

The Synapse

A Communication Impulse

Connecting the Bethel University Nursing Department with its Alumni

Fall 2010 Vol. 14, No. 2

What a Blessing: Larson Family Nursing Education Center

Made possible by the generous gift of Karin Larson

Larson Family Nursing Education Center by the numbers:

- 17,500 square feet of renovated space (formerly Bethel's dining facilities before Brushaber Commons)
- 70% of the entire Hagstrom Center 2nd floor
- 29 offices
- 4 classrooms
- 2 skills labs
- 5-room simulation suite (complete with simulated patients who talk, cry, and even give birth)
- 1 conference room
- 2 debriefing rooms
- 2 full-accessible bathrooms



Click on this link http://cas.bethel.edu/dept/nursing/Larson_Family_Nursing_Education_Center.swf to see the Dining Center space transformed into the Larson Family Nursing Education Center.

The Department of Nursing at Bethel University serves more than 530 undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Adult & Professional Studies, and Graduate School.

New Campus: Normandale Place

The need was there, and now so is the campus. Since fall 2009, the Bethel CAPS/GS campus at Normandale Place in Bloomington has hosted cohorts from seven different degree programs. It is exciting to see each of our seven classrooms filled Monday through Thursday night with students pursuing a variety of degrees, including Associate of Arts, Bachelors of Arts in Business Management and Organizational Leadership, and Masters of Arts in Organizational Leadership and Teaching Special Education, and Masters in Business Administration. This fall the very first Bachelors in Nursing cohort was offered at Normandale Place. The students who attend classes at the Normandale Place campus appreciate the location, at the intersection of 494 and Highway 100, since most either live or work in the area. The spacious campus offers a variety of amenities and has room for expansion as the demand for CAPS/GS programs in the Southwest Metro area increases. The new Normandale Place campus is open to visitors. Campus hours are Monday through Thursday, from 2:00 until 10:00.

Community Engagement: New Beginnings in the Nursing Curriculum

The Bethel University Nursing Department revised the undergraduate nursing curriculum to emphasize preparing students to better serve multicultural populations. An important aspect of this revision was implementing the community engagement experience. This process allows students to be involved in a community agency in the spring of sophomore year and remain with that agency until graduation. This experience assists the students to identify and implement strategies to reduce health disparities. To prepare faculty for the community engagement experience six Lunch & Learn sessions were scheduled for this fall semester, two on-campus and four at community partner sites. This is a time of collaboration between community partners and Bethel nursing faculty. The purpose of the sessions is to affirm partnerships and to promote discussion on the topic of social determinants that contribute to poor health outcomes. An important activity during these sessions is the viewing of clips from the DVD series, "Unnatural Causes", a documentary exploring the racial and socioeconomic inequities in health. These sessions are supported by Bethel Alumni Grant funds.

The first session on September 17th saw great participation with twelve community partners and twelve faculty liaisons in attendance. The discussions were insightful, providing information vital to the success of the community engagement experience. The second session was held on October 8th at Model Cities of St. Paul with 32 participants from across disciplines including social work, child protection, community advocates, and health professionals.

In the midst of the health care reform, this is a wonderful opportunity for networking and strengthening community relationships, a journey that is undoubtedly leading the Nursing Department in new dimensions!

Norwegian Nursing Faculty at Bethel



This September, two nursing faculty members from Diakonova University College in Oslo, Norway spent a week at Bethel to learn more about its nursing education. Ragnhild Utgaard Nordahl and Liv Halvorsrud visited our new simulation lab, attended a junior class, and observed seniors in clinical at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital and Regions Hospital. They also toured Hennepin County Medical Center and the Dakota County Public Health Department. In Dakota County, Ragnhild and Liv joined the International Public Health Nursing Planning Group meeting. The International Public Health Nursing Conference was sponsored by Diakonova in October 2009. The 2nd conference will take place in Minnesota in October 2011.

On September 24th Bethel faculty members, Linda Anderson, Ann Holland, Carol Hargate, and Barb Hogle presented their doctoral work to our Norwegian guests at a Nursing Department event.

Liv Halvorsrud also presented her research on quality of life for the elderly. Sandy Peterson and Marge Schaffer collaborated with Ragnhild and Liv to continue planning on bringing two Norwegian nursing students to Bethel in the spring semester of 2012 and 9 Bethel senior nursing students to Norway during the fall semester of 2012.

Called to Nursing-What Sustains You?

by Pam Friesen

When did you first think about becoming a nurse? What was your motivation to take that step to enter nursing education? Maybe family and friends were primary encouragers for you. Perhaps since age six you knew you wanted to be a nurse, it was a second career decision; you always wanted to help people; or maybe job availability drew you to the profession. To many of us nursing has been a calling—we had a sense that God wanted us to pursue this direction. The call often is very strong in the beginning and is a motivator during those years of nursing education. Prater and McEwen (2006) found that students make a decision to enter nursing education while in high school or college and that the choice is made from a desire to help others. About two thirds of the nursing majors in their study believed “they were called by God to become nurses” (p. 63).

What is the meaning of being called by God to nursing and how do we sustain that call when we enter the world of practice? Calling may be seen as a vocation or profession, but Merriam-Webster (2001) also defines calling as a “*strong* inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence” (p. 162). Calling is a mission or a passion that results from the depths of our inner spirit that empowers us to reach out to those in need. Paul urges us “to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God” (Ephesians 4: 1, New Living Translation).

What keeps nurses centered on their initial calling when the work of nursing becomes extremely challenging? Today we have the pressures of economic influence in health care, grapple with ethical issues of strikes, and try to do more with less. We become frustrated with increased patient loads that often results in lack of time to address the psychosocial, spiritual, and cultural needs of people. Having a sense of being called initially may be easier to hear than further into our nursing practice when our focus on purpose begins to dim.

What will sustain us in our call? I certainly do not have the perfect answers—only insights given by the Lord as I’ve struggled to stay true to my own calling. Let me share three insights. First, my focus in life must remain fixed on the Lord. Hebrews 12: 1b-2a tells us, “And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith” (New Living Translation). God has given each of us a race to run in the profession of nursing and He wants to empower us to run well and finish strong. This single purpose can remain true as I bathe myself regularly in who He is through Scripture and prayer.

Second, I must recognize the unique gifts God has given to me. Even recently I’ve begun to grasp in new ways the distinct place that God has for me in His Kingdom work here at Bethel. If I am fully convinced that God has a unique job for me to do that only I can do for Him, my work will remain meaningful no matter what challenges arise. I will fill the gap that God has given specifically to me and my calling will remain strong.

Third, my call will be sustained as I surround myself with the support of others with kindred spirit. In addition to the Nurses Christian Fellowship group for undergrads, a prayer group for Master’s students has begun. Each Monday 15 minutes before class, we have had some precious times of praying together for the many challenges students encounter. I have found through these types of activities my call to nursing can be sustained as we collectively hold up one another in prayer.

Last spring when seven graduate students from Uganda Christian University were at Bethel, they sang a song that communicated their call to nursing. They shared that when they get discouraged or frustrated with their profession, they recall these words and it gives them a renewed sense of mission to persist.

My prayer is that you will find a way to sustain your purpose in nursing even when that initial calling seems dim. Our Uganda colleagues have gifted us with a good example of persistence. How will you sustain your call to the mission of nursing?

References:

Mish, F. (Ed.). (2001). *Merriam-Webster’s collegiate dictionary*. Springfield, Massachusetts: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

New Living Translation Bible

Prater, L. & McEwen, M. (2006). Called to nursing: Perceptions of student nurses. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 24(1), 63-69.

We have been chosen,
Chosen by God
Chosen to be Nurses
A holy people
To love and serve

Come all Nurses
To the Lord of truth and salvation
To the Spirit that makes our lives new
Come all Nurses
To love and serve.

New Faculty—Familiar Faces

Joining us this fall are three new faculty members. Returning to the department are Jone Tiffany in a full-time position and Julie DeHaan and Laura Nugteren in adjunct positions.

Jone Tiffany, who received her bachelor's degree in nursing and a Master of Arts degree in psychology from Bethel, served as a faculty member in the Nursing Department, 2001-2007. She returns after five years on the faculty of St. Catherine University. During this time she taught mostly in the degree completion program, completed a Master of Arts degree in nursing, and worked on her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. Her DNP project focuses on a new pedagogy for nursing students, is one that provides a virtual learning environment. By the end of this year the plan is to address her as Dr. Tiffany. In the fall, *Jone* is teaching primarily in the clinical portion of the course *Nursing Care with Childbearing and Childrearing Families* and an informatics course in the CAPS, degree completion program.

Julie DeHaan may look familiar as the face of the faculty member on the cover of fall 2009 edition of the *Bethel Magazine*. *Julie* was involved in a preceptorship during that academic year working with Diane Dahl in *Foundations of Nursing Practice* in the fall and *Physiological Aspects of Nursing Care with Adults: II* in the spring. Since her graduation from Walden University with her master's degree, *Julie* has continued to work on the Telemetry Unit at St. Cloud Hospital and as a faculty member for St. Cloud State University. In the fall, she is teaching clinical sections in *Nursing Care with Elderly Adults*.

Laura Nugteren is a 2008 graduate of Bethel's Master of Arts in nursing program. She completed a critical appraisal of literature focusing on health related quality-of-life in patients with aortic stenosis, working with Kristin Sandau as her academic advisor. She has been a guest lecturer on the subject in the degree completion program. Since 2004 *Laura* has been employed by Allina-Mercy Hospital on their intensive care unit and in addition served a year as the simulation nurse educator for Hennepin Technical College. She is joining Julie on the *Nursing Care with Elderly Adults* team teaching a section of clinical.

Faculty Activities

The partnership between the nursing departments of Uganda Christian University and Bethel University is described by **Jemimah Mutabaazi** and **Karen Drake** in the recently NLN published book edited by Joyce Fitzpatrick, Cathleen Shultz, and Tonia Aiken. The book is entitled, *Giving through Teaching: How Nurse Educators are Changing the World*.

Pam Friesen and **Maureen Juarez** presented at the Innovations in Nursing Education Conference at Indiana Wesleyan University on June 15, 2010. The topic was: "A Cultural Immersion Option of an On-Campus Nursing Course."

Ann Holland will be presenting her paper, "The Place of Race in Cultural Education: Lessons from White Nursing Faculty" at the Conference on Christianity, Cultural, and Diversity in America; Educating for Shalom" at Calvin College, November 5-7, 2010.

On June 14, 2010, a number of faculty members and staff, **Connie Clark**, **Marilyn Hedstrand**, **Kathy Tilton**, and **Amy Witt** joined **Dave Muhovich**, who recruited them for a foot care clinic offered by Eastside Homeless Connect.

In May and June, **Marge Schaffer**, traveled to Diakonova University College in Oslo, as a Fulbright Specialist. During her time there she made several presentations:

- *Being Present: Nurses' Stories about End-of-Life Communication*. Diakonova University College, Oslo Norway.
- *Development of the Henry Street Consortium*. Diakonova University College, Oslo Norway.
- *The Public Health Intervention Wheel*. Diakonova University College, Oslo, Norway.

During this time Marge also travelled to Estonia to evaluate the possibility of bringing nursing students to Norway and Estonia as part of the fall of their senior years.

Faculty Activities *continued*

During this past year Marge has served on Faith Community Nurse Network Research and Education Advisory Council and has had several articles accepted for publication including:

Crump, S. K., **Schaffer, M. A.**, & Schulte, E. (2010). Critical care nurse perceptions of obstacles, supports, and knowledge needs in providing quality end-of-life care. *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing*. (Publication in November 2010).

Missal, B., Schafer, B. K., Halm, M. A., & **Schaffer, M. A.** (2010). A university and healthcare organization partnership to prepare nurses for evidence-based practice. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 456-461.

Jone Tiffany has been nominated by the HealthEast Executive Committee to serve on their board. The full board will vote on her confirmation at their October meeting and her term would then begin January, 2011. **Jone** has a full schedule of presentations.

- April 2010: *Basic fetal monitoring, Situational Awareness, OB complications*: Allina OB orientation.
- May 2010: Hot Topics in Perinatology, Minneapolis, MN Podium presentation: *Using OB Simulation To Improve Outcomes*.
- May 2010: Midwest Nurse Educator's Academy, University of North Dakota. Poster Presentation: *A Curriculum Blueprint for Meeting National Benchmarks*.
- May 2010: Midwest Nurse Educator's Academy, University of North Dakota. Poster Presentation: *Second Life, New Pedagogy, New Possibilities*.
- September 25-27, 2010. Las Vegas, NV, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) National conference Poster presentation: *Using OB Simulation as a Strategy to Improve Outcomes in the Perinatal Setting*.
- September 28, 2010. Minneapolis, MN. 2010 Cardiovascular Conference, Wired for Heart Care: Technology, Treatments, and Trends, Podium presentation: *Virtual Reality Technology to Deliver Real Life Professional Nursing and Medical Education*.
- November 2010: Emerging Technologies in Nursing Education, La Jolla, CA. Poster Presentation: *Second Life, New Pedagogy, New Possibilities*
- January 23-26, 2011. New Orleans, LA. Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare. Podium presentation: *Second Life®: An Innovative Strategy for Teaching Inclusivity to Nursing Students*.

Amy Witt was appointed by Governor Tim Pawlenty to serve a four-year term on the board of the Minnesota Board of Nursing. Her term will be completed on January, 2013.

Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Meridith Lee Johnson, class of 2011, was chosen Bethel's student employee of the year. She has worked for three years in the Office of Disability Services as an access assistant and according to the Director of Disability Services "she has done a wonderful job."

CAS 2010 BSN graduates, **Rachel Matz** and **Mallory Allinder**, completed their Senior Honors Project by researching and writing a booklet titled "Healthy Beginnings." Rachel and Mallory created this much needed booklet (over 60 pages!) for North Metro Pediatrics, a non-profit pediatric clinic serving underinsured and uninsured children in Coon Rapids and the surrounding areas. "Healthy Beginnings" provides detailed growth and development, safety, nutrition, and community resource information for families with children aged birth to 4 years old. **Dr. Barb Hoglund** served as advisor for the project; **Dr. Tim Bredow** served as reader for the project. Both Barb and Tim work as nurse practitioners at North Metro Peds.

The Edgren Scholars' Award

The Edgren Scholars' Award was established in 2001 to encourage collaboration between faculty and students through the summer months and has resulted in numerous scholarly publications and presentations. Two of the award winners this year were **Hannah Wichterman**, senior nursing student and **Kristin Sandau**, Associate Professor of Nursing. Their collaboration was a part of a broader research study looking at the *Practical Use of the Latest Standards for Electrocardiography (PULSE) Trial and Health-Related Quality of Life among Elderly with Aortic Stenosis*. Their specific project involved evaluating the effects of web-based cardiac monitoring education for staff nurses on nursing knowledge and skills as well as patient outcomes. They worked at United Hospital, St. Paul, to conduct a lead placement audit (to see if cardiac electrodes are placed correctly on patients' chests), and then offered review to correct lead placement by nurses and nursing assistants.

Contributors:

Diane Dahl
Pam Friesen
Carol Hargate
Rita Haglund
Beth Peterson,
Sandra Peterson
Marge Schaffer

