A Creative Application of the Neuman Systems Model: "Twas the Night Before Sickness"

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Recommended Citation
Candace Bangert and Naomi Johnson (1999). A Creative Application of the Neuman Systems Model: "Twas the Night Before Sickness". http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp1999/42
A CREATIVE APPLICATION OF THE NEUMAN SYSTEMS MODEL: "TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE SICKNESS"
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PURPOSE
The baccalaureate nursing theory course at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne provides the impetus for students to collaborate in designing a project which depicts application of theory to practice. To meet partial requirements for this course, one group of students decided to develop a project to teach associate degree nursing students the basic concepts of the Neuman Systems Model. A teaching tool to assist beginning students to develop a frame of reference for applying the Model was strongly endorsed by faculty.

DESCRIPTION
Four baccalaureate nursing students collaborated to develop a presentation which depicted application of the Neuman Systems Model. A major goal was to help students envision how the Model could be used to enhance practice in a way that illustrated both a pragmatic and memorable application of Neuman's wholistic approach to nursing. The theme evolved. What could be more memorable than a Christmas story and who could be a more significant player at this magical time of the year than Santa Claus? The baccalaureate nursing students created a skit and presented it to the associate degree nursing students.

RESULTS AND IMPLICATIONS
Later, two of the four baccalaureate nursing students who presented the skit to associate nursing students were again classmates in a nursing leadership course. They enthusiastically recalled their previous teaching project and sought permission to embellish the previous work to meet course requirements for the leadership course. A major goal was to videotape the project so that it could be used to teach beginning nursing students every semester. The presenters will address the teaching project outcomes with special emphasis on the collaborative efforts of students and faculty to promote innovative and effective methods for application of the Neuman Systems Model.