

## REFLECTIONS OF THE NURSING PROGRAM

As students, we are honored to have you, administrators, faculty members, staff members, spouses, family members and friends here today to celebrate with us.

Two very short years ago we started this program, not really sure what we were getting into, but excited to be at this university with other nurses. We have now completed twelve nursing classes plus a plethora of other requirements for our Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree.

In the process, we have wrestled with the Roy Model, struggled to get our papers into the APA format, been surprised at our progress with power point presentations and pushed our minds to think critically. We hardly needed the cultural diversity class since our cohort was the united nations – many backgrounds that made for many interesting discussions, plus great potluck dinners!

But it was the Stats class that bonded our cohort together. The many homework sessions around the conference table in the Auxiliary Services Office, trying to learn how to use a scientific calculator, and wondering when we were going to use this again that brought us together as friends.

Friends that have laughed together, and moaned and groaned together (we are students, that is our job). Together we have seen classmates through illnesses, the death of parents, and other personal struggles. We have rejoiced over engagements, fun vacations, and the purchase of a new house. We have empathized and sympathized over work related frustrations, and children serving in the military. We have prayed for each other, our family members and our professors. A lot has happened on the way to today. As one classmate stated, “I could not have made it without all those wonderful people helping me”. We learned a lot, but what we will remember the most are the relationships that have been made.

We are at the end of this journey. We are tired and another fellow traveler tells us in the Bible in Isaiah 40: 29 -31,  
*He (referring to God) gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

As we move on from this accomplish to take on new responsibilities and challenges even in these times of economic difficulty, we can be assured of God’s grace to us as another prophet of old tells us in Jeremiah 29:11,

*For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

