



Hello and Welcome to
our Fall Newsletter



Pictured (left - right): Nurses Liz Weber and Molly McQuillen; Students Madelyn Huschitt, Abbey Dunwoody, Josie DeLapp and Kaitlyn Kaufmann
UDSNA students proudly present their handmade Tie-Blankets to MercyOne

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Greetings from the University of Dubuque Department of Nursing,

Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to engage with our fall newsletter! We are excited for this opportunity to connect with our current students, alumni, clinical partners, and other UD and community supporters.

Our UD Nursing Department team have been very busy since we last connected in the spring. We have developed a new curriculum, based on new and evolving standards for educating professional nurses. The curriculum is in place for students entering the bachelor of science in nursing program this fall.

Also, we have been preparing for the November accreditation visit from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). CCNE visitors were last on campus in November 2014. We have a lot to share about our program in 2024.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that as of October 2024, 100% of spring graduates who have taken the NCLEX exam passed it on their first attempt. Congratulations to these new practicing nurses: you are appreciated! I hope you all enjoy this newsletter.

Reach out if you have questions and have a wonderful fall.
Sincerely,
Jackie Meyer, PhD, RN, CNE
Head of the Department of Nursing and Professor of Nursing



WHEN YOU'RE A
NURSE, YOU KNOW
 THAT EVERY DAY
 YOU WILL **TOUCH A**
LIFE OR A LIFE WILL
TOUCH YOURS
 -NursesLab



Faculty and Staff

Past Event Photos

Check out the photos below
 and also our social media
 to see if you were snapped!



Jackie Meyer PhD, RN, CNE

Phone: 563.589.3403

Email: JRMeyer@dbq.edu

Nursing Program Responsibilities:

Department Chair, Nursing

NRS 309 Mental Health

NRS 401: Health Care Research

NRS 495P: Nursing Internship Clinical Supervision

Kristi Steinbeck MSN, RN

Phone: 563.589.3740

Email: KSteinbeck@dbq.edu

Teaches:

NRS 312 Foundations of Clinical Nursing Practice (Fall)

NRS 415 Adult Nursing II (Fall)

NRS 307 Adult Nursing I (Spring)

Kerri Chapman MSN, RN, RNC-OB

Phone: 563.589.3249

Email: KSChapman@dbq.edu

Teaches:

NRS 201: Intro to Professional Nursing

NRS 403/403P: Care of the Client in the Community

NRS 402: Nursing Leadership/Complex Systems

NRS 404: Issues in Nursing: Practice, Policy, and Advocacy

NRS 413: Maternal Child Nursing II

Mary Tobin PhD, RN

Phone: 563.589.3239

Email: MTobin@dbq.edu

Teaches:

NRS 309/309P: Mental Health Nursing

NRS 312: Foundations of Clinical Nursing Practice

NRS 313: Maternal-Child Nursing I

NRS 495: Transition to Practice Internship/Senior Seminar

Lisa Kragenbrink BSN, MSN, RN

Phone: 563.589.3573

Email: LKragenbrink@dbq.edu

Teaches:

NRS 303: Pathophysiology/Applied Pharmacology

NRS 495P: Transition to Practice

Internship/Senior Seminar

NRS 201: introduction to Nursing

Beth Neyen MSN, CMSRN

Phone: 563.589.3789

Email: BNeyen@dbq.edu

Teaches:

NRS 312: Foundations of Clinical Nursing Practice

NRS 307L/307P: Adult Nursing I

NRS 495P: Transition to Practice

Internship/Senior Seminar

Holly Sinno, MMDI

Administrative Assistant

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Patrice Brimeyer, MAC

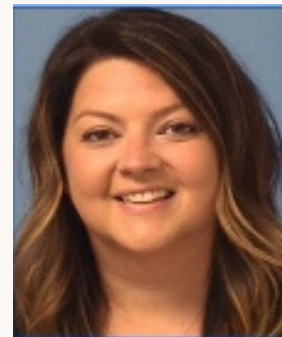
Administrative Assistant

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A Note from Kerri Chapman, RN, MSN, RNC-OB, assistant head of the Department of Nursing and Assistant Professor of Nursing



Knowledge

Welcome to another exciting fall semester! I want to take a moment to extend a warm welcome to our returning students and a special greeting to those who are joining us for the first time. We are thrilled to have you as part of our vibrant nursing community. Your journey here will be filled with incredible opportunities to dive into hands-on experiences, engage in meaningful projects, and collaborate with your peers.

Growth

Our faculty has been working diligently to enhance our curriculum, ensuring that you receive the best education and training in the ever-evolving field of nursing. In the Department of Nursing, your work will be at the forefront of everything we do.

Whether it's participating in simulations, contributing to community health initiatives, or engaging in research, your efforts will have a real impact. We encourage you to bring your unique perspectives and ideas to the table as you develop your skills and knowledge.

Community

I want to highlight the importance of community this year! Our student organizations are preparing some exciting initiatives, including volunteer opportunities that will not only allow you to give back but also provide invaluable hands-on experience. I encourage each of you to get involved; these experiences will enhance your education and strengthen our program as a whole.

As we embark on this journey together, I want to remind you to take care of yourselves. Balancing the demands of nursing school can be challenging, but remember that you are not alone. Lean on your peers, faculty, and support staff—we are all here to help you succeed. We can't wait to see how your dedication, passion, and hard work will shape your future and the future of nursing.

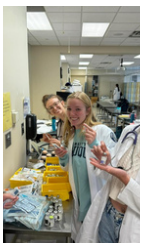
Welcome to a place where your potential is limitless! Let's make great things happen together!

Balance

Kerri Chapman RN, MSN, RNC-OB
Assistant Head of the Department of Nursing and Assistant Professor of Nursing

Past Event Photos

Check out the photos below and also our social media to see if you were snapped!



A Farewell from Professor Hanson



I believe we all have been given a story concerning our lives with chapters. When one chapter closes, another will open. My chapter in being a nursing instructor at the University of Dubuque is closing as I retired from this position in spring 2024. My chapter at the University of Dubuque has been a blessing of unconditional love, provided with patience, and the autonomy to teach outside the box at times.

As I enter the next chapter of my life, I will carry fond memories of working with a very special nursing department team. I am so very thankful to have had the opportunity to work alongside and experience life with each and every one of you! I also will cherish memories of assisting and mentoring students in their desire to become excellent nurses. I wish only the very best for the UD Department of Nursing as it grows with forever changing times!

Professor Hanson served the University of Dubuque Department of Nursing from 2019 to 2024.

Congratulations to December Graduate: Doug Dremmel

A native of Dubuque, Iowa, Doug has truly enjoyed his nursing studies, especially Anatomy and Physiology. He plans to work at MercyOne Hospital, where he will apply all the knowledge and skills he has gained during his time in the University of Dubuque nursing program. We asked what his dream job would be; to which he answered, being a nurse on a cruise ship, or working at a nice hospital in a quiet city.

We wish you the very best as you embark on this rewarding journey in nursing—your compassion and dedication will make a meaningful impact on the lives of many!

NURSING STUDENTS

“Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, a touch that never hurts.” —Charles Dickens

Past Event Photos

Check out the photos below and also our social media to see if you were snapped!



Conferences



I'm excited to be part of AACN's workshop, "**Essentializing Your Curriculum: Moving Ahead with Competency-Based Education (CBE).**" This was a one-day event, on September 27 in St. Louis, Missouri.

The AACN Essentials Conference highlighted several key themes vital to nursing education and practice.

There was a strong focus on integrating AACN Essentials into curricula for competency-based learning, as well as the importance of interprofessional education to enhance collaborative practice across disciplines.

Strategies for fostering diversity and inclusion were emphasized, alongside the role of technology in nursing, especially in telehealth and simulation.

The conference also addressed best practices for mentoring and supporting nursing students, the cultivation of leadership skills, and the incorporation of quality improvement initiatives for better patient safety.

Finally, the event provided valuable networking opportunities for me to connect and collaborate with peers in the nursing field.

I am excited to share all I have learned with my peers at the University of Dubuque

Kerri Chapman

RN, MSN, RNC-OB

Assistant Head of the Department of Nursing and Assistant Nursing Professor

Summer Camp

Mary Tobin, PhD, RN

This past summer, a hands-on nursing experience for middle school kids was successfully launched under the UD for Kids program. Eight middle school students joined us for our inaugural voyage with Adventures in Nursing. It included many teachers including Dr. Mary Tobin, Professor Beth Neyen, and UD alumni Sam Wu and Tyler Glenski.

Adventures in Nursing covered topics such as diabetes, seizure care, blood pressure taking, TB injections, carbohydrate identification, and all campers got certified in Stop the Bleed training. Campers spent a whole day at MercyOne Hospital, Dubuque touring units and seeing real nurses in action. They also spent a day experiencing high fidelity simulation in the UD lab with Professor Neyen. Camp concluded with a cupcake party, and campers presented to a room of parents what their favorite aspects of camp were. Evaluations indicated camp exceeded expectations.

Discussions continue in the nursing department regarding how to market future nursing-focused session with UD for Kids, and thoughts are being tossed around about perhaps offering Advanced Nurse Camp next year. All campers were an absolute delight to host, and a few even came back to UD for Homecoming in October to help our student nurse association host a Student Nursing Association (SNA) Nurse booth before the football game. It truly was a lot of fun, and it fed my pediatric nursing passion. The eight middle school students were amazing and so fun to teach. I was truly blessed to spend a week with them.



Accreditation Visit

You may see some new faces around the Department of Nursing from November 13-15.

Every 10 years, we work to be re-accredited by our national accreditation body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

As part of this process, we write a comprehensive report about our program, and we then host on-site CCNE visitors who will verify and clarify the information we included in that report. Accreditation is an important way for our program to demonstrate what we are doing to assure our students get the most up-to-date education in preparation for their professional nursing practice.

The process is a learning experience, and an opportunity to highlight all we are proud of about UD nursing! Please talk with Department Head, Dr. Meyer, if you have any questions.

Class: Ready Set Go

‘You don’t have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.’
Zig Ziglar



UD Student Nursing Association UDSNA



UDSNA Mission:

UDSNA is an organization run by pre-nursing and nursing students to help guide, educate, and mentor each other throughout the nursing curriculum. We strive to connect all nursing students with the greater campus and Dubuque area by participating in community events.

UDSNA's monthly meetings will provide a fun, educational, and comfortable environment in which students can voice their opinions and build personal and professional relationships.

UDSNA also strives to help future nurses become more readily adaptable to the diverse, dynamic, and ever-changing health care environments of the 21st century.

About the Mentorship Program

We are very excited to announce the launch of our mentorship program this year! This mentorship program is designed for our pre-nursing and nursing students to use each other as mentors to navigate through the pre-nursing and nursing courses at UD.

There are multiple senior and junior mentors that have given up their time to meet with their group of five pre-nursing and nursing students once each month. During this meeting the group discusses high points and hardships and relates on their journey so that each student feels more comfortable as they move forward in the program.

2024 - 2025 SNA Officers

Advisor: Lisa Kragenbrink

Treasurer: Logen Kleese

President: Kaelyn Weigel

Senior Representative: Grace Lagerhausen

Vice President: Kyla Roberts

Junior Representative: Annabelle Woodward

President Elect: Lizzie Borton

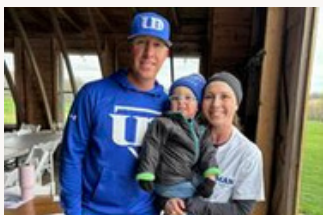
Sophomore Representative: Emma Kempel

Secretary: Jadyne Werner

Freshman Representative: Mia Farinella

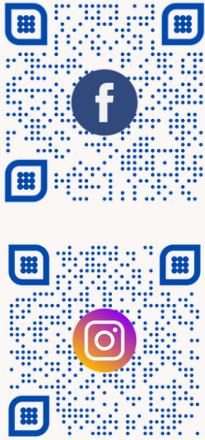
Past Event Photos

UDSNA hosted a 5K, RUN4REDMAN. This event witnessed a remarkable turnout!



Student Section

Follow
us on
social
media!



Past Event Photos

Homecoming 2024
Blanket Tie Event
Action in the classroom



Upcoming Events

November:

- Butter braids
- Blood drive with PA students
- Friendsgiving with other UD organizations.
- Meeting speaker: nurse who has worked in the ICU, Oncology, & Hospice

December: USDNA will be hosting

- Meeting on December 5th at 5pm
- Tie blankets will be made and delivered to a location of our choice
- A relaxation day for students will be held before finals. We will offer snacks, music, possible massages, and more!

January:

- Welcome students back for the second semester
- Working with seniors on preceptorships
- Hold panels for the junior and sophomore students to ask nursing-related questions

February:

- Valentine's Day cards will be made at our meeting and sent to long care/nursing homes in Dubuque

Please take the opportunity to participate! For more information, check out their social media page!

Meet a Student

I'm Amber, and I transferred from Luther College last year. Immediately coming to UD, everyone in the nursing program was welcoming and very nice to me.



The professors are amazing. They helped me get settled in and truly care about the nursing students and want them to be successful. I feel that I can go to them not only about nursing problems, but also for life problems, and they will be there to support me no matter what.

Our lab area is amazing and truly helps us gain the skills we need to be nurses. We have fun simulation days where we get to act fully as nurses while learning from each other and our mistakes.

The UD Nursing program is amazing and I am so happy to be graduating from it in April 2025. I 100% recommend this nursing program to any future aspiring nurses as it is one of the best.



University of Dubuque

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

QUESTIONS

What year did you graduate? 2023

What inspired you to become a nurse?

For the longest time, I wanted to follow in my sister's footsteps and become a teacher. My high school offered the CNA course for free and I needed an extra credit so I completed the course and began working at a local long term care facility where I discovered my passion for caring for people. I went on to work in LTC for 6 years before becoming a nurse and loved every minute of it!

Where has your degree taken you in your career?

My degree took me to St. Louis where I work as a NICU nurse at Mercy Children's hospital. The NICU was always a specialty that made me curious but our options for experience in Dubuque are very limited. I took a chance, applied, completed 4 months of training, and never looked back. The NICU is definitely where I belong!

What do you like best about being a nurse?

The best thing about being a nurse is seeing first hand that you're making a difference. Nursing is not easy. We experience some of the hardest times you can imagine, but also see miracles on a daily basis. Even after a year, I am brought to tears when getting a baby out to hold for the first time and when sending them home with their sweet families after a NICU stay! It's easily one of the most humbling professions, and I can't imagine myself doing anything else.

JORDAN SCHUELLER



What advice would you give to current nursing students?

My advice for current nursing students is to take things seriously, but still make time for yourself. It's easy to get caught up in comparison and constantly set your standards higher, but know that you have one goal in mind and it's to become a nurse! You will get there! Take care of yourself and have fun!

What did you like most about being a Spartan?

The thing I loved most about being a Spartan is being a part of a close-knit community. I came to UD from a state school and was shocked at how small my class size was and that my professors knew my name! It's such a special campus and a great community to be a part of.



University of Dubuque

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

QUESTIONS

What year did you graduate? 2016

What inspired you to become a nurse?

I was drawn to nursing primarily for the opportunity to teach patients health management. I also thought the nursing lab looked like a fun way to combine science with social skills.

Where has your degree taken you in your career?

Nursing has taken me a few different places! I started working inpatient child psych at UIHC, then continued peds psych downtown Chicago. I decided to come back to Iowa and try working with adults doing Crisis Stabilization. Then I thought I would go back to nursing roots and try my hand at med/surg, and I just recently began a new position in ICU. I also taught a semester of med/surg clinical last Spring. I plan to enroll in a masters program next year so I can teach nursing students full time eventually!

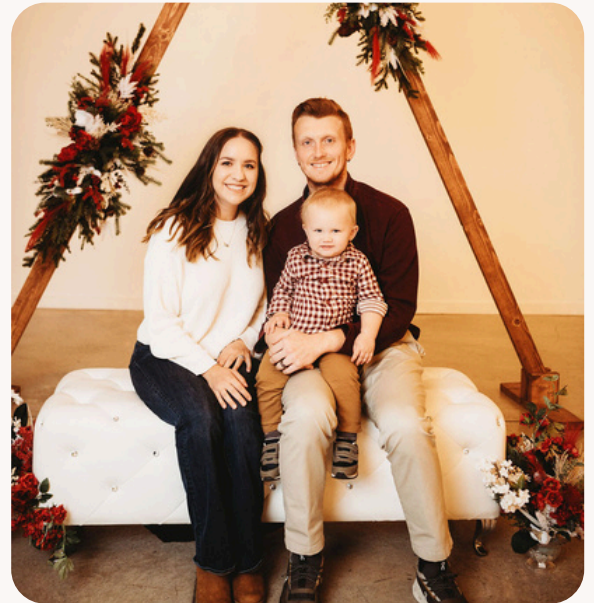
What do you like best about being a nurse?

My favorite parts of being a nurse is the balance of nurturing care we provide as well as the critical thinking utilization. Prioritizing patient cares and balancing their medications as well as educating patients and their families about the illness and treatment plan is a fun way to put my skills to the test. I don't think I have ever left a shift feeling bored!

What advice would you give to current nursing students?

I would tell current nursing students to schedule study time so it is possible to balance fun time! Nursing school is super stressful, and stress management is just as important and a lifelong requirement.

REBECCA STEUER



What did you like most about being a Spartan?

I loved the atmosphere and how easy it was to be involved with all different groups of people.

I met my closest friends at UD, and played volleyball as well as different intramural sports. I worked as a student ambassador and at the juice bar in the rec. I even remember the fun times in the Under-ground before the heritage center was built!

There were just always fun events to do, like finals feast and going to basketball games, and you will never get to live in this close vicinity to your best friends ever again with minimal responsibilities.

Do all the fun things you can, you have the rest of your life to work!