

# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

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

August 1, 2006

Dear

I hope you have purchased all your new school year supplies because the academic year is almost here! I suspect that many of you are getting anxious to get back to school and really start those nursing courses. The purpose of my letter is to introduce you to the life of a sophomore nursing student at SIUE. Here are four magic words to live by: Study, Study, Study Hard!

### ***Fall Sophomore Nursing Courses***

There is a common phrase, that one has to “learn to crawl before they can walk and walk before learning to run.” In many ways the first semester of the Sophomore year in nursing is captured by this phrase. I guess one is really never “a nurse” but instead always “becoming a nurse.” Even after completing school and practicing as a professional, there is still so much to learn. The knowledge explosion in health care is mind boggling and there is always some new procedure or skill to learn and master. For me this is exactly what makes nursing so exciting, it is never static. Your fall classes begin the process of evolving into professional nurses. Nursing 230, Terminology, Inquiry and Writing are foundational to the rest of your nursing courses. The language of health care is like entering a new world. Abbreviations such as T.I.D. or words like talipes valgus all mean something to nurses and physicians. The ability to communicate with each other regarding patient care needs is essential to nursing.

N233, Professionalism in Nursing will introduce you to the “world of nursing.” Here you will learn that to be a nurse is to embrace a way of life. Patient care does not occur only at the bedside but in other arenas such as the political where nurses advocate for patient rights. You will learn about important contributions to nursing knowledge made by former and current nursing theorists. In other words, you will learn to “crawl before you can walk”. Finally, N234, Human Development Life Span will enable you to see that development does not stop when one becomes an adult but it is a dynamic process that continues until each person draws their last breath. Knowledge of human development from birth through senescence informs the nurse, enabling him/her to provide the best care for the patient based not only on the patient’s health care needs but also on their developmental needs. So, you see the fall term followed by the spring term courses are truly the foundational building blocks upon which all of your other nursing courses are built. These are important courses and will merit your close attention. There is so much to learn in the process of becoming a nurse that every minute counts on this journey. You will never have this time again. So make the most of it!

### ***New Student Orientation - required***

On **August 23, 2006** from **4:30PM until 7:30PM** you will be attending new student orientation to the School of Nursing. A great deal of important information will be shared at this meeting and I look forward to welcoming all of you there. One new initiative that you will hear about is the organization of each of the nursing groups (Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Accelerated Option and RN to BSN) into class committees with officers. The President of each class will also be the individual who will sit on the Dean’s Advisory Council. The Director of Recruitment, Admissions, Progression and Retention for the School, Mr. Steven Held will explain in greater detail this structure. However, those of you who might be interested in becoming a class officer can think about this between now and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August.

### ***Faculty Mentor***

When you enter the Sophomore year you will be assigned to a faculty mentor. The relationship of the mentee (you!) and the mentor is an important one. The mentor can assist you deal with the pressures of nursing school as well as be a source of valuable information about nursing for you. The mentor will also begin to work with you on the development of your professional portfolio which you will maintain and add to as you progress through the nursing program. You will learn much more about the portfolio in N233, Professionalism in Nursing. The mentor will also help you select the kind of service-learning activity in which you will engage beginning in the spring term of the

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Sophomore year. When you learn who your mentor is, I urge you to contact him/her as soon as possible. You will find the mentor's help invaluable as you begin the process of maintaining your portfolio or just needing someone as a "sounding board."

***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 photocopier 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 photocopier 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 photocopier 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 photocopier 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. We all look forward to your beginning your nursing education with us. You will be receiving a superior nursing education. After all, we must live up to our reputation as being the "Nursing Gem of Southern Illinois!"

Sincerely,



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