



NURSING NEWS

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GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAMS UPDATE

AS GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING COMPLETES THE SECOND FULL YEAR OF PROGRAMING, 25 students are enrolled in the Masters of Science in Nursing, nurse educator track. Dr. Louann Zinsmeister, graduate director, works tirelessly to develop the curriculum, teach courses, and advise students. Ashley Ringquist provides strong administrative support and clinical coordination services. Additionally, Messiah College Department of Nursing full-time faculty teach within the graduate program.

The first year of the program contains the advanced nursing knowledge core courses, which include informatics, advanced statistics, advanced research for evidence-based practice, advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, advanced physical assessment, and foundations of Christian ethics. Starting in the second year, the courses focus on nursing education theory and clinical experiences. Starting in fall 2015, students will have the option to complete the program in two years, instead of three years. The first cohort is eagerly anticipating graduation in May 2016.

Graduate Programs in Nursing anticipates providing more graduate nursing program tracks in the near future. Dr. Kelly Hudock, DNP, CRNP will officially join the graduate nursing faculty in August 2015 to help in the development and implementation of future new graduate nursing program tracks. Dr. Hudock earned her DNP from Rush University and has over



Graduate nursing students on campus in July 2014. Top: Front, L-R: Heather Laudenslager, Suzanne Beichner, Patti Sager, Kate Bilger; Back: Carol Stein, Cynthia Wallis, Jane Bordner, Sarah Wagoner, Nancy Frank

Bottom: Front, L-R: Holly Freas-Webster, Katherine Deitrick, Brittany Petry, Ashley Arnold, Talisha Sneeringer; Back: Leah Pardoe, Ellis LaFrance, Jeanette Woodley, Christina Jonson, Karen Troppman

25 years of nursing, nurse practitioner and nursing education experience. She will be teaching advanced physical assessment this

May. We welcome her future contributions to the continued growth of Graduate Programs in Nursing at Messiah College.



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MESSIAH COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

THE LIGHTBULB MOMENT



By Carol Stein, BSN, RN '16

“So, WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE EDUCATOR?” I knew this question was coming and I didn't have a good

answer. While I listened to members of my graduate nursing cohort give inspirational answers, all I could think of was a lightbulb. You know, the moment when all of the electrical connections are aligned and someone flips the switch and the light bulb

illuminates the room. I want to be a part of the process that turns on the lightbulb when nursing students “get it,” when they put all the pieces together and understand a concept or a theory. There is a smile and a glow on their faces that is unforgettable.

The Messiah College masters in nurse education program has not only afforded me the opportunity to help create these moments with students, but has allowed me my own lightbulb moments. My mind has been set in motion by research, statistics, advanced pathophysiology and

pharmacology, but I have found that the weekly online discussions with my cohort have generated the most thought. I value their experiences, insight and ideas as we discuss current changes in nursing education and as future educators, what our role will be. It has been a privilege to be a part of the first cohort in the masters in nurse education and I look forward to many more years of lightbulb moments for myself as well as my students.

THE OUT-OF-STATE GRADUATE EXPERIENCE



By Tanya O'Brien, BSN, RN, CPAN '16

I HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR A GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS but

every time I found one I thought would work, I got pregnant and couldn't handle school, a full-time job, the kids I already had and graduate school. So, as soon as my daughter was born I started looking again. The week I started looking at schools again I got an email that said Messiah was starting an online graduate nursing degree.

I was so excited I sent in my application without even looking at any other programs. I was so happy to be able to attend the school I had obtained my BSN at back in 1994.

I didn't have any worries that I would have trouble with the school work (other than statistics) but I was a little worried I wouldn't connect with the rest of the class and that I would be forgotten without a physical presence. While we have had a little trouble with the technology for the live classes all the students and educators have gone out of their way to make me feel part of the group. I love being able to see

the faces and hear my classmates even if it is only once or twice per class. It makes the experience so much more personal. The flexibility of online learning is a blessing with my full-time job as a clinical consultant, a part-time job in clinical nursing, my husband and 4 children as well as my home to fit into my schedule.

Messiah College has provided me with an amazing undergraduate and now a graduate degree. I love having the freedom to discuss my God and how He relates to my work as a nurse and educator while expanding my knowledge so that I can help my patients and my future students.

RETURN TO MESSIAH AS A GRADUATE STUDENT



By Talisha Sneeringer, BSN, RN, OCN '17

IN MAY OF 2011 I LEFT MESSIAH AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, unaware that my path

would lead me back to where my nursing education had begun. In March of 2014, after some careful thought and prayer, I decided to pursue my masters in nursing education with Messiah. This March is a year that I have been in the program and I am 100% thankful for the decision I have made.

Being alumni, I appreciate the foundation that Messiah bases their education

upon. It is the Christian background and emphasis on character that encourages my belief and favor in this academic program. All of the professors have a true desire to lead and mentor in addition to teaching. This mentorship provides more than an academic program, but a real-life understanding for the profession I feel I am called to.

I have always appreciated the rigorous academics Messiah offers. While the program is challenging, I am grateful for the growth and learning along the way. One of my favorite aspects of the academics offered in the graduate program is the 3 advanced P's that are offered, Advanced Pathophysiology, Advanced Pharmacology

and Advanced Health Assessment. This inclusion in the program not only allows one to focus on the educational background that must be learned, but also to advance on the clinical skills and theory of nursing.

The programs design has allowed me to feel as though I am still engaging in clinical practice that I enjoy, as well as learning new theory about education and teaching. The online aspect of the graduate program allows me to maintain my daily life with incredible flexibility. I hold three different jobs, while attending graduate school and the structure allows me to remain successful in all of these endeavors. I am forever grateful for this opportunity in the Messiah College Graduate Program.

MY EXPERIENCE AS A MESSIAH GRADUATE STUDENT



By *Christina Johnson, BSN, RN, CRRN '17*

WHAT AN EXPERIENCE THIS HAS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE.

When Dr. Zinsmeister encouraged me to come to Messiah College, I knew the answer was yes. Messiah College is where I am supposed to be. Immediately, I was met with opposition; such as, there are many other places you can go that is less expensive; and there are other programs that are not as difficult to complete. But I knew deep inside that Messiah was the place for me. I was looking for quality. I wanted my education to be rich and full. Most of all, my convictions were confirmed as I read about Messiah's faith and values of being committed to worshipping, loving and serving Christ. I loved how the motto relates the understanding of Jesus Christ to the sharing of his love in every dimension of life. This is what my life is about; not me but Jesus Christ. Going to Messiah was not only going to enrich my life academically, professionally, and spiritually, but I will be a blessing to many others as a nurse educator and friend.

From the first class, the students are met with a Bible verse of encouragement. Lord knows, I have needed all the daily devotions I could get with the classes I have taken thus far. I start every morning with prayer and meditation, asking the Lord to help me get everything done that needs to be done that day. I offer myself, working to the best of my ability. And I pray that the Lord would bless my work. I expected it to be difficult and challenging. But there are some days when I feel I am being pushed to my limit. But as I tell my students at a local community college, it is during these times that we experience growing pains. Never give up, do your best, and keep on working. It is through these challenges that we grow the most.

The Lord Jesus Christ has brought me this far in life. And I do not believe it is by accident that I chose Eastern University in acquiring my BSN because that is where I met my mentor, Dr. Zinsmeister. She believed in me and encouraged me to continue with my studies. Through faith, and a nudge from my mentor, I arrived at Messiah College.

Although I am honored and privileged to be studying at Messiah College, this experience is not only about me. It is about fulfilling God's purposes in my life. Every person has a purpose. And while we are living life, our purpose seems to change or shift. There was a time when I had no idea what my future would be like or what God had in store for me. I was a young stay-at-home mother of three children. When my youngest went to first grade, I felt led to go into the nursing field because I wanted to be an active contributor to society. That is when I realized my love of learning. I viewed being in college as a blessing and a privilege to have this opportunity. The

in my soul, and I knew I was on the right path. This is where I met Dr. Zinsmeister. I am honored and grateful to have her as my mentor. Through her, I witnessed her passion of teaching, and love for learning, which led me to follow her guidance and attend Messiah College.

It is amazing how the truth and values of Jesus Christ are interwoven through my classes. As our class explores and studies the various facets of human existence, we have had the opportunity to learn from the best in the fields of science, statistics and nursing. Although the classes are online, I have developed relationships with others in my cohort. While we are all nurses, we each bring our own experiences, specialties and challenges. Because of this, there have had many interesting discussions where we have learned from each other. And what is even more amazing is that we can connect with one another regardless of where we are physically located. It has been gratifying learning about each other as we embrace the struggles together in our busy lives.

“It is amazing how the truth and values of Jesus Christ are interwoven through my classes. As our class explores and studies the various facets of human existence, we have had the opportunity to learn from the best in the fields of science, statistics, and nursing.” – CHRISTINA JOHNSON '17

doors of knowledge opened my mind to the wondrous world we live in which I met with enthusiasm, excitement, and dedication. The ADN program was very difficult but I made it through and grew from those experiences. I started working as a graduate nurse, and found it to be even more challenging. After three years, it was time for me to go back to school at Eastern University. It was awesome to go to my first Christian University. The values resonated

I look forward to my future. I am confident that I will be well prepared for the work the Lord has for me, not only in my professional life as a nurse educator, but my personal life as well as I continue my journey through life. May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to prepare you for your journey in life.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By Nancy Woods, Ph.D., MPH, RN



“Give thanks to the Lord,
for He is good. His love
endures forever.”
Psalm 136:1, NIV

SPRING IS SUCH A

wonderful time of new birth and growth! After an intensely cold winter and at least one good old fashioned blizzard, it is refreshing to enjoy the warmth of the sun and the milder temperatures! As the new chairperson of the Department of Nursing, this is my first “View from the Chair”; and I particularly want to recognize the great blessings our Lord Jesus Christ has granted us over the past year.

- We had the blessing of a wonderful nurse leader who served as chairperson of the department for 15 years: Dr. Carolyn Kreamer. She had a great impact on faculty and students, and provided us a solid foundation as we move forward!

- We are blessed with outstanding nursing faculty, both full-time and adjuncts, who consistently demonstrate a strong commitment to working with students to facilitate their growth toward becoming Christian nurses.
- We are blessed with students who are fervent in their response to God’s call to the profession of nursing.
- We are blessed with an untiring and dedicated administrative staff who support both faculty and students... and without them, we couldn’t fulfill our roles!

This past year we were also blessed with challenges, particularly our NCLEX first-time pass rate of 79.17%. This disappointing outcome—not reaching the required 80% pass rate—led to being placed on “provisional status” by the PA State Board of Nursing. In response to a comprehensive analysis, we implemented several changes to enhance opportunities

for student success in the nursing program and on the licensure exam. We are already seeing a positive impact on the standardized integrated testing results in the nursing courses. We won’t know results for this year’s NCLEX until November or December, after the current seniors have graduated and taken the exam. But we have faith in God... and in our faculty and students! And of note, among last year’s graduates who did not pass the NCLEX, nearly all have retaken the exam and passed, giving us a 97.9% overall pass rate! This entire experience is indeed a blessing—an opportunity to evaluate, reflect and further develop an already stellar program to prepare the next generation of nurses! I look forward to serving the Department of Nursing and Messiah College. What a blessing to be here!

So let us join the voice of the psalmist, and “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!”

WELCOME, ASHLEY RINGQUIST!



MY NAME IS ASHLEY RINGQUIST, and I am the administrative assistant and clinical coordinator for the Graduate Programs in Nursing at Messiah College. My

educational background is a B.A. in biology from Lafayette College and MBA from Lebanon Valley College.

My husband Jason and I live a short distance from Messiah College and have

grown up in the area. I have two children Matthew, 5 and James, 2 that enjoy Messiah as much if not more than me. As a family, we love to travel and be outdoors. As an individual, I enjoy running, reading and trying new cooking recipes. I share an office with Nancy Frank in Kline 026. Though I am not a nurse, I look forward to learning from many of you. I thank you for the opportunity to support you and Messiah College.

WANTED: Nurse practitioners, physician assistants, physicians and hospital-based nurse educators to serve as clinical preceptors **AND** online adjunct faculty with DNP or Ph.D. degree in nursing preferred for graduate programs in nursing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Ashley Ringquist, administrative assistant and clinical coordinator for graduate programs in nursing
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