

# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

School of Nursing, Alumni Hall, Room 2333, PO Box 1066  
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066

August 3, 2006

Dear

As of the writing of this letter to you, there are only twenty days until the beginning of the new academic year! You are definitely entering the final stretch! Some of you will be graduating this December and others in May, 2007. The light at the end of the tunnel is finally visible. I wanted to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on a few things in the School of Nursing.

### ***NCLEX and NCLEX Review***

Shortly before graduation or just after you should complete your NCLEX examination application form. This can be found on-line at <http://www.continentaltesting.net/ProfDetail> or you can go to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation web site and click on "apply for license" and it will take you to the testing site. Ms. Compton on the second floor of the School of Nursing also has applications. Those of you applying out of state can also find your testing applications and other materials on-line by going to the respective state's Board of Nursing web site. An NCLEX review will be offered for you prior to taking the exam and after you have completed your courses. I strongly urge you to take the review course. It will assist you to determine those areas that will need your more concerted effort for study. In your last semester you will also take the HESI RN examination. I suggest you take the exam seriously as your score is highly predictive of how well you will perform on the actual NCLEX. In addition the results of the HESI will give you an indication of where you need to put your study efforts. If you have not secured or purchased an NCLEX review text I would highly recommend you do so. It is even a good way to study for your course examinations. Most importantly it will begin to give you a "flavor" of how the NCLEX is constructed.

### ***Graduation and SON Pin***

It has been a longstanding tradition that Schools of Nursing have a pin that is their exclusive design. This past year we had the SIUE SON pin re-designed and it is quite beautiful. It is also less costly than our original pin. Mr. Patrick Michael has information about the pin and costs. This is the pin you receive at the completion of the program and is worn on the nursing uniform when you are working. You might want to "suggest" to your family or significant other that the pin would make a nice Christmas gift or birthday gift for you. The graduation pinning ceremony takes place on the day of convocation which is always the Friday before graduation. Spring graduation will be May 5, 2007 with the School of Nursing Convocation May 4, 2007. Academic attire is required for both convocation and graduation. Soon after school starts your class will be asked to appoint representatives to form a convocation planning committee. There is a lot to do such as arranging for your class picture etc.

### ***Student Governance***

This year Mr. Held will be initiating a new structure to insure that you all have voice in the School of Nursing. Each class (Sophomore, Junior, Senior etc) will be organized into a governance structure with class officers. The President of the class will automatically be a member of the Dean's Advisory Council. There will be regular class meetings. It is hoped that this will provide you with even more voice in matters that relate to you. Nursing is a profession dedicated to serving others. I hope that each class will take on a project that is aimed at helping others less fortunate or able. Nursing homes, schools, special programs such as head start, and foundations focused on special health care needs such as the lupus foundation, or asthma foundation etc all need help to make the lives of the people they serve better. You already have a wealth of information and talents to share with individuals who have needs. Each class will be challenged to choose an organization to assist. If you have an interest in becoming an officer for your class, please advise Mr. Held of that fact.

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## *School of Nursing Changes*

Over the summer two network computers and a printer were put in the Student Lounge on the School of Nursing floor. You are free to use these for printing off your NURSING papers or reading and responding to your email. In addition, the photocopy machine is also free for your use. I ask that you use it for your OWN classes and not to photocopy things for your friends in the history or art department or whatever other program outside of nursing they may be in. Our student enrollment has increased remarkably while the budget to run the school has not increased at the same rate. So, we are trying to cut back where we can this year. One area where we can save considerable money so that it can be used to teach the classes, is in supplies. The School of Nursing is the only unit on campus that provides free photocopy for the students. However, in the Fall term we will have 700+ students in the school of nursing. If each student photocopied just ten pages a week that would be 7,000 sheets of paper a week. In actuality, the paper usage by the students is much greater than that. Beginning this fall I have instituted a cost saving measure whereby 10 boxes of paper (that is 10 reams in each box, or 5,000 sheets of paper per box) will be purchased for the photocopy machine in the Fall and the same amount again in the Spring term. However, when the paper allotment for each term is used up, no more will be purchased. Students who wish to use the free photocopy machine will need to buy their own reams of paper (approximately \$5.60 or less at Office Max for 500 sheets of paper) to use in the machine. The SON extends free photocopy to its students as a favor. All SIUE students in other majors pay for photocopying. We will continue to supply the ink cartridges for the photocopy machine and for the printer for the computers in the lounge. Given the fact that there will not be unlimited supplies of paper this year for photocopying I suggest that each of you exercise some restraint in the use of the machine. I would appreciate it greatly.

Enjoy the last few weeks of your summer hiatus. When you return in the fall, one of our first School of Nursing events will be the **Nursing Heritage Walk for Scholarships on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendars and join us for a fun morning followed by a lunch. See you all in a couple of weeks!

Sincerely,



Marcia Maurer, PhD, RN  
Dean & Professor, Nursing  
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow