

## About Me

Hello! My name is Fran Strauss. I have designed and developed this electronic portfolio in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Science in Instructional Technology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Welcome to my portfolio site!

I received a B.S. in Home Economics from the University of North Carolina Greensboro, in December of 1975. After a series of jobs, I returned to community college and obtained an Associates of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy, graduating in May of 1983 with high honors.

During my years of practice in respiratory care, and subsequently pulmonary rehabilitation, I found a new passion, teaching. Pulmonary rehabilitation involves education and exercise for patients with chronic lung disease. Through education, monitored group exercise and encouragement, patients find the skills to cope with the chronic shortness of breath that has become a part of their daily lives. My fulfillment and challenge came from providing instruction, both verbal and written, to assist them in achieving their goals.

Over the years I was involved in teaching patients both one-on-one and in a classroom setting and along the way developed a multitude of handouts and training materials. With experience in patient education, my professional growth expanded to include staff education, new employee education, and basic life support.

Over the years, I maintained a strong desire to return to school, to further my education and build on the experience I had gained in pulmonary rehabilitation. When I moved to Wilmington in 2004, I discovered the field of instructional technology. The masters degree program of instructional technology teaches students how to design instruction or training more effectively, thus improving learning outcomes.

I no longer work in pulmonary rehabilitation, although I will always carry those patients and the clinical skills with me, for they are my foundation. My current focus has shifted to clinical hospital staff education in computer charting applications. My twenty plus years of clinical experience and my new skills in instructional design have already opened doors. I plan to incorporate the learning experiences I have found in the instructional technology program to improve my ability to produce quality instructional programs and materials.