The Online DNP has Arrived!

The School of Nursing plans to start accepting students for the fall 2017 semester in their new Doctor of Nursing Practice program. After much anticipation, the School of Nursing will open the application window for prospective DNP students by the end of October for enrollment in the fall 2017 semester. The program will be completely online and will come in two flavors – one for those with a master’s degree in nursing, and the other for those with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. The School expects to start taking applications by November 1.

One of the drivers for this new program at NIU is that in the near future, the DNP degree will become the entry level degree for advanced nurse practitioners. This change has been in the works for several years from organizations such as the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty (NONPF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). As such, NIU will stop admitting FNP master’s-only students after the spring 2017 semester. Dr. Jan Strom, Chair of the School of Nursing, said, “We’re excited to roll out this DNP program to meet the developing demands of the nursing field.”
SNO Hosts Blood Drive

The NIU Student Nurses Organization (SNO) hosted a blood drive at the nursing building on September 29th. They coordinated the effort with Heartland Blood Centers, an independent blood center serving 71 hospitals in a 12 county area, including DeKalb County. They collect over 160,000 units of blood annually, and SNO was glad to play a part in that number. 100% of the blood donated is used in the local Heartland region.

Heartland brought their “mobile blood RV” to the nursing building parking lot and set up a one-stop shop for donors. Universal donors with O NEG blood type also received a t-shirt as an incentive.

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Student Success Schedule

Need help getting through nursing school? Look no further. Here is the schedule for workshops by subject that will be offered all semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:30</td>
<td>Med Math 3:30 – 5:00 PM (100B)</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
<td>Foundations 5:30 – 7:30 PM (100B)</td>
<td>Mental Health* 5:30 – 7:30 PM (111)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>OB* 5:30 – 7:30 PM (111)</td>
<td>Pathophysiology 5:30 – 7:30 PM (100B)</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Community* 5:30 – 7:30 PM (111)</td>
<td>Adult Health II 5:30 – 7:30 PM (111)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Pediatrics* 5:30 – 7:30 PM (Computer Lab)</td>
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Cover Page
Introducing Pharmaknowledgy

Kathleen Wolz graduated from the NIU School of Nursing graduate program in 1986 and recently flexed her entrepreneurial (and techy) muscles to develop a gaming app centered on improving pharmacology knowledge. This free app assists nursing students in recognizing medications for disease treatment. She presented the game at the Illinois Board of Nursing and it was well received. Wolz said, “I was searching for an avenue to excite students about learning but also incorporate gaming theory into the process”.

The app took nearly four years to get to the market. Wolz said there are many roadblocks to developing an app – to include finding a programmer to work with on the project. She also stated that while nurses use technology, they’re rarely behind its development. She’s working to change that.

The app is called Pharmaknowledgy and is currently available in IOS only. Follow the link below to check it out.

www.career-endeavors.com

Doctoral Dreams

In last year’s issue of the Northern Nurse magazine, a story was published about five School of Nursing instructors and staff members who are pursuing their doctoral degrees. There is a nationwide shortage of doctorally prepared nurses, making it a challenge to find qualified faculty members.

Thanks to several donors, the NIU School of Nursing has incentivized doctoral pursuits by offering the Nursing Doctoral Incentive Scholarship (NDIS). In essence, they’re seeking to “grow their own” by subsidizing tuition costs of current employees pursing a doctorate. This semester, the first scholarship awards were made and four of the five in the Northern Nurse article are receiving benefits. In exchange for the award, recipients agree to work for the School of Nursing upon graduation for a specified amount of time, depending on the amount of scholarship benefits received.
SNO Falls on STEMFest

NIU’s popular STEMFest event occurred October 8 at the Convocation Center. NIU STEM departments, student groups, regional corporations, museums, educators, and national labs joined forces to present hundreds of activities that range in complexity to entertain people of all ages. The Student Nurses Organization (SNO) manned their own booth to share STEM-related aspects of the nursing profession with the crowd.

SNO Faculty Advisor, Stephanie Uhr and SNO rep Rachel Shapland demonstrate the otoscope to a couple of future nurses.

NPA Welcomes Guest Speaker

During the October meeting of the Northern Prairie Alliance (NIU’s chapter of the American Assembly of Men in Nursing), nursing graduate assistant, Joe Griffey, was welcomed as a guest speaker. The NPA seeks to promote education, research, leadership and practice for men in nursing. The chapter is growing and hopes to bring issues important to men in nursing to the forefront, which includes awareness of male health issues.

Joe is an alum of the NIU nursing program and currently pursing a master’s degree in nursing. He spoke to the group about challenges he has faced as a male nurse during his career thus far. He also pointed out the roles and expectations of male nurses that are often unspoken. Understanding the landscape is an important way to be successful as a new nurse! The School of Nursing now boasts male enrollment of around 15%, exceeding the national average of 9%.

SNO brought one of the nursing program’s baby simulators to STEMFest to demonstrate how technology is changing the way nursing students are educated.

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Steven LeMaster, Class of ’96

Current Position: Pharmacist and Senior Toxicologist with SafetyCall International, PLLC and Clinical Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota

Hometown: LaGrange, IL (currently resides in Minneapolis, MN)

Background and Career: After completing his nursing degree in 1996, Dr. LeMaster went on to complete a PharmD degree in 2005 and a Master’s of Public Health in 2008, both from the University of Minnesota. He has worked in poison centers since 1999 and has been with his current company, SafetyCall, since 2004. He also teaches clinical toxicology and serves as a preceptor to 4th year pharmacy students. He’s found teaching and training students to be among the most rewarding aspects of his career.

Hobbies: Distance running, cycling and camping – “Minnesota has the greatest outdoor activities!”

Advice to current nursing students: You are graduating with one of the most versatile degrees. As the healthcare system evolves and delivery of healthcare continues to change, be ready to take risks, take on new challenges and be available for new opportunities. You never know where your career will take you.

5th Track Nursing student and soon to be Army officer, Breanna Alis

Nursing student and ROTC cadet, Breanna Alis, was recently selected by the U.S. Army to commission as an active duty Army nurse. She will graduate from NIU and commission into the US Army this December, then begin a four-year active duty tour – taking her to.......? Thanks for your service, Cadet Alis!

NIU Represents at SNA of IL

The Student Nurses Association of Illinois held its annual conference on October 1 at Joliet Junior College. The conference saw a dramatic increase in vendor and institution booths, going from only a handful last year to 24 in 2016. NIU was one of them, along with three of our nursing students. Rachel Shaplan, a 2nd Track nursing student at NIU, was re-elected as Director of Marketing for the state-level organization at the conference.
Class of ’66 Reunion

The School of Nursing graduated 26 nurses in May of 1966. Of those, we were able to reach 15, and seven were able to gather at the Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center on October 8 to reminisce and reconnect. Each of them shared the story of their journey after NIU – and each one was remarkable in its own way.

Nearly all of these women were touched by the Vietnam War in one way or another. Some had a husband sent overseas, others cared for veterans, and one, Mary Carroll, served as an Army nurse in Vietnam. This class also saw the School’s first African-American graduate earn her nursing pin. Janet Mingo said she faced many challenges, but was determined to get a college degree and become a nurse. Be sure to see her article in the upcoming Northern Nurse magazine due out in December.

After hearing their stories, a few themes for this class emerged. They took their NIU degree and went global. This small group practiced all over the U.S. and overseas. Secondly, they were pioneers. Most of them had been involved in starting institutions and programs that are still running today and others were on the leading edge of new treatment and nursing practice approaches. All of them, however, had glowing comments about their instructors in the School of Nursing – Rosemary Bergin said, “They were fantastic women. We were so lucky.”
Class of ’66 Advice
Returning members of the Class of 1966 were asked what advice they have for current nursing students – see notes below! Their last names from 1966 are used so that students can put a face with the name from the class photo in Room 100A.

I chose a service profession and so did you. Your greatest reward will come from the care you provide.
- Bonnie Koerner

Enjoy each clinical rotation and also focus on the art of nursing!
- Mary Fosnot

Study hard and be kind to your patients.
- Kathy Boule

Enjoy! It’s a great profession with so many opportunities! People will respect you and seek your help.
- Barbara Brock

Combine education with experience and never stop learning!
- Libby Wheeler

Pay attention! Enjoy your education and go use it to the best of your ability!
- Kathy Sebree

Appreciate the lovely education you’ve been given at NIU – it’s more valuable than you think.
- Rosemary Rigney

Never forget to apply humility, patience, compassion and empathy to your nursing practice.
- Joan Richoz
Dr. Jeanette Rossetti
Professor

Dr. Jeanette Rossetti was selected for promotion from Associate Professor to Professor. Besides the Chair, Dr. Rossetti becomes the only full professor currently on faculty in the School of Nursing. She has received many awards during her time with NIU, to include Outstanding Teacher of the Year (2006), the CHHS Lankford Award for Teaching Excellence (2007), and the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award from NIU (2009). Congratulations, Professor Rossetti!

Dr. Patricia Braun
Associate Professor

Dr. Patricia Braun was selected for promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. Dr. Braun has been with the School of Nursing since 2009 and specializes in pediatrics. Congratulations, Dr. Braun!