

## *A Christ - Like Presence in Health Care*

Fourth Annual Nursing Research  
and Practice Symposium  
April 29, 2004



Our own faculty person, Beth Peterson, will keynote this theme for the Nursing Research and Practice Symposium. Highlights for the evening include the keynote presentation, concurrent sessions, food, over 50 vendors, poster sessions, and an opportunity to interact with professional colleagues. Concurrent sessions develop the overall theme with a focus on nursing ministry to children delivered by Sue Steen, and nursing ministry at end of life presented by Marge Schaffer.

- Registration: 4:30 to 5:00 in the Benson Great Hall Lobby at Bethel College
- Keynote address begins at 5 p.m.; sessions end at 8:50 p.m.
- No charge to our alumni and their invited guests

Mark this date on your calendar; we would love to greet you there!

### **Radon Survey Done in Sherburne County**

Radon is a tasteless, odorless, colorless gas that significantly contributes to the number of lung cancer deaths each year. It is a problem in many Minnesota homes and it can be a silent killer.

Senior nursing students Naomi Brummer, Leslie Stamper, Kelly Halverson, Sarah Kissinger, Tabitha Lake, Faith Larson and Molly Miller set out to determine what real estate agents in Sherburne County knew about radon. This research was carried out as a project for their Community Health Nursing class fall semester.

The results were surprising. Thirty real estate agencies were contacted for the study and realtors from 14 agencies were surveyed. The senior nurses found that 43% of realtors had accurate information about the problem of radon. Only about 33% of those surveyed saw radon as a problem in Sherburne County. Clients purchasing homes rarely asked about radon and therefore, real estate agents were not offering radon testing as part of the real estate transaction. Due to the students raising awareness to the effects of radon, real estate agents became more interested when offered an opportunity to attend training.

Results from the survey were compiled and presented by the students to the staff at the Sherburne County Health Department, realtors, and a representative from the Minnesota Department of Health who intended to keep the results and use them in conjunction with further research.

The most important lesson for the students was realizing that their work was significant and would have an ongoing effect on the citizens of Sherburne County and the State of Minnesota.

## **EXPLORING A NEW CURRICULUM FOR NURSING AT BETHEL**

The curriculum for the baccalaureate programs has been in existence for over 20 years. It has served to prepare excellent nurses for work in all areas of nursing practice, education and scholarship. Bethel graduates continue to report the exciting professional work many engage in.

The Nursing Department wants to continue to prepare graduates with excellence for the many changes in and out of the health care system. Nursing is not just built on the sciences such as anatomy and physiology, but on principles from business, informatics, theology, ethics, etc. The department wants to prepare nurses with a broader foundation so they can truly exhibit Christ-likeness and leadership in their life and work.

There is a task force of faculty members who, under the leadership team, has been meeting to read, dream and design a new curriculum that will be innovative, consistent with professional standards and norms, yet have more flexibility than the current plan.

Some of the things the task force hopes to achieve are to:

- Develop a curriculum that allows a student to start and stop at different junctures along the way for academic reasons.
- Investigate nursing as Christian ministry and the unique gifts that each student brings to that ministry.
- Design creative nursing electives, based on faculty interest and experience.
- Facilitate a one semester abroad option for nursing majors.
- Incorporate skill development in each semester.
- Diversify the course delivery models with online or seminar formats.

A nationally recognized nurse educator and our Advisory Board will serve as consultants in the development of the curriculum. There are also opportunities for alumni and friends to get involved by giving ideas and feedback on the departments web page found at the URL: <http://www.bethel.edu/college/dept/nursing/index.html> Please see that site for regular updates on the curriculum development process.

### **Site Evaluation of Master's Program – October 2003**

Three evaluators from the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) reviewed the Master of Arts in Nursing Program October 6 – 8, 2003. CCNE has established standards for program quality and effectiveness that address: mission and governance, institutional commitment and resources, curriculum and teaching-learning practices, and student performance and faculty accomplishments. Alumni, current students, faculty, and our community partners in learning all worked together and assisted our evaluators in review of program quality. The evaluators reported both verbally and in a written report that the Master's Program met the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education set forth by CCNE. We will hear final word following a late April meeting of the CCNE Accreditation Review Committee. It is expected that the Accreditation Review Committee will confirm the evaluators' recommendations. Thank you to all alumni and students who contributed to the smooth process.

## **New Courses and Continuing Education Opportunity End of Life Nursing Care Online at Bethel**

During September 2004, the Nursing Department will offer two new courses and continuing education opportunities on nursing care at the end of life. Modules will be online with an optional meeting at Bethel in the second course to view and discuss the video, *Wit*. Each course will be online for 2 weeks and may be taken consecutively or individually. The continuing education offering (omits readings and most assignments) will be available for 4 weeks. To participate, you will need a computer less than four years old and Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is a free download.

## COURSES

**End of Life Nursing Care: Evidence Based Practice - An exploration of evidence-based practices in end of life nursing care: pain management, symptom management, last hours of life, and cultural and spiritual considerations. (1 credit)**

**End of Life Nursing Care: Promoting Quality Care - An exploration of strategies for improving quality of care at the end of life: facilitation of grief, effective communication, ethical issues, and improving end of life care in health systems. (1 credit)**

## **CEU'S – 10 contact hours**

End of Life Nursing - An overview of the major components of end of life nursing care: pain and symptom management, last hours of life, cultural and spiritual aspects, communication and grief, ethical issues, and quality care.

The courses and continuing education offering are based on curriculum developed by the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC). The American Association of Colleges of Nursing collaborated with the City of Hope National Medical Center on the ELNEC project.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Courses for Credit:** Center for Graduate and Continuing Studies at 651-635-8000.

**Continuing Education:** Kaye Cusick at 651-635-8013 or k-cusick@bethel.edu

## **HELP WANTED!!!**

**One of the major indicators of the quality of a nursing program is the number of its alumni who complete graduate degrees. The Nursing Department would like to have an accurate record of the graduate degrees of its alumni. Would you please complete the enclosed self-addressed stamped postcard and provide us with this important information.**

## **Faculty News**

Faculty members have been involved in a variety of publications and presentations.

### **Publications.**

**Sandy Peterson** and **Tim Bredow** served as editors and authors of the 2004 publication by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, *Middle Range Theories: Application to Nursing Research*. Other Nursing Department faculty members contributed to the project. **Joann Wessman** provided a critical analysis of the theories of Social Support, a chapter written by **Marge Schaffer**.

**Marge Schaffer** also collaborated with alumni of the master's program in the publication of their thesis-based research findings: (a) Deschaine, J. & Schaffer, M. A. (2003). Strengthening the role of public health nurse leaders in policy development. *Policy Politics, & Nursing Practice*, 4(4), 266-274 and (b) Solum, L. L. and Schaffer, M. A. (2003). Ethical problems experienced by school nurses. *Journal of School Nursing*, 19(6), 330-337.

**Sue Steen** received an award for her article, Steen, S. & Anderson, E. (2002, Jan). Caring for children of other faiths. *Journal of Christian Nursing*, 19, 14-21. The award was granted by the Evangelical Press Association in its General Category.

## Faculty News continued

### **Presentations.**

Nursing Department faculty members were well-represented as presenters at the Minnesota Association of Colleges of Nursing's annual conference, "Innovations in Clinical Nursing Education." The conference held on November 7, 2003 included presentations by **Linda Anderson, Diane Dahl, and Karen Drake** on "Using On-line Technology for Clinical Post Conference," and by **Tim Bredow and Mary Reuland** on "Using Project Management as a Tool to Develop Clinical Leadership Skills for the RN to BSN and Masters Student."

**Joann Wessman** has had a full schedule of presentations. She provided the challenge, "Be Who You Are," to the graduating class at the May 2003 pinning ceremony. She and **Kim Meyer** presented "Instructional Technology: Boon or Bane to Community" at a Faculty Developing in Community workshop for the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities in St. Paul, June 2003. With **Nancy Olen**, she presented "Christian View of Nursing: Faith/Health Integration in the Frail Elderly" to Korean nurses participating in the Keimyung University-Bethel College partnership during their summer 2003 visit. **Dr. Wessman** was the CGCS chapel speaker several times during the fall 2003 semester. She also made presentations at a local elementary school and at several churches.

### **Congratulations!**

Faculty member Pam Friesen became Dr. Pamela Friesen in December 2003. Her dissertation, *The Role of Peer-Group Interactions in the Initial Socialization of Junior Students into Baccalaureate Nursing Education*, was a qualitative, descriptive study. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 30 junior nursing students who had completed the first semester of their nursing programs at three private, religiously-affiliated colleges.

Her study revealed that peer-group interactions are significant in both the academic and social processes that constitute socialization into higher education and nursing education.

The results of her study should be useful to nursing educators by showing the importance of peer-group interactions among baccalaureate nursing students.