both CAS and CAPS to practice in the present and future healthcare systems. Freshman students admitted to CAS in the fall of 2009 will be educated under the new curriculum. An example of change to this curriculum includes beginning the nursing program in the spring of sophomore year after taking a fall nursing course, *Foundations of Health Ministry*. Students will have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad senior year while in the nursing program. Consistent with our mission there will be a particular focus on caring for those who are underserved in our health-care system.

Another unique feature of the curriculum is student involvement with diverse and vulnerable populations through community engagement activities. Students will participate in activities and programs that reflect the strengths, needs, and resources of the community. The goal is to produce outcomes that are meaningful to community members. We have been working with potential community engagement partners to develop a community engagement plan. In 2008-2009, nursing faculty and graduate students conducted focus groups with staff from community organizations to determine best strategies for designing community engagement learning experiences. Community engagement sites include schools, service centers, churches, a block nurse program, and a family violence prevention program.

As a core component of the curriculum, nursing students will learn how to connect with communities and contribute to reducing health disparities through ongoing involvement in the same agency during five semesters. The goals of the community engagement curriculum are to prepare nurses who will:

- Contribute to reducing health disparities.
- Be culturally sensitive and competent.
- Be committed to serving diverse and vulnerable populations.

The Synapse

Sophomore nursing students will begin their community engagement learning experiences in February 2011. Each semester in nursing courses, students will have learning experiences in the community engagement setting that are consistent with both student learning outcomes and service needs of the community organization. Learning experiences will be mutually determined by agency and faculty liaisons. In a sophomore level nursing course, students will participate in health assessment activity in a community organization. In the junior year, students will have the opportunity to participate in a health promotion activity that involves teaching members of the community. They will also be providing resources or information related to a specific chronic illness within their community engagement site. In their senior year, students will complete a 25-hour project determined by the community organization. A nursing faculty member will serve as a Community Engagement Coordinator to facilitate student placement with community engagement sites and to ensure an effective communication process with organizations.

Included in the revised CAPS Degree Completion Nursing Program a new informatics course, measurement of technology competencies, and use of an electronic portfolio for assessment program outcomes. Most courses have been revised to reflect current practices and trends in nursing. The revised CAPS curriculum is offered to students beginning fall 2009.

New Faculty

We welcome new full time and adjunct faculty to the Bethel University Nursing Department.

Full-time:

Prior to joining Bethel's Nursing Department, *Connie Clark* was a professor at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. In the baccalaureate programs, she taught research, theories of leadership and management, and in the clinical setting, community health nursing. Her PhD is from Iowa State University with a dissertation that focused on professional socialization of baccalaureate students in pre-licensure and degree completion programs.

Carol Hargate's most recent academic position was at Minnesota State University School of Nursing, Mankato, where she was an assistant professor. Her teaching responsibilities included community health, child health, and holistic health and global perspectives in pre-licensure and degree completion baccalaureate programs. She is a pediatric nurse practitioner, practicing at North Metro Pediatrics in Coon Rapids and has a casual position in the Neonatal Follow Up Clinic at St. Paul Children's Hospital. Carol received her PhD in Education Specialization in Higher Education from Capella University with dissertation research on the next generation of nurses, who will teach them?

Margaret Johnson, who completed her preceptorship experiences at Bethel over the last two semesters, joins the faculty this year in a sabbatical replacement position. She received her master's degree from South University this past May. In the recent past Margaret served as a Faculty Assistant for University of St. Catherine, working with students who were experiencing academic difficulties.

Adjunct:

Anna Kam, who graduated from Bethel in 2001 as Anna Zosel, received her master's degree from the University of Washington with a focus on Cross Cultural Health Care. Before returning to Minnesota she was a Staff Development Specialist at the University of Washington Medical Center.

Tricia Munter is also a graduate of Bethel, receiving her master's degree in 2006. Currently she is a Clinical Analyst in the Information Technology Department for Children's Hospitals and Clinics.

Judy Parker completed her master's degree at Indiana Wesleyan University with a focus on community health nursing. She is on a one-year leave from Karanda Mission Hospital, Zimbabwe, where she has served as an instructor in the School of Nursing since 1986.

Faculty Activities

This past summer, *Tim Bredow* received his certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Dave Cheesebrow was awarded his second master's degree. To a master of arts in public administration he has now added a master of arts in nursing.

Connie Clark, co-authored an article, "Getting to Know You: Development of an RN-BSN Online Orientation, which has been accepted for publication in *Journal of Nursing Education (JNE)*. The article is now available on the *JNE* website and will later be published in the journal.

In fall 2008, *Karen Drake* served on the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. As a member of the council, she provided peer review of Fulbright Scholar applications to appointments in Africa. She was also the recipient of the 2009 Faculty Excellence Award for Service. Her work in establishing and sustaining nursing programs leading to baccalaureate degree-completion and master's degrees in Uganda was highlighted. These programs are offered through Uganda Christian University (UCU). At present UCU is the only university providing graduate nursing education in the country.

Pam Friesen traveled to India for two weeks in June with a Short-term Missions Team from her church. The purpose for the trip was to partner with Operation Mobilization India in working with children and their teachers in a rural elementary school targeted for education of children from the Dalit people group. The mission team offered a health camp during which Pam provided nutrition classes. This opportunity to serve people who are considered "untouchables" in the Hindu caste system was a rewarding and enriching experience for the entire team.

Carol Hargate will be presenting, "The Next Generation of Nurses: Who will teach them?" at the Shanghai International Nursing Conference. The conference theme is "Quality Nursing: Healthy People" and the conference attendees come from throughout China as well as other international locations.

In August, 2009 *Barb Hoglund* was awarded an EdD in Organizational Leadership from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. Her timely dissertation research was entitled, *Mentoring Needs of Novice Online Nurse Educators*.

The North Metro Pediatrics clinic was featured on the first page of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Faculty members *Carol Hargate* and *Barb Hoglund* both practice as nurse practitioners in that clinic. The link to the article about the clinic can be found at <http://www.twin cities.com/ci 12980111>.

Maureen Juarez and *Connie Dreyer* were selected to attend the American Association of College's of Nursing's Geriatric Nurse Educators Conference held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in June 2009. Their attendance was sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson foundation.

Beth Peterson completed her DMin Degree at Bethel University, spring 2009. Her dissertation, *The Suffering of Patients and Its Effect on the Spiritual Formation of Nursing Students*, received the William A. Fretwell Memorial Award as best exemplifying quality research, academic writing, practical application, and a transformational impact on society.

The latest publication of *Kristin Sandau's* is entitled "Continuous ST-segment Monitoring: Protocol for Practice. It is co-authored by M. Smith and found in *Critical Care Nurse* (2009), volume 4, pages 39-51.

Marge Schaffer received Fulbright Specialist Status, which provides the opportunity for international travel to two universities in a 5-year period. In October, 2009 she will be presenting on Ethical Problems in End-of-Life Decisions for Elderly Norwegians and a workshop on the Public Health Intervention Wheel at the International Conference on Public Health Nursing sponsored by Diakonova University, Oslo. In addition, she will continue her consulting work with the Diakonova faculty and administration on topics such as integrating the Public Health Intervention Wheel into the curriculum and development of a graduate public health nursing program.

Amy Witt was appointed to a four-year term on the Minnesota Board of Nursing.

The Synapse

Student/Alumni Activities

The following students/alumni were selected to receive scholarships from the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNAF): *Patricia Amajouoy, Allen Dahl (GS), Stella Essien, Collette Eze (GS-2009), Janine Frans, Agnes Garley-Alabi, Linda Johnson, Grethe Mortensen, Idil Nur, Agnes Oredola, Ekua Taylor Kregel (GS)*. In addition to these scholarship awards, MNAF honored *Faith Zwirchitz (GS-xxxx)* with a research grant for “Best Practices for End-of-Life Discussion in Assisted Living Facilities” and *Karen Fettig (GS-xxxx)* with the Rose Dhein Scholarship for her work as a nurse educator.

Ann Gill's (GS-2008) master's work is being widely disseminated. At the National Pulmonary Hypertension Symposium, September, 2009, in Washington, DC, she will present her poster on Health-Related Quality of Life in Pulmonary Hypertension. At the symposium she will also serve on a panel of national experts on the topic. In addition, and editor of the scientific journal, *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension*, has requested that she submit a manuscript on her work. In the past this particular journal has published only physician-authored articles.

Bethel recognized *Ann Solinger's (CAS-2010)* service to a variety of communities by naming her a recipient of the 2009 Student Servant Leadership Award. Her involvements include working with an elementary age school youth program, tutoring at Central Baptist Church, participating in a missions trip to South Africa, leading mentoring communities for RIOT, volunteering for World Relief, and participating in Acting on AIDS.

Jeannette Schwartz (GS-1999) is president of the International Childbirth Education Association, chair of the Minnesota Section of the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing, and serves on the Community Advisory Board for the National Children's Study, University of Minnesota. She is also an LCCE Lamaze Certified Childbirth Educator at Woodwinds Maternity Care Center.

Janelle Shearer (GS-2007) authored an article entitled “Improving Oral Medication Management in Home Health Agencies,” published in the March 2009 edition of *Home Healthcare Nurse*, 27(3), pages 184-192. The article, based on her master's thesis, identified organizational and evidence-based practice factors that improve outcomes.

Our apologies to all of you whose accomplishments are not included above. We would love to share your news; please let us know (sj-peterson@bethel.edu).

Donors to Simulation Laboratories - Thank you so much!

Julie Malyn	Rachel Henrichs	Richard Mastenbrook	Bryanne & Will Horn
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	Nursing Department Faculty & Staff		

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