

May 2019

RN to BSN

A newsletter from
THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

AT SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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SMSU RN to BSN

Spring 2019 Nurse Pinning Ceremony

The SMSU Department of Nursing again had the opportunity to honor the graduates of the SMSU RN to BSN Program through the Nurse Pinning Ceremony. On May 10, 2019, the fourth SMSU RN to BSN Nurse Pinning Ceremony was held to celebrate the accomplishments of the nursing students who have graduated over the past year. History is created as nursing students receive an SMSU nursing pin and become part of nursing legacy at SMSU. The nursing pin is a proud symbol of service to others, a tradition shared by nurses across the country.

At the Nurse Pinning Ceremony, two guest speakers enlightened the audience about *Making a Difference as a BSN Prepared Nurse*. Those speakers were Ashley Yost who graduated May 2019, and alumnus Tami Johnson who graduated in 2017. SMSU is proud to have 48 more nursing students graduate over the past year.

Of note is a very special occurrence at pinning this year. The SMSU Department of Nursing had the privilege to honor three graduates of the RN to BSN Program - all from the same family. Featured in the picture below is Julie Peterson, 2017 alumnus, daughter Elizabeth Bunjer, 2018 alumnus, and Caroline Greve, May 2019 graduate. It has been an honor to have this special family become part of the SMSU family!

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



Caroline Greve, Julie Petersen, &
Elizabeth Bunjer



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SMSU RN to BSN Spring 2019 Nurse Pinning Ceremony Cont.



Ashley Yost, 2019 graduate



President Connie Gores



Tami Johnson, 2017 alumna



Get to know the new faculty member in the SMSU Department of Nursing

The Department of Nursing is pleased to add another faculty member as the number of nursing students increases in the RN to BSN Program. Lindsay Rohlik will transition from an adjunct instructor role in the Department of Nursing to an Associate Professor. Please get to know Lindsay Rohlik.

Lindsay, what do you look forward to as a new faculty member in the SMSU Department of Nursing?

I look forward to being surrounded by the already amazing faculty within the nursing department and learning to be the best educator, I can be under the direction of their mentorship. I very much look forward to ongoing faculty development and integrating various online teaching strategies specifically aiding in curriculum that includes multicultural education and teaching/learning strategies. Even more, it is imperative that I am aware and partake in program outcomes related to the development of working with students, faculty, and community partners who are culturally competent and diverse to also meet the mission and vision of SMSU.

Lindsay, what brought you to SMSU?

I have lived in the Marshall community for eight years now however I grew up close to Marshall. I am very familiar with SMSU, the campus and academic community and I attended SMSU, which was otherwise known as SSU 19 years ago as an undergraduate for a couple of years before having to transfer to a nearby college that offered a nursing program (as SSU did not at the time). I have always yearned to teach nursing in higher education in a small, rural community such as Marshall and ever since the RN to BSN Program started in 2013, I have dreamed to become a faculty which has now turned into a reality for me and I cannot be happier. SMSU's slogan: "It's where you belong," has now become truly where I belong.

Lindsay, what do you feel you will add to the student experiences in the SMSU Department of Nursing?

With the ever-expanding growth of SMSU's RN-BSN nursing program, it is imperative as a new faculty to engage in the process of understanding experiences of students and their experiences, especially those who come from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds. I pride myself in getting to know students on a personal basis and given the program remains innovative in providing and being part of an academic culture that supports and transforms education in their RN to BSN programming, I will always support and help transform teaching/learning practices into positive learning experiences for our diverse body of nursing students.

Lindsay, beyond the walls of SMSU, what are your personal interests and hobbies?

I enjoy being outdoors in all four seasons in Minnesota. I have a passion for bike riding, hiking, snowshoeing, swimming, yard work and staying active. I love spending time with my husband, daughter and our dog Rudy any chance I get.

Please welcome Lindsay Rohlik to SMSU!



Submitted by Laurie Johansen

Application to the SMSU RN to BSN Program is As Easy As 1-2-3:

- Apply to [SMSU](https://www.smsu.edu/admission/apply-online.html) at <https://www.smsu.edu/admission/apply-online.html>
- Apply to RN to BSN Program
- Complete background study

2019 Spring Summit: Excellence in Rural Nursing

The 2019 Spring Summit: Excellence in Nursing was held at SMSU on March 26, 2019. The Summit was attended by 114 participants. Dr. Laura Schwarz, DNP, RN, CNE, AHN, BC spoke about *Holistic Leadership*. Dr. Kathi Sowada, DACM, MSN, RN, Lac, HN-BC, CHTP presented *Acupressure: Potent Points for Hands-on Healing*. Lacey Dirks, RN, BSN presented her work with international nursing, *Intercultural Nursing Service: Giving Care Abroad*. The conference was wrapped up by Dr. Laurie Jo Johansen with her presentation, *Trusting Relationships in Rural Nursing*.

A food drive was held to benefit the Marshall, MN and Worthington, MN food pantries. Attendees donated non-perishable food items. Thanks to all who participated! The 2020 Spring Summit is currently being planned!



Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

Photo Credit: Carl Wycoff, Flickr, CC BY

SMSU Nursing T-shirt – SMSU Nursing Students or Alumni who refer a nurse to the SMSU RN to BSN Program will receive a SMSU Nursing t-shirt once the student is enrolled in the nursing program!

Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society Update

We are pleased to share that the Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society has submitted their application to Sigma Theta Tau International. The application is a request to become a Sigma Chapter! Should the request be approved, all Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society members have the opportunity to join our Sigma Chapter. The Southwest Minnesota Nursing Honor Society will be assigned a new Greek name! We will hear the status of the application by the end of the summer! Stay tuned!


Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold



Recipient of Alec Bond Memorial Scholarship

The Alec Bond Memorial Scholarship is a scholarship that is awarded each year to the students who wrote the best essays for a freshman- or sophomore-level SMSU composition class. Awardees are selected as English faculty members read student submissions and select winners in two categories: *Personal* and *Academic/Critical/Research*. This year, RN to BSN Program nursing student, Kelsey Melin, was named a co-winner in the Academic category for her essay "The Use of Telemedicine as a Cost-Effective Way to Improve Patient Outcomes."

Submitted by Laurie Johansen



My husband Nate, oldest son Axel, daughter's Pearl and Luella, and baby Rudy

The Praxis of Critical Thinking in Nursing

Nancyruth Leibold, Associate Professor of Nursing in the Department of Nursing at Southwest Minnesota State University authored and published her textbook, *The Praxis of Critical Thinking in Nursing*, in January of 2019. The book includes content about critical thinking and the application in nursing practice. Each chapter includes a variety of thinking exercises and applications.

Submitted by Nancyruth Leibold

RN to BSN Applications

The SMSU RN to BSN Nursing Program continues to admit nursing students every fall and spring semester. We are still accepting applications for spring 2020 and fall 2020. Information is available at <http://www.smsu.edu/academics/programs/rntobsn/>.

New to SMSU: Associate Degree nursing students may apply in the last semester of their nursing program, with acceptance into the program contingent upon successful completion of their NCLEX-RN exam.

Mark Your Calendar!

- Aug. 22-25 Gold Rush Days
- Aug. 23 Convocation
- Aug. 26 Fall 2019 Classes Begin
- Oct. 12 Homecoming
- Dec. 4 Undergraduate Research Conf.
- Dec. 14 Last Day of Classes
- Jan. 13 Spring 2020 Classes Began
- Mar. 9-13 Spring Break
- Mar. 19 Fall 2020 Registration Begins
- May 1 Last Day of Classes
- May 9 Commencement
- May 26 Summer 2020 Session Begins



SMSU Department of Nursing

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