The Digital Stethoscope Newsletter
August 2025

"Amplifying innovation, one heartbeat at a time."

"From Susan's Desk:
Paging All AI-Curious Nurse Educators!"

Ready or not, August is knocking—with lesson plans in one hand and pumpkin spice in the other. While the pool floats are still drying off, your syllabus is probably begging for attention. But don't worry—you're not alone. AI is here to help lighten the load (without taking over the classroom).

This month, *The Digital Stethoscope* is your sidekick in prepping for a smarter, smoother semester. We're serving up ready-to-go tools, smart prompts, policy-friendly tips, and inspiration to keep your human touch front and center—even in a tech-savvy classroom. Whether you're mapping out modules or just trying to remember your LMS password, we've got your back.

So grab your favorite pen (or prompt), silence that syllabus-induced sigh, and dive in. From faculty spotlights to first-day tips, this issue is packed with bite-sized brilliance to help you teach boldly—with AI by your side and coffee in hand.

Let's make this fall semester not just AI-ready—but AI-awesome.

Dr. Susan Deane
Online Education Consultant

Spotlight Feature: "Meet Dana: AI Feedback Fairy (and Fictional Faculty Friend)"

Dana isn't real—but she *could be*. She's a fictional full-time nurse educator with four courses, a caffeine habit, and a heroic mission to give meaningful feedback without losing her weekend. Her secret sidekick? AI.

With a little help from ChatGPT and a lot of heart, Dana has turned her feedback fatigue into finely tuned phrases that *actually* resonate with students.

Here's how Dana does it:

- ⬜ Uses AI to draft personalized feedback blurbs based on her grading rubrics
- ✏️ Polishes tone and clarity before sending (because "awkwardly blunt" isn't her vibe)
- 📁 Saves reusable comment templates—like her own magical bag of feedback spells

💡 Dana's philosophy? "I grade every assignment myself—AI just helps me sound like the calm, encouraging professor I wish I had at 2 AM."

She's fictional, yes—but her workflow is 100% real-world achievable. You could be the next Dana.

Spotlight takeaway: Thoughtful use of AI can support—not replace—educator presence, especially when used to enhance clarity, connection, and timely feedback.

Trending Topics: "What's Buzzing in AI + Nursing Education"

AI in nursing education is moving fast—like "blink and there's a new tool" fast. Here are a few hot topics bubbling up in faculty lounges, group chats, and probably your own browser tabs.

1. AI Literacy vs. AI Fluency: Which Should Come First?

Educators are debating whether students should *understand how AI works* (literacy) before being expected to *use it skillfully* (fluency). Do we need both? Can we scaffold AI the way we teach EHRs and evidence-based practice?

💬 *Hot take:* Start with ethical literacy, then build fluency into assignments. Think: "show your AI work," not just "get the right answer."

📱 2. Google's AI Tools Are Creeping into Classrooms—Are You Ready?

Between Google Gemini, NotebookLM, and the rumored "Help Me Teach" tool, Google's footprint in higher ed is growing fast. Nurse educators should get familiar now—not after students do.

🧪 Try it: Ask Gemini to generate a case study, and compare its bias handling to ChatGPT. (Spoiler: You might be surprised.)

💼 3. Faculty Are Secretly Using AI... and That's a Problem

Recent faculty surveys show that many are using AI to brainstorm lessons, write emails, or create test items—but few are openly talking about it.

🙃 Why the hush? Lack of policy, fear of judgment, or simply not knowing what's "allowed"?

💡 Tip: Normalize ethical use through conversation. Share what's working with your team— even if it's small stuff.

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Practical Insights: "Start Smart: AI Tips to Kick Off the Semester with Sanity & Style"

Before students even open their textbooks (or ask you how to log into the LMS), you can use AI to streamline your first few weeks of teaching. Here are two smart ways to use AI *without losing your educator edge*:

💬 **1. AI Disclosure Day One**

🎓 **Create an "AI Use in This Course" Slide** for your first class session.
This builds trust, sets boundaries, and prevents "But ChatGPT said…" moments later. Include:

- ✔️ What's allowed (e.g., brainstorming, grammar help)

- ❌ What's not (e.g., generating entire assignments)

- 🧠 Why it matters (academic integrity + critical thinking)

Want to keep it light? Use emojis, real/fake student examples, or even a mini "AI or Not?" guessing game!

📑 **2. Let AI Handle Your Icebreaker Admin**

Tired of rewording the same "Tell me about yourself" posts? Ask AI to:

- Draft a fun student intro template

- Suggest non-clinical questions to build rapport

- Create a discussion board starter that sounds *less robotic than you feel at 7:30 AM*

Here are a few **fun and AI-approved student intro templates** you can use in your LMS discussion board, first class activity, or orientation icebreaker. Each one is designed to encourage **connection, creativity, and personality**—without diving into clinical content too soon.

🎉 Student Intro Template #1: "The Nursing School Survival Kit"

Hi everyone! I'm [First Name], and I'm excited (and a little nervous) to start this journey. Here's what's in my personal nursing school survival kit:

🧃 My go-to brain fuel: _____
📚 The app I can't live without: _____
🎧 My hype song before exams: _____
😅 The skill I hope AI *never* replaces: _____
🐾 Fun fact: If I weren't in nursing, I'd probably be a _____.

🤘 Student Intro Template #2: "AI & I"

Hi, I'm [First Name]—future nurse, full-time learner, and occasional AI user. Here's a little about me:

👩‍⚕️ My dream nursing specialty: _____
💻 One way I've used AI before (or hope to try it!): _____
🌐 I learn best when: _____
😂 If I could ask an AI anything, I'd ask: _____
💥 Something surprising about me: _____

Start the semester with less stress, more sass, and an AI sidekick who never needs office hours.

Research/News Corner

"AI and the Environment"

This month, I'm leaning into an often-overlooked question in our AI conversations: *What's the environmental cost of convenience?* From the water used to cool massive data centers to the energy behind every chatbot response, AI's carbon footprint is growing—quietly but rapidly. As nurse educators and healthcare professionals, we can't separate innovation from impact. That's why I'm exploring how to teach—and model—**AI use that's not just smart, but sustainable.**

That's why this month I'm sharing eye-opening reads—from MIT's breakdown of AI's energy and water usage to UNEP's call for greener tech policies and the Financial Times' hopeful take on AI-powered climate solutions—to help us all think critically about how to integrate AI into education and healthcare without compromising the planet.

READS:

- 🌊 **MIT News – "Explained: Generative AI's Environmental Impact"**
  A clear breakdown of the water and energy demands behind training and using large language models.
  ◎ news.mit.edu/2025/explained-generative-ai-environmental-impact

- ♻️ **UNEP – "AI Has an Environmental Problem. Here's What the World Can Do About It"**
  A global perspective on AI's footprint and what policy and innovation can do to make it greener.
  ◎ unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ai-has-environmental-problem

- 🌱 **Financial Times – "How Hopeful Can We Be About AI Climate Tech?"**
  Explores AI's potential to reduce global emissions—if we use it wisely.
  ◎ ft.com/content/bd835b8f-e39a-4e5f-84d0-2fb019b47b80

- 🏢 **UCS Blog – "What Are the Environmental Impacts of Artificial Intelligence?"**
  A powerful overview of AI's hidden toll—energy, e-waste, and disproportionate impact on marginalized communities.
  ◎ blog.ucs.org/pablo-ortiz/what-are-the-environmental-impacts-of-artificial-intelligence

Educator's Toolbox: "Back-to-School Boosters with AI"

Feeling the back-to-school buzz? This month's Educator's Toolbox is stocked with AI-powered goodies to help you kick off the semester with less prep and more pep. From prompt ideas to a ready-to-use syllabus checklist, we've got just what you need to teach smarter—not harder.

🧠 **Prompt of the Month:**

🖊 *"Create a Welcome Activity with AI!"*

Prompt: "Design a 15-minute icebreaker for first-day nursing students that incorporates a fun AI activity, promotes collaboration, and requires no prior tech skills."

💡 Try this:

- Use ChatGPT to generate funny, low-stakes clinical scenarios ("AI Mad Libs") for student teams.

- Create a quiz about nursing history or famous nurses and let students guess which answers were written by AI.

📄 **Template Drop:**

📑 AI-Enhanced Syllabus Checklist

Make your syllabus future-ready with:

- ✅ A clear AI usage policy

- ✅ Examples of acceptable AI-enhanced assignments

- ✅ Transparency and academic integrity statements

- ✅ Student guidance on safe, ethical AI use

Here are a few **sample AI policy blurbs** you can include in your syllabus or share in your faculty development materials. They are written in a clear, supportive tone and aligned with academic integrity and responsible use:

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in This Course
Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard, Diffit, or Grammarly) may be used in this course to support learning, creativity, and skill development. However, the following guidelines apply:

- ✅ **Permitted Uses:**

- o Brainstorming ideas or outlines

- o Drafting clinical scenarios or practice questions

- o Clarifying concepts or summarizing content for personal study

- o Enhancing grammar and writing structure

- ❌ **Prohibited Uses:**

    - o Submitting AI-generated content as original work

    - o Using AI to complete quizzes, exams, or clinical documentation

    - o Misrepresenting AI outputs as personal knowledge or analysis

All AI usage must be disclosed when submitting assignments. Failure to do so may be considered a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy.

Let's treat AI like a stethoscope—not a substitute for critical thinking, but a tool to enhance it.

🎓 Sample AI Use Policy for Graduate Nursing Courses

Responsible Use of AI Tools in Graduate-Level Coursework

As emerging leaders, educators, and advanced practice nurses, graduate students are expected to engage with AI tools critically, ethically, and transparently. In this course, you may use artificial intelligence platforms (e.g., ChatGPT, Bard, Diffit, Grammarly) to support your learning and scholarly development **within the following parameters**:

✅ **Permitted Uses:**

- Exploring AI-generated ideas as a starting point for literature reviews or concept development
- Using AI to reframe complex content or brainstorm teaching strategies
- Enhancing clarity and grammar in written work (with final review and revision by the student)
- Practicing simulated dialogue or patient education scenarios (with clear attribution)

❌ **Prohibited Uses:**

- Using AI to generate entire assignments, discussion posts, or scholarly papers
- Substituting AI output for original synthesis, analysis, or critical reflection
- Failing to cite or disclose AI-assisted contributions when applicable
- Relying solely on AI for evidence synthesis or clinical decision-making

AI use must be disclosed appropriately in assignments (e.g., "ChatGPT was used to generate initial ideas for patient scenarios, which were then edited and expanded by the author").

⚙ *As graduate students, you are responsible for modeling ethical use of technology in alignment with academic integrity, professional standards, and the evolving expectations of AI in healthcare.*

Closing Note

As we step into a new semester, remember—you don't have to master every AI tool overnight. You just need curiosity, courage, and a pinch of playfulness. Whether you're building AI into your syllabus or just figuring out what Gemini is, you're already leading the way by asking good questions. Keep experimenting, keep sharing, and above all—keep listening. The future of nursing education has never sounded more exciting.

Until next time,
🩺 **Susan**

Feedback: Please share your feedback, experiences, questions, and ideas or articles for upcoming issues. Send email to: susan@thedigitalstethoscope.com *or* susandeane119@gmail.com