

SCHOOL OF NURSING

NEWSLETTER

FALL
2020



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS

School of Nursing

Message from the Chair



Greetings from the School of Nursing (SON)! 2020 has been a year for the books, as the COVID-19 pandemic has changed all aspects of our lives. Here in the SON we have endured and thrived while going through a continuous stream of change, learning new skills and adapting to a new world. The fall semester brought many people back to campus for the first time since March, and it was refreshing to see more activity on campus. The university will be operating remotely after the Thanksgiving break, and we believe this is the best option for everyone's safety and health. I am proud of our students, faculty and staff for continuing to step up and meet the challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. And a very special thank you to all the nurses and health care workers for your courage and persistence in the fight against COVID-19. You are the heroes of our society!

Although 2020 has been a challenging year, there have also been many reasons to celebrate. In November, the College of Health Professions (CHP) celebrated its 50th anniversary. 2020 also marks the 40th anniversary of Ahlberg Hall and the 125th anniversary of Wichita State University. Occasions like these are good reminders that wonderful things are still happening. While we were not able to celebrate these milestones together in person, I hope everyone takes time to reflect on the incredible accomplishments that have been achieved and the countless lives that have been positively impacted through the years.

It is with mixed emotions that I share an upcoming change within the SON and the CHP. Since my arrival at Wichita State in 2018, I have served as both the CHP Associate Dean and SON Chair. With the arrival of our new Dean, Gregory Hand, there has been a reorganization of the CHP organizational structure. As a result, I have begun transitioning to solely the CHP Associate Dean role, with the changeover being complete Feb. 1, 2021. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Debie Pile will assume the Interim SON Chair role. Dr. Pile has been a full-time SON faculty member since 2008 and has a broad array of leadership experience that makes her well suited to fill this role. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the SON and will miss this wonderful community, but I am also excited to concentrate my efforts at the CHP level in the Associate Dean position. Although I will no longer be in the SON, I will still be in the CHP and can be contacted at voncella.mccleary-jones@wichita.edu if anyone would like to keep in touch!

I hope the end of 2020 gives you some well-deserved relaxation time, and a sense of closure to a challenging year. Surely 2021 will still present its challenges, and I do hope to some extent it brings a fresh start, with renewed energy and optimism.

Warmest wishes,

Dr. Voncella McCleary-Jones, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, ANEF
Associate Dean, College of Health Professions
Chairperson, School of Nursing
Harvard Macy Scholar
Fellow, Academy of Nursing Education

Department and Faculty Updates

Faculty changes

- ➡ Dr. Debie Pile will begin her term as Interim Chair effective Feb. 1, 2021.
- ➡ Dr. Nicole Delimont will assume the Graduate Program Director and Graduate Coordinator roles Jan. 1, 2021. Nicole will be replacing Dr. Alicia Huckstadt, who is retiring.
- ➡ Candace Grant will be the Interim Coordinator of the Accelerated BSN program, effective Feb. 1, 2021. Candace will be replacing Dr. Debie Pile, who will fill the Interim SON Chair position.

Retirements

Dr. Alicia Huckstadt and Dr. Betty Smith-Campbell are retiring from Wichita State in Dec. 2020 after many years of exemplary teaching, research, and service in the SON, CHP and at the University level. We will truly miss their spirit, knowledge, and collegiality, and wish them the absolute best of times in the future!



Convergence Science Research Programs competition winner

Dr. Betty Smith-Campbell is part of the all-women team who was selected as one of the new funded Convergence Science research projects. The [Institute for Health Disparities](#) will generate new methods to reduce obesity among vulnerable populations and improve health literacy as a mechanism among health care providers for behavior change.

Women Who Lead in Healthcare

Congratulations to Dr. Voncella McCleary-Jones for being recognized in the Women Who Lead in Healthcare from the Wichita Business Journal! The featured women will be highlighted in a print publication on Dec. 18.

Service Recognition

Congratulations to these SON faculty and staff members who celebrated milestone anniversaries at Wichita State this year!

- ➡ Richard Nold – 5 years
- ➡ Linda Moody – 5 years
- ➡ Maryon Habtemariam – 10 years
- ➡ Jennifer Sebes – 10 years
- ➡ Amy McClintock – 20 years

Kansas Nursing Initiative Grant Award

The SON has been awarded funding from the KBOR Nursing Initiative Grant. SON has been awarded these funds for a number of years, which are important to enable the SON to hire lecturers, support simulation training, and support NurseTim educational offerings for faculty.

Gaulter Award recipients

The SON has two recipients of the Clifford W. & Lea E. Gaulter Memorial Fund grant.

- ➡ Drs. Nicole Delimont and Jamie Harrington - their research will investigate Vitamin A intake in pregnant women in southcentral Kansas.
- ➡ Dr. Debie Pile - her research will focus on 3-D depth perception and color determination in vision screenings done by nursing students in pediatric rotations.

Faculty deployed to areas with high COVID-19 rates

Through his position in the Air National Guard, Richard Nold has been deployed to assist counties in Kansas with high COVID-19 rates. Richard oversees the mobile team, who move from county to county performing COVID-19 tests on residents. The team consists of 3-7 people, and includes nurses, medics and admit personnel. Large-scale testing is a critically important tool in efforts to head off COVID-19 infections and deaths. Their efforts help alleviate work on the local health care workers and slow the spread of the virus. The team has traveled to Manhattan, Greenleaf, Osawatomie State Hospital, Emporia, Chase, Sterling, Little River and Lyons, to name a few. At this time, Richard has been deployed for three months. Thank you for your service, Richard!

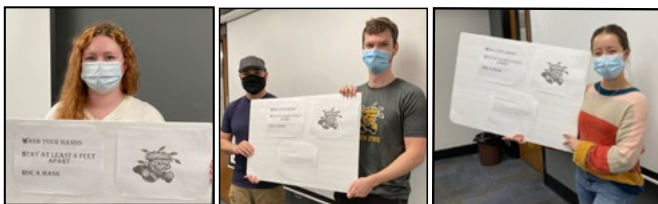
Updates – continued

New technology in simulation lab

The Simulation Lab has a new audiovisual system where students can work on simulation mannequins while faculty control the mannequins and observe on a TV in a separate room. The separation gives students more freedom to work and makes them more comfortable and autonomous.

Supporting local nurses

The SON wants to help support local nurses who are working tirelessly on the front lines. Faculty and staff have come together and are working on some initiatives, including care packages, vaccine administration assistance, donating time lending a listening ear for debriefing sessions, monetary donations and a social media “Wear a Mask” campaign. Thank you to our partners for your hard work – you are greatly appreciated!



Faculty achievements

🎉 Congratulations to Brandy Jackson, who has been accepted to the University of Alabama’s EdD Instructional Leadership program specializing in Nursing Education.

🎉 Congratulations to Maryon Habtermariam for being named an Orientation Faculty Fellow at Wichita State. Every year, Faculty Fellows are selected in the areas of recruitment, retention, new student orientation, service learning, promoting curricular diversity, honors, and applied learning. View the full list of 2020-21 Fellows at wichita.edu/FacultyFellows.

Connecting and recruiting virtually

The need to connect with future students is stronger than ever. Thank you to faculty for adapting to the times and representing the SON virtually!

🎉 The SON held virtual information sessions for students and families in place of in-person sessions. The sessions went very well and had high attendance rates. Virtual information sessions will continue for the foreseeable future.

🎉 The SON also virtually hosted an exhibitor booth at the 2020 Kansas School Nurses Conference. Rhonda Williams and Debie Pile chatted and provided information to visitors who stopped by the “booth.”

Pathway to Nursing program update

The Wichita State Pathway to Nursing Program at K-State is moving forward. Architecture is working on plans for the remodeling of the spaces in Justin Hall, and some supplies have been delivered. The first cohort is expected to start fall 2022.

Faculty member speaks at national meeting

Alicia Huckstadt was invited to participate as a leader in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners’ Regional Leadership meeting in August. National and regional leaders provided important updates and recognized the 1.06 billion patient visits to Nurse Practitioners annually.

Faculty member publishes book chapters

Alicia Huckstadt is a distinguished contributor and author of two chapters, Peptic ulcer disease and gastroesophageal reflux disease, and Immunization considerations for adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioners, 3rd ed. Edited by T. Barley, Barkley & Associates, Los Angeles, CA. ISBN 978-0-578-14831-1. Terri Core and Angela Storrer were each reviewers for another chapter in the Barkley book.

First Generation

SON faculty, staff and students were featured on the College of Health Professions’ [Facebook page](#) during First Generation Week! Approximately half of our undergraduate students and about one-third of the graduate students are First Gen. Faculty members Brandy Jackson, Laura Sooby and Betty Smith-Campbell are featured on the [CHP First Gen website](#), sharing their tips and advice for fellow First Gens.

Holiday Recipe book

The SON Faculty and Staff Affairs Committee made a special Holiday Recipe book. Faculty and staff submitted their favorite holiday recipes, which were compiled into beautiful books. There are lots of tasty recipes that we can’t wait to try!



Course designation approved

Jennifer Sebes’s Open/ Alternative Textbook Initiative course designation (NURS 903) FNP Primary Care II was approved by the review committee. The Registrar’s office will be adding it to the course schedule so students can recognize this is a course that has no additional cost for instructional materials.

Student Updates

Fall 2020 commencement ceremony

Due to rising COVID-19 numbers in Sedgwick County and statewide, WSU has decided to postpone fall university commencement. While this is disappointing news, we are proud of our Shocker Nursing graduates and the university is committed to providing a safe in-person commencement ceremony at a future date. The SON did hold a virtual pinning and recognition ceremony for our fall 2020 graduates. A video featuring members of the SON graduating class and SON and other WSU administrators was produced by the WSU Media Resources Center and is available to view on WSU-TV. While a bit unique due to the restrictions and limitations imposed by COVID-19, this format allowed us to come together safely and celebrate our graduates.

➔ Graduate Program: Three DNP Postbaccalaureate graduates and four DNP Post-Master graduates.

➔ Undergraduate Program: 54 graduates from the Traditional BSN program and 18 graduates from the RN to BSN program.

Outstanding Graduates

Two of our students were featured as outstanding graduates in WSU News.

➔ Emma Wiens has pushed past challenges to earn her nursing degree. Read more about what's in store for this future nurse. <https://wsu.news/EmmaWiens>

➔ Brandyn Rathman, from Sioux City, Iowa, is excited to start his career in the medical field after graduation. He said his experience at WSU will help him guide his patients toward healthier lives. <https://wsu.news/Brandyn>

Nursing student helps provide COVID-19 relief for homeless

The Sunflower had an [inspiring story](#) about the contributions to the homeless community by nursing student Lexi Van and other WSU students.

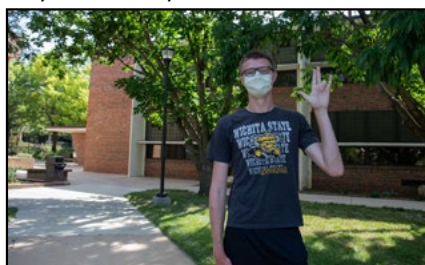
Transition Mentors/Clash of the Colleges

Nursing students Max Karst and Jenna Fields were CHP Transition Mentors (TMs), who help new students with orientation and adjust to life as a college student. The TMs also participated in and brought the CHP Orange Crush spirit to the annual Clash of the Colleges event. Although the event was different this year with limited in-person games and emphasis on virtual games, our TMs still came through and showed their CHP pride! TMs are an important student role to help new students at Wichita State feel welcome and supported, so thank you to Max and Jenna for serving your fellow students!



Shockers United campaign

Max Karst is featured on signage around campus encouraging people to wear their mask and do their part to help curb the spread of COVID-19.



COVID-19 scholarship recipient

First semester student Brittanie Atkinson was a recipient of the AACN Foundation for Academic COVID-19 Nursing Student Support Fund.

Virtual information session

Students Max Karst and Chris Nguyen in the traditional BSN program co-hosted the CHP's Tuesdays at 2 Nursing [information session](#) on the CHP Facebook page. They shared their experience with the nursing program, gave their advice and answered questions from students interested in pursuing nursing. Thank you to Max and Chris for representing the School of Nursing well!

Just for Fun

After a challenging spring 2020 semester with classes and clinicals held remotely, students were eager to get back in the classroom for the fall 2020 semester!

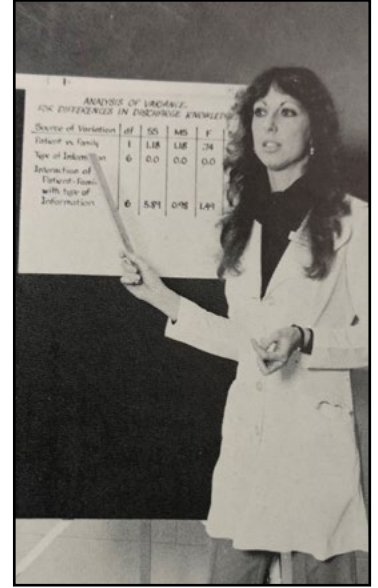


While volunteering at the Lord's Diner, Terri Core ran into two nursing students who happened to be working there at the same time. Terri says you never know when or where you will meet up with students!

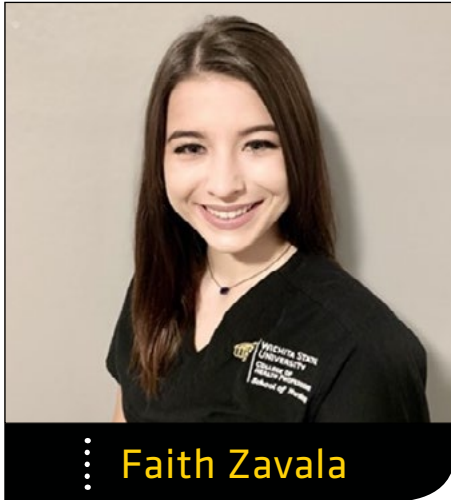


A Step Back in Time

In honor of the College of Health Professions' 50th Anniversary in 2020, we rounded up some historic photos from the School of Nursing.



Student Spotlight



Faith Zavala

Faith Zavala is a soon-to-be graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. She lives in Wichita and works as a Licensed Practical Nurse for a pediatric home health agency.

Faith is from Arkansas City, KS and has wanted to work in the medical field for as long as she can remember.

"I have always been amazed by the human body and how it works and always wanted to learn more. About six years ago I worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and decided that I loved one-on-one patient care. Nursing seemed like the perfect role."

She says attending Wichita State was the ideal choice for her because it was a short move away from her hometown and offered the exact program she wanted to attend. She says WSU has allowed her to pursue the career of her choice and helped her find great friends who she cannot imagine life without.

She says her biggest challenge as a nursing student has been managing school and work simultaneously.

"Nursing school is just as hard as everyone makes it sound. It becomes your life. The hardest part was working nearly full-time while managing my schoolwork. Weekly planning and keeping my life organized were very helpful to overcome this."

COVID-19 also presented some challenges for Faith this semester when she and her husband both tested positive for the virus.

"This caused me to miss nearly two weeks of clinical hours that are required for graduation. I had to do make-up assignments and fit more clinical hours in my already busy life. It's been a challenge this semester, but I will be finishing on time."

When talking about her feelings leading up to graduation Faith says, "The feeling of being completely done with school both excites and scares me. This will be the first time in my life that I won't be attending school of some kind. I've worked so hard for this degree and always saw the finish line as a dream. It's pretty amazing that I'm done and in only a couple of months I will be joining other wonderful nurses on the front lines of the medical community."

After graduation Faith will be studying to take the NCLEX so she can officially be licensed as a registered nurse. She is excited to start her career and has already accepted a job in the cardiac intensive care unit at Ascension St. Francis in Wichita. She believes the best part about nursing is the one-on-one interactions with patients and looks forward to providing personal, compassionate care for them.

"Not only do we get to help save their life, but we also get to know them and hold their hand through usually some of their hardest days."

Faith's advice to future nursing students is to make sure you are passionate and to be adaptable.

"I think my driving force through nursing school was my passion to learn. If you can find a way to truly enjoy what you are learning about, studying will start to feel less chaotic. Nursing school isn't meant to be easy because working as a nurse isn't easy. Being able to adapt to many changes in school will make the transition to becoming a nurse easier. Also, you have to find time to relax and have fun. It's all about balance!"

When she has spare time, Faith tries to do relaxing things to balance her busy schedule. She enjoys doing yoga, watching documentaries, and hanging out with her husband and close friends.

In the next couple of years Faith and her husband plan to move to the pacific northwest where she hopes to become a labor and delivery nurse and continue her education.

Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Alicia Huckstadt

Dr. Alicia Huckstadt is the Graduate Program Director for the School of Nursing (SON). She has been at Wichita State for 45 years, first in the Alcohol Education and Training Program and then in the SON. She has two PhDs, one in Education and one in Nursing, and a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship. She is nationally recognized for her expertise and has been a content expert for nurse practitioner certification examinations with the American Nurses Credentialing Center and is a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Alicia is originally from western Kansas and lived in Denver, Colorado and San Diego, California. She graduated with various degrees from Wichita State University, Kansas State University, University of Colorado, University of Denver and the University of Kansas.

Alicia says the College of Health Professions and WSU have always been a perfect fit for her. She always felt like she was in the right place, first as an educator for alcohol education in the college, then as she taught in almost every undergraduate nursing course and then in the graduate nursing program.

She is a recipient of university and state teaching awards, Professor Incentive Awards, the WSU President's Distinguished Service Award, Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award, and the Wichita Business Journal's Health Care Hero Award. She has been a surgical intensive care registered nurse, a medical-surgical registered nurse, and was also able to include an active faculty practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner for over twenty years with the WSU Student Health Services.

"I am so fortunate to have combined my roles as a family nurse practitioner, a researcher, an administrator, and an educator into a faculty role," she says. "Learning has been the essential catalyst for me in all the roles. The College has provided numerous opportunities, support, and challenges that solidified this combination of roles."

Alicia says she has many memorable experiences at WSU, including;

- The workstudy program for undergraduate nursing students she taught in her early teaching days and published the outcomes in the American Journal of Nursing;
- The co-development of the first-ever online continuing education course at WSU and subsequent online credit course in the early 1990s;
- The many research accomplishments including psychometric studies and publications/presentations;
- Becoming the Director of the Graduate Nursing Programs in 2000 and secured over two million federal dollars for graduate nurse practitioner students to complete their education;
- The initiation and leadership of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

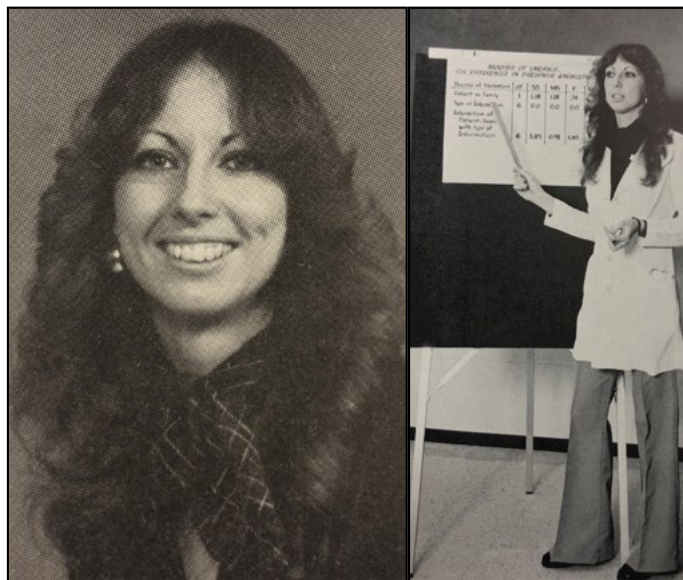
Above all, Alicia says she is most proud of the accomplishments of the thousands of students, alumni, and faculty in the SON who improve health care for individuals, families, and communities.

WSU and the SON have gone through many changes through the years, but Alicia says one of the biggest developments is nurse educators taking advantage of the tremendous opportunities and resources that are shared as a university, and guiding students to impact the world. She says a significant change in the nursing profession has been the acceptance of evidence-based knowledge and preparing nurses at the doctoral level.

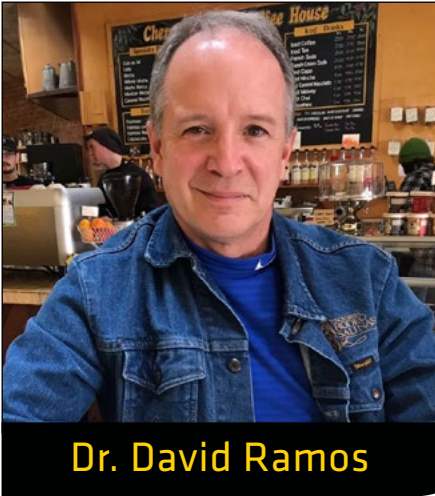
After a successful career spanning several decades, Alicia is retiring in Dec. 2020.

"I have truly enjoyed my time at WSU and am humbled by the support I received from others during the years. I will miss many things at WSU, but most of all I will miss the people."

After retirement Alicia plans to explore creative activities, travel when it becomes safer, and enjoy time with family.



Alumni/Donor Spotlight



Dr. David Ramos

Dr. David Ramos is an emergency medicine physician and associate chief of staff at Salinas Valley Memorial Health Care System. He is an alumnus of the School of Nursing (SON) and the donor of an endowed scholarship for nursing students.

Since graduating from the BSN program in 1984, David has gone on to have an accomplished career. He says his BSN degree was the foundation that propelled him forward.

David grew up in a military family with Puerto Rican parents. After graduating from Leavenworth High School, he tried engineering before changing course to pursue nursing. He almost went to KU for nursing school, but WSU and Wesley offered him tuition assistance in exchange for employment at the hospital, which was too good to pass up.

At first, David wasn't sure he made the right decision coming to WSU, but by the end he realized it was the best decision he could have made.

"Wichita is the economic capital of the state, and there are so many things going on. Everything is right there. Faculty know all these people and graduates have great opportunities to network. A lot of people don't know how world-class WSU is."

David says his experience at WSU was perfect.

"It lined me up for so many different things. So many opportunities opened up for me because of WSU. I never forget about home and what you have done. I'm a big believer in the nursing program."

Something David also values from nursing school, in particular WSU, was that they drove home the value of being able to write.

"Over the course of two years at WSU, because of various projects, including my departmental honors project, I wrote 500 pages of finished work. That has been so invaluable, particularly in my administrative military and civilian lives. I can't emphasize the need for people to be able to communicate, and I got that from the Nursing program at WSU."

David remembers Dr. Alicia Huckstadt as someone who had an influence on him at WSU.

"She was very encouraging. I did a departmental honors project with her and worked really closely with her during my first year."

After graduating from WSU, David worked as a civilian nurse for three years. Eventually clinicals and life experiences led him to medicine.

"I was supposed to go to West Point to become a combat arms officer, but some of my colleagues and my mentor - who happened to be the Dean of the Wichita branch of the KU School of Medicine - encouraged me to pursue medical school."

He joined the Army once he was in medical school and was accepted into the Health Profession Scholarship Program. David earned his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1991. He completed his general surgery internship at the William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, and his emergency medicine residency at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington. Afterwards he served as a doctor in the Army.

After his time in the army he joined Salinas Valley Memorial, where he has worked in QA, been the vice-chair and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, vice chief and chief of staff, member and president of the hospital foundation, and now associate chief of staff. He was also the medical director for the Sexual Assault Response Teams for Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

David recently made a pledge to create an endowed nursing scholarship, inspired by his twin brother, Richard, who is also a nurse. Richard spent four years as an infantry officer, has his master's degree in nursing, and is now a Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurse treating kids with cancer. He also teaches pediatric hematology-oncology nursing to places in need around the world.

"I'm really proud of Rich. He's done more with his nursing degree than a lot of people with a medical degree. Above all, he is a really good person."

Some changes David has seen through his career is more collaboration among professions and more females in the medical profession, particularly in leadership roles. Technology has also been a game changer for electronic medical records, order entry, etc.

David sees retirement on the horizon but is taking it year by year. In his spare time David can be found working on his ranch, which he says resembles something you would see in National Geographic. David also enjoys riding horses, skiing, and bike riding. He also travels to Kansas to visit his longtime friend Sandy, a nurse in Lawrence, who also graduated from WSU with a BSN in 1984. David and Sandy were friends in Nursing school at WSU and reconnected several years ago.



Message to Alumni & Friends

Alumni - we want to hear from you! There are many reasons to stay in touch and be involved. Keep your lifelong relationship with Wichita State and the School of Nursing a strong one. We encourage you to:

- ➔ **UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.** We want to make sure you receive the latest news, invitations to events, department updates and more.
- ➔ **KEEP US UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS.** Send your achievements and news to chpcontent@wichita.edu for promotion on social media and in upcoming newsletters.
- ➔ **ATTEND UNIVERSITY AND ALUMNI EVENTS.** These events are a great opportunity to network and reconnect with fellow alumni.
- ➔ **CONNECT AND ENCOURAGE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WSU NURSES THROUGH YOUR EXPERIENCES.** This is an important way in which your leadership can help further the nursing profession and the School of Nursing at WSU.
- ➔ **CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION WITH US.** Stand out and take your nursing career to the next level.

Let us know what's happening with you by emailing the following information to chpcontent@wichita.edu. Thank you for sharing!

Name:

Class:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Tell us about yourself. Where are you living, what are you doing in your career and what are your future plans?

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