Nursing education needs to move away from the “additive curriculum” toward a curriculum that emphasizes competent performance through active learning. In addition, Salmon said, “students need to learn how to assess, use, and manage knowledge so they can access it when needed instead of being something they “cram into their heads” during the learning process.”

“Once nurses have entered the profession, they need to further develop their knowledge in relation to specific settings, patient or community populations, and care teams,” Cronenwett asserted. Having a strong foundation in these key areas will better prepare nurses to acquire this additional knowledge throughout their careers.

“The nursing pedagogy needs to be linked with the dissemination of knowledge,” Tagliareni said. Nursing education needs to move away from the “additive curriculum” toward a curriculum that emphasizes competent performance through active learning. In addition, Salmon said, “students need to learn how to assess, use, and manage knowledge so they can access it when needed instead of being something they “cram into their heads” during the learning process.”

“The approach to the basic curriculum is currently “silod”; this approach may limit the ability of graduates to understand, manage, and make judgments in complex emerging care environments and community-based practice,” Tagliareni said. Today, nursing education focuses on patient-nurse interactions, but to improve quality of care, nurses also need to think in terms of health care systems. They need to understand quality and safety issues, the importance of team approaches to problem solving, and the need for patient education.

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Library Resources

The Library Resources at St. Vincent’s College is two folded. There is the physical library, Daniel T. Banks, in the St. Vincent’s Medical Center on the 3rd floor. The physical library has nursing and medical journals, periodicals, and text. The Daniel T. Banks Library catalog can be accessed at http://592001.eos-intl.net/592001.

There is also a virtual library on the St. Vincent’s College’s Website at http://www.stvincentscollege.edu/. On this website, the Library Resources can be found under the “Current Students” tab in the “Library Resources” selection. There is a library orientation that contains the following links: Library Orientation Manual, Library Resources Orientation Presentation, Research Plan, and Database Search Strategies. To obtain materials for research there are links to APA Citation Style Manuals and Websites, Connecticut Academic and Public Library Catalogs, Free Databases, Search Engines and Directories, General Reference and Research, Nursing and Health Sciences Resources, Online Subscription Databases, Plagiarism: What is it and why does it matter?, and What makes an information source scholarly?. Nursing journals can be found in the Online Subscription Databases. These sites are also accessible on Angel.
Test Taking 101

Nursing and radiography are very different from many courses of study. The primary difference is that not only are you required to remember, you will be required to understand virtually everything from your basic nursing and radiography courses. Each course builds on the others and every day you are in the clinical area you apply what you have learned. Testing in nursing and radiography courses is designed to measure your ability to understand and apply knowledge that has been acquired. Nursing and radiography exams are intended to evoke the use of critical thinking and decision making skills. In the clinical area, there is seldom one clearly right answer out of the choices of action that are possible—but there is a best answer. Nursing and radiography exams are all about application and choosing the BEST answer. Some tips for test taking:

1. Manage your anxiety – Most of us have some anxiety when taking tests, but some students allow their anxiety to overwhelm them. Obviously being prepared will reduce anxiety, but there are some other things that will help. One of the most important is getting enough rest. Cramming the night before is not going to help on a nursing or radiography exam, but getting rest is. Allow yourself enough time to not be running late. Learn some methods for relaxation and try taking relaxing breaths and concentrating on positive thoughts before the exam begins.

2. Read the directions carefully – Often, students realize after receiving their tests back that they have missed a question because they did not read carefully or misunderstood what was being asked.

3. Read the question carefully – Ask yourself, “What is being asked?” Do not read into a question something that is not there. Do not think about the one example that you know of clinically that may or may not be typical.

4. Eliminate implausible answers – Watch for absolutes and qualifiers. Answers that say “always,” “all” or “never” are usually not correct.

5. Read the case studies thoroughly – Questions are often based on case studies. More than one question may apply to the same case study. Be sure that you have carefully read the case study and understand it before answering questions.

6. Scantrons – Be careful marking your answers on the scantron. Be sure that you are marking the correct number on the scantron. It is the final answer and if you have made an error in marking it could mean a number of questions are marked wrong. If you have erased on the scantron, tell your instructor so they can initial them. Occasionally the scantron machine picks up erasures and marks a correct answer wrong. If it has not been initialed by the instructor it is unclear what has happened.

References
Orientation for All New Students

Dear Student,

An orientation for all new students will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 9:15 to 1:15 pm. Please arrive no later than 9:00 am. Lunch will be served.

In an effort to make the learning environment as productive as possible, children and guests are not allowed to attend orientation.

If you are interested in taking a brief class on using the College Student Systems we have scheduled a convenient session immediately following New Student Orientation. The session will run from 1:30 – 2:30 pm. Seats are limited. Please email asurrusco@stvincentscollege.edu to register.

You have two options for parking. You may park on any street surrounding St. Vincent’s Medical Center/College campus that is designated for parking. You may also park in the Medical Center’s parking garage, which is located directly in front of the building on Main Street. There is a $2.00 flat fee. Please bring your ticket with you so that you can pay the fee in the Medical Center lobby after orientation.

We are all looking forward to welcoming you to St. Vincent’s. If you have any questions, please call me @ 203-576-5515.

Sincerely,

Joseph Marrone
Director of Admission

A Library Advisory Group is being formed to enhance the library services at the college. A luncheon meeting will be held sometime in August. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact the librarian, Vicky Jacobson at vjacobson@stvincentscollege.edu.
This month, twenty students in Nursing 124, Adult Health I, participated in Fairchild Wheeler Interdistrict Magnet High school’s first Career Fair. This hi-tech school, which in itself is a teaching and learning tool for students and staff, offers a 21st century STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) project-based curriculum. The St. Vincent’s College nursing students were invited to participate as a way to introduce students to the profession of nursing and to role model the importance of continued education. SVC nursing students interacted with over 500 students from the Bridgeport School District. Activities included blood pressure monitoring, health screenings and health education. One student even participated in a panel discussion. Joining the students were Professors Pamela Sander, Mary Dietmann, Deb Giessen, and Michele Nye.

On Saturday, June 14th nursing students in NUR 123, Family Health Nursing participated in the Wing Ding Parade for Kids at Bridgeport’s Beardsley Zoo. This annual event is part of the Bridgeport’s Barnum Festival and attracts children of all ages to a day of fun at the zoo. SVC nursing students participated in the event by providing age appropriate education on a variety of topics including hand washing, exercise, healthy eating and safety. Students received a warm welcome from the community and the children and families response was amazing! Professor Mary Porter joined the students at the event.

Community interactions like these afford nursing students the opportunity to see nursing care outside of the context of the acute care setting. To be able to bring students to a community event where people are generally healthier, happier and more receptive to anything the students can teach them, offers SVC nursing students a window into a much different side of our healthcare system. It not only provides a valuable learning experience for our students but also supports the mission of St. Vincent’s College “to provide an education that is responsive to the needs of the local health care environment and the greater community”. Our nursing students not only provided a valuable service to our community but also represented the college in a phenomenal way!!!
Commencement Activities

The 2014 Medical Assisting class is completing their clinical experiences this month. Students have been performing their externship at sites such as Urgent Care Centers, Emergency Department, Family Health, One Stop, and physicians’ offices of Dr. Zikaras, Women’s Health Center of Shelton, Oncology Associates, and PreMed. Students will be receiving their certificates on Tuesday, July 8. The graduates are:

- Madeline Caldarone
- Gemma Cammarata
- Michelle Chickos
- Olivia Cichon
- Sarah Duprey
- Lucia Flores
- Jamie Goldman
- Stacy Mitchell
- Michelle Pall
- Christa Parent
- Jessica Robinett

RN to BSN Cohort 3 has finished. Cohort 8 starts in August.

All graduates in the Radiology department have taken and passed their ARRT Certification Exam. Most of the graduates are pursuing their BSRS degrees at St. Vincent’s. Several graduates have reported securing employment and a few more are waiting to hear. All in all a good start on the career path in Radiology.

Awards and Recognitions

- Employee of the Year—**Terry Hine**, Radiography Chairperson and Associate Professor
- The Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award—**Teresa Cryan**, Nursing Associate Professor
- Connecticut Association of Professional Financial Aid Administrators (CAPFFA) with the P. Jerome Cunningham Award—**Claire Dwyer**, Director, Financial Aid
- Values Recognition Award—**Debbie Daly**, IT Specialist

Looking for Improvement.

Please email me improvements in the Newsletter so it will be better suited to your reading. Also if you would like to send articles of wellbeing email vjacobson@stvincentscollege.edu.

Looking for Help.

Looking for students to help comprise newsletters for the college. Good to put on resume.

Looking for Title.

Email vjacobson@stvincentscollege.edu to provide your help for a new and improve newsletter title.