

25 YEARS | Celebrating a Generation of Nursing

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Our Roots

A brief history of nursing education in Cowley County

Nursing education has existed in Cowley County for over a century. In keeping with a trend of proliferation of hospitals and hospital nursing schools in the United States, schools were established in Arkansas City and Winfield as early as 1899. At that time, nursing students provided valuable service as hospital staff, and upon graduation, they found employment as private duty nurses caring for people in their homes.

Between 1899 and 1968, Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Arkansas City, Winfield Hospital Training School for Nurses, the St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, Pilcher's Surgical Home (later

renamed Winfield Hospital) training school for nurses and William Newton Memorial Hospital all provided hospital-based nursing education. In 1975, St. John's College began offering an associate degree in nursing, graduating its first class of ADN graduates in 1977. When the college became a baccalaureate degree granting institution in 1980, the faculty began to develop a bachelor of science in nursing curriculum. In 1986 St. John's College was closed before the BSN program could be fully implemented.

In 1986, Southwestern College began offering the BSN degree, graduating its first class of five

nursing students in May 1987. Since that time, nearly 525 students have graduated from the program. The program's graduates live and work in a wide geographic dispersion... from Arizona to Tennessee, from California to South Dakota to Delaware, and internationally. Many are practicing in Kansas and surrounding states, contributing in positive ways to the health and wellness of their communities.

For a complete history of nursing education in Cowley County, go to sckans.edu/nursing25.

Join the Celebration

Save the date for the Department of Nursing's celebration of 25 years of nursing education. A luncheon is planned for April 30 on the Southwestern College campus. We will have a guest speaker and look at nursing education, then and now. Of course there will also be the chance to see friends and faculty. We hope you can make it to our celebration!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- 12:30 Registration and social time
- 1:00 Welcome and opening remarks
- 1:15 Luncheon
Featured speaker: Don R. Hirschman, CRNA, MHA, ND
- 2:20 Break
- 2:40 Panel discussion: SC nursing alumni and faculty will share their experiences and insights
- 3:30 Student perspectives
- 4:00 Discussion and wrap up

Questions? E-mail Holly Peterson at holly.peterson@sckans.edu



FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

Jane Schlickau

Over the past several years I have developed an interest in global health and nursing. In my travels to Central Asia, I have become acquainted with nurses who currently struggle with their professional identities in the developing countries of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, where nursing is considered a low status occupation. A license is not required; rather, the nurse is certified by his or her educational institution. Because all entry level nursing education is controlled by physicians (called “doctors”) in Kyrgyzstan, nursing is not recognized as a scientific specialty, and nurses in general are not allowed to pursue advanced degrees. Although a few nurse educators teach at the university level, doctors continue to control the nursing education system and teach in university nursing programs. While there are now a few nurses who teach nursing foundations, all of the curriculum and teachers are under the control of doctors. Students are taught nursing from the perspective of a doctor.

My friend and colleague, Guljahan Pirnazarova, is the first nurse in her country who has been allowed to pursue an advanced degree, and it was only approved because she also has a university degree in education. Obviously, nursing is viewed from a completely different perspective in Kyrgyzstan.

For more information about this story, go to sckans.edu/nursing25.

SC and WNMH Collaborate for Competency

By Jane Schlickau

For the past four years, Southwestern College and William Newton Memorial Hospital (WNMH) have teamed up to facilitate competency in evidence-based skills to ensure quality outcomes. Senior nursing students, as part of their nursing management course work, have collaborated with nurse managers at WNMH to implement “competency fairs” in an effort to create optimal learning experiences for staff that emphasize evidence-based nursing practice. Faculty and managers alike have recognized this experience as a way to encourage collaboration between managers and students, as well to facilitate learning for staff and students.

The competency fairs are based on a list of competencies derived from assessment of hospital outcomes. “High-risk/high-frequency” and “low-risk/low-frequency” procedures are always included, and new or “hot” topics from accreditation and practice literature are added each year.

Students plan the fairs, and select the individual competencies each student will address. They then decide on a theme for the event, making sure to inject fun into the activities. For example, the theme for the inaugural fair was “Team Competency,” and each student wore a favorite team logo shirt. Another theme was “Builders Building Competencies,” based on the Southwestern College Moundbuilder sports

teams. Toy construction trucks and tools were used as decorations. For the “Competency Luau,” Hawaiian shirts and luau decorations were used. For the “Competency Casino” students dressed as casino dealers. A food table was set up in the waiting area for staff to eat on a come and go basis.

Food provided by the hospital food service department addressed the themes. Examples included little smokies, fruit kebobs, mini hamburgers and hot dogs, cupcakes, popcorn, and punch. This year (2011), “Kick-Start Your Competency” features a biker theme.

The competency fairs receive positive evaluations by both staff and students. Staff are provided with research-based information, and students become content “experts” on the individual competencies they present.

To learn more about the SC/WNH competency fairs, go to sckans.edu/nursing25.





Students from the class of 2009

SC Nursing Program to Reorganize

The nursing program at Southwestern College has enjoyed a quarter century of nursing education excellence, and our graduates continue to provide quality health care regionally and nationally.

However, after careful analysis of the health care education climate and its complexities, the decision has been made by the college's Board of Trustees to discontinue the prelicensure program on the main campus at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Because there are more nursing programs per capita in Kansas than in most other states, and because our profession is facing a critical shortage of qualified faculty, the trustees determined that the college's current resources will no longer be able to support the prelicensure program. Although our current faculty are well-qualified, it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit additional faculty for each of the nursing specialty areas.

The Southwestern college nursing program continues to provide a quality educational experience for its students, and our graduates are highly regarded among their employers. We have enjoyed a 25-year relationship with the Winfield and surrounding communities that has been mutually beneficial. We are proud of our graduates, numbering nearly 525, and are particularly proud of the excellent nursing care and leadership provided by them at health care facilities in the region. We are confident they will continue to contribute to the health and well-being of the communities they serve for decades to come.

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

Melanie Johnson

For the past two years, the nursing department has offered a course titled "Topics: Introduction to Nursing and Health Care" to help freshmen and sophomore students explore careers in health care. Students who are curious about health care or who have not yet declared a major have had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge about career opportunities in health care, and to have observational experiences in health care settings. The course has an emphasis on professional nursing roles and introduces the students to the language of health care: medical terminology.

During the course, students address their current assumptions about roles of health care members and then compare how their attitudes or impressions have changed over the course and as a result of their observational experiences. In addition, students explore how various health care professionals contribute to the health care system, including nursing. The community has responded favorably to requests for observational rotations, which include Newton Memorial Hospital surgical department, physical therapy department, cancer center, and dialysis center; Winfield Chiropractic; Dr. David Parsons dentistry; Dr. Daniel Miller at Sunflower OB-GYN; Kansas Veterans Home; and the Behavioral Health Unit in Wellington. We are very appreciative of the time and efforts of our community health members in meeting the educational needs of our students.

PS PERSPECTIVE

RN-BSN Completion by Jane Schlickau

We began our RN-BSN program at Professional Studies in Wichita in 1997. We have been completely on-line since 2006. From the very beginning we have worked to be innovative while being firmly grounded. The program builds upon previous knowledge and experience and is intense and fast-paced.

We offer the BSN through a unique rotating class schedule, allowing for flexibility in completion. One can complete the degree as quickly as 18 to 24 months, but learners can also spread classes out over several years if desired.

The BSN degree consists of 45 hours of nursing including Statistics, Economics, and a capstone course titled Responsibility for the Future. Fifteen hours of electives are required, and if learners have credits from four-year institutions, we can also look at the possibility of course substitutions for the upper division work.

Our learners have access to an on-line writing lab to assist with writing papers, answering questions, or brainstorming ideas. Every learner has access to Southwestern College's impressive on-ground library on the main campus and our online library. Not only do learners have access to an extensive list of resources but it is easy to access online and on ground. We also have

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The Practice Doctorate in Nursing

Currently in Kansas, to practice as an advanced practice nurse, or in a faculty role, a master's degree in nursing is required. Many of our program's graduates have pursued graduate degrees, filling vital roles in clinical or academic settings. Several years ago, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) voted to endorse a decision to move the current level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice from the master's degree to the doctorate-level by the year 2015. This endorsement was preceded by almost three years of research and consensus-building by an AACN task force charged with examining the need for the practice doctorate with a variety of stakeholder groups. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is expected to become the standard for advanced nursing practice.

Nurses are increasingly recognizing the need for advanced levels of education for a variety of reasons. These include the rapid expansion of knowledge and underlying practice, the increased complexity of patient care, national concerns about quality and safety, and the increasing education expectations for other members of the health-care team. In March 2010, 120 DNP programs enrolled students at schools of nursing nationwide, and additional 161 DNP programs were in the planning stages. From 2008 to 2009, the number of students enrolled in DNP programs increased from 3,415 to 5,165.

Source: American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2010. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Fact Sheet. Retrieved from: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Media/FactSheets/dnp.htm>

Nursing Fast Facts

- + According to the 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses conducted by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), nursing is the nation's largest health care profession with more than 3 million registered nurses nationwide.
- + More than 630 RN-to-BSN programs are available nationwide, including more than 390 programs that are offered at least partially online.
- + In December 2009, workforce analysts with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected that more than 581,500 new RN positions will be created through 2018, increasing the RN workforce by 22%.
- + Employment of RNs is expected to grow much faster than the average (increase 20 percent or more) when compared to all other professions.
- + The U.S. nursing shortage is projected to grow to 260,000 registered nurses by 2025.

Source: American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2010. Nursing shortage fact sheet and Creating a more highly qualified nursing workforce fact sheet. Retrieved from: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Media/FactSheets/NursingShortage.htm>

Opinion Leaders Value Nursing's Contributions

According to a joint Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-Gallup study, large majorities of opinion leaders said they would like to see nurses have more influence in a large number of areas, including reducing medical errors and improving patient safety (90%); improving quality of care (89%); promoting wellness and expanding preventive care (86%); improving health care efficiency and reducing costs (84%); coordinating care through the health care system (83%); helping the health care system adapt to an aging population (83%); and increasing access to health care (74%).

These are key findings from the study, which surveyed 1,500 opinion leaders about the role nurses are playing, and should play, as health reform advances. The study examined the level of trust and confidence America's opinion leaders have in nurses, how much they expect nurses to influence health reform, and the barriers that diminish nurses' ability to contribute to improvements in policies and management of health systems and services. It also addressed actions these opinion leaders think would help ensure that nurses can take on more leadership in improving health status and delivering health care services. More information is available on the Robert Wood Johnson website.

Source:

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Gallup Healthcare Consulting. (2010). Nursing leadership from bedside to boardroom. Retrieved from: <http://tiny.cc/fymh81>

Future of Nursing Campaign for Action (2011). Nurses should have more influence in planning, developing policy, and management. Retrieved from: <http://tiny.cc/nfzzy>



SC graduates from the classes of 2000 and 2003 get practical experience at Kansas Veteran's Home in Winfield.

librarians dedicated just for our Professional Studies learners. They hold regular hours on the main campus and have online office hours. They are extremely knowledgeable and very helpful.

In our unique program, learning takes place in multiple settings and through multiple experiences. We endorse the knowledge adult students bring to the educational setting. Therefore, the goal is that learning motivated by the curriculum is facilitated by new content. Learners are not asked to repeat coursework from previous nursing programs.

Some comments from learners include...

"I can't tell you how much I truly appreciate your time and quick e-mail responses. I was able to qualify and register at the last minute."

Another commented, "I want to express how impressed I am with your customer service."

And another learner said, "I started off scared and unsure of myself. Your classes helped me build up my self confidence. I feel so much better about my decision to go back to school."

A LOOK BACK

In 1986, the year SC began its nursing program, the median registered nurse salary was \$23,290.

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

Melinda Current

As health care facilities have gone to computerized documentation, it has become more challenging to provide students with a meaningful in-class experience to help them learn the skills of documentation. This semester, students are able to practice computer documentation on a realistic “patient” chart. Through a subscription with Evolve Learning Services, the students have access to an electronic medical record (EMR) that permits documentation on flow sheets, medication administration records (MAR), and nursing notes. The students are also able to view documents that you would find in a typical patient chart such as lab reports, operative reports, history and physical, and physicians’ orders. Students are able to add physicians’ orders and update the MAR as needed to fit the learning experience. The patient charts are also linked to simulated learning experiences which allow the students the ability to see how patient care and documentation are linked together. At the end of the simulation exercise, students update and save their charting through the EMR and are able to submit it to the instructor for a grade. For a demonstration of the EMR or any of our simulated learning experiences, please feel free to contact Melinda Current at 620-229-6322.

Nursing in the Future

Although the on-campus Southwestern College Department of Nursing will not continue into the future, our graduates will continue to provide health care for decades to come. What will the nursing practice environment of the future look like? With national reports calling for improvements in the health care system, and with the recent passage of the Affordable Health Care Act, attention is now focused on providing higher quality, safer, more affordable, and more accessible health care. Increasingly, nursing is being recognized for the role it can play in addressing some of the nation’s health priorities. According to “*The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*,” a report released last fall by the Institute of Medicine and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, nurses will be called upon to take greater responsibility in health care (RWJ/IOM, 2010). This report, completed after two years of study and deliberations, presents four key messages regarding the future of nursing, including:

1. Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
2. Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
3. Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
4. Effective workforce planning and policy making require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

The report is endorsed by the Tri-Council for nursing, an alliance of four autonomous nursing organizations: the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Nurses’ Association, American Organization of Nurse Executives, and the National League for Nursing. It is exciting to see that nursing’s contributions to high-quality, patient-focused care are widely recognized. In order to respond effectively to the challenges identified in the IOM report, nursing will, indeed, need to work collaboratively in advancing the report’s recommendations and taking the lead in transforming the health care system.

For more information about this story go to sckans.edu/nursing25.

Reference: *Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing at the Institute of Medicine; Institute of Medicine. (2010). The future of nursing: Leading change, Advancing Health. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.*

Highlights from the 25th Anniversary Survey

Many of you completed our online survey, and here are a few of the highlights. For the complete results – see the story at sckans.edu/nursing25

Most memorable moments from your time in nursing school...

- Awaiting our final grades for graduation in the hallway and realizing how far we had all come together as individuals and as a team
- All the long nights spent studying after the long day filled with clinicals, school, basketball practice, etc. ...Sitting in the family room of Wesley Hospital with Melinda Current and crying (which I do not do) because I couldn't figure out a math problem. You have to be a nurse to truly understand that I was crying for so much ...
- There are several memorable moments...but I did realize early that a very challenging and rewarding career was in store.
- ...I still remember during our ICU rotation we would try to figure out ways to avoid our instructor Winnie Lacey's really hard questions. We'd be on the lookout and warn each other when she was coming and get really busy with our patients.
- I was the only male in the class and was made an "Honorary One of The Girls" so I would "fit in"...

What keeps you passionate about nursing?

- The ability to help/care for others and their loved ones
- Patients and students; offering of self
- I love seeing kids smile and connecting with the families as a person and not just as their nurse.
- Nursing is an awesome career! There are so many opportunities and choices and no two days are alike. My favorite thing is the ability to step into people's lives and hopefully make a difference. ...

How has nursing changed since you were in nursing school?

- Technology, computer charting, increase in paperwork
- It continues to improve and become more challenging both physically and mentally!
- The economy has changed the focus of nursing and perhaps the motivation for becoming a nurse
- Necessity of increasing nursing educational standards
- Change! It continues to improve and become more challenging both physically and mentally!

Of those completing the survey:

- 100% are employed in nursing
- 35.3% have attended graduate school
- 82% are members of professional organizations, hold professional certifications or are involved in health-care related community service.



SC Department of Nursing
100 COLLEGE ST.
WINFIELD, KS 67156-2499



25th Nursing Anniversary Celebration Registration

April 30, 2011, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Wroten Hall, Southwestern College Campus, Winfield

Cost of the event is \$20. Please send registration form and payment **by April 20** to:

SC Department of Nursing | 100 College | Winfield, KS, 67156

[Or register online at sckans.edu/nursing25](http://sckans.edu/nursing25)

NAME _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ NAME OF GUEST _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED