Greetings from the Nursing Department! We completed another academic year with the celebration of Pinning, Baccalaureate, Commencement, and validation of graduates for the NCLEX exam in May. No matter how long it has been since your own engagement in those landmark events, I hope your memories of Augie and the nursing program are vivid and fond.

It was an eventful year at Augustana with continued dreaming about the Gilbert Science Center expansion and renovation, upcoming CCNE re-accreditation, service learning projects, international opportunities for students, changes in the graduate program, initiation of a faculty search (specifically for a department chair), and plans for the college Sesquicentennial Celebration (150 years!) during the next academic year. As part of the Sesquicentennial, the homecoming celebration in October will be extra special; so I hope many of you will plan to be a part of it. Please know that we still consider all of you to be an important part of Augustana and the nursing program; so we look forward to your emails, cards, letters, and visits whenever possible.

If you were reading carefully in the preceding paragraph, you may have noted that we are initiating a national search for a new department chair. And yes, that does have implications for me. I am intending to retire at the end of the next academic year—at least from being full-time chair of the department. Please give this search some serious thought. Are you a candidate that should be considered, or is there someone you would recommend? I thoroughly believe that Nursing at Augustana is poised at the edge of greatness, and

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During Interim 2010, Augustana Senior nursing students participated in the course Leadership in Professional Nursing. The focus of Leadership in Professional Nursing is on professional role development, nursing leadership, and contemporary issues in nursing. The clinical experience provides an opportunity for students to integrate nursing theory, research, leadership, management, and ethics into their nursing practice. Students had the opportunity to remain in the area, travel outside the state, or venture outside the borders of the U.S. to complete an 80-hour clinical practicum as part of the course. International opportunities for students included Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, and Norway.

In the Dominican Republic, a group of six students led by Patricia Waltman had the opportunity to set up and conduct clinics in very remote areas of the country. The students joined Volunteers in Medical Mission to provide the service. The group based out of San Juan de la Maguana and from there ventured out to set up the clinics. For many of the Dominican people these clinics were the only opportunity for them to receive healthcare. The students participated in triage, assessment, pharmacy, parasitic treatment, home visits, and education for the people who sought care. Approximately 900 individuals received care during the week the students were in the Dominican Republic. The students noted that while many of the people had very little food and clothing and housing was extremely minimal, most seemed happy and grateful for what they did have. Students described this leadership opportunity as “empowering” and will take this experience with them into their practice.

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Alicia DeHoan, student and Patricia Waltman, faculty
DEPARTMENT CHAIR continued…

this search is pivotal for the future of the program. The members of the search committee are:

Mary Isaacson
mary.isaacson@augie.edu

Pam Schroeder
pamela.schroeder@augie.edu

Lynn White
lynn.white@augie.edu

Please feel free to contact any of them or the college Senior VP and Academic Dean, Mark Braun with thoughts or questions. Position description is available online at www.augie.edu/nursingchair.

Blessings to all of you. I look forward to seeing you or hearing from you in the coming months, and I hope for happiness and fulfillment in your lives.

Margot L. Nelson, Department Chair

Augie Pride Award

Mary Moline, Office Coordinator for the Nursing Department, was the recipient of the 2010 “Augie Pride” Award. The award recognizes exceptional service by an Augustana employee. Moline is the 14th member of the Augustana community to receive the award.

“Mary was nominated for the Augie Pride Award by a host of community members who know her as the voice of Augustana Nursing, as well as faculty and students,” said Dr. Margot Nelson, “She is truly the glue that holds the Nursing Department together. She is a listening board for students and faculty, a mentor for work study students, and an extraordinary problem solver; a real ‘out-of-the-box’ thinker.”

Mary received the award at the College’s annual Service Awards recognition program on April 28. At the same time she was honored for her 20 years with the College.

NURSES “LEADING” continued...

Vickie Reiff led a group of seven nursing students to Ecuador after Lori (Beuerman) Aguirre, Augustana Nursing Alum (1995), extended an invitation. Lori is a Family Nurse Practitioner working at the Ecuadorian Embassy and a Professor in Nursing at the University in Quito. She coordinated the health care provision aspect of the trip and Philip Payne with International Teams coordinated the group’s logistics. The students had the opportunity to perform patient care in a public hospital for the poor, Tierra Nueva, in Quito. They also experienced community health nursing in impoverished areas. The group traveled to Shell, a small village bordering the jungle. They worked at the missionary hospital and an orphanage, Casa de Fe, where the group performed vision and developmental screenings and immunizations; assisted in classroom settings; and performed an infection control and safety evaluation. Possibly their best experience was flying into the jungle to visit the Waodoni tribe. The students had been assigned to read The End of the Spear by Steve Saint prior to this trip to understand this tribes’ history. They met the nurse who cared for all the tribes in the area. It was incredible to see that she took care of all of these people with no training and minimal financial resources. Upon return, these nursing students expressed their desire to continue seeking out opportunities to serve with medical missions. A few students even expressed an interest in seeking out long term service opportunities. All felt that the trip was a life changing experience and will impact the nursing care they give.

Germany was a new international location this year for the leadership opportunity. Two nursing majors, who were also German majors, participated in the experience. Augustana Professors Stephan Lhotsky, Modern Foreign Languages, and Pamela Schroeder, Nursing, collaborated to plan the experience. Pam traveled to Germany to meet with the students and the professors from the Brandenburgisches Bildungswerk und Sozialwesen in Potsdam, sister city of Sioux Falls. The nursing students encountered the German healthcare system through experiences in four different hospital settings and home-care settings for the elderly and disabled. The experience was described as a priceless addition to a wonderful Augustana College education and added a degree of Christian life, liberal arts, service, community and excellence at a personal level. Additional insight from the Germany experience is that there is no such thing as a perfect healthcare system and regardless of culture and background, nurses are there for the betterment of the patient.

Nurses can be proud to be a part of this world-wide group that cares so deeply for their patients.

Norway was another international destination for students to experience. Two students participated in the leadership opportunity in Norway. One student traveled to Elverum and the other to Bodø, Norway. These experiences were coordinated by Augustana International Director Donn Grinager and Pamela Schroeder, Nursing. While in Norway, they enjoyed a reunion with college/university professors and the nursing students from Norway who had been at Augustana during both fall 2008 and fall 2009. The health care systems in Bode and Elverum provided opportunities for the students to participate in providing care to patients in a variety of acute care clinical units, outpatient clinics and rehabilitation centers. During the leadership practicum,
NURSES “LEADING” continued…

the nursing students had encounters with elderly individuals with dementia in addition to patients recovering from strokes, post-operative procedures, or receiving care in the Intensive Care Unit. The most valuable aspect gained from the leadership experience was the importance of nonverbal communication. Although the nursing students spoke very little Norwegian and a number of the patients spoke limited English, students focused upon eye contact, body movements and gestures to be successful in providing care. The patients’ and nursing students’ non-verbal communication provided a more universal means of communication than the spoken word. A cultural highlight during the Norway experience was an evening with a group of Sami, the native people of Norway. Inside their lapo (the traditional dwelling of their people), the Sami shared their ways of life along with traditional cultures and beliefs. A student shared that while the time spent in Norway was only a month, the knowledge gained during that time was priceless.

Other students took advantage of the leadership opportunities available locally or sought opportunities in other states. A group of students traveled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, while others completed their practicum in Florida, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Washington.

Students look forward to January 2011, where they will have the opportunity to experience two new locations being offered: Namibia, Africa and Inner-City Minneapolis.

QSEN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) project originating in October, 2005 was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. In 2007, the Department of Nursing was named one of the fifteen pilot schools to prepare future nurses with the knowledge, skills and attitudes (KSAs) necessary to continuously improve the quality and safety of health care systems in which they work. The project team (Pamela Schroeder, Vickie Reiff and Lynn White) and nursing faculty focused upon developing teaching strategies to assure that the students developed competencies in patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, safety and informatics. The QSEN competencies are reflected in the nursing curriculum and evaluation documents, student portfolios, clinical simulation scenarios and evaluations. Collaborative work with clinical academic partners has included development of creative clinical teaching strategies encompassing Opportunities for Learning Excellence (OLE) and the initiation of the OLE/QSEN card which has increased QSEN visibility and serves as the passport for Augustana nursing students entering clinical practice.

QSEN received funding for Phase III and selected Augustana College, Department of Nursing to participate. The focus of Phase III is upon faculty development and dissemination of information through regional conferences, QSEN Speaker’s Bureau, QSEN National Forums, web-based modules, and the QSEN website: www.qsen.org. During the academic year, local, state, and national presentations were made. In October 2009, QSEN was shared with our international partners at a conference in Oslo, Norway. Nursing faculty involved in the QSEN presentations included: Karla Abbott, Margot Nelson, Vickie Reiff, Pamela Schroeder (Phase III consultant), Lynde Thelen, Lynn White and Deborah Letcher, clinical academic partner. In addition, consultation has been provided to the one of the primary authors of the Adult Health Nursing textbook (Elsevier Publisher). In June 2010, both Pamela Schroeder and Deborah Letcher attended and presented at the 2010 QSEN National Forum (Climbing from good to great) in Denver, Colorado.

The Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education Reaccreditation

The last time Augustana’s nursing program received a full 10 years of accreditation by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education was 2001. If you do the math, that would mean that we are due for a site visit and re-accreditation in the spring of 2011! The faculty has been immersed in beginning the self-study report this past spring and will continue that endeavor over the summer and into the fall with the full report to be submitted by January 2011.

Your input may already have been sought in the way of an alumni survey. Hopefully you completed that if you were in the sample designated to receive it. Whether or not you had the opportunity to provide input in that way, your comments and suggestions are more than welcome. We will be reviewing student and graduate outcomes, suggestions, and recommendations; so please send us your stories and insights in these areas. You may email them to either Margot Nelson at margot.nelson@augie.edu or Mary Moline at mary.moline@augie.edu.

Augie Symposium

The Augustana Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their research endeavors. This year with over 75 students presenting, the nursing department featured five student groups:

“Elder Service-Learning Project” presented by junior students Erin Brenden, Livia Fisher and Ruth Burgers (Vickie Reiff and Mary Isaacs, faculty mentors).

“The Bair Hugger: Effective Warming or Hazardous to Health” presented by senior students BreAnna Peterson

continued on page 4
and Melissa Ulbricht (Mary Isaacson, faculty mentor).

“Culturally Competent Sex Education for Native American Adolescents” presented by senior students Marcia VanArkel, Renee Martin, Rachel Ballard, and Stephanie Rust (Mary Isaacson, faculty mentor).

“Nursing Goes to Potsdam” presented by senior students Melanie Henry and Michael Swanson (Pamela Schroeder, faculty mentor).

“Anorexia Nervosa” presented by seniors Kathryn Olson and Melissa Svartoien (Mary Isaacson, faculty mentor).

Clinical Nurse Leader Master’s Track Inactivation

A sad decision was made by the department this spring in light of continued low enrollment in the current Master’s in Nursing program—Clinical Nurse Leader track. Augustana’s offering of this program was placed on inactive status. Many factors contributed to the low enrollment and the necessity for this decision: the economy, the vacillating support for graduate education at the college level, and the difficulty in recruiting qualified faculty among them. We believe that the role of the Clinical Nurse Leader has great potential, and this is being demonstrated across the country in many settings, including Sioux Falls. Our hope would be to reactivate the track at some point in the future, along with another advanced practice track (most likely at the DNP level). In the meantime, Augustana will offer the last two track courses during the upcoming academic year, allowing for a total of 7 nurses to complete the program. Others who have begun the program will continue through South Dakota State University.

Nursing professors Vickie Reiff and Mary Isaacson were recipients of service-learning grants for the fall semester of 2009. Dr. Isaacson’s grant focused on leadership and cultural immersion opportunities for senior nursing students. Students participating in this experience (pictured below), traveled to Pine Ridge over fall break where they organized and completed school screenings at the Pine Ridge Group.

Shannon County Public School located in Red Shirt. As students prepared for their service work, a natural immersion into the Lakota culture occurred, where students interacted with and attentively listened to the stories as told by tribal members. Students reported “feeling changed” by the generosity they experienced while visiting Pine Ridge. As written by one student, “I thought that they (Lakota) would not care for us. I had been told that they see us as little rich white girls coming to save them. I also realize that it is important to come to Pine Ridge planning on affecting one life at a time. They (Lakota) do not need saving. What they need is to see that someone cares.”

Vickie Reiff had two service-learning grants, one of which allowed her to take a group of students to the Pine Ridge Reservation over fall break. In addition to performing school screenings, students had the opportunity to tour the women’s center and assist with a child birth class.

Vickie’s second grant focused on junior nursing students interacting with the aging population. The students offered an exercise class to the residents at Bethany Meadows in Brandon, SD and introduced reflexology as a tool to aid in relaxation. The students worked in small groups to develop and teach classes incorporating knowledge of “normal” differences in the physical aspects of aging. One student stated, “I found they enjoyed our company as much if not more than the exercise class.” Another commented that, “This project was very enjoyable and encouraged me to step out of my box of preconceived notions and take a closer look at this special generation of people.”

International Nursing Exchange: Norway

In August 2009, four students from two University Colleges in Norway arrived for their fall semester exchange experience at Augustana College. Carl-Erik Aune, Christer Holst, and Pernille Pedersen (Bodo University College) and Tone Michelle Stokka (Hedmark University College) were warmly welcomed to Augustana by faculty, staff and nursing alums, Shelly Buhl, Darcy Haas and Johanna Gronewold who had also studied in Norway during previous Interners. “They treat us with so much hospitality and kindness.”

Prior to beginning the fall semester courses, the students participated in an orientation course coordinated by Professor Pamela Schroeder and Shelly Buhl. Visits to various clinical agencies and seminars introduced the students to similarities and differences between the United States and Norwegian health care systems, National Patient Safety Goals, levels of care, palliative care, and nursing roles. Students were especially intrigued with the United States health care reform efforts that were unfolding during the fall semester. Following
INTERNATIONAL NURSING continued...

a comprehensive health assessment seminar taught by Professor Vickie Reiff, the students successfully completed a clinical simulation and received their QSEN card which served as their “passport into clinical practice.” A seminar focusing upon the Native American Indian population provided the opportunity for the students to discuss similarities and differences between the indigenous people in Norway and the United States. Several of the students traveled with Nursing Professor Karla Abbott to the Cheyenne River Reservation to experience the Native American cultural practices. Students were intrigued with the similarities and differences between the Native Americans and Norwegian Sami people. In late September they also had the opportunity to travel to the Black Hills with international director, Donn Grinager.

Another highlight of the fall semester was a visit by Professors Ingrid Heiberg, International coordinator for nursing studies, Bente Skogen, Head, Department of Nursing and Eli Tjørandsen, International Coordinator from Stord-Haugesund University College. They attended senior level nursing theory, visited students in clinical courses and discussed opportunities for both student and faculty exchanges.

The students from Norway continue to evaluate their international exchange experience as invaluable, providing opportunities to be immersed in a United States nursing education program and the health care system. In August 2010, we are looking forward to hosting nine students from University Colleges in Bode, Elverum, and Haugesund, Norway and continue to explore opportunities for continued international exchange opportunities for both students and faculty.

Students from Norway with Augustana faculty Lynn White, Vickie Reiff and Pam Schroeder

Parish Nursing Preparation Course

The Augustana Parish Nursing preparation course took on a new look this year in two major ways. First, the basic preparation curriculum was revised by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center (IPNRC). Previously, the topics focused on the various functions of the parish nursing role. The newly revised curriculum is outcome-focused. For example, the outcome-based focus of the spirituality section includes the integration of faith and health, prayer, and self-care as the means to healing and wholeness. Most of the other functions assist in the outcomes of health promotion and care coordination. The second major change was the presentation format. Formerly offered in a classroom setting over five very full days, this year the course was offered as a hybrid course. An introduction module plus 15 course modules were completed on-line. The participants then came to campus for two days to complete the course. Feedback from the eight participants was positive and we plan to use the hybrid model of on-line and on-site again the next time the course is offered. Among the eight persons completing the course were three nursing department alums: Becky Garbers (2009), Leslie Hanson (1973), and Angela Hess (1996).

Fall of 2009 was busy and exciting for our 60 junior students as they oriented to acute hospital settings, learned hospital computer systems and assisted Sanford Occupational Medicine in providing close to 3000 flu injections. Simulation continues to be an important component for our students as they develop critical thinking and performance skills in N 326 Nursing Therapeutics. Fall of 2010 will provide the opportunity for ANSA (Augustana Nurses Student Association) and the incoming junior students to participate in a Video-Media Service Learning Grant to provide Blood Pressure Screening, Hypertension teaching and serving a vulnerable population at The Banquet in Sioux Falls.

On a personal note I enjoyed the opportunities to present at The Van DeMark Rehabilitation Symposium on Parkinson and

FACULTY GREETINGS

Greetings to all. It is hard to believe that the 2009-2010 year has come and gone. Community Health students participated in a new clinical venture with the Veteran’s Administration (VA) Community Health Services. Students had the opportunity to make home-based primary care visits with Registered Nurses from the VA. They also had the opportunity to explore the Tele-health department along with working with a Community Health Nurse Coordinator. Overall, the feedback from students was extremely positive and this will become a routine clinical rotation for Community Health students. New for next year will be a clinical rotation with the Sioux Falls School District.

Simulation was also fully incorporated as part of Community Health clinicals this year. Bioterrorism in the Community was the simulation scenario implemented following a trial of the scenario last year. I had the opportunity to present the simulation last June at the Nursing Education Deans and Directors of South Dakota conference. Plans for an additional community-based simulation are in the works for next year, with a focus on home health.

I was able to take a group of students to the Dominican Republic in January for Nursing Leadership N451. It was an incredible experience professionally and personally. I was fortunate to have an outstanding group of students on the experience and it was wonderful to engage in discussions with the students during the travel time to our destinations.

Best wishes to all-if you are on campus or nearby-stop for a visit.

~Patricia Waltman
patricia.waltman@augie.edu

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continued on page 6
FACULTY GREETINGS

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Multiple Sclerosis Issues along with speaking Opportunities to The Young Parkinsons Support Group. My husband and I are truly empty nesters as this is the first year and summer without any children living at home. However we enjoy the opportunities to visit them in New York City, Dallas, Denver and Omaha.

~Jean Herrmann
jean.herrmann@augie.edu

Greetings and Salutations! Thanks, once again, for all the letters, notes, and snapshots I received from alums during the holidays. I enjoy hearing from each of you. I taught my general education course—Introduction to Forensics—for the second time during Interim 2010. The class fills up early and is an interesting, enjoyable teaching experience for me. Just a reminder, there are increasing positions for Forensic Nurses if any of you are so inclined. A variety of positions exist throughout the states with opportunities to work with the incarcerated populations and/or victims, as well as a role for nurse coroners and nurse examiners in some states. I will have seven students from Norway enrolled in the behavioral health courses this fall. It is great to have the international students at Augie. I have a busy summer ahead. Both my high school class and my nursing school class reunions are being held this year. I'm looking forward to all the activities. Some classmates have registered to attend for the first time since graduation! (Hopefully we will recognize each other.) In addition to a trip to the Colorado Rocky Mountains in July, I have planned some mini jaunts to see the replica of Anne Hathaway's thatched cottage and Shakespeare garden in Wessington Springs and the Laura Ingalls Wilder cabin at De Smet, SD. So, I'll be busy and I'm sure each of you will be too!

~As Ever, Dr. Karen Fritz
karen.fritz@augie.edu

Greetings Students & Alumni! I was privileged to complete my first year of teaching here at Augustana, and it was a very exciting year! I team-taught Introduction to Professional Nursing and kept busy in both the simulation and skills labs. I learned so much from the students, and in turn I hope they learned just as much from me. I am not an Augie alum but am envious of the amazing educational opportunities offered to the students here. The education at Augustana is second to none! This summer I will be completing my Masters in Nursing Education and getting married. I look forward to all the wonderful students and opportunities to come in the 2010-2011 year!

~Beth Springer
beth.springer@augie.edu

Greetings to all of our wonderful alumni. It has been another exciting year in the Augustana Nursing Department. Our students continue to amaze me with their professionalism and drive to excellence in the classroom, clinical experiences, and labs. This year I have been blessed to see the first nursing class that I had the honor to work with as sophomore students graduate as Augustana's professional nurses. I'm excited and privileged to continue working with our pre-nursing students in the Introduction to Professional Nursing course, Medical Terminology course, and to watch them intellectually grow in their junior and senior semesters in the skills labs and simulation labs.

This summer I was given the opportunity to teach the Medical Terminology course online and travel to various states, educating other nursing faculty on how to use a human simulator and implementing simulation into their curriculum. In addition to my summer work I have enjoyed spending time with -- and chasing -- my three children: Thomas (11), Avery (9), and Tori (7). I wish you all the best and if you are near the GSC please come and visit.

~Lynde Thelen
lynde.thelen@augie.edu

The time passes so fast! I'm already approaching my 5th year as a faculty member here at Augustana. I continue to stay busy teaching Adult Health II and Pharmacology, as well as spending time in the Simulation lab. This year, I'm broadening my horizons and adding the Leadership course to my teaching load over J-term. I am fortunate to hold a joint appointment with Avera McKennan as a Simulation Specialist, which allows me to work with both new graduates and experienced nursing staff in the arena of simulation and practice. I also continue to work for the Avera Bone Marrow Transplant Program as a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

This summer I'm looking forward to spending time with my family, and hope to take a vacation or two. The long summer days always pass too fast, but when fall arrives, I'm sure I'll be ready to get back into the routine of class and clinical. It is always so nice to hear from our alumni and to have you share what you are doing. I hope you will continue to keep in touch!

~Lynn White
lynn.white@augie.edu

continued on page 7
FACULTY GREETINGS continued...

Greetings alums! Can you believe another year has passed? This is one of the first years that I had the pleasure of teaching and not taking doctoral courses—what a treat! I found that instead of working on my own papers, I was encouraging students to write and present their work. I remain very involved in student service-learning and continue to create opportunities for students to work in Pine Ridge. This summer I will be traveling to Hoopa, California as part of my Navy Reserve commitment. We will be working at a rural clinic on the Hoopa Indian Reservation. I am thrilled to have been selected to participate in this experience and hope to perhaps find opportunities for students to participate in the future. One never knows…

~Mary Isaacson
mary.isaacson@augie.edu

Hello Alums! I continue to teach Health Assessment with Nutrition and Reproductive Health. Over fall break, Mary Isaacson and I co-led a service learning project and took a group of nursing students to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation where they performed school screenings and assisted with a child birth education class. I also took of seven nursing students to Ecuador over Interim as part of the N451 Leadership Course. I had the opportunity to present an OB simulation at an HPSN conference in Florida in March. I’ve also been actively involved in two pilot research projects this year. I continue to be part of the Quality & Safety In Education for Nursing (QSEN) team and had students present at the Zeta Zeta induction ceremony; “Nursing Care through the QSEN lens in Developing Countries.” I’m still practicing as a certified nurse midwife for Avera and love being part of a family’s birth experience! This fall, two Reiff family members will start higher education, as my son will be a freshman at Gustavus College and I plan to begin my DNP studies at Augsburg College.

~Vickie Reiff
vickie.reiff@augie.edu

I have completed my second year of teaching here at Augustana and am constantly amazed at the blessings! I accompanied the nursing students from Norway to my home reservation in Eagle Butte this past Fall and they had beautiful exchanges with our Lakota elders. I taught in both junior and senior levels of nursing with Community Health, Interdisciplinary Palliative Care, Public Health Science, and Nursing internships. I had an opportunity to travel to Oslo, Norway in the Fall to present a poster at the first International Community Health Nursing conference where I met Community Health nurses from Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain. I was in heaven with all of the other attendees who discussed topics like health care for the underserved populations of their countries and the importance of health care for all in the world. H1N1 flu made history and I was a proud preceptor of nursing students who did their part in assisting with flu shot clinics and education in the community. I advised the ANSA group along with Dr. Fritz and was excited about their leadership efforts as well. I have spent my summer traveling to my home reservation, taking in family reunions, and traveling with my Dad to Alaska to catch some salmon. I am excited for this upcoming year! Please do not hesitate to stop by and say "Hello" when you are on campus!

~Karla Abbott
karla.abbott@augie.edu

In August 2007, I joined the Department of Nursing in an adjunct role. Since that time, my role has expanded. This past year, I coordinated the skills labs for the junior and senior level adult health courses, taught clinical, and lead the NCLEX review course. My goal is to make that textbook come alive. I want to help students apply theory into practice to meet the needs of the patient’s mind, body, and spirit. I am so thankful to be a part of the nursing program.

~Mary Nelson
mary.nelson@augie.edu

Bryan Prairie, a member of the Class of 2009, is remembered as one of our former students and a student athlete who had a passion for life and nursing. He was a loving husband, father, devoted son, brother, and loyal, witty friend to everyone. Bryan was a “Giver” and put the needs of others first. In late August 2009, he surrendered his own life to save the life of another. Few in nursing will ever experience this test, but Bryan reacted without hesitation.

To honor and commemorate our alumnus whose life embraced the Augustana College principles and nursing program ideals, Bryan Prairie’s family and the Department of Nursing established an award that will be presented annually to an Augustana senior nursing student whose life exemplifies these principles and ideals. A plaque designed by Bryan’s family has been placed in the Department of Nursing listing the award recipients. During the Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Matthew Eitelgeorge, senior nursing student and student athlete, was selected to receive the Bryan Prairie Award. Matthew has accepted a professional nursing position in Jamestown, North Dakota.

It has been another very exciting year! Our global educational opportunities for our nursing students and exchange program with university colleges in Norway continue to develop. In October, it was very rewarding to be able to present at the international health conference in Oslo, Norway, visit with our international nursing colleagues and former students from Diakonova, and also develop new relationships with nursing colleagues from Ireland and Sweden. January provided opportunities to travel to both Germany and Norway to be with our senior nursing students as they completed their nursing leadership experience. I continue to teach both in the junior and senior levels including Pathophysiology, Adult Health theory/clinical, Interdisciplinary Palliative Care, Leadership and nursing internships. In addition, I look forward to teaching an introductory nursing course for our nine students from Norway who will be studying with us during the fall semester.

Summer has arrived and I am looking forward to having time to be with our family and friends. We enjoy hearing from our alums and hope that many of you will return to Augustana for Viking Days and visits throughout the year.

~Pam Schroeder
pamela.schroeder@augie.edu

A plaque designed by Bryan’s family
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

As alumni of Augustana’s nursing programs, you are the very best ambassadors for the college. Please continue to share the Augustana story with prospective students and faculty. We appreciate your ongoing support and connection! Don’t miss out on all the festivities planned this year for Augustana’s 150th celebration!

So that we don’t lose touch with you, please let us know when you have a change of address. Call us at 605.274.4721 or contact any of the faculty and staff via email. Or write to us at:

Augustana College
Department of Nursing
2001 S. Summit
Sioux Falls, SD 57197

SENIOR STUDENTS PRESENT AT NURSING SCHOLARSHIP DAY

What does it mean when we say an intervention is “evidence-based?” This is a question that senior students explore in the nursing research course. Five senior students presented the results of their exploration as evidence-based synthesis projects at the annual Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Scholarship Day on April 16, 2010. Students Allison Hoffman, Allison Legner, and Cami Nikont presented, “Animal-Assisted Therapy in Health Care.” Their research identified that animal-assisted therapy provides physiological and psychosocial benefits to patients, and advocated for its incorporation into the treatment plan for patients.

The second student group featured Megan Kennedy and Jessica Pierson. The title of their presentation was “Evidence-Based Synthesis of Surgical and Medical Management of Infants Born with Ambiguous Genitalia.” The students had hoped to identify guidelines that would assist the providers and families during the gender assignment process. However, the results of their evidence-based synthesis project showed that there is a paucity of current research. The students advocated for an interdisciplinary approach that includes a thorough understanding of cultural, physical, and psychosocial ramifications of ambiguous genitalia. This understanding then allows health professionals to provide meaningful support to parents and caregivers through the intense emotional experience.