Engaging in the Scholarship of Discovery

The Purdue School of Nursing has a clear vision of how it can advance the frontiers of nursing knowledge.

The Purdue nursing faculty are adherents of Boyer’s model of scholarship with its interacting elements of teaching, integration, application, and discovery.

- The process of teaching transforms and extends knowledge in classroom and clinical settings.
- The integration of knowledge allows nurses to synthesize and evaluate knowledge from nursing and other disciplines in planning and implementing nursing care.
- The application of knowledge benefits patients, clients, families and communities throughout the lifespan.
- The scholarship of discovery entails the generation of new knowledge upon which nursing science is based.

The excellence of our undergraduate baccalaureate nursing program underscores the centrality of the scholarship of teaching. Our participation in the delivery of clinical services through our nurse-managed clinics and practicum sites translate into action our beliefs in the scholarship of integration and application.

Strategic Planning Process
Currently, Purdue University and its various constituents including the School of Nursing are actively engaged in a strategic planning process. A pivotal question that reverberates in every strategic planning step is “What is the next level for Purdue?”

In the School of Nursing, there is a consensus, as well as a healthy tension, in the stance that the next level for the School of Nursing is to intensify our commitment to the scholarship of discovery to complement our record of excellence in teaching.

Establishing Infrastructure
Our success in engaging in the full continuum of scholarship rests upon a clear vision and a structure that supports the scholarship of discovery—a program of nursing research that will generate new knowledge. We envision the Purdue School of Nursing as a catalyst in stimulating research-based approaches that will enhance clinical practice and advance nursing science.
As of Fall 2000, we took steps towards building a research infrastructure and promoting a research culture within the school. A cadre of seven new doctorally-prepared faculty have joined other faculty in the process of applying for extramural funds to support their clinical investigations.

In collaboration with faculty, staff, students, alumni, multidisciplinary and clinical colleagues, initiatives to strengthen conceptual-operational research linkages have been undertaken. Specific areas of nursing research competencies have been identified (see story on page 10). Faculty/staff development workshops on the research process, design and statistical evaluation of research data, grants writing, and preparation of budgets and contracts were initiated. Resources for editorial, statistical and research design review, and consultation were aligned. Mentors, processing of IRB applications and renewals were identified. From these beginnings, we will enhance the faculty’s research productivity.

Promoting a Research Culture

The National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) is one of the 27 centers in the National Institute of Health (NIH), the focal point for medical research in the United States. During the 2001 fiscal year, of the $20.3 billion allocated to the NIH, over $89 million is earmarked for nursing research.

Paramount among our immediate goals is to qualify for a Nursing Research Exploratory Center Grant, NRECG (NIH-P20s). This grant is targeted to schools of nursing that are developing research programs that will augment the research resources of the school by facilitating the growth of infrastructure to centralize resources and facilities in a specific area of inquiry that has a beginning base of research funding.

The NRECG is related to one or more areas of Healthy People 2010, aimed at understanding biological systems, improving the control of disease, and enhancing health. Eligibility for application requires two NIH-funded nursing research studies (e.g. ROI). Several of our faculty are finalizing applications for ROI grant submissions.

During the next five years we plan to strengthen nursing’s research profile and visibility. We will explore innovative approaches to allow planned time for research within our workweek. We will strengthen multidisciplinary research participation among our undergraduate and graduate students. Quantitatively, we aim to increase our intramural and extramural grant awards.

We will fine tune our research priorities, engage in continuous quality enhancement, disseminate targeted information on nursing research to the public, cultivate opportunities to promote career specialization in research, and work to influence policy regarding funding priorities in healthcare research.

We will acquire technology to promote instruction, research and communication with off-campus sites, continue to attract high-caliber nursing scientists, enhance research utilization in the curriculum, promote clinical research leadership, and strengthen collaboration with cognate disciplines and consumer groups.

The greatest challenge confronting the young science of nursing is to establish a theoretical base for practice. The Purdue School of Nursing has a clear vision of how it can advance the frontiers of nursing knowledge. Through the circle of the scholarship of discovery, teaching, integration and application, the school and its proactive, dynamic, synergistic faculty are empowered to move forward to the next level of sophistication in the scholarship of discovery.
First Class Graduates From Consortium Program

A very practical reason for bringing a graduate program to the West Lafayette campus was so local students would not have to commute long distances for an advanced degree.

The Purdue School of Nursing marks another milestone this year with the graduation of the first nine students from the Calumet/West Lafayette Graduate Nursing Consortium program.

Planning for this day began in earnest more than five years ago when an assessment identified a need for a graduate program focusing on the care of rural and underserved populations in central Indiana.

Another very practical reason for bringing a graduate program to the West Lafayette campus was so local students would not have to commute long distances for an advanced degree.

“There were many meetings between faculties on both campuses to develop the consortium agreement,” says Sharon Wilkerson, Assistant Head for Graduate Nursing Studies on the West Lafayette campus.

Calumet makes their courses available through distance technology, presenting 51% of the course credits. The receiving campus delivers 49% of the credits. The Indiana Commission on Higher Education has approved the Calumet program to be delivered throughout the state.

Faculty may choose to originate two-way interactive course offerings via television, in combination with Web-supported instruction, or may use only Web-based instruction, according to Peggy Gerard, Graduate Program Coordinator and Assistant Head, Purdue School of Nursing at Calumet. She and other graduate faculty members travel to the West Lafayette campus several times a semester for consultation and interaction with the students and faculty.

The Master of Science in Nursing degree requires 43 course credits and 585 hours of clinical practicum. “Clinical components are implemented at sites convenient to the student, usually in Tippecanoe and surrounding counties,” Dr. Wilkerson says. “The close working relationships between the advanced nursing students and their clinical preceptors has had the added benefit of enriching local and rural clinical sites.”

The Purdue Calumet consortium offers Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) tracks. There is also a consortium with Purdue Fort Wayne that offers a master’s degree in Nursing Administration.
First Class Admitted 1998

The first class of 26 was admitted to the West Lafayette Graduate Consortium program in 1998. Every year the program can admit 10 to 15 new graduate students, and currently there are 48 students enrolled.

“The enrollment has been without advertisement,” Dr. Wilkerson says. “We haven’t done any recruitment, it’s all been word of mouth. We’re getting students because nurses value the Purdue degree and they appreciate having the opportunity to take classes close to home.”

The members of the initial class were all working in the field, waiting for a graduate program in this area, Dr. Wilkerson says. “Now we are seeing a mixture of people who have work experience and those who are coming right out of BSN programs.”

Most of the first cohort of graduates took classes part-time because they were also working. Many classes are held in the evenings to accommodate work schedules.

Of the nine graduating this May, eight will be working in Tippecanoe and surrounding underserved counties.

New Experiences in Teaching

This first class of graduate students also provided the West Lafayette School of Nursing with its first-ever pool of potential teaching assistants. “On the whole, it’s been a good experience in both directions,” Dr. Wilkerson says.

“Our TAs, who work under the direct supervision of a faculty member, provide excellent lab experiences for the undergraduate students,” she says.

“Also, nursing TAs are already registered nurses, and they are involved in clinical teaching in areas where they have considerable years of expertise.

“Faculty have come to recognize the value of TAs and to see how they can help ease workloads, which in turn makes more time available for scholarship and research,” she says.

Teaching has also been a good experience for the graduate students.

“Of course, there is the financial incentive of reduced tuition and stipends,” Dr. Wilkerson says. “But those who were teaching assistants also learned about the educational system, and how to work with younger students. Nurse practitioners are doing patient education all the time, so it hones their skills there, and also gives them clinical experience.

“These graduates have been good role models for undergraduates to encourage them to go on for advanced degrees,” she says.

Building For the Future

“For the future, we are continuing our development of an Adult Nurse Practitioner program to be offered here on the West Lafayette campus,” Dr. Wilkerson says. “There is also an interdisciplinary gerontology program on the West Lafayette campus, and gerontology will be significant in the future of nurse practitioners. The future of nursing is unlimited.”
Nursing Center Promotes Healthy Employees

Purdue spends $1 million every week on health care-related costs for its employees.

“It is certainly in the best interests of the university to do whatever is possible to contain these costs, and the Nursing Center for Family Health (NCFH) is a positive contributor to that effort,” says Kathy Nichols, the Center’s Clinical Coordinator.

One way of containing health care costs is to catch problems before they become serious, and the Nursing Center for Family Health does that for the Purdue family through health and wellness screenings.

This year, health screenings conducted by nursing students have diagnosed potentially serious problems for several clients. One of them was 31-year-old creative writing student and residence hall employee Jamie Richards.

“I had gotten used to being tired a lot, but the extreme fatigue I often felt after meals seemed excessive,” he says. “In the last six years, I had told three doctors about my symptoms. Each time they told me to eat a balanced diet, get moderate exercise and plenty of sleep.”

When he heard about the Nursing Center’s Health Fairs, Richards decided to come to a screening. His tests showed an elevated blood-sugar level. With those results in hand, he went back to the doctor where additional tests revealed a pre-diabetic condition.

“I feel so much better now because I understand and can manage my symptoms,” Richards says. “I really appreciate that these screenings are available to the university community.”

Jamie Richards found out about his pre-diabetic condition through a Nursing Center for Family Health screening.
The Nursing Center for Family Health is a nurse-managed clinic headquartered in the lower level of Johnson Hall. There students provide physical examinations, teaching, and counseling to both pediatric and adult clients.

“The Center functions as a learning laboratory for health assessment, health counseling, and health education for senior nursing students,” Nichols says. “The students get experience in head-to-toe assessments like they would be doing in a community health setting.”

Clients are generally healthy individuals interested in maintaining their health by using primary and secondary prevention strategies. Other clients use the center to obtain work/school physical exams and to monitor chronic conditions.

The senior students also take the health promotion clinics on the road to dozens of campus locations each semester. This includes setting up Health Fairs at the physical plant, the residence halls, the police department, Mackey Arena, and the Memorial Union.

“We go when and where it’s easiest for people to take advantage of our services. This greatly expands the reach of the screenings,” Nichols says. Almost 2,600 people were seen during the 2000-2001 school year.

In addition to cholesterol and blood pressure assessments, nursing students use the screenings to promote wellness through lifestyle modification including exercise, stress management, and diet.

“We get a lot of good, positive feedback from the student nurses and from the clients they see,” Nichols says. The center also serves across disciplines, with students from Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies rotating through the center for their teaching and clinical requirements.

The Center, opened in 1982 with a $250,000 federal grant, was one of the first of its kind in the country. “It is still a model center, and has been cited in several nursing books,” Nichols says.

This year almost 2,600 Purdue employees took advantage of free health screenings offered through the Nursing Center for Family Health.

The Nursing Center for Family Health is a learning laboratory that provides experiences in health assessment, health counseling, and health education for nursing students. Here Stacey Jones, a senior from Carmel, weighs Bin Yao, an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering.
FOCUS ON RESEARCH

Nursing Research Activity Increases

Faculty in the School of Nursing are committed to moving their research agenda to the next level. As Director of Nursing Research, Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg has been instrumental in facilitating research efforts by providing research development forums to help faculty enhance their research knowledge and grant writing skills.

Dr. Walcott-McQuigg has also been investigating opportunities for collaborative research with other disciplines within the university, and increasing the visibility of the research expertise of the faculty. To this end, the following list of School of Nursing Faculty Research Competencies has been identified:

- Adaptive Competency Acquisition
- Adolescent Health
- Chronic Illness and Long Term Care
- Cultural Diversity and Health
- Disease Prevention across the Lifespan
- Distance Modalities in Nursing Education
- Education Outcome Assessment
- Evidence Based Practice
- Family and Community Health
- Global Health Care
- Health Informatics
- Health Promotion across the Lifespan
- Historical and Present Context of the Health Care System
- Legal Ethical Issues and Health Care
- Nursing Interventions
- Program Evaluation
- Psychosocial Factors and Health
- Women’s Health
- Worksite Health Promotion

Faculty research is ongoing, with many projects in various stages from proposal development to data collection and analysis to grant submission to publication of manuscripts. Here are a few updates.

Carol Baird, DNS, RN, CS, conducts research to help people deal with arthritis. She interviews older adults to learn about the difficulties of living with the chronic disease and develops interventions to assist older people with osteoarthritis manage the pain so that they can be more active and remain independent. Her current project is to evaluate the use of guided imagery, used by individuals in their own homes, to reduce pain and enhance quality of life.

Carolyn L. Blue, PhD, CHES, RN, is conducting research on physical activity behaviors of blue-collar workers. She uses theoretical concepts to determine which beliefs about physical activity are most important to workers to determine the relationships among a person’s readiness to participate in physical activity, attitudes toward physical activity, social influence, perceptions of control, and a person’s confidence in their ability to participate in physical activity.

Nancy Crigger, PhD, RN, currently has two areas of active research. One is a two-phase study to describe antibiotic usage patterns in lay public and non-medical personnel in Honduras and to educate both groups to make more knowledgeable choices. The second study is adherence to immunomodulator therapy in persons with Multiple Sclerosis. This qualitative study will determine what factors help or hinder adherence to the drug therapy.

Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN, C, is conducting four research studies to improve the quality of life in individuals with progressive neurological conditions. Two studies with Dr. Alan Beck, Professor in Purdue’s Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, involve the examination of the influences of animal-assisted therapy on nutritional intake in Alzheimer’s individuals in long-term care facilities, and the examination of the use of robotic animals on social isolation in older adults. A third study examines cultural differences in behaviors of Alzheimer’s individuals. The fourth study explores the relationship between
animal-assisted therapy and relaxation and nutritional intake with stroke and Parkinson’s disease patients.

Cynthia Fletcher, PhD, MSN, RN, is conducting research to develop an instrument that measures coping responses to illness-related problematic situations in adolescents living with sickle cell disease. This information will provide a foundation for nursing interventions to strengthen competence in dealing with problematic situations adolescents encounter in their daily lives at home, at school, in social situations, and in situations involving their health.

Elizabeth Jesse, PhD, RN, is conducting studies in the area of bio-psychosocial-spiritual-perceptual predictors for preterm birth and low birth weight infants with women from culturally diverse and low income settings. Dr. Jesse is expanding her area of research by examining depression in pregnancy. Her research expertise is derived from her midwifery practice of 26 years.

Nelda Martinez, PhD, RN, is conducting research with Hispanic populations in collaboration with institutions in Greater Lafayette and Indianapolis. Her goal is to utilize models of measurement to develop Spanish-English language instruments to measure factors that influence the self-care of diabetes.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, is conducting a study in partnership with the Tippecanoe Minority Health Coalition, to increase physical activity among culturally diverse women. Her study explores factors influencing African-American and Hispanic women’s participation in a guided walking program. This study will lead to the development of a community based physical activity program for women in the Greater Lafayette Community.

Janet Purath, MSN, CS, RN, is conducting a study with sedentary, working women. The study will evaluate the effectiveness of a brief intervention that encourages sedentary women to adopt physical activity. Women receiving the intervention will be compared with women who receive the usual health counseling provided by the Nursing Center for Family Health.

Pat Coyle-Rogers, PhD, RN, C, is conducting research studies which focus on helping nursing educational environments develop learning competencies, form adaptive competencies, and validate outcomes. Adaptive competencies are the skills required to effectively complete a particular task and are the balance between personal skills and task demands.

Eileen R. Rossen, PhD, RN, is conducting research on social and behavioral factors that influence older women’s response to relocation to Congregate Living Facilities. The emphasis is on understanding the transition experience and its impact on health and well-being. The goal of her research is to identify potential health and well-being risks and patterns of response that support health and perceived well-being. Dr. Rossen and Dr. Barbra Wall also study undergraduate students’ attitudes toward mental illness.

Barbra Mann Wall, PhD, RN, does historical research on Catholic nuns, their nursing, and hospital establishments. Her historical examination includes the influence of new technologies, the role of economics, and the place of religion in American medicine, nursing, and hospital development. She is also working on a project with Dr. Nelda Martinez on Mexican American nurses, and one with Dr. Eileen Rossen on attitudes of psychiatric nursing students toward mental illness.

Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, is developing a collaborative, multi-disciplinary interventional study in concert with the Purdue Tobacco-Free Residence Halls initiative. Study participants will be randomly assigned to one of four tobacco cessation intervention groups.

Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, continues her research on developmentally based care in the neonatal intensive care unit. One aspect is “kangaroo care” or skin-to-skin holding of preterm infants. Results indicate that even the most premature infants benefit from the skin-to-skin contact with their parents.
Inside the Classroom

A humorous approach to learning can be more fun—and often more memorable—than a serious one. Here are two classroom projects that let students look at nursing from the lighter side.

Sweet Approach to Teaching Meds

Do Smarties, M&Ms, and Pixie Stix have a place in nursing education?

For students in Donna Schmeiser’s medication administration class, these candies are helping teach safe, effective medication administration. A traditional way of teaching medication administration is to have groups of students recite the five “rights,” look at the prescription labels, pour a medication into a cup, and document on a medication sheet. But this approach focuses only on the skill of medication administration in a controlled and somewhat unrealistic setting, Prof. Schmeiser says. So she created a student-centered and interactive approach.

“I assign each student the role of one or two client characters and/or nurse in a long-term care facility,” she says. These characters have a variety of illnesses, allergies, and human idiosyncrasies.

There are characters with the same last names, characters who are confused, and characters who are getting six or seven drugs via a variety of routes. There are characters whose medication information is incorrectly transcribed, characters with pharmacy labels inconsistent with the medication sheet, and characters with unavailable medications.

The medication carts are stocked with a variety of medications in a variety of forms—liquid (milk or juice), tablet (Smarties), pill (M&M minis), patch (star stickers), and powder (Pixie Stix). Some of the medications are unit dosages and others require knowledge of drug calculations or equivalents.

With the group members acting as audience/peer evaluators, one student (the nurse) sets up the medications, “thinking aloud” about the drug—“What it is for?” “Are there any calculations to do?” “How is the medication delivered?” “What are the needs of the client?” Another student “becomes” the client character. The final step is administering the medication.

“This approach to teaching medication administration allows students to practice basic medication administration skills using a realistic scenario, while reinforcing communication skills and developing critical thinking and evaluation skills,” Prof. Schmeiser says.

“The experience gives students a chance to think aloud, ask questions, make decisions without fear of making mistakes. It gives other students the chance to experience life as a client,” she says.

“Students also evaluate one another in a positive, constructive manner to help each other learn the content. And finally, the approach allows me to function as a facilitator and coach rather than the authority and keeper of knowledge,” Prof. Schmeiser says.
Cartoons Teach Child Development Principles

“Understanding psychosocial and cognitive development is essential when caring for children, and is a core concept of undergraduate pediatric nursing,” says Associate Professor Jane Overbay.

Theories of child development are often seen in a variety of comic strips, so Prof. Overbay asked her students to clip comics that demonstrated different principles and write an explanation.

“Responses ranged from one sentence to a page or more, and often students submit more comics than assigned because it’s fun and they find such wonderful examples,” she says.

“The students’ ability to analyze a medium that is intended primarily to entertain demonstrates their critical thinking potential.”

“Erikson’s Psychosocial Stage of Development for the toddler years is Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt. The child develops autonomy by practicing and attaining new physical skills. This cartoon illustrates the need to ‘toddler-proof’ the home once the child starts to walk and begins to test boundaries and assert some independence.”

Heidi Tempel (BS’00)

“This cartoon shows that children will learn and watch everything that grownups do and imitate them. This behavior matches Piaget’s pre-operational stage (2-7 years). Jeffy is able to display deferred imitation, or the ability to mimic something (a behavior or words) without the presence of the original model that first exhibited the action.”

Jill Walden (BS’00)

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It’s been an exciting year at the School of Nursing. Many new development initiatives have been implemented.

Overall, our level of giving is up 257%, thanks to the generous supporters who share in our vision. In addition, the number of alumni giving back to the school this year has increased more than three-fold.

Recently, we have established two new endowed scholarships for the school that will directly benefit our students, the Katie Schmal Wagner Research Fellowship Award and the Betty Blatchley-Sensiba Scholarship (see stories next page).

RuthAnn Smolen, Director of the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice (CNERP) has been working hard to secure gifts-in-kind from our corporate sponsors and as a result we have received some very useful gifts for the CNERP. Among these are two hospital bed units from Hill-Rom that will simulate the critical care environment and allow our students to gain more experience through familiarity and practice.

In addition, Notre Dame University made a gift to support a research project by Dr. Barbra Mann-Wall, one of our new faculty members.

Other foundations making gifts to our school this fiscal year include the Fort Wayne Medical Society, The Tippecanotes, Landscapes Unlimited, Sigma Theta Tau, New England Health Care Edvantages, and MDM Home Health Care, Inc. We have had a wonderful year and are very grateful to all of our supporters.

Vierk Gift Aids Graduate Program

Karen (AAS ’67) and Dan Vierk, both members of the School of Nursing Advisory Board, have been long-time supporters of the Purdue School of Nursing. They have once again have demonstrated their generosity by making a very significant gift to the school to aid in the establishment of our own graduate program.

Although we currently have a consortium graduate program in conjunction with Purdue-Calumet, we would like to offer a master’s with an Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP) specialization. The Vierks responded to our request for help and were ready to offer their support as we go through the process of developing such a program.

Mrs. Vierk was a nurse for eight years and recognizes the top-quality program that Purdue offers. She and her husband, local business owners, were impressed at the high percentage of Purdue School of Nursing graduates hired by Lafayette-area hospitals. They are committed to improving the quality of life in our town and want to help us expand educational opportunities for our students.

Currently the Vierks have provided the funds to support the planning of a graduate program and they would like to challenge other supporters to make their pledge. Please consider joining the Vierks in their support of our school.
Epplle Awards Increased
Long-time friend Miriam Epplle continues to show strong support of the School of Nursing.
In 1975, she and her late husband, Robert “Doc” Epplle, established a scholarship in honor of his mother, Ethel Crockett Epplle. The award goes to an outstanding senior nursing student who has high academic standards, commitment to high-quality professional nursing care, and strong involvement in community and professional nursing activities.
This year, Mrs. Epplle increased the monetary value of this scholarship. Her generosity also increased the financial award for the Outstanding Student Award, and for the first time added a financial award to the Student Service Award and the School of Nursing Enhancement Award. These awards will be supported in perpetuity.
In addition, Mrs. Epplle has agreed to fund the project of adding an entryway between the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice and a former lounge area, which will increase space, improve traffic flow in the area, and create a new family practice area. This new entryway will also increase student safety by eliminating the need for students to go outside the CNERP to enter this area.

Blatchley-Sensiba Establishes Merit-Based Scholarship
Betty Blatchley-Sensiba, Professor Emerita from the Purdue School of Nursing, has recently established a merit-based endowed scholarship fund, which will benefit a talented student at our school.
During her tenure here, Mrs. Blatchley-Sensiba taught many upper level courses including Health Assessment, Leadership, and Professional Issues. She was a very popular teacher and was a vocal student advocate. Even though she has retired, she is still advocating for our students by establishing this scholarship fund that will continue her legacy of leadership in perpetuity.
We feel very fortunate to have such strong support from such a caring individual. Currently Mrs. Blatchley-Sensiba lives with her husband, Joe, in Lafayette for part of the year and in San Francisco for the other part of the year.

Wagner Family Creates Research Fellowship Award
Kathleen Schmal Wagner (1959-2000) received her AAS in 1980 and her BS in 1983 from the School of Nursing here at Purdue, and her master’s in Community Health Nursing from Indiana University in 1994. She was a registered nurse for 20 years, most recently serving as Home Health Care Coordinator for Home Hospital Health Care in Lafayette.
Mrs. Wagner loved being a nurse and was especially interested in understanding and improving the delivery system of home healthcare. Her graduate work focused on homecare versus hospitalization outcomes and her research examined variables that influence both settings for patient care.
When she lost her battle with breast cancer this past year her family, friends and colleagues joined together to establish a fund in her honor. The fund will provide support for nursing students engaged in research.
Every year a nursing student will receive an award to complete a research project that has an emphasis on homecare treatment and outcomes. Once the project is completed, the student will present the findings to Mrs. Wagner’s colleagues at Home Hospital, after which a luncheon will be held in her honor.
Memorial donations to the scholarship fund are welcome. Please make checks payable to Development Services, and mail to 1800 Purdue Memorial Union, Room B-50, West Lafayette, IN 47907.
Development

Do you have a will?

Unfortunately, over half of all Americans have never prepared a will, and consequently have less of a say over what happens to their estate when they die. There are many good reasons to prepare a will:

1) To control the disposition of your property at death to family, friends, and other intended beneficiaries in the amounts and proportions of your choice, rather than using formulas determined by law.
2) To name the personal representative (executor/executrix) to supervise the settlement of your affairs.
3) To name a guardian for your minor children, aged parents, or other legal dependents, and at the same time to waive potentially costly bond and accounting requirements, which would be imposed if you died without a will.
4) To establish a trust naming the trustee of your choice. Trusts can be very effective and efficient to save taxes, to manage assets, and to dispose of your property according to your wishes.
5) To save estate and inheritance taxes in light of the current tax law, as well as reduce other expenses associated with death (court costs, attorney’s fees, bond requirements, etc).
6) To exercise responsible citizenship by providing for charitable enterprise and the advance of human well being through organizations such as those represented the nonprofit organization.

For the protection of your loved ones, please consider creating a will to dictate your final wishes. Please let us know if you would like information about naming Purdue in your will or if you have already made provisions for the School of Nursing.

How to Prepare a Will

Before you make an appointment to see your lawyer you need to have specific information. Use the following checklist as a guide to preparing for your first meeting:

1) A clear statement of your objectives for yourself and family. Exactly what do you really want to do?
2) Make a list of all of your assets and their estimated value, including real and personal property, bank accounts, securities, life insurance, and interests in pension and profit sharing plans.
3) A list of the complete legal names, their relationship to you, and addresses of all family, friends and organizations named in your will. Be specific about the property you bequest and the amounts of the percentages of your estate that you wish to leave each.
4) The name and address of the individual or organization you intend to name as your personal representative (executor/executrix),
5) The name and address of the individual you intend to name as guardian for your minor children or other dependents. Some people also make custody plans for their family pets.
6) A list of all debts should be compiled, including the names and addresses of persons to whom you are indebted to and the basis for the debt.
7) Finally, a list of all your questions for the attorney. This will help you clarify your thinking and prevent you from overlooking personal concerns. This will also make more efficient use of the attorney’s time and cost you less money.

Once your will is written, store it in a safe place that is accessible to others. A safe deposit box may not be the best place to store your will since some states seal your safe deposit box upon your death. Have your attorney retain a copy of your will with a note stating where the original can be found.
GRANTS/AWARDS

Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN, C, received a $25,000 USDHHS award for the next academic year for the purpose of enhancing the integration of geriatric nursing competencies in the nursing baccalaureate program.

Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN, C, received $19,039 from the Pet Care Trust Programs for a study entitled “Aquariums in the Management of Alzheimer's Disease.” This study will examine the influence of aquariums on nutritional intake in individuals with Alzheimer's.

Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN, C, is also part of a team that won a $150,000 National Science Foundation grant. Her part includes a study, “Robot Pets as Companions for the Elderly.” The entire six-part grant is called “Augmented Reality of the Natural World and its Psychological Effects: A Value Sensitive Approach.” The PI for the entire study is Dr. Batya Friedman from the University of Washington. Purdue is awarded a subcontract for two components. The co-PI’s for the Purdue components are Nancy Edwards (Nursing) and Alan Beck, Sc.D., from Veterinary Medicine.

Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN, C, Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, and Eileen R. Rossen, PhD, RN, were awarded travel grants from the Purdue Research Foundation for the International Conference of Nurses' 22nd Quadrennial Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2001.

Eileen R. Rossen, PhD, RN, was named an alternate for a 2001 Purdue Research Foundation Summer Faculty Grant to support her research “Older Women's Perception of Successful Aging.”

Barbra Mann Wall, PhD, RN, received a $3,000 grant from the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism, to facilitate her research on Catholic health care institutions and nursing.

PUBLICATIONS


PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCES

Pamela Aaltonen, MS, RN, presented “Adoption and Use of Information Systems by Community/Public Health Organizations” at the Eliminating Health Disparities annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, Boston, November 2000.

Nancy Crigger, PhD, RN, participated in the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium Training Course, funded by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Pasadena, CA, January 2001.

Nancy Crigger, PhD, RN, presented “Peeking Through the Door: A View of Women in Honduras” at the Southeastern Women’s Studies Association Regional Conference, Boca Raton, FL, March 2001.


Jane Kirkpatrick, MSN, RN, C, and Juanita Valley, MSN, RN, presented “Building a Case for Faculty Promotion: Excellence in Teaching” at the Creative Teaching for Nursing Educators Conference, Memphis, TN, March 2001.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, presented “Eating Disorders Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities: Status of the Research” at the Women’s Studies Brown Bag Series at Purdue, West Lafayette, IN. She also presented “Research in the Health Professions” to ethnic minority high school students at the Explore Purdue program.


Patricia Coyle-Rogers, PhD, RN, C, presented a poster “Adaptive Competency Acquisition: LPN to ADN Career Mobility Educational Programs Work” at the Isabel Stewart Research Conference on Nursing Research at Teachers’ College, Columbia University, NY, April 2001.

Eileen R. Rossen, PhD, RN, presented a paper “Undergraduate Students’ Attitudes Toward Mental Illness: Pre and Post Psychiatric Nursing Education” at the Illuminating Practice Through Research 25th annual conference of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, Cleveland, OH, March 2001.


Linda A. Simunek, PhD, JD, ARNP, RN, was a panelist for “Globalization and Diversity as Factors in Evaluating Nursing Faculty for Tenure and Promotion,” CIC Dean’s Panel Presentation, MNRS, Cleveland, OH, March 2001.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, JD, ARNP, RN, hosted a worldwide web chat on nursing liability and licensure issues at Greatnurse.com, April 2001.
Linda A. Simunek, PhD, JD, ARNP, RN, and Patricia Coyle Rogers, PhD, RN, C, presented a paper on “Professional Competencies and Role Effectiveness” at the annual conference of the Philippine Nursing Association of America, Chicago, July 2001.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, JD, ARNP, RN, Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, and Carol Baird, DNS, CS, RN, conducted a symposium on “Global Nurse Supply and Demand” at the International Nursing Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 2001.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, JD, ARNP, RN, was keynote speaker for the annual meeting of the Philippine Nurses Association of Indiana in Indianapolis, May 2001.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, JD, ARNP, RN, presented a paper on “Nursing Liability Issues” at the annual meeting of the Philippine Nurses Association of Ohio, Cleveland, OH, March 2001.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, JD, ARNP, RN, and Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, MA, CPNP, RN, represented the School of Nursing in an intra-institutional meeting at Agder University in Norway, June 2001.

Barbra Mann Wall, PhD, RN, presented a paper entitled “Definite Lines of Influence: Catholic Nuns and Nurse Training Schools, 1889-1920” at the 38th Isabel Stewart Conference on Nursing Research at Teachers’ College, Columbia University, NY, April 2001.


Karen Yehle, MS, CS, RN, presented “Meeting the Challenges of Teaching Clinical Courses” at Purdue’s College Teaching Workshop Series, March 2001.

APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS

Kathleen Schafer, MSN, RN, C, NP, and Donna Schmeiser, MSN, RNC, have been promoted to Clinical Associate Professors.

Roxanne Martin has been appointed to a full-time regular position working with matters related to graduate studies, development, and research.

Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, was invited to serve as an on-site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

ACCOLADES

Pamela Aaltonen, MS, RN, received the 2000-2001 School of Nursing Enhancement Award. This award, voted on by faculty and staff, recognizes contributions over and above the call of duty to advance the goals and missions of the School of Nursing.

Pamela Aaltonen, MS, RN, was elected secretary of the Indiana Public Health Association.

Nancy Crigger, PhD, RN, was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Indiana Multiple Sclerosis Society.

D. Elizabeth Jesse, PhD, MSN, CNM, was appointed to the Research Committee of the American College of Nurse-midwives (ACNM), June 2001, Washington, DC.

Nel Martinez, PhD, RN, has been designated as a member of the HRSA Grants Review Panel for the Basic Nursing Education Grant, Division of Nursing, DHHS.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, was appointed Chair of the Women Health Research Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, March 2001.

Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, will assume the presidency of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) on July 1. She has served as President-Elect over the past year.

Eileen R. Rossen, PhD, RN, was elected Chair of the Chronicity Research Section, Midwest Nursing Research Society.

RuthAnn Smolen, MS, RN, was selected to appear on the Sigma Theta Tau International Web page under Career Profiles.

Barbra Mann Wall, PhD, RN, has been appointed Book Review Editor for the Nursing History Review journal.

Karen Yehle, MS, CS, RN, was included in the Strathmore 2000-2001 edition of Who’s Who. She is also serving as a clinical advisor for the American Running Association, and is the school’s representative to the American Heart Association’s new national initiative, Operation Heartbeat, in Greater Lafayette. She was also recertified as a Clinical Specialist in Medical-Surgical Nursing.
Dear Purdue Nurses,

The fishing poles are out and the boat is waiting for me at the ocean. Before I take off for this new life adventure, I would like to share some of my thoughts on my 44-year nursing career and to thank the hundreds of Purdue Nurses that I have worked with over the past nine years.

My nursing almost ended before it started when I announced at age 16 that I wanted to go to the University to become a journalist and then go on to law school. My horrified parents announced “You will be a nurse!” My mother, “Big Peg,” and my father’s two sisters were World War II nurses, so as “Little Peg,” my destiny was pre-determined.

Needless to say, my first year of nursing was miserable until I encountered my first “ah-ha” patient. This dying young woman opened up for me the spiritual aspects of nursing and the possible growth opportunities available through a nursing career.

My students, like my patients and family, have also been major “life trackers” for me and this is where the thanks come in this letter.

There is an old Irish saying: “The most wasted of all days is that on which one has not laughed.” Thanks for being the best laughers in my teaching career. You have made classroom teaching and clinical fun. You have been a great audience for this old Irish story-teller.

Another Irish blessing says, “May the hand of a friend always be near you.” I thank you for the care and compassion you have showered upon me. I will always be grateful for the comfort and support you gave me and my family during my illness a few years ago.

I thank many of you for helping me with my research over the last nine years by interviewing people over the age of 85. I could never have collected the large amount of data without you. Your enthusiasm for research was inspiring and kept me highly motivated.

During a home visit last semester, I asked an 88-year-old patient what advice she could give to the graduating senior. She said, “Honey, you are on the right path, just keep going.”

I pray, dear Purdue Nurses, that you keep on marching through life with your joyful spirit, your laughter, and your love of family and friends. May you always keep your belief in miracles and your ability to bring sunshine into the life of others. I will close this letter with an Irish blessing:

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sunshine warm your face,
The rains fall softly upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Peg

Peg Krach, PhD, RN
Dear Colleagues, Alumni, and Students,

The time is near for me to officially close out my nursing career. Thinking back over my career, I recall that I chose nursing through a process of elimination. After reviewing my occupational aptitude scores, my high school counselor recommended pharmacy, teaching, or nursing as possibilities.

I chose nursing because scholarships were available and the tuition was affordable. Over the years I came to realize that nursing also incorporates pharmacy and teaching.

I began nursing practice in maternal and child health and specialized in premature infant care and labor and delivery nursing. Medical-surgical nursing was the next area of practice.

I was later given the opportunity to become a nursing supervisor and nurse administrator. I grew personally and professionally and realized I needed to complete my education. I enrolled in Purdue’s School of Nursing baccalaureate completion program and later completed a master’s in nursing at Indiana University.

As I reviewed the work of the celebrated nurse theorists I discovered I had my own framework for practice. That framework is “caring.” Over time my values and beliefs have changed but I continue to stand by the idea that “caring” holds the key to my professional and personal life.

As I move on into the world of retirees, I plan to spend more time with family and friends and read something other than nursing texts and journals. I recently implemented a blood pressure screening program for my church congregation.

I plan to help implement other programs in the church and to share my spiritual beliefs and nursing skills with my church family.

Students and faculty of the Purdue University School of Nursing, I thank you for the privilege of working in a supportive and “caring” environment. The quality of the students and faculty has been inspiring and I am proud to have been associated with a nationally recognized nursing program and faculty.

Expect to hear from me and see me often as I continue to be active in a profession that has served me well.

I wish the School, faculty and students the success and rewards that you richly deserve.

GO BOILERS!

Marilyn J. Bell, MSN, RN

“I discovered I had my own framework for practice. That framework is caring. Over time my values and beliefs have changed but I continue to stand by the idea that caring holds the key to my professional and personal life.”
Accreditation Visit Goes Well

The School of Nursing had an accreditation review by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in April 2001.

Since the 1960s, the School has been accredited by the National League for Nursing, which accredits all levels of nursing education. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, on the other hand, accredits only baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.

“CCNE is charting a new course, with a new model, that takes nursing education to a higher standard by clearly focusing on the advancement of baccalaureate and graduate programs as a distinct subset of nursing education,” says Linda Amos, chair of the CCNE Board of Commissioners.

“By measuring programs against their own stated missions rather than prescribing what their missions ought to be, CCNE respects both the institution’s autonomy and the differences and innovations in the nursing education programs it reviews,” she says.

A faculty committee headed by Jane Overbay and composed of Pamela Aaltonen, Sharon Posey, Donna Schmeiser, and Ruth Wukasch, prepared an extensive self-study document. The self-study included an in-depth look at the mission, goals, and resources of both the school and the university, and a review of curriculum, teaching-learning practices, and performance.

The evaluators visited various classes, clinicals, and the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice, and reviewed exhibits.

“It was evident in the Exit Report that we not only complied but exceeded many elements of the CCNE standards,” says Linda Simunek, head of the School of Nursing. An official notification of accreditation will come in the fall.

The site visitors were A. Gretchen McNeely, Associate Dean of the College of Nursing at Montana State University-Bozeman; Justine Speer, Professor at the School of Nursing at Oakland University, Rochester, MN; and Carolynn Goetze, Senior Vice President of Patient Care at Our Lady of Mercy Health Care System, New Rochelle, NY.

Purdue Nursing alumna Rebecca Crosby (AD’74) made a special effort to attend the 2001 Nursing Gala Conference to visit with speaker Sam Rhine, a childhood friend. Crosby currently works in the Kosciusko County Hospital in Warsaw, IN.

Gala Focuses on Genetics

Genetics educator Sam Rhine kept several hundred nursing students, faculty, and alumni on the edges of their seats at the annual Gala Nursing Conference in April as he traced the development of the Human Genome project.

Rhine is director of the Genetic Education Center in Fortville, IN, which specializes in the most current information in human genetics, biotechnology, reproductive biology, prevention of birth defects, and prevention of AIDS.

In the afternoon session, a panel of ethicists discussed the many medical, moral, social, and ethical aspects of human cloning. Panel members included Purdue SON faculty member Dr. Nancy Crigger, Father Joseph Rautenberg of St. Vincent’s Health Service in Indianapolis, and Dr. Paul Thompson, Purdue philosophy professor.
Faculty Honored for Teaching Excellence

Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, was the recipient of the 2000-2001 School of Nursing Freshman-level Excellence in Teaching Award, voted on by students.

Patricia Coyle-Rogers, PhD, RN, C, in her first year at Purdue, was the recipient of the 2000-2001 School of Nursing Sophomore-level Excellence in Teaching Award.

Jane Kirkpatrick, MSN, RN, C, was the recipient of the 2000-2001 School of Nursing Junior-level Excellence in Teaching Award.

Ruth Wukasch, DNS, RN, was the recipient of the 2000-2001 School of Nursing Senior-level Excellence in Teaching Award.

She was also honored, for the third time, with the Best Overall Excellence in Teaching award, which comes with a cash award made possible through the generosity of Nursing Professor LaNelle Geddes, a lifetime member of Purdue’s Teaching Academy.

Karen Yehle, MS, CS, RN, was selected as the Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences nominee for the Charles B. Murphy award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching.

Carol Baird, DNS, CS, RN, was selected for Purdue’s “Teaching for Tomorrow” award. She is one of 12 faculty members who will be matched with a resource faculty member to address topics related to teaching and student learning.

December 2000 Graduates

Toni Bluemke, RN
Lisa Booher
Michelle Brigham
Ryan Brown
Julie Butcher
Gwendolyn Carter
Nyla Fleming
Ann Fogerty
Lisa Foreman
Sarah Gilles
Sarah Hoffar
Jennifer Hofferth
Molly Hutchison
Alicia Jamerson, RN
Linda Kaminski
Norma Little
Patricia Meegan
Erika Minnick
Narkeatar Newson
Stefani Patton
Kimberly Provence
Renee Richardson
Angela Rose
Angela Rosner
Nicole Shimla
Dana Slatton, RN
Heather Smith
Jennifer Trzaskus
Franchesca Tuttle
Allison Zengler

May 2001 Graduates

Megan Abelard
Courtney Andres
Jessica Bancroft
Kristen Batzer
Elizabeth Berg
Amy Boardman
Leslie Boehrer
Sandra Borck, RN
Bridget Cantrell
Michelle Chappell, RN
Keri Davis
Amanda Easterling
Jill Ehrenzeller
Elaine Estrada
Gina Fandrei
Amanda Fisher
Kelly Florek
Brandi Flynn
Gina Foxworthy, RN
Melissa Frossard
Carmia Garcia
Sara Gauthier
Christi Gregory
Melissa Gross
Rachel Hauser
Kristi Jerndt
Stacey Jones
Elizabeth Kiburz
Melissa Kissel
Marla Knecht
Rachel Knox
Amanda Kremer
Audrey Lamar, RN
Mary Lurie
Terry Mathews
Denise May, RN
Tricia McCallister
Sarah McCarty
Laura McCool
Andrea Medard
Julie Morgan
Abbey Nickells
David Nicksich
Jann Novotny
Callie Olin
Kelly Paterson
Jennifer Paulsen
Lainey Phares
Theresa Ranta
Nathan Riley
Amber Robey
Laurie Royer
Kathy Ruiter
Elizabeth Sanders
Elizabeth Sexton
Sara Sheets
Gretchen Smith
Sarah Smith
Casey Sprague
Shannon Stoffl
Andrea Tovey
Angela Vinson
Sarah Wahl
Kara Whitaker
Marjory Witzenman
Molly Woodfill
Angela Youngstedt
Amy Zagrocki
Julie Zimmerman
Faculty, Student Travels Expand International Outreach

Students and faculty are headed to Arizona, Honduras and Mexico this summer and fall.

In May, the Brigade de Salud made a trip to Honduras with a team of 18, including Dr. Nancy Crigger and Purdue nursing students Liz O’Neil, Julie Mirise, Lindsay Zwitt, Jenny Stout, Jennifer Nauman, Kate Palma, and Hilda Torres-Urista. On clinical days, they often saw as many as 200 patients.

Also in May, Prof. Sharon Posey accompanied five students to a public health clinical with the Indian Health Service in Kayenta, Arizona. Students on this two-week intensive course learn about health care conditions and cultural practices common to American Indian populations. The travelers were Melissa Kissel, Sarah Wahl, Leslie Boehrler, Megan Abelard, and Michelle Chappell, all May graduates.

Freshman nursing student Kate Palma works on accuchecks for diabetes while in Honduras.

Students Win Scholarships, Awards

Congratulations are in order for the following students for awards and scholarships:

**Arica Alease Brandford** received the Clara Bell Award from the Purdue Black Caucus of Faculty and Staff. This award in memory of Clara Bell, nursing professor emerita.

**Amanda Fisher** won the Outstanding Achievement Award, based on scholastic achievement, scholarly potential, and extracurricular activities.

**Elizabeth Kiburtz** won the Ethel Crockett Epple Award, given to the student who demonstrates safe, competent, professional nursing care.

**Pamela Lilly** won the Helen R. Johnson Scholarship, presented by the Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization to an outstanding student.

**Connie Richard** won the Myrtle Ford Tompt award, given to a student who provides quality nursing care and participates in extracurricular activities.

**Shannon Stoffl** won the Outstanding Psychiatric Nursing Award, presented by the Wabash Valley Hospital Auxiliary for excellence in the clinical practice of psychiatric nursing.

**Polly Sutton** won the Elaine H. Wilson Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a non-traditional junior student (an LPN or RN who is returning to school later in life).

**Kara Whitaker** won the Spirit of Nursing Award, presented by the Army Nurse Corps to an outstanding undergraduate who best exemplifies the “Spirit of Nursing.”

**Kara Whitaker** and **Amy Zagrocki** won the Nurse of the Future award, presented to students demonstrating academic excellence and potential for becoming successful, caring nurses.

**Julie Zimmerman** won the Student Service Award for outstanding service to the School through student organizations.

The following students won Philip and Katherine Harner Scholarships, which are awarded to the students with the highest academic standing. Winners include **Betsy Callender, Karen Decker, Patricia DeFlaun, Stacy Elliott, Lori Freeman, Tara Galambos, Emily Hohenberger, Pamela Lilly, Bradley Lloyd, Melinda Parker, Carrie Rex, Danelle Rivera, Anne Sinha, Karen Smith, Kristen Wagner, and Cheryl Zalewski.**
Lab Full of Learning

The Center for Nursing Education, Research and Practice (CNERP) has been a busy place this year, serving over 500 students and 56 faculty and staff. The schedule of teaching and learning labs included:

- Over 600 videotaping sessions
- Four or more scheduled simultaneous teaching labs daily
- Over 300 skills validations
- Over 60 quizzes and hundreds of care plans
- Over 1,000 assigned instructional videotape viewings and CIA programs completed
- Over 100 IV computer IV simulations
- Average of 100 student visits each day to study

In other CNERP news, Hill-Rom has made $15,000 worth of donations to the learning lab this year, including cherry headboard equipment for the simulated patient care unit, and equipment for an adult patient unit including suction, sphygmos, IV, oxygen hookups, communication package for point of care charting, lighting, and other bedside medical care services.

This summer, for the first time, the School of Nursing will offer two clinical courses, at Home Hospital and St. Elizabeth Medical Center. These summer offerings can help ease the course load during the school year, and provide more of a “real world” experience, since they meet for an intensive eight-hours-a-day, several days a week.

The school welcomes a new academic advisor, Laura Curry, who will work half time with long-time advisor Eleanor Stephan, who is taking advantage of partial early retirement. Laura comes to the School of Nursing from the Department of Psychology where she was a research assistant.

For Fall 2000, there were 513 students enrolled in the School of Nursing. Of these, 162 or 31% were on the Honors list. For Spring 2001, there were 462 students enrolled (minus 30 December graduates and 21 who left the program for a variety of reasons.)

For Fall 2001, plans are to have a freshman class of 110 with 95 of those as beginners, 5 transfers and 10 students who have changed their degree objective.

The Nursing Student Council has participated in a number of activities this semester, including the Nursing Career Fair, the second annual Nursing Ball, and the Honors Convocation. They also worked on a service project at Christmas with Lafayette Urban Ministries and the Jubilee Christmas drive.

The Purdue Student Nursing Association participated in a blood drive, a Lafayette Urban Ministries dinner, a canned food drive, and a clothing sale.

The Purdue Nurses Christian Fellowship volunteered at a homeless shelter and caroled at long-term care facilities during the holiday season.

New Sigma Theta Tau inductees are Kristen Batzer, Keri Davis, Marla Knecht, Audrey Lamar, RN, Denise May, RN, Tricia McCallister, Laura McCool, Jennifer Paulsen, Laurie Royer, Melinda Smit, and Amy Zagrocki.

Miss Purdue Uses Title for Education

Krista Kober, a junior in the School of Nursing, was crowned Miss Purdue in competition this spring. She will advance to the Miss Indiana pageant this summer; the winner of that competition will go on to the Miss America pageant in October.

Krista says that besides the $1,100 in scholarships she won, the most important opportunity the title brings her is the chance to promote her platform, prevention of elder abuse.
Nursing Career Fair Expands Student Horizons

“We like to hire Purdue nursing graduates because they’re ready for the real world. They have a broad base of clinical as well as theoretical knowledge.”

“Your graduates come to us well prepared to take on leadership roles.”

“I’ll be a happy camper if I find one Purdue nursing student here today who is interested in coming with us.”

That’s what recruiters had to say at the annual Health Career Fair held in February at the Purdue Armory.

“I don’t really know what I want to do yet. Seeing all these career possibilities helps me know what’s available.”

“I’m looking for work around the Indianapolis area. This career fair helps me narrow down my search.”

“I really appreciate the School of Nursing arranging this fair. Talking to recruiters helps me practice my interviewing skills.”

That’s what nursing students had to say about the Career Fair, which brought together representatives from over 50 companies.

The Career Fair gives healthcare facilities a chance to talk to students about their specialties. “With the national nurse shortage, we can no longer wait for nurses to fall out of the sky,” said Cincinnati Children’s Hospital recruiter Marcia Bailey. “We have to tell them what we can offer them, why coming to work with us is a win-win situation.”

Representatives from the Franciscan Communities, which have 14 long-term facilities in the four-state area, were at the Career Fair looking for students interested in gerontology. “It’s easy to get caught up in ‘exciting’ nursing positions, but we’re gratified that many students have expressed a heart for long-term care,” said the company’s representative. He also showed off the architect’s rendering of the just-announced University Place of Greater Lafayette, which will cater to Purdue retirees and offer a strong educational component, both in the form of continuing education for senior residents and as a possible clinical site for nursing students.

A recruiter from Hendricks Community Hospital in Danville, IN talked to students about extern possibilities. “Working with students as externs while they are still in school gives us the extra hands we need, and it gives the students real world experience that will be a plus for them when they graduate,” she said.

When Air Force recruiter Greg Roach asked a freshman nursing student what practice area she was interested in, she said, “I’m overwhelmed! I don’t know what I want!”

He explained the Air Force’s Nurse Transition Program: “You decide what your interests are, and then you have a 12-week orientation program targeting that area. You get a stateside assignment for four years, and then you can volunteer for overseas duty. The Air Force is a great place for fast-track, rapid career advancement and advanced education.”

Almost all School of Nursing graduates from 1999-2001 initially practiced in hospitals—29% in critical care units. About 44% were recruited on campus from the Career Fair and Mayo Clinic recruitment. Additionally, 23% returned to hospitals that had hired them as student interns/externs.
1970’s

Nancy C. Larson Zarle (BS’76) earned her FNP certificate from University of Colorado, Denver, in 1997, and has authored several books: “Continuing Care: The Process and Practice of Discharge Planning” (Aspen, 1987), and “Discharge Planning for the Elderly” (Springer, 1996) which was also translated into German. <Yuri1@aol.com>

1980’s

Anna McClean Bower (AD’81) is Assistant Director of Clinical Operations at the Internal Medicine Center in Chicago and in private practice in Munster, Indiana, where she lives with her husband. All their children are through college and launched into the world. <Bower@uic.edu>

Jane (Abby) Abbott-Rider (Purdue BS’84, BSN’88, IU MSN’98) works part-time as an adult nurse practitioner with Logansport Family Health Care. She and her attorney husband, Jeff, live on a small farm near Logansport, IN with their three children, Ian, 7, Andrew, 5, and Graham, 2. They are expecting child #4 in July.

1990’s

Sarah Clarke (BSN’90) works at the Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center in Glendale, Calif.

Kim Allison Mills (BSN’91) worked in the emergency room at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lafayette for 13 years before becoming a flight nurse for Samaritan/Parkview Hospital in Ft. Wayne in 1998. She flies with Sam 2 out of the Rochester, IN/Fulton County Airport. She has three children: twin 12-year-old daughter and son and an eight-year-old son. <4runners@dcwi.com>

Catherine McDaniel Downing (BSN’93) welcomed a baby girl, Megan Anne, on Oct. 31, 2000.

Lana Lashbrook Greene (BSN’93) welcomed her second son, Adam Joseph, on October 7, 2000. His brother, Brandon, is 3 1/2. She is currently working at the neuroscience center for Community Hospitals of Indianapolis. <bag8793@aol.com>

Leslie Davis Koopman (BSN’93) works at the Women’s Clinic in Lafayette as a Certified Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner. She lives in Brookston with her husband Mark (BS-Rec ’95) and their son, Jack Michael, 2 ½. <koopmans@carlnet.org>

Kellie Drum Schimmelman (BSN’93) and her husband, Brad, welcomed their second daughter, Lauren Nicole, on July 21, 2000. <kschim@nmi.com>

Laurie Shirley Shanley (BSN’93) welcomed a son, Tony, born on April 25, 2000. He joins his sister, Sydney, born November 24, 1997. Laurie is working part-time as a recovery room nurse at an outpatient surgery center. <LoboRN3@aol.com>

Rachel Pennington Goss (BSN’94) has two children, five years and nine months. She works for an orthopedic surgeon in Mooresville, IN.

Mary Jane C. Large (BSN’94) is working in the recovery room at UCSF Medical Center, in San Francisco, CA. <mjclarge@yahoo.com>

Jason Saavedra began his nursing studies at the West Lafayette campus and finished at the Fort Wayne campus (ADN’94). He earned BSN in May 2000 from Winston-Salem State University. He currently works in a Level III neonatal intensive care unit part-time and attends Duke Graduate School of Nursing for an MSN and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Denise Michele Dobogai LeNeave, (BSN’95) was recently married and is employed at The Children’s Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio as a Staff Nurse in the Surgery Department-Outpatient Day Surgery and PACU. <DMLENJAEVE@aol.com>
Jenna McCoy-Powlen (BSN’95) earned her master’s degree in Occupational Therapy and works as a pediatric occupational therapist in Chicago, doing outpatient and home visits.

Angela Bryan Rotert, (BSN’95) is currently working for an orthopaedic surgeon, within the group Ortho Indy, as a private nurse. <condyles@netzero.net>

Amy Corey (BSN’96) co-authored a booklet, “Caring For Your Child’s Central Line Catheter.” “We know this process can be frightening for parents and caregivers, and we hope this step-by-step booklet will ease fears and concerns,” she says. Amy works at St. Vincent Children’s, Indianapolis.

Ed Dennis (BSN’96) has been accepted for the Nurse Practitioner program at Vanderbilt.

Natasha Hauptman (BSN’96) passed the Oncology Certified Nurse (OCN) exam in September and is currently employed as an oncology nurse at UCLA Medical Center in San Diego. In March, 2001, she was selected to travel to Japan for two weeks with the UCLA School of Nursing to participate in an educational/cultural exchange program with the Kitasato School of Nursing. The group visited numerous hospitals and healthcare settings. <natash24@aol.com>

Nicole Michaels Miskowicz (BSN’96) is Family Care Coordinator in the Pediatric Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Department at Children’s Memorial, Chicago, and also continues in her contingency position in Pediatric ICU there. She married Steve (BS’95) in October 2000. <SNMISKO@aol.com>

Amy Cihak Parra, (BSN’96) gave birth to her third son on Oct. 15, 2000. They live in Mesa AZ. <parramk@yahoo.com>

Steve Baunach (BSN’97) has received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps. He is employed as a traveling nurse in Indianapolis and Chicago.

Katie Haddix Beehn (BSN’98) works in the newborn intensive care unit at Tulane Hospital in New Orleans. Her son, Jared, was born November 2000. <beehn@bellsouth.net>

Jaina Amin (BSN’99) works in the Intensive Care Unit at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. <aminija@hotmail.com>

Rashonda Laye (BSN’99) works at Jewish Hospital in Louisville, KY. Looking for a new challenge, she is applying to law school.

Amie Swardson (BSN’99) works on the surgical unit at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore with vascular patients and kidney/pancreas/liver transplant patients. <aswardyj@excite.com>

Carla Walbolt (BSN’99) works at St. Vincent Hospital in the post-op cardiovascular and peripheral vascular unit. She writes: “I have received numerous compliments from not only patients and their families, but also from my supervisor and management team about Purdue nurses. They comment on how advanced and professional we are even as new nurses.” <jbpu99@hotmail.com>

2000’s

Heather Smith Hubbard (BSN’00) recently had a paper published that was a result of an independent study she did with Professor Ann Hunt while an undergraduate at Purdue. The paper, “Gynecologic Examination of Adolescents,” was published in the American Journal of Nursing, 101 (3), 24AAA-26DDD.

The Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization officers and board members for 2001-2002 are (left to right):
Barb Coury (Director of Development)
Gwyn Pyle (Board Member)
Amanda Fisher (President, PSNA)
Rebecca Steinhardt (Board Member)
Margaret Rogler (Board Member)
Linda Simunek (Head, School of Nursing)
Michelle Gerretty (Secretary)
Gloria Lohr (Treasurer)
Donna Kauffman (Student Services)
Janet Kemper (President)
Cindy Cox (Vice President)
Fights Named ‘Alum of Year’

Sandra Fights wanted to be a nurse ever since she was a little girl.

“I admired my aunt who was an OB nurse, and I wanted to be like her,” Fights says. “She always encouraged me to earn a four-year nursing degree, because she didn’t have one. Later in her life she did go back to school.”

Fights firmly believes in continuing education, and that different nursing paths are right for different people.

“I tell nursing students that two-and three-year programs are the first step,” she says. “I say this should not be the end, but the beginning of their career learning. Sometimes people just need practice and maturity that comes from working in the field before they go on.”

When Fights was studying for her AD at Purdue in 1982, then her BS in 1985, she spent a lot of time in the Learning Lab (now the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice).

“After graduation I stayed on and worked there,” she says. “I found I loved making learning resources available to students. That experience helped me know that I would enjoy the teaching/education part of nursing, so I eventually went on to do my master’s in nursing education at Ball State.”

Since earning her master’s in 1990, Fights has held a variety of teaching/administrative positions at the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Lafayette. She is currently coordinator of the operational management of the school, responsible for faculty assignments, workload calculation, and performance evaluation. She also keeps her hand in the classroom scene with theory presentation of topics including leadership, delegation/supervision, cardiovascular pathophysiology, and neurologic pathophysiology.

As a nurse educator, Fights has also accepted the challenge of promoting nursing education on a regional and statewide basis. Since 1986 she has worked in a variety of positions within the Indiana State Nurses Association, including serving as District #8 president from 1992-1996. She is currently First Vice President for the state and is on the ballot for president in the fall.

Sandra and Mike Fights are both Purdue School of Nursing graduates. Sandra, who is Director of Operations at the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing, is the Nursing Alumna of the Year.

“Sandy is the person I turn to for counsel on tough issues and feedback on current and proposed changes,” says Beverly Richards, president of the Indiana State Nurses Association. “She has a wealth of knowledge of the profession and the issues we are facing, and I can always count on her to be forthright, honest, and informed.”

Nursing colleague Janet Blossom notes that Sandy’s method of handling everything she does is to “choose the goal she wants to accomplish, set the objectives in place, and not stop until the job is done.

“I think of her as one of the major arteries of ‘new blood’ in the cadre of nurses and nursing in our community,” Blossom says. “She teaches in a very traditional setting but yet is able to arrange curriculum and clinical experiences to position those to-be-graduates with abilities to not only survive but be major contributors in healthcare.”

Sandra Fights got something else enduring from her years at Purdue besides her love of nursing education. It was in Johnson Hall that she was courted by her husband, Mike, also a PUSON graduate (BS’87). “Actually, people will probably remember us because between classes we sat on the floor of the hallway and just smiled and sighed at each other,” she laughs. Mike has been a staff nurse in St. Elizabeth’s coronary intensive care unit for 13 years.

“Sandy is also a devoted wife and mother of two daughters, and while keeping her career focus has been able to balance the demands of both roles,” Blossom says. “She is an excellent nurse and role model for her daughters, students, and colleagues.”
Purdue Nurses In Action...

Send us a note about what you are up to—job, promotion, professional activities, publications, honors, marriages, babies, change of address or other items of interest.

Name ___________________________ (Maiden name) ___________________________

Year of graduation/Degree ____________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State __________ Zip ______________________

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E-mail ________________________________________________________________

Activities _____________________________________________________________

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Mail to PURDUE NURSE
Johnson Hall of Nursing, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337
or e-mail to lholland@nursing.purdue.edu

Alumni Calendar

Alumni - Student - Faculty
Back to School Picnic

Wednesday, Aug. 22 5:30-7:30 p.m.
(Rain date Aug. 23)
Pickett Park, Purdue Campus

Come meet other alumni, students and faculty at this "get acquainted" event. Games, food, fun!

Homecoming

Saturday, Oct. 27
Join other alumni, students, faculty, and staff in a School of Nursing gathering and cheer the Boilermaker football team!

Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 4
Call Janet Kemper, President, for location and time (765) 523-2024.
All alumni are welcome.

Non-Profit Organization
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