

INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON

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If you listen, will you hear?**Linda J Ulak**

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The population of the United States and indeed the world is getting older. Indeed the fastest growing age group is the group over 100 years old. People are living longer and will need the care of health professionals. But who will provide that care? Currently, many nursing students think they want to work in the excitement of the Emergency Department or Intensive Care Units, not deal with the elderly. This paper will present a comparison of outcomes, including those in the affective domain of students in Gerontological Nursing courses. The Gerontological Nursing course is a didactic only, non-clinical course. The study compared student attitudes/outcomes after completion of this course that was taught with two different methods. The first was the traditional lecture, 4 assessments performed on any older person and a paper on an elder related topic. The second method was using the General Empirical method (GEM) developed by Bernard Lonergan S J. For this course, students also had lecture, needed to relate readings to an elder they followed for the semester, completed 7 assessments, completed "Think about this" questions, perform journaling and develop a life story. How effective were both methods? Were students more positive about the elderly in one class compared to the elderly? This paper will review these results with implications for nursing education.

Biography

Linda Ulak has taught many nursing students at Seton Hall University over the years. She has started teaching at the College of Nursing in 1986. She was an Associate Dean at the College of Nursing from 2002 until 2014. She also has held positions as Academic Director for the Online RN/BSN program, Chair of undergraduate Nursing and Director of the Accelerated Nursing Program. She has also worked in the clinical environment at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Elizabeth, N.J. from 1975 through 2001 mostly in the ICU. She was graduated with her BSN in 1975 as well as received education in 1991, both from Seton Hall University. She has completed her Masters in Adult and her Doctorate of Nursing Education at Wagner College. Her teaching assignments have included pathophysiology and pharmacology as well as several clinical courses. She was an Instructor at Elizabeth General School of Nursing. During her tenure at Seton Hall, she has served on many university and college committees, including the University Academic Integrity Committee and the College Cultural Diversity Committee. She has received numerous awards for teaching from the college, university and professional organizations.

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