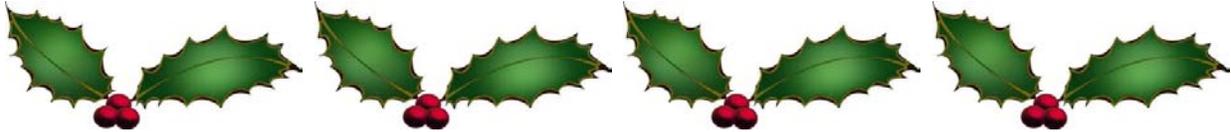


Check Our Pulse

*School of Nursing
University of St. Thomas
Educating Leaders of Faith and Character*

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December is upon us! That magical time of the year! And for the School of Nursing, it is indeed an amazing month.

First off, we've just selected our first cohort of nursing students who will begin their nursing studies in the upcoming summer semester beginning May 29. Some 35 strong, this is a diverse group of aspiring RNs and we look forward to beginning their nursing odyssey with them during the next two years. It's a challenging path they've chosen, and we will work closely with them to ensure their success in their new endeavor.

Secondly, we are preparing to launch the second round of new nursing pre-requisite courses in the spring semester. All students entering the nursing program must successfully complete these new classes before they begin the nursing sequence. Read more on page 2 about these offerings and the professors teaching them.

Finally, we'd like to give a great thank you to the folks at the Doherty Library, especially Loan Nguyen, electronic resources librarian, who has developed an absolutely marvelous Nursing Research Guide page on the Doherty website. Our students may not know it yet, but this page is going to be a great asset to them as they begin their studies, particularly as they delve deeper and deeper into nursing research. Go to page 3 to learn more about the new learning tool and to see a screen print of the page.

Happy holidays from everyone at the School of Nursing and the Nursing Success Center!

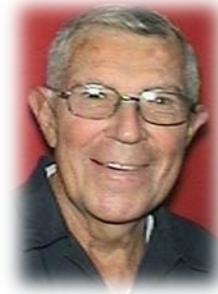


More Nursing Prerequisite Courses Introduced This Spring

Four specially-designed nursing prerequisite courses have been added to the spring line-up of classes for students pursuing a BSN degree. They include two in biology, one in communication and a fourth in mathematics.

The first new course, Pathophysiology, BIOL 2340, is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 – 10:50 a.m. in Strake Hall 106. This class is the systematic study of the functional changes in human cells, tissues and organs altered by disease and/or injury. The course emphasizes alterations in body systems – structural and functional – related disease and injury states and their impact on individuals across the lifespan.

Dr. Max Hutchins, UST adjunct professor will teach Pathophysiology. Dr Hutchins is also a professor emeritus at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Previously, he has taught Pathophysiology at Texas Woman’s University. Dr. Hutchins is looking forward to his new venture. “We are very enthusiastic about the initial course and will encourage student evaluation and feedback,” he said. “Our future goals are to eventually offer Pathophysiology online and encourage students to study and interact with the instructor, classmates and health professionals in preparation for the clinical care of patients.”



Dr. Max Hutchins

Pharmacology, BIOL 2355 is the second biology nursing prerequisite offered for the first time this spring. Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in Strake Hall 106, Pharmacology is the systematic study of the use of drugs to diagnose, prevent or treat disease. Emphasis in the course will be placed on developing an understanding of therapeutic and adverse drug actions and a rationale for selection of dosage, route and schedule for administration in individuals across the lifespan.



Dr. Mark Winter

Dr. Mark Winter, UST adjunct professor, brings his expertise in toxicology to this new course. He has worked at the Toxicology Lab at the University of Texas Medical Branch and the Southeast Texas Poison Center and is a Diplomat of the American Board of Applied Toxicology. The course’s goal, Dr. Winter said, is to teach pre-nursing students the art of therapeutics or the medical use of drugs. “It is the nurse, as part of the healthcare team, who must exercise care to understand the therapeutic effects in order to minimize drug-induced side effects or harm to their patients,” he noted.

Foundations of Relationship-Centered Care, COMM 1350, is a new offering of the Communication Department with the nursing student in mind. This course is the study of the fundamental principles of interpersonal communication with emphasis on communication as a tool for building relationships. Students will have the opportunity to understand and practice communication skills related to working in teams – assessment of non-verbal communication, active listening and conflict resolution. A Tuesday/Thursday class from 2:10 – 3:25 p.m., COMM 1350 is held in Strake 204.

Dr. Robin Williamson, chair of the Communication Department since 1990, will teach COMM 1350. During her UST career, Dr. Williamson has received several awards, including University Educator of the Year from the Texas Speech Communication Association (2004-2005), the Joseph McFadden Service Award at UST (2005-2006), and the American Institute of Parliamentarians Presidential Award for Excellence in Writings on Parliamentary Law (2006). "Social psychologists have long been aware of the effects of relationships on emotional and physical health," Dr. Williamson said. "Foundations of Relationship-Centered Care will focus on those variables that contribute to constructive relationships and those variables that can be destructive."



Dr. Robin Williamson

The last new spring nursing prerequisite course is Introduction to Statistics for Nursing Research, MATH 2330, an offering from the Mathematics Department designed for nursing students. The class meets three days a week (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) from 11:10 a.m. – noon in Strake 204. MATH 2330 will provide students with the methods and logic to perform elementary statistical analysis, including descriptive measures, probability, sampling, binomial and normal distributions, estimation and hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, regression and correlation and non-parametric methods.



Dr. Ron Hartberger

Dr. Ron Hartberger, lecturer in the Mathematics Department, designed and will teach Introduction to Statistics for Nursing Research. Dr. Hartberger received his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He is eager to begin teaching this new course. "Most clinical trials depend on statistical inference to reach conclusions about the effectiveness of various drugs and treatments," Dr. Hartberger explained. "I look forward to giving you a glimpse into the fascinating world of statistics, its power as well as its limitations. You will be introduced to precise logic, using it to give you an educated estimate of the chance that certain observed data has led you to an incorrect conclusion."

Doherty Library Online Nursing Guide Aids Student Research

Loan Nguyen, Doherty Library electronic resources librarian, is proud of the new online tool available to nursing students and others on the Doherty Library website. Nguyen used her previous experience as a research librarian at Baylor College of Medicine in designing the page, which she believes will assist our students. "I hope it will provide our nursing students with all the necessary tools to conduct their research effectively," Nguyen said.

Students can navigate the Doherty Library Nursing Guide for information on:

- How to access to online resources at UST, either on or off campus
- Links to nursing databases, E-books, E-journals and medical dictionaries
- Links to consumer health information
- Resources on drug information
- Basic diagnostic tools, tests and measurements

- Information on how to write and cite when doing nursing research
- Evidence-based practice resources
- Code of ethics for nurses
- Links to the American Nursing Association, national student nurses organization, etc. and the NCLEX® examination

Below is a screen print of the new Doherty Nursing Research webpage. Just go to <http://Campusguides.stthom.edu/nursing> to take a closer look at the site.



January Calendar of Events

- Pre-Nursing Student/New Faculty Luncheon from 12:30 – 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 12. (By Invitation Only. RSVP to Lesley Paulsen at 713-525-2163.)
- HESI Nursing Assessment for the 2012 Nursing Cohort from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 14 in Doherty 029 – 030. Contact Lesley Paulsen at 713-525-2163 for information.

Contact Us

To learn more about our nursing program, email nursing@stthom.edu or call us at 713-525-2163.