

# Gradnurse Gazette

Fall 2009

WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

Wayne, NJ

[www.wpunj.edu/cos/nursing/grad.html](http://www.wpunj.edu/cos/nursing/grad.html)

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING



**Dr. Julie Bliss, Chair, Department of Nursing**

### Academic Writing

To me, the value of academic writing was reaffirmed by two recent experiences with professional literature. One was a book and the other was a research report. The book was an individual's review of the evolution of nursing in the United States that included a proposal for solving 'all that is problematic' about nursing education. The research report related to clinical competency discovered in a qualitative study from a non-English speaking country.

The documents were neither subjected to the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level Test nor submitted to Turnitin.com, but elements of both academic level of writing and the origin of some of the statements did come to mind. Each document became less credible when I tripped over misused words or sentence structure. I was not able to embrace the thinking of either author because of grammar, spelling, punctuation errors and misapplications of quoted materials. That is, the writing was sloppy.

Therefore, I implore you to consider the reader when you prepare a paper for a course assignment. Be fastidious about quotes, careful about your conclusions and have someone not familiar with your topic read your work before you submit it. Your thinking will be revealed and your thoughts conceivable if your writing is logical, proficient and scholarly.

**Happy Holidays, Dr. Bliss**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Dr. Kem Louie Director, Graduate Program**

Welcome to newly enrolled and current graduate students in the program. I trust you are adjusting to the academic requirements and excitement of returning to school. The GradGazette provides a means of communication for graduate students, alumni and faculty.

An exciting project referred to as the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) is underway in the profession. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has funded this program in collaboration with the American Association of Colleges in Nursing (AACN) and several institutions lead by the University Of North Carolina School Of Nursing. The purpose of QSEN is to prepare nurses who have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to continuously improve the quality and safety of the health care delivery system. The project has identified six (6) areas of competencies, of pre-licensure and graduate nursing students. These competencies were earlier derived from the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) reports on the needs to improve the environment in which nurse's work. Nurses and others have reported that the health care system has serious safety and quality problems.

These areas include patient centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidenced-based practice, quality improvement, safety and informatics. In each of the six areas, competencies address knowledge, skills and attitudes. In the second pilot phase, nursing schools have developed teaching plans/courses. In the recent third phase, there are development and evaluation methods to assess students and graduate students' achievement of the competencies. The project also hopes to incorporate these competencies in the content of textbooks, accreditation and certification standards, licensure exams and continued competence. The graduate program will be reviewing the six competencies and the work of QSEN to stay current in preparing future advanced practice nurses.

I speak of the work of QSEN because of its innovation and need to create change to improve the quality and safety of clients/families. Further information can be found at [www.QSEN.org](http://www.QSEN.org).

## **Alumni News**

### **Catherine Stevens, RN, MSN**

Presented her Master's Thesis  
at HUMC's Annual Nurse Research Day  
on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Catherine's poster will be on display at the  
APN Conference at HUMC Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> 2009.

## **Current Student News**

*Congratulations to Rose Pizzi for  
being awarded the Azzara Scholarship for  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. The scholarship is given by  
the Valley Hospital, in Ridgewood NJ.*

*In addition, she had the honor of having  
her picture used for a Valley Hospital  
advertisement published in the magazine,  
Advance for Nurses.*

### **Lisa Oldham , RN, MSN**

Completed work on the 10<sup>th</sup> version of  
NANDA's Nursing Diagnosis Handbook  
which will be published by Elsevier/Mosby  
by March 2010. She is the author of all the  
geriatric sections in the textbook.  
In addition, Lisa was promoted to  
Administrative Director of Clinical Systems  
for Saint Michael's Medical Center in  
Newark.

## **Let others know about the Graduate program Spring Open House**

**Feb 21, 2010 1:00 – 3:00 pm Student Center Ballroom**

**April 28, 2010 4:30 – 6:00 pm Student Center Ballroom**

**Learn more about Graduate Nursing Programs and  
admission requirements:**

**Adult Nurse Practitioner  
Nurse Education**

**Nursing Administration**

**School Nurse Certificate Program**

**Post Masters Adult Nurse Practitioner Certificate  
Program**

**Post Master's Nurse Education Certificate Program**

# **SCHOOL NURSE NEWS**

**Packets for student practica are available  
for pick up from:**

**Elaine- Hunziker Wing 240  
Dr. Joanna Hayden - Hunziker Wing 149**

**Beatrice S. Zimmermann MS, RN**

## **School Nurse For 33 Years**

**Has recently been active in the Rockland County, New York Hidden Children's Organization. The group was established in 1991. This year the meeting was held in Boston MA and about 400 individuals attended from all over the world. They are all Holocaust Survivors.**

**Beatrice had been a School Nurse for over 33 years in Montvale, NJ. She holds both her R.N. and a B.S.N. in Science and a Masters in Health Education.**

**In her life Beatrice has had the enjoyment of traveling to over 36 counties and amazingly speaks 4 different languages.**

**Beatrice retired from school nursing and now currently works as a school nurse student teaching supervisor at WPU.**

**We are happy to have her as part of our staff.**

# Student E-mail

It is important that all students in the Graduate Nursing Program and School Nurse Certification Program check their WPUNJ student e-mail on a regular basis each semester and throughout the summer months.

To access the William Paterson University Academic Calendar go to:

<http://ww2.wpunj.edu/adminsrv/pub-info/academiccal.htm>

**Classes for the Spring 2010 Semester  
begin on  
Tuesday, January 19, 2010**

## IMPORTANT WEBSITES

### Graduate Catalog

<http://ww2.wpunj.edu/graduate/pdf/GradCatalog.pdf>

### Graduate Nursing Home Page

<http://www.wpunj.edu/cos/nursing/grad/index.htm>

### Graduate Nursing Newsletter "Gradnurse Gazette"

<http://www.wpunj.edu/cos/nursing/newsletter/>

### Graduate Nursing Student Handbook

<http://www.wpunj.edu/cos/nursing/grad/handbook.html>

### Office of Graduate Admissions and Enrollment Services

<http://www.wpunj.edu/admissn/gradf/graduate/>

### On Line Application

[http://www.wpunj.edu/admissn/gradf/graduate/grad\\_apply\\_now.htm](http://www.wpunj.edu/admissn/gradf/graduate/grad_apply_now.htm)

## GNSO OFFICERS ARE NEEDED FOR 2010

If you are interested please contact  
**Dr. Kem Louie**  
973-720-3215  
[louiek@wpunj.edu](mailto:louiek@wpunj.edu)

### Overview of the GNSO

The Graduate Nursing Student Organization is the focal point for student participation in the governance of the Graduate Program in Nursing, and the Student Government Association of the University.

### Procedure

1. Student becomes a member upon enrollment in graduate course in the nursing program.
2. Each year students will be elected to hold executive, committee, and representative offices within the GNSO.
3. Students will plan and implement seminars and programs related to graduate student needs and interests. There will be a minimum of two such activities each year.
4. The Graduate Program Director will serve as advisor to the GNSO.
5. The President of the GNSO will serve as the representative to the Department of Nursing Advisory Board.
6. The President or delegate will serve as liaison to the Student Government Association.

Student representatives from the Graduate Program are non-voting members of the following faculty committees:

Curriculum Committee  
Retention, Tenure and Promotion Committee  
Appointment Committee  
Assessment Evaluation Committee



By "The "Writing Coach" Louise Cooper

Most writers and students share some basic things in common. We sometimes procrastinate rather than write. We say we are analyzing our assignment while we commute to work or school. We have anxious moments while we organize our family's schedule and evaluate the chances of meeting our writing deadline. We think about the assignment rather than writing it because we are using what we know about the topic to make connections from one idea to the next. Analyzing, evaluating and synthesizing information are key points to successful academic writing. It is something done before writing because we are writing for other scholars. We think, read, argue and write about ideas. We know the basics of good writing. We need to answer, the who, what, where, why and how about our topic. It is important to have an interesting and arguable thesis statement, and paragraphs that are coherent and focused.

Here are some tips for success while writing your academic paper. Use it as a checklist if you like.

Read the assignment. Your professor will give you a context or the parameters to record your questions and observations. Your mission is to follow these instructions and write within this context. This structure will keep you focused and enable you to complete your assignment on time. Start your research as soon as you receive your assignment. This is your first step in the writing process.

Remember your audience. Academic writing should present the reader with an informed argument. In order to create an informed argument, your writing should be analytical based on your readings rather than your personal opinion.

Use an outline. Use an outline, even a very basic one, on your computer to write short notes about your readings and how they relate to your topic. Do they reveal similar or different points of view? What are your observations? What perspectives

have you gained from what you have read? This process helps you to create major and minor points supporting your academic argument. Using an outline helps record this information and keeps you well organized.

References. Always acknowledge the ideas and direct quotes of other scholars even though you may have paraphrased them. Explore and develop new thoughts on the topic.

Proofreading and editing. After you finish writing, proofread your paper several times looking for specific writing elements. First, read the paper for content. Does the writing flow well? Read your paper aloud. Second, did you present a cohesive academic argument from beginning to end? Third, do you need to make corrections in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and syntax? Syntax is the way words are put together to form phrases according to the Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary.

Have someone who is reliable proofread your paper or check with your professor and ask about volunteer proofreaders on campus. Each time you make editorial changes, you need to save the paper and identify the latest version on your computer as well as print paper copies. You can record the date and time or use the method that works best for you. After you finish writing and editing, take a break from the paper for a day or two. Finally, proofread one more time, make final changes, and submit the paper on time. End the writing process with a reward, a token of something you will remember for a job well done.

Students write academic papers for themselves, their fellow students and their professors about a topic of interest, something they would like to explore and to learn more. They continue to analyze, evaluate and synthesize even after they turn in their academic papers because they are scholars and they think about how this paper is one more building block to a successful career in the near future.

# SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS

## Debra Dunn, RN, BSN

There are many different types of medical and surgical programs to assist developing countries in the healthcare arena. For the past 13 years, I have been collecting opened but unused surgical supplies and unused equipment from my operating room and giving them to various charitable organizations. Over the years, these items have helped people who live in countries such as Armenia, China, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua. I always said that one day I would like to participate in a surgical mission to directly impact the lives of people who live without healthcare resources. October 29, 2009 – November 4, 2009 I was able to fulfill my desire.

Healing the Children, MidAtlantic, is an organization that reaches out with supplies and volunteers to improve the health of people in various countries. I was one of 18 people who went to Dominican Republic to be a circulating nurse for pediatric urological surgical candidates. Prior to our arrival, an ENT surgical team from Healing the Children, Mid-Atlantic, was finishing up their week of surgeries. We performed approximately 18 surgeries on children ranging in age from 7 months old to 17 years old. The team was surprised by the number of hypospadias repairs that were needed. In addition, we did circumcisions, a fistula repair (1 year post-op from hypospadias repair the year before), a urethral stricturoplasty, and exploratory laparotomy on a 2-year old for a mass). Patients who could not be cared for in such a setting will be sent to the United States for surgery once a charitable hospital and home can be found. One such child had a large hemangioma on his penis, requiring extensive repair.

The team consisted of a pediatric urologist attending surgeon from Downstate (in Brooklyn) and his resident, another resident from Georgia, a CRNA and anesthesiologist from Philadelphia area, an anesthesiologist and her resident from Mt. Sinai, 8 nurses and scrub technicians from New Jersey and New York, and 2 administrators from Healing the Children. The hospital is owned by a resort complex and provides services for the employees of the resort and sugar cane plantations on the island that are also owned by the resort complex owners. These owners gave up their hospital to Healing the Children for 2 weeks and provided room and board for the volunteers. Volunteers paid their airfare to the Dominican Republic.

The operating rooms (2) were sparse and contained the bare essentials. There was an OR table that was operated manually. We brought our own electrocautery machines and disposable supplies. Although an autoclave is operable, it

belongs to the hospital and was minimally available to us. Everything was soaked in Cidex to render it sterile for use.

The anesthesia machines and monitors were both relatively new, although we had a problem with CO2 readouts with one of them and they were both in Spanish, requiring translators.

Although I was a novice on this mission, almost everyone else has served on at least 3 other missions. Some of the nurses are retired and go on 2 missions a year. I have to say that I am “hooked” now as well. There are no words to express the joy of knowing the good you do volunteering in such missions. The last day, the last case, I found myself getting choked up. I looked at the attending surgeon, and saw the exact same feelings on his face. I was truly sorry it was over when it ended. The icing on the cake is the camaraderie with the people you work with. Eighteen strangers are put together to make a team. Maybe 1 or 2 people know each other from home or from other missions, but the bulk of people are strangers to each other. After work, we spent many hours together getting know each other. Heartfelt goodbyes were the result at the airport as we boarded our flights to go back home.

## Craig Sorkin, RN, BSN

### *Characterization of Patients Utilizing an Indigent Medical Clinic*

#### **Nadine Aktan, PhD, RN, FNP-BC**

Graduate faculty member Nadine Aktan and graduate student Craig Sorkin are collaborating with an epidemiologist on a clinical database project at Eva’s Village in Paterson, New Jersey.

Once this database has been completed, it will allow all members of the multidisciplinary team to have a better understanding as to the demographics of the target population, diagnoses managed, procedures performed, and medications prescribed or dispensed at the clinic.

The results will not only allow for a better understanding of the acute and chronic health care needs of the population served, but they will also facilitate future planning which includes securing grant funding to be able to continue to provide free health care services to the medically indigent of the community. Once data is analyzed, it will be prepared for publication and professional presentation.

## Need for Nursing Faculty Inspires Grant Educational Funding



**Dr. Kem Louie, Project Director, Tara Parker, Rusti Restaino, Dr. Claire Donaghy, Faculty Mentor**

Thanks to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the NJ Nursing Initiative Faculty Preparation Program is underway at William Paterson University to assist highly motivated students to pursue a career in becoming a Nurse Faculty member in New Jersey.

The Foundation has awarded \$2.5 million to assist a collaborative comprising of four state Colleges and Universities, William Paterson University, lead agency; Kean University, Richard Stockton State College and The College New Jersey. All will join together and in a 4 year project endeavor. Each partner school has selected and awarded two scholars for a total of 8 for Cohort I. The second cohort of 6 scholars will be selected May 2010.

At the completion of the program a total of 14 graduate nurses will have been enrolled into the program affording them the opportunity to obtain their career goals as Nurse Educators and eligibility for an APN license in New Jersey. Assistance to obtain a Masters Degree in Nursing includes tuition, fees, books, a laptop computer and a \$50,000 living stipend for two years. Upon graduation, the scholars are required to teach in a nursing school in NJ for three years.

The program also provides mentoring and acculturation activities to help prepare the scholars for the faculty role. The scholars will participate in

activities to learn more about the faculty role in higher education. Planned activities include, attending annual meetings at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, developing a teaching portfolio, a mentoring relationship with an experienced faculty member, just to name a few. Each partner school has a faculty mentor to guide the scholars in their coursework and their future role as a nurse educator.

Dr. Kem Louie, of WPU and the Project Director of the NJ Nursing Initiative Faculty Preparation Program and Associate Professor, states "There are several reasons for the nurse faculty shortage. Current nursing faculty are near retirement and in addition, fewer nurses are interested in nurse faculty as a career option. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is helping to bring awareness to this problem and doing their part to get more nurses into the rewarding career of becoming a Nurse Educator".

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the collaborating group of William Paterson University, Kean College, Richard Stockton State College and The College New Jersey are extremely excited about the opportunity to help to alleviate the nurse educator shortage.

William Paterson University is pleased to announce that Tara Parker, BSN and Mary (Rusti) Restaino, BSN are the proud recipients for this year's scholarship awards. Dr. Claire Donaghy, Associate Professor Nursing is the faculty mentor. Scholarship applications are now available. Potential applicants for the last cohort must be approved as a matriculated student in the graduate Nursing Program and submit a scholarship application no later than May 1, 2010 for individuals to start this exciting program in fall 2010. You may contact Dr. Kem Louie, Project Director, and New Jersey Nursing Initiative Faculty Preparation Program at William Paterson University at [louiek@wpunj.edu](mailto:louiek@wpunj.edu) or Valarie at 973-720-3493 to receive further information on eligibility requirements.

The Graduate Program in Nursing  
Welcomes ....

Valarie



Valarie is the secretary to the Robert Wood Johnson  
Foundation Grant for the New Jersey Nursing  
Initiative Faculty Preparation Program

For information on the New Jersey Initiative Faculty  
Preparation Program please contact  
Valarie at 973-720-3493



## Spring 2010 Registration

**Registration Timetables**  
Are available online at:

<http://ww2.wpunj.edu/adminsrv/registra/registration2.htm>

Please contact Dr. Kem Louie,  
Graduate Program Director for  
advisement prior to registering for  
classes

973-720-3215  
louiek@wpunj.edu

### Graduate Nursing Student Research Forum

**December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**Time: 5:00-7:00 pm**  
**Room 120**

Hear the Graduate Students  
present their Research Thesis

All Graduate Students and Faculty are invited

