

Nursing Alumni News

Summer 2004

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New Nursing Pin Design Chosen

Our students chose a new nursing pin design this year. The previous pin had fallen out of favor with our students. Program faculty wished to design a pin that would be prized by our graduates. We were pleased when more than 100 of our 132 spring graduates purchased the new pin.



The new pin design contains three elements that are essential to nursing:

- The scroll represents knowledge, which undergirds our practice.
- The figures represent the population that nurses

serve: adults, children, and families.

- The hands represent caring, a core value in nursing. The overlapping circles represent the integration of these elements into the role and identity of the nurse.

The conceptual framework model of our new curriculum, which features three overlapping circles representing wellness, chronicity and acuity, inspired the new design. Our program philosophy, printed below, communicates succinctly the concepts and relationships within the new curriculum.

The Anoka-Ramsey Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program is committed to educating

students to care for the health of the individual, family, and community in various stages of wellness, acuity, and chronicity within their environment.

Within a framework focused on caring and holistic self-care, the associate degree nurse practices health promotion, disease prevention, disease and disability management using nursing knowledge, skills, values, and experience in a collaborative environment.

Nursing alumni are welcome to purchase the redesigned pin. The Anoka-Ramsey Community College bookstore maintains an inventory of the pin at the Coon Rapids campus.

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36th Graduating Class is Pinned

The 2004 nursing graduates participated in the nurses pinning ceremony on May 13 and the graduation ceremony on May 14. The class of 132 graduates is our

largest class since 1994 when 132 students graduated. The graduates are busy taking the licensing exams and starting their first RN positions. We welcome them to the ranks of our alumni!



Visit Our Alumni Web Page

The new nursing alumni web page is now up and running. Go to www.AnokaRamsey.edu and click on "alumni and friends."

As well as our newsletters, what else would you

like to see on this page? Since it is for your use, we need your help in creating it. We want to hear your suggestions and comments. You can send them to us by clicking on the word "information" and filling out the short form. Just hit

send and your message is on its way. This is also where you can change your name and/or address, let us know if you want to share any information with your classmates, or just ask us a question. So please keep in touch and visit

Special points of interest:

- **Alumni Spotlight on**

Melissa Casey



- **Collaborative BNS Program being developed with Metro State**

Program Expansion to Anoka Technical College

Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) kicked off a new collaboration with Anoka Technical College (ATC) to expand nursing education options for LPNs in the northwestern metro area on June 6. ARCC is offering an evening LPN-RN mobility option for a cohort of students at the ATC campus. Twenty students began the summer transition course, which is a blended on-line/on-campus course.

ARCC nursing faculty are teaching the courses, but using classroom and lab space at ATC. The colleges have collaborated to

promote the program and advise students. Students will be able to use resources at both colleges.

The colleges received a \$12,000 Carl F. Perkins Collaborative Curriculum grant to support the development of the project.

We anticipate that demand for this cohort will be strong. Practical nursing programs are increasing enrollments in response to the demand from prospective students and employers. Few opportunities for students who desire an evening program exist in the metro area.



March 2004 Alumni CEU/Networking Event

Approximately 45 alumni and faculty attended the March 2004 alumni CEU and networking event. Sue Arnold, RN Holistic Nurse Clinician at Abbot Northwestern

Hospital, inspired and challenged us about caring and healing. Attendees enjoyed a dessert buffet afterwards in the Riverview Café. Thanks to all who attended!

New Student Uniform Selected

If you work in a facility in which ARCC trains nursing students, you may see students in a new uniform this fall. This year's freshman class will wear a

Caribbean blue top or jacket and white pants. The top will be embroidered with the Anoka-Ramsey Community College logo.

Collaborative BSN Program Being Developed

Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) is collaborating with Metropolitan State University and North Hennepin Community College to develop an Accelerated BSN program for individuals who have a bachelor's degree in another field.

The nursing shortage has spurred a significant number of baccalaureate-educated workers to pursue a career change to nursing. These prospective students are seeking positions in nursing education programs at a time when first-time degree-seeking students are flooding colleges to obtain a nursing education. ARCC has seen a dramatic increase in the number of students in our program who have a previous bachelor's degree. Although these students might be interested in obtaining a BSN as their first nursing degree, BSN program seats in the metro area are insufficient to meet this new demand.

This growing student population prompted the nursing directors from the

three programs to conceptualize a collaborative BSN program that would merge the lower-division curriculum delivered at the community colleges with the upper-division curriculum delivered at Metropolitan State.

Program development began this winter. Faculties from the three colleges, including Cheryl Tefer and Sandy Robinson from ARCC, have begun writing curriculum. Curriculum redesign is required to eliminate duplication and merge the best components of the three curriculums. Nursing curriculum would be delivered on all campuses, using the nursing learning labs at the community colleges and the Simulation Center on the Metropolitan State Campus. Metropolitan State would confer the BSN degree.

Program application to the Board of Nursing will be prepared this summer. Our goal is to admit our first class of students for Fall of 2005.

We are excited to be a part of this collaborative, innovative project that will expand the educational options for nursing students in the metro area.

Share an accomplishment or event with your former classmates!

We would like to start dedicating some space in this newsletter to you, our alumni, and to the events that are happening in your life. Do you have any news you would like to share with fellow classmates? Earned a degree? Had a major accomplishment or achievement? Married? Had a baby? Visit us on the web at www.AnokaRamsey.edu, click on Alumni and Friends, and let us know. For help with identification, please include the year you graduated and, if applicable, the last name you had while in the nursing program. We will publish as many as possible.

We're waiting to here from you!

Alumni Spotlight on Melissa Casey

Once again we have gathered one of our own into our flock. This past spring, we welcomed Melissa Casey, a 1994 ARCC nursing graduate, as our nursing lab assistant at the Cambridge Campus. This is a new position so she has a big job ahead of her. She also looks forward to brushing up on her lab skills.

As a mother of two daughters, as well as a full-time RN at Mercy Hospital in Labor/Delivery, Missi is a very busy lady.



Two weeks after taking her boards in August of 1994, she moved to Florida where she was offered a job at a small hospital in

labor and delivery. They started out with only 10-20 deliveries per month, but when the local county hospital closed down, their deliveries tripled and included many more high risk patients. Since she was usually the only RN working on the floor during her shifts, she learned quickly and didn't have time to reflect on her insecurities as a new nurse. Although it was extremely stressful, it was a great learning experience.

Missi worked in Florida for four years, but missed her family and decided to move back to Minnesota in 1998. She began working at Mercy Hospital and has been there ever since. She works nights and loves the people she works with.

She started her post-secondary education as an elementary education major, but

changed her focus when she realized health care was a better paying option. So, while the job market may have helped her choose the nursing profession in the beginning, she has never regretted the path she followed. She loves every minute and can't imagine working in any other field.

Missi is enjoying her new job in the nursing lab at the Cambridge Campus. She remembers back to when she was a student and realizes just how much she has learned about nursing since then. And we are happy to have her join our nursing team here at ARCC.

Volunteers Sought for Nursing Scholarship Committee

Would you like to support the nursing education of an ARCC nursing student? Volunteers (three to five) are being sought to form a committee to explore the development of an endowed nursing scholarship supported by ARCC nursing

alumni. Committee responsibilities would include planning and implementation of fundraising to endow the scholarship, communicating with alumni about the initiative, and establishing criteria for the scholarship. The College Foundation

Director and Dean of Nursing will assist the committee in its work. Interested individuals should contact Bonnie Severson at bonnie.severson@anokaramsey.edu or 763-422-3311.

Think back...

Did you graduate ten years ago? Fifteen? Twenty? You're probably thinking you wouldn't recognize any faces in the nursing department any more. Well, you could be wrong.

Although the college has gone through many changes in that time and the program has moved from the lower library area to new facilities in the Business/Nursing building (the old Business/Technology building) many of the faculty have been here more than ten years.

Linda Miller (1975) has mainly worked with the freshman students during that time, but for the last few years has reduced her teaching load to be the nursing program coordinator.

Char Foss (1978) has taught both freshman and sophomore students, with a specialty on mental health and cardiovascular nursing. She was an interim Director of Nursing for two years during the mid 1990's.

Donna Stoderl (1979) has worked

throughout the program, including freshmen, sophomore, and mobility students. She has had clinical sites at Unity, Mercy, and Buffalo Hospitals, and Lakeridge Health Care, with a focus on med/surg.

Cheryl Tefer (1990) has worked mainly with the freshman students and is our pharmacology instructor.

Louise Newsom (1992) has taught mainly freshman classes.

Sandy Robinson (1992) began teaching here as a sabbatical replacement and became a permanent faculty member in 1997. Her specialty is maternal/newborn nursing and works with both sophomore



Char Foss, Donna Stoderl, Sandy Robinson and Linda Miller

and mobility students.

Connie McClurg (1993) is one of our part-time clinical instructors. She began working with med/surg at North Memorial Health Care and, more recently, with our community course and is currently coordinating our new curriculum preceptorship course.

And some faculty members are now enjoying their retirement. Jean Kelzenberg retired in 2003, Sandy Monson in 1999, and Harriet Morgart in 1991. Maybe one of them was an integral part of your educational life here at ARCC.

So, whether you graduated last year or twenty-five years ago, you may find at least one familiar face in the nursing department. And if you're ever in the area, stop by and see these smiling, caring instructors who are still molding the new generation of nurses.

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Upcoming Foundation Events

Cambridge Campus Foundation

The next fundraiser the Foundation will be hosting is a raffle for the Bob Erickson, a former MnSCU Board member, bike ride. For the past two years, Bob has ridden his bike to each MnSCU college raising money for part-time student scholarships. This year the Cambridge Campus Foundation will be participating in the fundraiser by selling raffle tickets. Two bikes and four tickets to the Foundation's 2005 midwinter dinner fundraiser will be raffled. The tickets will be \$1 each—a mere price to help someone receive a scholarship that may not be able to afford to attend college without the scholarship. If you would like to purchase tickets, contact Lynnette at 763-422-3436 by August 13, 2004.

Also, this fall, the Cambridge Campus Foundation will be sponsoring their second annual Flea Market. We are currently collecting items for the Flea Market which will be held in September. If you would like to donate to the Flea Market, which is tax deductible. Or, please attend and purchase that item you have been searching for! For more information, you may call Lynnette Brambrink at 763-422-3436.

Coon Rapids Campus Foundation



The 13th annual foundation golf event "Chip In for Education" will be held on Tuesday, July 27, at Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake. The shotgun start scramble begins at 1 p.m. Registration is \$100 (\$30 is tax deductible) and includes 18 holes of golf, riding carts, prizes and dinner. The ARCC Foundation, Coon Rapids Campus, annually funds 20 nursing scholarships with a value of \$10,000. For more information contact the foundation office at 763-422-3329.