MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR

Greetings alumni and friends! A year ago, I wrote my first newsletter message, and now I write to update you on the past year with my last message as the interim director of the WMU Bronson School of Nursing. My time here has been short, but productive and satisfying.

I have enjoyed working with a talented group of faculty members who have a desire to excel, while making a difference in the lives of students and bringing the school to ever higher levels of distinction. Students in turn are drawn from a strong pool of applicants and are of the highest caliber. Very engaged, they challenge us and themselves.

As this newsletter illustrates, our faculty, staff, students and alumni are active and industrious, with the support and direction of long-term strategic and innovative planning. Aligned with University and College of Health and Human Services initiatives, nursing faculty engaged in strategic planning and implementation throughout 2014. As part of this, we are discussing the development of a program for non-nurse bachelor’s degree holders who wish to enter nursing as a second career.

Another innovative direction the faculty has taken is to use simulation more systematically and extensively as an integral part of the curriculum. Toward that end, we have purchased a new, high fidelity SimBaby manikin, thanks to generous donors, and will purchase others as funds become available. We are also working to create and implement inter-professional teaching, learning and research experiences.

As I end my term, I thank you all for your support, including the community advisory board for great advice, and the faculty for their welcome, dedication, hard work and patience as I found my way in this new environment. I am proud of the advances we have made, and I trust that the school will continue to grow and flourish.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY DAY

On Tuesday, August 26, Bronson School of Nursing students, faculty and staff gathered for the annual fall Assembly Day. This event is an opportunity to welcome everyone back and to provide students with orientation, skills review, updates on new developments, and meetings with their instructors and advisors. Students also met with a variety of employers and recruiters about potential employment opportunities. All in all, the day was an informative and enjoyable way to begin a new year of good, hard work and study.

SAVE THE DATE

Bronson School of Nursing Alumni Association Events

Annual Brunch
Oct. 10, 2015

Alumni Bazaar
Nov. 13, 2015

(both held at the Gilmore Education Center, Bronson Hospital)
WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Assistant Professor Kelley Pattison, Ph.D. has worked as a health care professional in the Kalamazoo area for 30 years. Her teaching experience includes nursing research, self-health/wellness and pharmacology. She has also worked as a mentor and educator for nurses and physicians as a cardiac clinical nurse specialist at Borgess Medical Center. Her clinical interest and experience involves the care of adult patients in medical and surgical areas, especially cardiac and critical care.

Coordinator of Nursing Clinical Operations Jodi Terpstra, M.S.N. has considerable experience in patient care, education and nursing administration in both ambulatory and acute care settings. She has worked as a health care professional for 20 years and as a clinical nursing instructor for the past three years. She received her master’s degree in nursing education from North Dakota State University, focusing on end-of-life issues with Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Faculty Specialist II Joanne DeWit has maintained a nursing practice that spans more than 33 years and incorporates a breadth of experiences, including extensive work in elder care and medical surgical nursing. Her teaching experience includes nursing fundamentals, medical/surgical nursing and nursing pediatrics. DeWit is a recent graduate of the Bronson School of Nursing master’s program and received a WMU Department Graduate Student Teaching Effectiveness Award in February 2014.

FACULTY AND STAFF RECEIVE ANNUAL COLLEGE AWARDS

On Friday, Dec. 5, Dean Earlie M. Washington hosted a gathering to honor recipients of College of Health and Human Services annual faculty and staff awards. The Bronson School of Nursing was well-represented at this event with both a faculty and staff member in the spotlight.

Teaching Excellence Award

Master Faculty Specialist Mary Stahl was selected from among eight nominees to receive the 2013-14 Teaching Excellence Award.

Whether in the classroom, laboratory or clinical setting, Stahl is known to create a safe learning environment, allowing for discovery learning. She is enthusiastic and prepared, continually updating her methods and content, and using evidence based research to ensure that her course and clinical content are current.

“Her exemplary teaching abilities have helped shape my current career...,“ wrote a former student and mentee. “Most importantly, it was with her that I learned to truly listen to my patients; to sit down at the bedside and speak to my patients as human beings.”

In summary, wrote a nominator, “Mary is an excellent educator... She makes learning exciting which serves to motivate students to do their best work.”

Read more at www.wmich.edu/hhs/stahl-teaching-award.

Outstanding Customer Service Award

Office Associate Kathy Gerow received the Outstanding Customer Service Award for best exemplifying the college’s eight goals for customer service. Working with a diverse population of students, parents, community members, faculty and staff, Gerow treats individuals as if their concerns are her top priority.

She consistently represents the Bronson School of Nursing in a professional manner. In particular, she is known to be an excellent listener and uses this skill to help others solve problems productively.

In addition, she is as quick and generous with her appreciation as she is with her assistance. Her philosophy seems to be one of helping others and the school; listening to and accepting everyone; providing very high quality work; making things run smoothly; and bringing joy to those around her.

Read more at www.wmich.edu/hhs/gerow-service-award.
STUDENT AND PROGRAM NEWS

STUDENTS SCORE BOOKS IN SPELLING BEE

This past Nov. 19, Master Faculty Specialist Wendy Kershner cheered on a student nursing team in the Kalamazoo Public Library sponsored Great Grown-Up Spelling Bee. The early child literacy program Ready to Read uses proceeds from this event to purchase books for at-risk children in Kalamazoo County.

Teams are made of eight adults: two brave spellers and six outrageously enthusiastic cheerleaders. At the beginning of the first round, a team takes the stage to perform a brief cheer, skit, song or dance. Spellers compete in two 60-second rounds of fast-paced spelling competition. Prizes are awarded for best spelling, best costume, and most enthusiastic, creative performance. All participating groups receive books to distribute.

The Bronson School of Nursing team participated in support of alumna Shawn Fields, B.S.N. ’12 and her business Twenty Hands, a maternal infant health program in Kalamazoo County. Nurses and social workers who work for Fields will spread the literacy message and encourage parents to read to their children by distributing the books at home visits.

Congratulations and thanks to Kershner and the student team, pictured left to right: Joan Czuba, Rubi Gonzalez, Lindsay King, Samantha Kay, Rachel LaClear, Samantha Kulhanek, Lindsey LaClear, Emily Moreland.

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES AN EVENT-FULL CALENDAR

Scholarship awards

Our latest event was the Scholarship Award Reception, honoring 2014-15 scholarship donors and recipients on Nov. 12. We are deeply grateful to many donors for their generous support, and very proud of our dedicated, accomplished students. Please visit wmich.edu/nursing to view the reception program, with a full listing of donors and recipients.

Annual scholarly event

Thanks to Upsilon Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing for co-sponsoring last spring’s scholarly event the afternoon of April 8 in Western’s Bernhard Center. The overall theme of the event was “Shaping the Future of Nursing through Healthcare Reform.” University of Detroit Mercy Assistant Professor Katherine Moran (pictured) delivered the keynote: “The Affordable Care Act and the Patient-Centered Medical Home: Implications for Nursing.” Student nurses also spoke on related research topics and presented their research posters.

Congrats to April ‘14 grads

Also last spring, on April 25, the school held the B.S.N. Pinning Ceremony for the graduating class pictured here. Congratulations to these professionals, some of our newest alumni.

STUDY ABROAD

For several summers, Professor Mary Lagerwey has led the Live and Learn in the Netherlands study abroad collaboration with Utrecht University. Through this program, students compare clinical practices with students and faculty from around the world and select from among such classes as pediatric oncology, nursing management, depression management, kinesiology, healthy aging and stroke management in an international summer school experience.

This past fall, students from Utrecht visited Western. In the photo, visitors Charlotte (Lotte) Knoops, left, and Tessa Elisabeth Smits, right, pose with Dr. Lagerwey. For more information about this study abroad, contact Dr. Mary Lagerwey at (269) 387-8167 or mary.lagerwey@wmich.edu.
ALUMNI NEWS AND UPDATES

ALUMNA HONORED FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE

At the Bronson Hospital Nurses’ Week Excellence in Nursing Celebration on May 6, 2014, the Bronson School of Nursing Alumni Association again awarded $500 to a BSON graduate who was nominated and selected by peers for outstanding nursing service within the Bronson Healthcare Group system. Congratulations go to Shana Pastrana, B.S.N. ’10, who received the 2014 Nursing Excellence Award for the special attention and support she gives to help people with recovery and/or management of chronic health problems as a case manager.

ANNUAL BAZAAR RAISES FUNDS AND GOOD FEELINGS

Once again, Marie McLeieer organized a successful Bronson Bazaar on Friday Nov. 7, 2014, with the event netting over $600! Also again this year, we enjoyed the helpful, youthful presence of Bronson School of Nursing Student Nurse Association members, led by Michelle Pyard with support from Melissa Gevman, Julie Vander Noot and Sue Haas from Bronson Volunteer Services set up a booth with designer items and contributed wrapped packages to the mystery present table, which sold out in just two hours.

We are very grateful to all who gave time and donated or purchased items, including alumni Marie McLeieer ’55, Jackie Wylie ’62, Dick ’86 and Betty ’51 VanderMolen, Kay Hanson ’64, Louise Smith ’53, Donna Meninga ’66, Peg Newhouse ’62, and Marilyn Ely ’51. With shared love, joy and laughter, this event was indeed a fun raiser.

Please mark your calendars for the 2015 bazaar on Nov. 13

CLASS OF ’64 REUNITES

The class of 1964 graduated 50 nurses. Eight have passed away, but everyone else was found and contacted about the 50th Anniversary Celebration this past September. The class enjoyed breakfast at the Bronson Hospital Gilmore Center and then a hospital tour led by Nurse Manager Nancy Radcliff. Next, nursing faculty member Sally Vliem led them on a tour of the WMU Health and Human Services building, demonstrated a simulation, and updated the group as to current nursing classes. The group closed a memorable day with a meal—and time to chat and renew friendship—at the Ladies Library Association Building.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNA NAMED BRILLIANT NEW INVESTIGATOR

Bronson School of Nursing alumna Dr. Heather Tubbs Cooley ’03, inducted into the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Alumni Academy in 2010, was named the 2014 Brilliant New Investigator for the prestigious Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science. The award was presented to her at the council’s 2014 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research conference in Washington, D.C. Sept. 18–20.

For more information about Tubbs Cooley, visit www.bit.ly/1xyGcqK.

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2014 OUTSTANDING ALUMNA INFLUENCES

PEDIATRIC HEALTH

In 1999, the year Dr. Imelda Reyes earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, she was honored as WMU’s Student Employee of the Year. She went on to earn a master’s degree in public health in 2001 and then entered the U. S. Navy as an officer. There, she served as a health care administrator for five years—including her final command as the Chief Financial Officer for Naval Hospital Cherry Point in North Carolina—and earned commendation medals in 2004 and 2006.

In 2007, Reyes continued her education, earning credentials as both a family and pediatric nurse practitioner and completing a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree by 2012. Currently, she serves as assistant clinical professor and coordinator of the highly ranked pediatric nurse practitioner program at Emory University. She also provides pediatric primary health care at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, strengthening critical clinical partnerships, and is a speaker for Strong4Life, a statewide training campaign to prevent childhood obesity.

Through teaching, leadership and scholarship, Reyes is influencing child and adolescent health in Georgia and beyond. She is active on the national level with the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and is president-elect for the Georgia chapter. Her current memberships also include the Association of Faculties of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

ALUMNI UPDATES IN BRIEF

Thanks to these alumni—currently or formerly of Michigan—who sent their updates to us via the Web.

Heidi Elizabeth Furney, B.S.N. ‘11 from Scotts is working as a staff nurse with Bronson Healthcare Group.

Polly Ostrander Reich, R.N., Diploma ’85 from Plymouth has been with the University of Michigan Livonia Surgery Center for 28 years.

Margaret Ann (Simmons) Brown, R.N., Diploma ’92 from Allegan has been working at Allegan General Hospital for 20 years, currently as Quality Manager for Clinical Education and Emergency Preparedness.

Nancy Staples, R.N. ’79; B.S. ’86 is living in Waldo, Florida. and is currently a Ventricular Assist Device and Research Coordinator with Shands at University of Florida Hospital. She was director of the Florida Heart Institute in Orlando, Florida for eight years.

Amy M. (Scott) Galle, R.N., Diploma ’87 from Cedar Springs is a Transplant Coordinator with Spectrum Health DeVos Heart and Lung Specialized Care Clinic, and has been employed there more than 28 years.

James Sweat, R.N., Diploma ’93 lives in Grand Rapids and has been a nurse educator with Spectrum Health and adjunct faculty with Grand Valley State University for 10 years.

RECENT GRADS SELECTED FOR AWARDS

Each year, the WMU Graduate Studies Council honors graduate students with two awards. Eligible students are nominated by departments and selected as all-University or department award recipients.

Joanne DeWit, M.S.N. ‘13 received a 2013-14 Department Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award, which recognizes effective teaching by graduate students as assistants to faculty, as independent instructors, or in other capacities that directly promote and facilitate student learning. DeWit is currently serving a term appointment as a faculty specialist II in the Bronson School of Nursing.

Elissa Allen, M.S.N. ’13 was selected to receive a 2013-14 Department Graduate Student Research and Creative Scholar Award in recognition of her contributions to the scholarly and artistic productivity of WMU as a graduate student. Allen is a pediatric nurse, currently studying for her doctorate.

SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF

Janet Stone Stout ’61—November 2014
Janice Bear Erskine ‘62—October 28
Shirley Marks Beane ’56—September 2014
Barbara Emerson Burgess ’85—August 2014
Theresa Drenth Cunningham ’49—August 2014
Winifred Mein Terpstra ’44—July 2014
Lois Jean Wardwell Swift ’48—May 2014
Winifred Matthews Beard ’43—April 2014
Janice Zaleski Straubel ’78—March 2014
Jennie Dykstra Brink ’35—January 2014
Corene Trevelyn Johnston Klauda ’64—April 2010
Faith Abel ’64
Helen Ammarman
Linda Anderson ’89
Mr. and Mrs. Mark B. Anderson
Thomas Arbanas
Leanne Ash
Shannon Ashmus
Nancy ’73 and Gary Ausema
In honor of Ms. Janelle Ausema
Jacqueline Axe ’67
Daniel Bajorek
Mary Baukus
Shirley Becker
In honor of Janet and Warren Schauer’s anniversary
Katie Berry ’53
John Bley Jr.
Beverly ’59 and Robert Bloomquist
Beverly Borton ’68
Elizabeth Bower ’59
Joan Bowman
Joyce Branch ’61
Janet ’76 and Kenneth Brennan
Alumni Assn Bronson Methodist Hospital School of Nursing
Bronson School of Nursing Class of 2012
Jennifer Brown
F. Marilyn Bryant ’54
Beverly Buel ’54
Linda Burr ’63
Tammy Carlson
Frances ’85 and Charles Carpp
Keith Clayborne
In memory of Mrs. Lessie M. Terrell ’87
Judith Claytor
M. Denise Clegg
Sharon Cole
Susan Commissaris
Harry Conway
William Corder
Jeanne Craig ’85
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Crotzer
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Meredith Richter ’55
Phyllis Root
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Shelly Segall ’85
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Lois Richmond Trust
Lois Richmond ’56
Meredith Richter ’55
Phyllis Root
Sandra Rossin ’57
Cynthia Schloesser ’73
Shelly Segall ’85
Nicole Shaw
Alisha Shoner
Michael Shrader
Victoria Shrader
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Shubeck
David Simsick
Debra Sponseller ’77
ANNUAL BRUNCH FEATURES
TRIBUTES, HONORS AND UNVEILING

The annual alumni brunch this past Oct. 11 hosted 60 alumni, Bronson School of Nursing students and guests at the Bronson Hospital Gilmore Education Center. Attendees enjoyed coffee, socializing, a brunch buffet and a program. “The Alumni Impact on the WMU Bronson School of Nursing, 1994 to 2014,” the program, paid tribute to alumni, whose presence and gifts have enriched the school in untold ways over its first 20 years, and to graduates, many of whom now practice professionally at Bronson Hospital.

Offering their perspectives were President of the WMU Student Nurses Association Arielle Loyson, Bronson School of Nursing Master Faculty Specialist Dr. Sally Vliem, WMU Development and Alumni Relations Engagement Manager Kyle Herm, Bronson Hospital Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Denise Neely, and alumna and hospital staff member Shana Pastrana ’10.

Two classes, representing countless hours of care and nursing practice, were honored as they celebrated anniversaries: 60 years for the class of ’54 and 45 years for the class of ’69. In addition, alumni unveiled the 100 year graduate pin collection project, available on loan for public display in 2015.

A Brief History of the Graduate Pin Design

Starting in 1904, all Bronson graduates were awarded a Maltese cross-fashioned pin that was gold with blue enamel letters around a blue enamel circle. In the 1930’s, the design included a thin enamel white circle with lettering that encircled the Bronson, old English “B” in the center. This design was kept until the school closed in 1998.

With the establishment of the WMU Bronson School of Nursing in the 1990s, a nursing student redesigned the pin. Still in use today, it is a solid gold circle with “Bronson School of Nursing” in an outer circle in blue enamel print, and the WMU seal and year of establishment, 1903, in the center of the circle.
Recently, the Bronson School of Nursing used gifts from the Match 4 Manikins campaign, along with endowment funds, to purchase SimBaby, a state-of-the-art infant patient simulator that will make a very big difference in students’ education. Thank you to all who made the purchase of this innovative education tool possible.

To further transform the education experience with enhanced “real-life” training, the school would like to add two more adult simulators, SimMan 3G and SimMan Essential, to the lab in the College of Health and Human Services. Nursing students have enjoyed limited access to advanced simulation manikins at the WMU Stryker School of Medicine; having these manikins on site will be highly effective.

Your generous support—for scholarships, general operations, and Match 4 Manikins/ Simulator Start-Up—has made a significant positive impact on our students and the countless individuals and families who will benefit from their professional practice. We appreciate your financial and volunteer support very much. Thank you again for continuing to be vital, contributing members of the Bronson School of Nursing family.

If you would like additional information or have questions about giving, please contact Development and Alumni Relations Engagement Manager Kyle Herm at (269) 377-4739 or kyle.j.herm@wmich.edu

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