



Elaine Walsh: serving as a nurse, educator and nurse scientist



Dr. Elaine Walsh PhD, RN, who serves her students in the Doctorate of Nurse Practice (DNP) program at the University of Washington, traces

her commitment to service back to her high school career at Notre Dame Academy as a member of the Class of 1982.

As Elaine reminisces on her first impressions of Notre Dame Academy she recalls, “I remember starting at NDA and thinking it was so nice to see Sisters of Notre Dame teaching the math and science classes (among others), and wondering how they managed to prepare their classes and attend to their other obligations. I also appreciated the fact that Masses were a part of our routine at NDA, especially seeing girls and women having an active role in the liturgies.” Elaine values the academic and emotional development that was so integral to every aspect of her experience at NDA. She recollects her SND teachers fondly, beginning with Sr. Gina Marie Blunck, NDA principal and chemistry teacher, and Sr. Lisa Megaffin who taught her pre-calculus.

After graduating from high school, she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree at Mount St. Mary’s University (formally known as Mount St. Mary’s College). She

then worked for a number of years as a nurse in inpatient psychiatry at UCLA, while also completing a Master of Nursing degree in psychiatric and mental health. In 1994, Elaine received her PhD in Nursing at the University of Washington and began working as a research scientist, eventually joining the faculty at the University of Washington School of Nursing.

She currently serves as an Associate Professor and the Vice Chair for Education in the nursing department. Her primary work consists of teaching Doctor of Nurse Practice (DNP) students at the University of Washington as well as doing research as a Nurse Scientist at Seattle Children’s Hospital. She is focusing on efforts to increase nurse resilience and burnout prevention. Her research interests include the relationship between drug use/abuse and youth suicide risk behavior and suicide prevention programs in community settings.

Her early years spent at Notre Dame Academy instilled in her the invaluable worth of education. She says, “Education is critical since it empowers young people to set, reach, and even exceed personal and professional goals. The SNDs provided me with an excellent education, embedding the idea that work and service can and *should be* linked.”