

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

School of Nursing, Alumni Hall, Room 2333, PO Box 1066
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066

August 3, 2006

Dear

It may not seem like it, but you are already one third through the nursing program. Congratulations on your stamina and fortitude! I know that this has been an intense time for all of you. While it is only a few weeks, I hope you will have some time for yourselves to veg out before starting all over again. I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight a few important SON events and changes for you.

Dedication to the Profession

It is important to mark significant milestones in your academic career. Graduation for example is one of these milestones. In your Junior year starting your clinical rotations and specialty courses is a notable event. The School of Nursing faculty believe it is important to celebrate this event, marking it as a milestone through the Dedication to the Profession ceremony. When I was a student nurse, it was called the "capping" ceremony as the nursing students received their nursing caps at this event. Today nurses no longer wear caps. However, the ceremony is no less symbolic and beautiful. The Dedication to the Profession is an opportunity for you to come together with your family and friends so they may witness your entry into professional practice. The ceremony which takes place on **Sunday, September 17th** in the Meridian Ballroom of Morris University Center in the early afternoon is comprised of one of your classmates and a faculty of your choice testifying as to why they have chosen to be a nurse. Students are then invited to process across the stage to receive your student nurse pin. The ceremony is concluded with the recitation of the Nightingale pledge, your commitment to the nursing profession. After a formal picture a refreshment social will follow for you and your family. I wanted to apprise you of this ceremony before school starts. This will give you the opportunity to advise your family and friends of this event so that they can be present to celebrate this milestone with you. Please set this date aside. Attire will be your student nurse uniform with your lab coats and clean, white shoes. More details about this event will be discussed with you when you return to school. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Dedication to the Profession ceremony on September 17th!

Student Governance

This year Mr. Held will be initiating a new structure to insure that you all have voice in the School of Nursing. Each class (Sophomore, Junior, Senior etc) will be organized into a governance structure with class officers. The President of the class will automatically be a member of the Dean's Advisory Council. There will be regular class meetings. It is hoped that this will provide you with even more voice in matters that relate to you. Nursing is a profession dedicated to serving others. I hope that each class will take on a project that is aimed at helping others less fortunate or able. Nursing homes, schools, special programs such as head start, and foundations focused on special health care needs such as the lupus foundation, or asthma foundation etc all need help to make the lives of the people they serve better. You already have a wealth of information and talents to share with individuals who have needs. Each class will be challenged to choose an organization to assist. If you have an interest in becoming an officer for your class, please advise Mr. Held of that fact.

NCLEX and NCLEX Review

Shortly before graduation or just after you should complete your NCLEX examination application form. This can be found on-line at <http://www.continentaltesting.net/ProfDetail> or you can go to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation web site and click on "apply for license" and it will take you to the testing site. Ms. Compton on the second floor of the School of Nursing also has applications. Those of you applying out of state can also find your testing applications and other materials on-line by going to the respective state's Board of Nursing web site. An NCLEX review will be offered for you prior to taking the exam and after you have completed your courses. I strongly urge you to take the review course. It will assist you to determine those areas that will need your more concerted effort for study. In your last semester you will also take the HESI RN examination. I suggest you take the exam seriously as your score is highly predictive of how well you will perform on the actual NCLEX. In addition the results of the HESI will give you an indication of where you need to put your study efforts. If you have not secured or purchased an NCLEX review text I would highly recommend you do so. It is even a good way to study for your course examinations. Most importantly it will begin to give you a "flavor" of how the NCLEX is constructed.

08/07/06

ABS_letter_080706.doc

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

School of Nursing, Alumni Hall, Room 2333, PO Box 1066
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066

Graduation and SON Pin

It has been a longstanding tradition that Schools of Nursing have a pin that is their exclusive design. This past year we had the SIUE SON pin re-designed and it is quite beautiful. It is also less costly than our original pin. Mr. Patrick Michael has information about the pin and costs. This is the pin you receive at the completion of the program and is worn on the nursing uniform when you are working. You might want to "suggest" to your family or significant other that the pin would make a nice Christmas gift or birthday gift for you. The graduation pinning ceremony takes place on the day of convocation which is always the Friday before graduation. Spring graduation will be May 5, 2007 with the School of Nursing Convocation May 4, 2007. Academic attire is required for both convocation and graduation. Soon after school starts your class will be asked to appoint representatives to form a convocation planning committee. There is a lot to do such as arranging for your class picture etc.

School of Nursing Changes

Over the summer two network computers and a printer were put in the Student Lounge on the School of Nursing floor. You are free to use these for printing off your NURSING papers or reading and responding to your email. In addition, the photocopier machine is also free for your use. I ask that you use it for your OWN classes and not to photocopy things for your friends in the history or art department or whatever other program outside of nursing they may be in. Our student enrollment has increased remarkably while the budget to run the school has not increased at the same rate. So, we are trying to cut back where we can this year. One area where we can save considerable money so that it can be used to teach the classes, is in supplies. The School of Nursing is the only unit on campus that provides free photocopy for the students. However, in the Fall term we will have 700+ students in the school of nursing. If each student photocopied just ten pages a week that would be 7,000 sheets of paper a week. In actuality, the paper usage by the students is much greater than that. Beginning this fall I have instituted a cost saving measure whereby 10 boxes of paper (that is 10 reams in each box, or 5,000 sheets of paper per box) will be purchased for the photocopier machine in the Fall and the same amount again in the Spring term. However, when the paper allotment for each term is used up, no more will be purchased. Students who wish to use the free photocopier machine will need to buy their own reams of paper (approximately \$5.60 or less at Office Max for 500 sheets of paper) to use in the machine. The SON extends free photocopy to its students as a favor. All SIUE students in other majors pay for photocopying. We will continue to supply the ink cartridges for the photocopier machine and for the printer for the computers in the lounge. Given the fact that there will not be unlimited supplies of paper this year for photocopying I suggest that each of you exercise some restraint in the use of the machine. I would appreciate it greatly.

Enjoy the last few weeks of your summer hiatus. When you return in the fall, one of our first School of Nursing events will be the **Nursing Heritage Walk for Scholarships on Saturday, September 16th**. Mark your calendars and join us for a fun morning followed by a lunch. See you all in a couple of weeks!

Sincerely,



Marcia Maurer, PhD, RN
Dean & Professor, Nursing
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow