New Admissions Coordinator Supports Holistic Nursing

The holistic approach to nursing education at the University of St. Thomas School of Nursing begins when prospective students inquire at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Students receive one-on-one advising to decide if St. Thomas is the right program for them, something not all nursing schools offer. To continue the practice of holistic nursing education for holistic care, St. Thomas now has a dedicated nursing admissions coordinator in Cathy Ruhnke.

"We at the School of Nursing feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Cathy in the Nursing Admissions Coordinator role," said Dr. Poldi Tschirch, dean of the School of Nursing. "She is one of the many blessings that we have experienced at UST since we have become part of this community!"

Ruhnke, a 2008 theology alumna, has worked at St. Thomas for four years and was the senior transfer admissions counselor. As the School of Nursing has grown and nursing applicants have increased steadily, there was a need for a dedicated nursing counselor. Ruhnke will now recruit and guide applicants interested in nursing through the general UST admission process, and handle applications for the School of Nursing.

"We really look at the whole person," Ruhnke said. "We take a holistic view — who they are, what they're doing, why they're interested in nursing, how they fit into the University mission, and why they want to be a nurse."

Not all nursing schools are able to offer the one-on-one advising that St. Thomas values. As students consider multiple schools, they often need someone to talk to about it and appreciate that opportunity at St. Thomas.

"I'm looking forward to being able to follow the students through the whole process and guide them the whole way so they can get to know people at St. Thomas and be successful," Ruhnke said.

Cathy Ruhnke is the new nursing admissions coordinator, supporting admissions for the University of St. Thomas School of Nursing.