

I truly am honored to be recognized as Professor Emeritus by the University upon my retirement in May 2021. When I retire, I will have completed 30 years of service to the University and its students. In these remarks, I would like to take the opportunity to summarize and reflect on my nursing education journey and my years at Gonzaga. It's been quite a ride and one I have been grateful for every day.

I wanted to be a nurse for as long as I can remember. Indeed, my mother saved something I wrote in first grade that said "When I grow up I want to be a nurse so that I can give people shots and make lots of money." Hmmm..... Then, in junior high school, I briefly flirted with the idea of being a teacher. It's interesting to think how my professional life has combined both of these options – and I have never been sorry.

After growing up in Spokane, I earned my BSN at Pacific Lutheran University and returned to Spokane after graduation for my first job – on the OB unit at Sacred Heart Hospital. I hadn't really wanted to return to Spokane, but I wanted to work in OB and that was where there was a job. Now, Spokane is definitely home – and I am thankful every day. I worked at Sacred Heart for two years and then started to get restless, so I decided to earn my master's degree as a clinical nurse specialist in OB. As I nearing the completion of my degree, I had the opportunity to pursue nurse practitioner training. This was in 1980 – the role was very new at that time and did not require a master's degree. I received funding from Planned Parenthood and went to Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for training as a Women's Health NP. After completing this training I had a 2-year employment obligation at Planned Parenthood and then took a job with a local physician, and worked there for five years. I really liked being a NP, especially the diagnostic and teaching aspects for the job. But, the employment situation was not a good fit and I found it necessary to leave. There weren't many NP jobs in Spokane at that time and, because of some family issues going on at the time, I needed to stay in Spokane. I was offered a teaching job at the Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education (WSU) and took it really because I just needed to be able to pay the bills. But, early on, I discovered that I loved teaching and that was what I was meant to be doing. I stayed at WSU for five years, beginning work on my doctoral degree at Gonzaga in my fourth year. The Dean at WSU didn't want any more faculty with degrees from Gonzaga, so when Gonzaga offered me a job, I took it.

When I began teaching in the Department of Nursing in Fall 1991, things were so much different than they are now! We were in the second semester of the MSN program and had a RN-BSN program for mostly local students. Both programs were offered in a distance format, which meant that lectures were videotaped and mailed out to students. Students came to campus about once a month. Our offices were in the "garden level" (i.e., basement) of Welch Hall. I remember getting my first office computer – just so I could have one on my desk when accreditation site visitors came. I had no idea how to use it and am not sure it was even hooked up! From Welch Hall, the Department moved first to a condemned house (which is now a parking lot), then to the basement of Robinson House, then to the basement of Schoenberg – before finally getting offices in Tilford that had a view of something other than tailpipes and fenders.

What follows is a brief summary of some of my accomplishments in each of the four areas of faculty evaluation – teaching, advising, continued professional development, and academic citizenship.

Teaching

To this date, teaching remains my favorite part of my faculty role. One of the things I have most appreciated at Gonzaga is the opportunity to teach a wide variety of courses across all programs, and to constantly be learning new content areas. I have had the opportunity to teach a wide range of courses across all of our programs – MSN, RN-BSN, BSN, and DNP. I have also taught courses for the Biology and Environmental Studies Departments, as well as for the Doctoral Program in Leadership Studies. My

favorite courses have been my current responsibilities of population-focused health content, nursing education courses, and the undergraduate research course. Some of my specific accomplishments in teaching and course development include:

- Developing the original Nurse Educator Track and its courses in our MSN program.
- Revising NURS 466 and 467 so that they have more of a population-focused health focus, rather than a community health focus.
- Developing NURS 251. I am particularly proud of this course as it represents exposing students to population-focused nursing content in their sophomore year, rather than waiting until their senior year. Developing this course also meant more revisions to NURS 466 so that it has more of an intervention focus. NURS 251 also received a SJ (social justice) designation – the first course outside of the College of Arts and Sciences to do so.
- Offering summer study abroad opportunities in London, Florence, Peru, and Benin. I am particularly proud of the “WATER” program in Benin, which was developed with a colleague from the School of Engineering. This interdisciplinary course ran for 8 years, focusing on water-related health issues and technologies. I also led the “health team” for two summers with the undergraduate Leadership course offered in Zambezi, Zambia.

Advising

I have provided formal academic advising to RN-BSN, BSN, and MSN students. Like everyone else, I find myself doing a lot of informal advising, too. In my early years at Gonzaga, our MSN program had a thesis requirement and I advised the majority of our students. I am not sure how many students I actually mentored through the thesis process – I believe it was well over 200. It is worth noting that this was done when the tenure-track teaching load was 12 credits and thesis advising did not count in this load. I really enjoyed this, though, and had the opportunity to work with students on an unbelievable range of topics!

Continued Professional Development

Most of my research-based publications and scholarly presentations were completed during my earlier years at Gonzaga. I am particularly proud of the textbooks that I have written and the awards received by a couple of them. I have continued to be involved in research in recent years – usually as the research team member who provides guidance on quantitative data analysis. Most of my more recent continued professional development, though, has been the kind that doesn’t show up on lists of scholarly accomplishments. Developing population-focused health courses has required tons of independent study and reading, as this is not a content area in which I have received any formal education. Leading study abroad courses also required a lot of independent study and reading about global health issues, water-related health issues, and comparative health care systems. This more or less invisible work has paid off, though, in the quality of the resulting courses and also in being granted a Fulbright Specialist appointment in Benin during Fall 2014.

Academic Citizenship

I have appreciated the opportunity to be involved with a number of University committees over the years. I believe strongly that service to the university is a responsibility. It also, though, is a great way to gain insight into what is going on in other departments and programs across campus. I also believe that academic citizenship means serving one’s profession and community, as well as being a good team member with the faculty and staff with whom one works on a daily basis. Some of my university and non-university academic citizenship activities over the years have included:

- Within the Department, I have served as chairperson, BSN program director, MSN program director, and DNP program director. (I also served as Associate Dean when our department was housed in the School of Professional Studies.) I am currently in the Lead Faculty role for the community health portion of semester 4. I am particularly proud of the work I have done in this latter role with identifying and developing new practicum sites for NURS 467. Since assuming this role, I have developed placements for students in both the Mead and Spokane public school systems as well as in a range of housing settings (12 different ones) sponsored by Catholic

Charities.

- At the University level, I chaired the Research Council for several years; helped develop the IRB; served on two Provost Search Committees, the Grievance Committee, the Faculty Handbook Committee, Academic Council, Graduate Programs Committee, and Promotion and Tenure Committee (10 years total).
- I have served the nursing profession through involvement in CCNE accreditation activities (site visitor, team leader, Accreditation Review Committee), service on the Washington State Board of Nursing program review committee, and service on CNEWS (including as President).
- I have served the Spokane Community as an appointed member of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health (7 years).

I am grateful to Gonzaga University for taking a chance on me nearly 30 years ago. I look forward to continuing to serve the University in different ways (yes, possibly as an adjunct!) after I retire – and I will be extremely proud to do so as a Professor Emeritus.

Sincerely,

Susan

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Professor of Nursing