



Nursing Program Update

Welcome to the second edition of the RN-BSN Program newsletter. We have had some exciting changes and updates to our program since the last newsletter. The program is flourishing with continuing students, new enrollments and our first graduating class. Changes were made to the program with respect to the catalog in an effort to make the program more flexible to incoming students. In addition, we received grant funds to spend on the infusion of technology and we continue to pursue program accreditation. We are on track to a promising program, which will help those pursuing an MSN program at FSU in the future.

Technology Update

The Nursing Department was awarded a grant through the Maryland Higher Education Commission for Nursing that has allowed the department to increase technology for students. Our goals were to purchase and distribute iPods to all NURS 494 and 496 students, increase quality of online design by hiring an instructional designer and ensure quality by having the curriculum certified through Quality Matters. The initial iPods were set up with drug books, reference guides and more technology from Skyscape and were distributed to students enrolled in summer clinical courses.

Richard Bair was hired to work as the Nursing Department's instructional designer. He has been very busy since January, redesigning the nursing website and creating a nursing resource course. Feel free to visit the new website, which has an array of information that is more clearly organized. The nursing resource course will launch in the fall 2011 semester. This is a "go to" homepage within Blackboard where all current students can find information about advising, registration, graduation and technology quickly and easily, which should streamline the online process for students.

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Accreditation Progress

Our RN-BSN program remains in the process of CCNE accreditation. On April 18-20, Frostburg State University hosted an on-site visit for CCNE evaluators. Prior to this visit, all required documentation and information were submitted to CCNE and their evaluators for review. During the site visit, the evaluators interviewed all faculty and reviewed our courses, technology and policies. A final meeting was held with the evaluation team and we received a favorable review of the program. The next step is for the evaluation team to submit their findings to the CCNE committee that meets in July. The final committee will meet in late October and decide the final accreditation status. If we receive accreditation for our program, it will be backdated to April 2011.

Nurse's Day Event

The Nursing Department hosted our annual Nurse's Day Celebration May 7. The morning session included a "High Tech Meets High Touch" session. Richard Bair covered the technology used within the online RN-BSN program, including Elluminate, iPods, Blackboard, Word and Excel. In addition, Rik presented our new website to current and prospective students. Guests and faculty gathered for lunch to enjoy Nurse's Day and talk about the RN-BSN program. Following lunch, Joanne Lipinski-Long hosted a CEU presentation about incivility in the workplace. She discussed the newest studies and research about how incivility among nurses and physicians is a patient safety concern, and how this incivility can lead to high turnover rates among new nurses.

New Faculty

We are happy to welcome **Mary Beth McCloud** and **A. Kate Eby** as new faculty members in the Nursing Department. Mary Beth joined our team as a full-time nursing faculty member. She began her career at FSU by teaching Community Health Nursing and IDIS 150. Her background is in obstetrical nursing and she graduated from Western Governors University with a master's in nursing education. Kate, who has been working as an adjunct instructor with our research and capstone courses, has been teaching online since 2009. She has a master's as an FNP-C and is certified as an orthopedic nurse and advanced practice RN. She also holds certificates in distance learning and nursing education.

We also welcome **Richard Bair** as our instructional designer for the nursing program. Rik has a master's in education in curriculum and instruction technology and is pursuing a doctorate in education. His professional background includes teaching in the public school systems of various states. He will assist in making the online environment user-friendly for all students and faculty.



Pinning Ceremony



From Left to right, graduates Tasha Ogden, Susan Shafiei, Trisha DeLorenzo, Tina Linton and Elizabeth Goldsbrough and faculty Mary Beth McCloud, Heather Gable and Kara Platt.

On the evening of May 20, 2011, the Nursing Department hosted their first pinning ceremony for their graduates. The event was held in the Lane Center Greenhouse and was catered by Aramark. All graduates and their families attended. The evening started with program coordinator Heather Gable giving a speech about the nursing program and its tremendous growth. Heather pointed out that the program started with eight students in fall 2009 and will have over 40 students in the fall 2011 semester. The evening continued with each student receiving an RN-BSN pin, and each one talked briefly about her experience in the program and future goals with continued education. The evening concluded with a dinner reception with the graduates and their families. We would also like to congratulate Tina Linton, recipient of the honors award from the Nursing Department. Tina was acknowledged at the Honors Convocation after the pinning ceremony.

We would like to congratulate Crissy Cessna, Tracy Cook-Carney, and Angela Eckard on their upcoming graduation in Summer '11.

We look forward to hearing about all the success our graduates have in their bright futures!





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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.frostburg.edu/nursing

Program Awarded “Who Will Care” Grant

We are proud to announce that Frostburg State University’s RN-BSN program has been awarded the “Who Will Care” grant from the Maryland Hospital Association. This grant will provide increased outreach to community colleges and hospitals. We welcome Lauren Bennett as the outreach coordinator for the grant. Lauren will help prospective students create plans of study for ease in transferring to FSU from their community colleges, and she will assist with visits to community colleges and hospitals.

Congratulations to Our First Graduates

Frostburg State University was proud to graduate the first five RN-BSN students on May 21, 2011. Our graduates included Tasha Ogden, Tina Linton, Elizabeth Goldsborough, Trisha Delorenzo and Susan Shafiei. All five students graduated with honors. We have enjoyed getting to know each graduate and we applaud all their hard work and dedication throughout the program. These students have been pioneers for bringing a nursing program to Frostburg State University. Their input and feedback will help shape the future of this program.

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