

Nursing Department Participates in Christmas Open House



There was much excitement in the Nursing Department during the Christmas season as staff and faculty prepared to participate in the annual Christmas Open House held in December. This was the first time the Nursing Department participated and it was a huge success! Our theme was “A Caring Christmas.” Decorations throughout the department included door wreaths, IV poles decorated with medical paraphenalia, gingerbread nurses, a Christmas pain assessment chart, caring Bible verses, glittered bells made from medicine cups adorning the windows, and a nativity using our nursing dolls, complete with baby Jesus in swaddling clothes, lying in a bassinet. Many Bethel employees came through the department for the first time and were amazed at the simulation and technology that were available for students to learn. The nursing faculty and staff greeted guests with M&M’s served in med cups, gingerbread cookies, and hot caramel apple blast cider while Christmas carols played. All the planning and decorating was well worth the effort when our department was declared one of the winners of the decorating contest!

Faculty News

Fulbright Senior Specialist in Uganda

I just returned from my third trip to Uganda as a Fulbright Senior Specialist, working with Uganda Christian University (UCU) to develop their first program of nursing to begin in May of this year. The first trip was January of 2005 and was exploratory in nature, visiting officials, networking with other educators, and reviewing existing programs. The second trip included meeting with an advisory panel, and working with Dave Muhovich on the development of a ten year plan and a detailed curriculum for this first phase. On this recent trip I was able to work with Jemimah Mutabaazi who is the newly hired director of the program. Jemimah is one of 5 nurses in Uganda who have a Master's degree in nursing. Bethel's Nursing Department has completed a Memorandum of Agreement with UCU, which we hope will result in mutual exchange of ideas and expertise in the future. In the fall of this academic year, I coordinated a book drive for the new program and over 300 titles of current nursing textbooks for the new program will arrive any day. – Karen Drake

Celebration of Sabbatical Moments...

Fall 2005 – how shall I describe it? Joy, intensity, growing, learning, discovery – all seem appropriate descriptors for my sabbatical leave. I served my church community in the professional nursing role. I took a distance learning philosophy course on world views from Fuller Seminary. I wrote. And I continued research on faith-health integration in the church-affiliated frail elderly. Increased understanding of faith-health integration was sought through interviews of individual elderly persons, focus groups in churches and senior living facilities, and paper-and-pencil surveys of numerous church-affiliated elderly persons. What a blessing their responses were to me! *Thanks, Bethel, for this gift of time – and thanks to nursing faculty colleagues who assumed my fall teaching assignments.* –Joann P. Wessman

“Going to Kentucky”

On a cool but sunny Wednesday afternoon in November, Dave Muhovich and I stepped into a Bethel van for what would become a memorable road trip. Fueled by the missionary passion of Nancy Olen and the motivational zeal of Young-Ja Yang, the “dynamic duo” of Dave and I, packed a couple hundred pounds of baggage and six junior nursing students into the van and headed East down I-94 for the blue grass of Kentucky. Louisville was the goal for the day, but my short term goal was to make it 300 miles without a “pit stop!” Once on the road, names, cell phone numbers, and pictures of students were exchanged and placed on my picture phone, just in case. Kristen Top, Amanda Wendlandt, the two Elizabeths (Crosby and Sheller, aka E1 and E2), Meg McCarthy, and Diana Engebretson, passengers in the rear of the van, spent an enormous amount of time studying and sleeping most of the way. We arrived at the home of Ben Bredow and Ben Dockery a little after midnight. The time didn't seem to be a factor in that everyone was up and all the lights were on, as the guys were taking a study break from their Hebrew class at Southern Seminary. On limited sleep, we got up the next day and headed to what the guys affectionately called, Six Flags over Jesus, which is really a Southeast Christian mega church who was hosting the three day Global Missions Health Conference/Lausanne HIV/AIDS Conference. The group split up and attended a wide variety of workshops on AIDS, as well as missionary talks on the second and third days. The speakers at the conference were world leaders in each of their respective areas and each one spoke from a Christian worldview, which was refreshing. I personally went to see and hear, Steve Saint, who told his life story which has been made into a must see movie “At the End of the Spear.” The students had stories to tell of their favorite session. One night we went out to eat at KFC, the Colonel's own plantation mansion/restaurant. The trip home was full of reminiscing and more nursing study in which the two Profs actually jumped in and contributed. We all arrived home changed by the information we heard and the friends that we made on the “Going to Kentucky trip” – Tim Bredow

Chartering Ceremony

On November 2, 2005, the Chartering Ceremony to induct the Bethel Nursing Honor Society into Chi Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) was held at Bethel University in the Benson Great Hall. The installing officer from STTI was Dr. Karen Morin, Professor of Nursing, at Western Michigan University, and a member of the Board of Directors for STTI. It was a pleasure for all that were involved in the ceremony to get to know Dr. Morin.

While the ceremony itself was orderly and prescribed by the organization, many people from Chi Chapter-at-Large and the Bethel Nursing Honor Society were involved. These included the directors of the four member college nursing departments, the president of Chi Chapter-at-Large, Pat Schoon, and the president of the Bethel Nursing Honor Society, Linda Solum. Karen Ciske participated as the Bethel Nursing Honor Society representative, and Jan Olson, as the Chi Chapter-at-Large representative. Other presenters and assistants included Julie Zerwas, and Linda Blasovich, from the College of St. Catherine, and Rita Glazebrook from St Olaf College. There were 39 Bethel Nursing Honor Society members inducted as well as 14 transfer of memberships from other STTI chapters to Chi Chapter-at-Large. After the ceremony there was a reception and an opportunity to connect with friends and give congratulations for all the work and the long process for Bethel to attain their goal to become a STTI chapter.

The Annual Member Meeting will be March 7, 2006 - 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. at Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium, Whitby Hall, College of St.Catherine, St. Paul.

Let's Go For a Walk

As part of the fall semester, senior nursing students who had their public health clinical experience in Sherburne County, carried out a study to determine the *walkability* of the cities of Big Lake and Becker. These cities were evaluated on things like: room to walk, ease of street crossing, driver behavior, a walker's ability to follow safety rules, and whether or not it was pleasant to walk in these communities.

The communities were divided up into approximately two mile routes. Each student went on several walks within the community, filled out a survey about their walk, and gave it a score. The results were tabulated and suggestions were made regarding improvement for walking in each community. After their research project was completed, students invited staff from Sherburne County Public Health Department, as well as officials from the community to come and take part in a presentation/discussion related to their findings. The students' work was featured in a story in both the *Sherburne County Citizen* and the *West Sherburne Tribune* newspapers. Students taking part in the study included: Christine Bloomstrom, Lindsay Duff, Sarah Endersbee, Faith Geary, Laura Gibbons, Jessica Majchrowski, Alicia Novotne, Tiffany Pope, Jessica Dirks, Rachel Fellman, Lindsay Elkins, Ashley Lundquist, Courtney Fredrickson, Brita Soderholm, and Bethel Graduate School student, Krista Hoekstra.

Accreditation Visit – Bethel University

Bethel University's Department of Nursing has applied for re-accreditation by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) of its three programs, pre-licensure, RN degree completion, and master's. Accreditation is a voluntary, self-regulatory process which supports and encourages continuing self assessment. The accreditation process includes a site evaluation scheduled for April 3-5, 2006.

The Commission is interested in signed, written comments from those that are familiar with Bethel University's Department of Nursing. These comments will be accepted until 30 days before the site evaluation.

**Please address comments to: Sarah L. Jameson
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