

Grad Tidings



Special points of interest:

- Registration for Spring/Summer classes is currently ongoing
- Grad Tidings next publishing will be in the Spring/Summer of 2014

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Greetings from the Chair By Dr. Nancy O'Connor

Warm greetings to all nursing graduate students. As we make our way through this cold and snowy Michigan winter of 2014, we can be grateful for our shared profession of nursing that opens up to us the opportunity for meaningful work and scholarship that by its very nature is oriented to making a difference in our own lives and the lives of others. I am so grateful to be on this nursing journey with all of you.

This academic year we have been offering for the first time our newly designed MSN core courses based on updated *Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (AACN, 2011); with newness comes excitement and also a few unanticipated "wrinkles." We hope you are enjoying and benefiting from these new courses and we will be asking for formal course evaluations of all the new MSN core courses offered throughout the end of spring/summer term-our attempt to uncover these "wrinkles" and to smooth them out before the next course of-

fering. As students this need for extensive course evaluation translates into what feels like a large number of course evaluations- between the University level SEFI (Student Evaluation of Faculty Instruction) that is available following every course, to the College of Nursing's course evaluations of both theory and clinical, it can feel like a burden to students who are concluding a semester and ready to welcome a brief respite between semesters. Nonetheless, we really depend on your feedback as we design and offer new courses. Thanks for your efforts to provide feedback and constructive criticism as we iron out the "wrinkles" in our new MSN core courses.

The winter term has brought graduate students and faculty members together in a number of events on campus, including the annual fireside chat for graduate students and faculty members that was held on Tuesday February 11, 2014 (see the feature article describing this event by Dr. Hasenau in



this issue), and the DNP recruitment tea held on Saturday February 8, 2014. These events extend and develop our sense of gratitude for belonging to a thriving nursing learning community that we call Madonna Nursing. As always, thanks for being an integral part of it.

We are always looking for ways to keep our students and alumni engaged with us to provide the "real-world" voice of experience so necessary and valuable in a practice discipline such as nursing. Toward that end, we need your time and talent in the form of guest speaking, serving as a preceptor for MSN or DNP

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Greetings from the Editor by Sandro Faber-Bermudez

Welcome to the Winter 2014 Grad Tidings Newsletter!

In this issue we have Dr. Teresa Thompson's farewell address to the student body, along with messages from Dr. Nancy O'Connor, Dr. Phyllis Brenner, and Professor Betty Dornbrook. In addition to program updates, we have alumni, current student and faculty accomplish-

ments, advisor tips, a welcome from the NP Specialty Committee student representative, upcoming events, a report on the 2014 Fireside Chat, and a call for volunteer support for the graduate nursing program.

I wish you all a wonderful semester!





Dean Teresa Thompson can be reached at tthompson@madonna.edu

Dean's Farewell by Dr. Teresa Thompson

This winter brings many pleasant thoughts of hot chocolate, warm fires and getaways to warmer climates. Unfortunately, reality then sets in and the morning news reports 49 of the 50 states have temperatures below freezing and an impending second polar vortex is on the horizon. Indeed we live in interesting times. Yet I feel the warmth of the successes that the Madonna University Nursing program has had over this past nine years.

Can you tell by that introduction that this is my last *Grad Tidings* dean's note? This Winter semester will be my last at Madonna University and I want to acknowledge the wonderful faculty members who have

crafted the learning experiences in our programs.

It is their commitment to evidence based curriculum and student success that drives this program. This, in part, is what has led to the expansion of the Nurse Practitioner programs to include gerontological content.

The acute and primary care nurse practitioner programs are now insured to be in line with new expectations for certification. The DNP program continues to provide an education that expands the graduate nurse's knowledge in systems and leadership in a deep and meaningful way. Each of these initiatives and

so many others require a real investment of time and energy to keep Madonna in the forefront of nurse education. Dr. O'Connor's leadership, commitment, and vision for the graduate program are integral to its growth.

Being a Madonna nursing graduate at all levels brings with it a strong history of currency, depth, and commitment to the profession. So indeed I do feel the warmth of this success and look forward to what comes next in my journey. It has been my honor to have been the dean of the College of Nursing and Health and I look forward to watching the next chapter in Madonna's history.

My thanks to you all.

Greetings from your NP Specialty Committee Student Representative By Georgia Pozios

I first heard about this opportunity while sitting nervously in my first class here at Madonna with Dr. Brenner last Fall. Needless to say, I survived the first semester and I had the pleasure of attending my first NP specialty faculty meeting on February 7, 2014.

The committee members warmly welcomed me and I look forward to playing an important role representing the rest of the NP students. This opportunity to

be a student representative provides a platform for other students to voice any concerns, questions, and comments to the faculty.

There are other committees that still require some student input. These are the Graduate Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Faculty Committee. Please contact Professor Betty Dornbrook, who is the NP Program Director, if you are interested and she will forward your

information to the appropriate committee chairperson.

The next meeting for the NP Faculty Specialty Committee is scheduled for April 11, 2014. I welcome your input, observations, and any issues that are on your mind.

You can reach Georgia at: gpozios@my.madonna.edu and Betty Dornbrook at bdornbrook@madonna.edu.



Fireside Chat 2014 By Dr. Susan Hasenau

While the hologram fire may not have been warm, the friendships and conversations were at the 2014 Fireside Chat February 11th. With chili and soup to warm us and salads and desserts to fill us, an enjoyable and informative evening was had. Madonna's DNP graduates, Dr. Denise O'Brien, Dr. Sue Sirianni, and Dr. Maria Palleschi, led discussions on *impacting practice through advanced practice*

nurse-led interprofessional teams: scholarship and advanced practice. Interprofessional cooperation and support is a vital part of healthcare practice.

They presented the impact their DNP projects had and continues to impart on the combined efforts of the healthcare teams in their care facilities. It was a wonderful chance to see advanced practice nursing in action!!



Nursing Administration Program Update by Dr. Phyllis Brenner

Have you heard? Spring is coming ... but after this winter, I do not think that any of us want to try to predict when it will come.

For all in the administration programs, I have heard of many snowed in days and nights covering units and assuring that the patients being cared for were not neglected. I am not at all surprised by the casual way many of you have simply shared these stories as matter-of-fact descriptions of everyday life. I think however, that this winter has been a challenge for many and has involved many sacrifices – from commutes that were hours long vs. minutes, to sleeping on stretchers and changing into fresh scrubs after a night away from home – you are all the unsung heroes of this seemingly never-ending winter. Your actions add to the phenomenal reputation that we have in the broader community and for this I thank you.



I am hearing from my colleagues in service that the bottom lines in hospitals are getting even tighter and that the profit margins of 2-3% of just a few years ago are now being looked to with envy. This means that each and every position is being scrutinized when there is an opening and since managerial positions are often the first ones to go when money gets tight, I am seeing a drop in applicants to the nursing administration programs. While understandable, in times of felt job insecurity, I would encourage each of you to speak with colleagues and



refer a friend, or two or three! With the aging of the population we will not only need more direct care providers as in staff nurses and nurse practitioners, there will be a concurrent need for innovative managers/ leaders who can help to create the practice environment needed for all direct care providers to thrive. So please, recruit some like-minded people to assure a vibrant nursing administration pipeline in the future.

Please remember that pre-registration for S/S already began back in late February and for Fall it will begin on March 31st. It is very important that you pre-register and keep submitting all of the data elements required for practicum courses. In the coming few months I have learned that nursing administration will be added to the ACE program and as such, the process for procuring preceptors will change somewhat and some institutions will not assign a preceptor until the student has submitted all required documents so those deadlines of March 1 for S/S and Fall placements and October 1 for Winter courses with practicums are so important.

The nursing administration faculty group is still interested in having a student representative attend our specialty faculty meetings to assure that we hear the voice of the student. In the Fall semester no one responded to the invitation, but if you are interested in serving, please let me know and we will try to take your scheduling needs into consideration. We have

typically met at 7 p.m. one time per semester.

Think Spring and maybe with a mass of collective energy we can help the crocuses and snowdrop pop up from their nicely insulated beds of snow!



Dr. Brenner can be reached at pbrenner@madonna.edu

Greetings from the Grad Chair (continued from page 1)

students, attending a recruitment event such as a Grad School night or the DNP tea, adjunct teaching, or providing periodic program evaluation input. This spring we plan to hold a focus group directed to the evaluation of our palliative care specialty programs. To volunteer for one or more of these engagement activities, please respond to the Time and Talent column located on page 5. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks!

Dr. Nancy O'Connor can be reached at noconnor@madonna.edu

DNP Program Director's Update By Dr. Nancy O'Connor

Can you hear the sound of keyboards clicking? If so, you are likely hearing this year's DNP May graduate-hopefuls as they put the finishing touches on their final DNP project reports and manuscripts!

The deadline for completing all degree requirements, including the final project manuscript is March 27, 2014.

Thanks to all DNP faculty members for their expert guidance and collaboration with DNP students in this final academic challenge before degree completion.

We hope to welcome 8-10 new DNPs to the Madonna Universi-

ty commencement stage on May 4, 2014 for the traditional hooding ceremony that serves as a rite of passage to doctoral degree completion!

If you are planning on completing your DNP degree for May 2014 graduation and have not been contacted by the bookstore for academic regalia measurement and other activities surrounding graduation, please contact me as soon as possible.

Take a look at our faculty and alumni accomplishments in this issue to see the fruits of previous DNP

projects in their dissemination forms of leadership positions, published manuscripts, and presentations.

We are currently enrolling students for the 6th Post Master's DNP cohort scheduled to begin in September 2014. Our traditional DNP recruitment tea was held in the Franciscan Center on Saturday February 8, 2014.

Despite brisk temperatures, 12 potential applicants met with DNP faculty members and current DNP students to share information about DNP study at Madonna.

We are still accepting applications for the 6th cohort through

July 2014. Please refer your colleagues- word of mouth is still our best form of marketing and recruiting new DNP students.

The DNP faculty would like to invite all prospective and current DNP students, preceptors, and alumni to a DNP social evening on Friday April 11, 2014 from 5:30-7 PM in the DiPonio reception area. Come meet and greet those involved in DNP education in an informal setting.

From a national perspective, the annual AACN doctoral conference held in Naples, Florida in January 2014 provided an opportunity to hear from national DNP leaders on the state of the

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Nurse Practitioner Program Update by Betty Dornbrook

Greetings to all!

Although it may still be cold outside, our students are heating up our classrooms with their presence and hard work, and are beginning to see the "sunlight" at the end of this long winter semester.

As many of you know, ANCC certification exams have been changed in response to the new Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education (APRN Consensus Model). In May, 2013, our graduating nurse practitioner (NP) students were the last class from Madonna to take the Adult Primary and Adult Acute Care Practitioner certification exams. Although these exams will remain open until December, 2014, our students that will be graduating in May, 2014 will take the new Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification examinations. Faculty are very proud of all of our students and wish the graduating students the very best

as they complete their studies and move forward in their new role. Graduates, please keep in touch with us as we enjoy hearing from you as to where you are and how you are doing!

A friendly reminder to all NP clinical students regarding health data and preceptor agreement deadlines. Please be aware that for all students that will be in a clinical setting in the fall, 2014, (NUR 6530 and NUR 6540) all paperwork is due to Julee Gould by May 16th 2014.

Please refer to your *Graduate Student Handbook* for a checklist of health data needed. All clinical preceptor agreements are now on the graduate website. It is important to select the appropriate agreement. For the NP students, you will select the "Clinical Educator/ Preceptor Agreement: Clinical Specialties" form. Be sure that you have all areas completed and attach the preceptor's business card to

the agreement (if available). If anyone should need assistance in finding a preceptor for the fall semester please contact me at bdornbrook@madonna.edu and I will try to do what I can to help.

Also, a quick note to the students who will be taking NUR 5240 (Health Promotion) in the spring/summer semester. As NUR 5240 is considered a mid-level clinical practicum course, there are documentation requirements that you will need to obtain prior to beginning this class. Please see the "Policies related to clinical practicum documentation requirements" in the *Graduate Student Handbook 2013-2014* on pages 71-73. You will also need a professional name badge which should include your name, RN and beneath "Madonna University, Nurse Practitioner Student". You will be using this badge for this course and all of your clinical courses. You can obtain the name badge at Madonna's bookstore or at any uniform store.

Best wishes for the remainder of the semester and may all that you do today and every day, give honor and glory to God.



Professor Betty Dornbrook can be reached at bdornbrook@madonna.edu



DNP Program Update (continued)

art of DNP education since its inception over 10 years ago.

For instance, there are currently 241 DNP programs enrolling close to 15, 000 DNP students across the country, and DNP enrollments are up 22% from 2012-2013. We anticipate the release of one of the first documents reporting on DNP educational issues from the AACN since the *DNP Essentials* were published in 2006.

In April of 2014, a white paper will be released that comments and makes recommendations based on 2 national summits held last year on practice and scholarship requirements unique to DNP programs.

You can be sure that Madonna's DNP faculty members will be examining this report in detail and assuring that our DNP program reflects state-of-the-art DNP program design. As a profession, nursing is making great strides to meet the recommendation of the Institute of Medicine's landmark report (2011) on the *Future of Nursing* to double the number of nurses holding doctoral degrees by the year 2020.

Thanks for being a part of this historic stride forward in nursing educational preparation!

Dr. Nancy O'Connor can be reached at
noconnor@madonna.edu

Volunteer Your Time and Talent

Would you like to enrich Madonna University's Nursing Program?

E-Mail the editor, Sandro Faber-Bermudez, at dnp@madonna.edu if you are interested in any of the following roles.

- Guest Lecturer (Topic)
- Preceptor (MSN, DNP)
- Attend a recruitment or orientation event
- Communicate periodically with potential Madonna University Graduate Students if requested via phone or e-mail
- Adjunct teaching appointment
- Focus Group for program evaluation of Palliative Care Specialty in the Spring/Summer 2014



Upcoming Events & Announcements

Thur, Mar 27	Final Filing Date/Doctoral Capstone Experience for May graduation
Mon, Mar 31	MUNSA Career Fair
Mon, Apr 7	College of Nursing and Health Scholarship Event
Tues, Apr 8	Madonna Grad Fair (prospective students)
Fri, Apr 11	DNP Social Event
Mon, Apr 14	Madonna University Research Event
Fri, Apr 18	Good Friday (University Closed)
Thur, May 1	Graduation Mass
Sun, May 4	Commencement
Fri, May 16	Bowling for Scholars (Grad Scholarship Fundraiser)

Advising Tips By Sandro Faber-Bermudez

Registration for the Spring/Summer is currently ongoing and many courses have been filled. Please register as soon as possible. Fall web registration begins March 31st.

The post-admission writing assessment requirement is in effect for all graduate nursing students admitted for start dates after January 1st, 2013. Students are expected to complete the writing assessment within their first 6 semester hours taken at Madonna University. If any writing credits are needed they need to be then completed within the next 2 semesters. Should you have any questions, please contact the Writing Center at 734-432-5304. Online assessment is also available.

The Nurse/Health Educator Certificate will be starting a new cohort in the Spring/Summer semester of 2014, with the first course NUR 5020 focusing on princi-

ples of teaching and learning. See the focused article in this issue for more information. Please remember to apply for this certificate through the Graduate School.

A new DNP cohort will begin in September 2014. If you are interested in applying, please have all of your materials in by July 15th.

Finally, in the upcoming issues of *Grad Tidings*, we will be showcasing more student happenings, endeavors, and triumphs and we would love to hear from you!

E-mail any registration issues, accomplishments, news, events, or general concerns to the graduate admissions officer at sfaber-bermudez@madonna.edu.

Student, Alumni, and Faculty News/Accomplishments

Congratulations to:

Dr. Susanna Sirianni, DNP Alumnus and adjunct assistant professor, for being elected President of the Metro Chapter of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners.

Dr. Denise O'Brien, DNP alumnus, and **Dr. Phyllis Brenner** for having their article, "Intraoperative risk factors associated with postoperative pressure ulcers in critically ill patients: A retrospective observational

study", published in *Critical Care Medicine*, January 2014 - Volume 42 - Issue 1 - p 40-47.

Dr. Sr. Alphoncina Kaihura, a nursing administration MSN graduate (2006), successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Stigma and Quality of Life in African American Women Living with HIV Infection through the Lens of Intersectionality" at the University of California, San Francisco. Congratulations Dr. Sr. Alphoncina!

Drs. Susanna Sirianni and Maria Palleschi for their presentation on early mobili-

ty of ICU patients. Their poster was presented in January at the National Critical Care Conference.

DNP alumnus **Dr. Catherine Nichols**, **Dr. Nancy O'Connor**, and **Dr. Deborah Dunn** for having their article, "Exploring Early and Future Use of DNP Prepared Nurses Within Healthcare Organizations" in the *Journal of Nursing Administration* February 2014—Volume 44—Number 2—p 74-78.

Drs. Susanna Sirianni, Maria Palleschi, Susan Hasenau, Nancy O'Connor, and Deborah Dunn on the publication of their article, "An Interprofessional Process to Improve Early Identification and Treatment for Sepsis" in the *Journal for Healthcare Quality*—2013—Volume 36—Issue 2.



Interested in Teaching?????

Enroll Now into the Nurse/Health Educator Graduate Certificate !!!!!

The focus of the Nurse/Health Educator Graduate Certificate is to prepare educators for teaching positions in higher education and practice settings. The curriculum focuses on theories that guide the instructional process, teaching strategies and technology that support quality instruction, and the evaluation of learning outcomes in health-related settings.

- Who:** BSN-prepared nurses who want to prepare themselves to educate nurses for the future.
- What:** A 9 semester hour (3 courses, each 3 semester hours with 60 practicum hours embedded in the final course) graduate certificate to prepare nurse educators of the future.
Prepares nurses with Masters Degrees or higher to write the certified nurse educator exam (CNE).
- Where:** Madonna University's Main Campus (Livonia)
Friday Mornings (9 AM—12 Noon) throughout the spring/summer semester (May 9, June 13, July 18) with the remainder of course on-line using Blackboard
- When:** New Cohorts form each spring/summer semester with the first course offering (NUR 5020: Teaching-Learning Principles and Strategies). Course 2 is offered in the Fall semester of 2014 and the final course is offered in the Winter of 2015
- How:** Apply on-line at www.madonna.edu, at the Madonna University Graduate School or contact Sandro Faber-Bermudez to enroll in the 1st course this summer while completing your application.

College of Nursing and Health—Celebrating Scholarship

“Using Evidence to Inform Practice” / Franciscan Center / April 7, 2014 / 4 to 6:45 pm

Purpose: Showcase and share exemplars of scholarship among The College of Nursing and Health (CoNH) students and faculty through a variety of media.

Program Objectives:

- Discuss how scholarship informs practice, community partnerships, and education for faculty, undergraduate and graduate nursing and hospice students.
- Identify evidence-based approaches used by faculty, undergraduate and graduate nursing and hospice students in a variety of settings.
- Promote dialogue among participants related to evidence based approaches across the educational continuum.

Guidelines for Faculty and Graduate Student abstract submissions:

1. Include two learner objectives stated as measurable outcomes.
2. The abstract should be no more than 250 words (excluding title and author) using the following format:
 - The purpose of the project or study
 - The background and significance of project or study
 - The approach or method used in developing the project or study
 - Major Outcome (s) if known
 - Conclusions and/or recommendations

Guidelines for Undergraduate Student Entry Submissions:

Thesis statement as developed in seminar course.

Submissions should be emailed to: tjamison@madonna.edu.
Please name file MUCoNH.RESEARCH [your last name]

DUE DATE: All abstracts are due by end of business (5 pm) on March 21, 2014.

Join Michigan Nurse Practitioners in Working Together with One Voice

By Melanie Keiffer

Nurse practitioners and NP Students, we need to make our voices heard in Lansing! The Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MiCNP) is continuing extensive efforts to encourage our legislators to pass Senate Bill 2 which defines the scope of practice for nurse practitioners in Michigan. Michigan Senate Bill 2 (SB2) will define APRNs based on national standards; authorize APRNs to practice to the full extent of masters/doctoral education and board certification, improve consumer choice and remove barriers, improving direct access to all qualified health care providers. SB2 has now been referred to the House Health Policy Committee, so if your Representative belongs to this committee, please contact them ASAP. A template letter is available on the MiCNP website (<http://www.micnp.org/>)

Please consider writing a letter, calling or visiting your individual state representative to ask for his or her support for passage of this bill. Click here to find your Michigan State Representative

<http://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/>

Members of the House Health Policy Committee

<http://house.michigan.gov/MHRPublic/CommitteeInfo.aspx?comkey=230>

Job Opportunities

There are currently (4) openings for contingent Nurse Practitioners.

Job Summary:

Under general direction, obtains, assesses, evaluates and documents pertinent clinical findings, laboratory and other ancillary data and implements orders to facilitate patient care and initiatives of care management department; in consultation with and under guidance of the medical staff. Directs and supervises the operation of projects, programs, and functions as assigned by the physician liaison for Care Management and Chief Medical Officer. Has the overall responsibility for coordinating the planning, implementation, and evaluation of multi-disciplinary programs involving various medical specialties. Develops implementation strategies, provides orientation and education to medical, nursing, and other healthcare professions regarding the concepts of programs and projects. Makes home visits.

For interested candidates the job may be found on <https://stjohn.taleo.net/careersection/1/jobdetail.ft?job=0191160730> under Nurse Practitioner (SJPHS - Partners in Care Contingent/Varies)-0191160730.

