
OUR SCHOOL TODAY

Lutheran School of Nursing Today



November of 2007 LSN Graduates

When Alumni go to the annual Alumni Weekend each year, the most frequently asked questions are, "What's going on at the school these days? Is there even a school there any more?" Some of us remember the early days when there actually was a Lutheran Hospital with a Lutheran School of Nursing that worked closely with that hospital. But then the Church Association sold the hospital, and changes started to take place. Management/ownership changed several times. But Lutheran School of Nursing remains in the building at Jefferson and Miami Streets. Just as the hospital has changed, so has the school. There is nothing really "Lutheran" about it any more. But the school leadership has worked to maintain the reputation, pride,

and high standards of the school from which we graduated.

In April of this year, two of us from the Publications Committee went to the school to interview the Director, Regina Cundall, at Lutheran School of Nursing. She was warm and receptive to all our questions, and anxious to work with us and the Alumni Association. The following report gives you some of the information we learned during our visit.

THE HOSPITAL

Alexius Hospital Corporation now owns the hospital property. They also have a hospital a few blocks south of the school on Jefferson. They use the hospital we know as "Lutheran Hospital" as a place

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for clinics and office space, and they refer to it as the “Alexius Hospital Jefferson Campus.” The beautiful statue of Christ that we saw daily by the Chapel remains in their front entrance area.

THE SCHOOL BUILDING

All of the class work is done in the “new dorm building” on Jefferson and Miami. Webster College professors come to the school to teach the classes. The dorm is not as full as it used to be, as now many of the students are married or choose to live at home. Right now there are usually 22-26 students who use the dorm. They can stay there for \$750.00 a semester, or \$10.00 a night. During the summer, the school dorm is closed.

There is still a Louise Krauss-Ament Library. Some of the family of Mrs. Ament recently visited the school. Mrs. Ament’s picture remains in the library at the school. There is a case displaying caps, pictures, and historical articles. And the plaque that was in the library on Texas Street is now in the school

library on Jefferson. They have tried to maintain the history of the school. The librarian is very dedicated to saving newspaper articles, mementos from the “old hospital and school,” and albums of information dating back to 1926. You see banners and table coverings from the Lutheran Medical Center Days. And the school pin remains the same. The wording of the school name has changed through the years, but the design is the same. There is a small chapel at the

School Historical Items on Display



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LSN Students in uniform of 2008

school. It is not like the chapel we remember at the hospital, but it gives the students a place to pray and gather for spiritual needs.

THE STUDENTS

Today you see male and female students. Many are married. The average age is 30 years. The students are mostly from the St. Louis area, but many come from Illinois. At the present time there are two students from California attending. For the most part, the students commute to the school and their clinical work.

The students now wear the modern uniform of the day. They wear royal blue scrubs with white clinical jackets and white shoes. Their caps changed in the mid 1970's to a broader brim and perma-starched material. They wear one black stripe on their caps in their first year, and two stripes during their second year. There no longer is a capping ceremony.

SOCIALS

There are no longer any socials with the Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis. What they do have are Student Government activities, a Spring Banquet, Community Outreach activities, and a fall picnic.

THE SCHOOL PROGRAM

In the early 90's the school changed from a three-year program to a two-year program. And in 1998 they began having split classes with one group graduating in June and the other in November. For close to 20 years, the college courses have been taught by Webster College. The instructors come to the school to teach the course. The school is still a diploma school. In fact, it is the only diploma school left in the state of Missouri. The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission visited the school in late 2006.

And in 2007, the school was granted eight years of accreditation!

It is recommended that before they start their diploma program, students take nine hours of college courses that they do not include in the 22-month program at Lutheran. These classes are English composition, introduction to sociology, and general psychology. When they graduate from LSN, they have 26 college credit hours. They have to go on to college to pick up 17 hours in order to complete their studies for a degree.

Jeff Spinks, BA, MA, Medical Librarian



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The School Chapel

Most that go on to get their degree can do this in 18-24 months. Classes that they have to take are such classes as statistics, humanity courses, and chemistry.

There are over 1,000 hours in clinical work required by the school. They have five different rotations of eight weeks each that expose them to 22 different hospitals in the area.

Graduations occur at Trinity Lutheran in the Soulard District



They get more intercity experience and long-term care experience during these rotations. And what does this cost the student? With tuition and fees, the student is faced with expenses of \$15,066.

The school has as many as 150 students enrolled at a time. Class size averages 30-40. Some of the students are LPN's bridging into the RN track, which is a 14-month program. Here they take transition classes and then finish with the other students. The last class had a 91.6% pass rate for State Board Exams on their first try. The school has a waiting list for the fall of 2009.

And how are these graduates accepted in the St. Louis community? The Director says she often gets comments that say, "If I have a choice between a Lutheran grad and another school grad, I'll take the Lutheran grad." Does that sound familiar? It is a good feeling to know that the school that exists today continues to carry our high reputation of the past.



Christ statue remains in hospital entrance.

I came across a quote this year that seems to apply to our situation. The SIU Alumni President used it at the 2005 Commencement ceremony. She was quoting a Yale President. Here is the quote – "Faculty come and go. Students are supposed to come and go. Administrations come and go. But the alumni live on forever. They are the only permanent constituency in a successful educational institution." There may be many things that have changed through the years. But our Lutheran School of Nursing Alumni continue to carry on our reputation of being great nurses.