Registered Nurse to Baccalaureate Online Option Nursing Program

Summer 2010 Newsletter

We congratulate Dr. Zoanne Burgess Schnell on her retirement from her almost 40 years of teaching Care of the Pediatric Client and Research in Nursing, as well asClinical Practicum for RN to BS Option students.

Dr. Schnell co-authored and published the Davis's Comprehensive Handbook of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests with Nursing Implications (E.A Davis Company), which is widely used at several major nursing curricula across the country as a required reference for nursing students, nurses and health care professionals. In the book, she states “[w]hether the nurse’s role at each level is direct or indirect, the underlying responsibility to the patient, family, and community remains the same.” She will be missed by her many students and colleagues.

We acknowledge the three RN to BS nursing scholars on receiving their awards for academic excellence.

We celebrated all the nursing graduates at the pinning ceremony this past May. The pin is a nursing tradition and is given by the nursing faculty and/or parents to welcome the new graduates into the nursing profession.

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Accreditation
The nursing program at SUNY Plattsburgh is registered by the New York State Education Department and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College’s Nursing Program is a member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, The Council of Deans of Nursing, and The Council of Deans of Nursing of Senior Colleges and Universities in New York. Plattsburgh has an active chapter (Gamma Delta) of Sigma Theta Tau International, the international honor society of nursing.
Nursing Pinning Ceremony, May 14, 2010

The nursing pinning ceremony took place in Hartman Theater honoring both the generic and RN Option nursing graduates and their families the night before graduation.

Karen Angelazek ('10) and Adrienne Weaver ('10) at the Pinning Ceremony sporting their nursing pins. Adrienne and Karen completed the RN to BS Online Option Nursing Program in 2 years while working as registered nurses. We are very proud of you - congratulations to Karen and Adrienne!

2010 Nursing and Nutrition Awards and Honors

Every year, the Department of Nursing and Nutrition selects nursing scholars from many candidates nominated by their academic advisors. From the RN to BS Online Option Program, the recipients are: **Suzanne Phillips** received the **Arkell Hall Foundation Scholarships; Amy Breen** received the **Julia O. Wells Memorial education Award, Linda Caffrey** received the **RN Excellence Award.** Congratulations to **Suzanne, Linda and Amy** for their academic accomplishments. We wish them all the best!

Linda Caffrey ('09) the first recipient of the RN Student Excellence Award! This award is given to graduating students who exhibit high GPA and clinical aptitude.
2010 Spring Commencement

On Saturday, May 15, 2010, five Registered Nurse to Baccalaureate Online Option Program nursing students received their degrees during the 2010 Spring Commencement ceremony, which was held in the Field House Gymnasium.

Spring 2010 graduates:
Karen Angelazek — Gansevoort
Jennifer MacDonald — Plattsburgh
Adrienne Weaver *— Greenwich

*Graduated Cum Laude

Adrienne Weaver* (‘10), a member of Cardinal Singers, sang at the Winter Commencement 2009.

Congratulations to all graduates!!

Karen Angelazek (‘10) at the Spring Commencement 2010.
Advisor's Note:

Building your credential file and professional portfolio

SUNY Plattsburgh offers a service for students to build a credential file to support graduate school application. Please visit http://www.plattsburgh.edu/studentlife/careers/ to learn more about building a credential file to support graduate school application. I recommend having at least three reference letters in your Credential File, at least two letters are written by past and current science or nursing professors and one letter is written by a past or current employers.

I urge you to study well for your exams and engage often on discussion forums on ANGEL to get noticed by your instructors. Most RN Students are not physically on campus, thus, the only way to make yourself visible is through online discussion forums. If you are taking classes on-campus, visit your instructors during office hours and allow your instructors to get to know you. The above is only a guide for your first step before you request reference letters from your instructors.

I also strongly recommend you to start building your professional portfolio as soon as you go to your first clinical site for your clinical experience. Things that would be beneficial to keep in one location (in a binder) are copies of your Registered Nurse license, BLS/ALS, PALS, Malpractice insurance, resume, goals as a Registered Nurse (to include where you see yourself in 10 years), continuing education/certificate, PowerPoint presentations, project papers, clinical evaluations, recommendations/reference letters, case studies of specific/interesting illnesses (do not forget to omit any identifying patient health information, names, hospital sites, dates; remember to abide privacy laws). What you include in your portfolio is up to you, it is only a guideline.

Clinical Courses and clinical requirements

Students who are enrolled in any clinical courses, including NUR425WB Community Health Nursing and/or NUR428WB Management/Leadership in the fall 2010, must obtain professional liability insurance and maintain the policy throughout the nursing program. You are required to obtain adult, child, infant CPR certification prior to the first nursing course with an off-campus clinical component and annually thereafter. Do not forget to submit to the Nursing Department the completed IMMUNIZATION REPORT FOR NURSING STUDENTS and HEALTH ASSESSMENT forms, a copy of your CPR card, and a copy of liability insurance if you have not done so.

A student is not allowed to do his/her clinical for NUR428WB at his/her place of employment, please look for another institution. Please contact the Education Department at the institution to secure your clinical site and a preceptor for your clinical experience.

If you are planning to take NUR425WB, remember that each county in New York State is served by a Department of Health office. Please set up a meeting with your health department and have some ideas what you might like to experience and find your preceptor early. Your clinical experience may vary and be specifically tailored to you, depending on your agency focus.

SUNY Plattsburgh must have a contract with the “precepting” agency in order for a clinical experience to occur at a particular site. If there is no contract in place with an agency, please email me the contact person, title, address, phone number and his/her email address so that SUNY Plattsburgh will be able to initiate an affiliation with the agency.

Anna Liem
Coordinator/Primary Advisor
RN to BS Online Option Nursing Program
Email: liemal@plattsburgh.edu/Phone: (518) 564-4208/Fax: (518) 564-3100