Alumni update

By Mark Romball

A 1956 Ford Thunderbird greeted guests at the 2016 School of Nursing Alumni Association Reunion Luncheon, held on Marquam Hill on Sunday, June 5. Looking majestic and still in superb condition after many years of devoted and tireless service, the Thunderbird provided an appropriate metaphor for those attending.

Reflection on the role of education in building careers is an integral component of reunions. Alumni and guests shared memories of time spent in class, on the wards and in residence halls. An exhibit of photos and artifacts curated by the OHSU Historical Collections and Archives provided tangible evidence for these memories.

Mixed in with the retrospectives, however, was some looking forward. Virginia Tilden, R.N., Ph.D., F.A.A.N., professor and interim senior associate dean for research affairs, gave an update on the school, emphasizing the rural, global and interprofessional aspects that are central to the educational curriculum today. Attendees also heard from Julie Bidwell, R.N., Ph.D. ’16, on her recently-completed work that identifies clinical interventions to improve patient-oriented outcomes in patient-caregiver dyads coping with heart failure, and from Klamath Falls 2016 graduate, Kristi Mahou.

Dr. Janis Hootman, a 1966 graduate of the School of Nursing, was recognized as the 2016 Alumna of the Year. Dr. Hootman holds a Master’s degree in Health Education from Portland State University and a Ph.D. in Health Administration from LaSalle University. Her professional background touches on a number of areas, including community health, pediatric hospital administration, and clinical pediatric practice.

A Sigma Theta Tau member and nationally certified school nurse, Dr. Hootman has been deeply influential with the National Association of School Nurses. Notably, she has served as Director of this organization, among other leadership roles. Dr. Hootman has authored a number of journal articles and professional presentations and presented at state and national conferences on a range of school nursing issues.

Dr. Ellen Tilden was recognized with the 2016 Early Career Achievement Award. Dr. Tilden attended Reed College, where she studied Political Theory, and began her medical education at the University of California in San Francisco, where she earned her RN and Master’s degree. Her passion for partnering with and serving women and their families during childbirth is an integral component of reunions.

A tri-lingual, Dr. Tilden received her Ph.D. in nursing from OHSU in 2015 and currently serves as an Assistant Professor with the OHSU School of Nursing. Her research involved the study of group prenatal care and its role in helping women prepare for labor, birth, and early motherhood. Her studies, on healthcare systems facets that impact obstetrics, procedure use, particularly modifiable drivers of cesarean delivery, have received media attention coast to coast, from the L.A. Times to the Washington Post.

Members of the classes of 1966 and 1956 received pins commemorating their milestone graduation.

P Palace and founding members of the School of Nursing also gave brief updates about their lives and careers since graduation.

Interested in coordinating your class attendance in 2017? Please contact the Alumni Relations program at alumni@ohsu.edu.

Kristal Nease

By Christi Richardson-Zboralski

Something changed for Kristal Nease, B.S. with a major in Nursing, Monmouth Campus, shortly after she became a caregiver for her mother who was diagnosed with late stage lung cancer.

Nease had been working in politics up until this time and moved back to rural Oregon where the support of a small town helped her to better care for her mother. Taking care of her mother in her last months was emotional but rewarding. The support and kindness of caregivers struck a chord with Nease, particularly the nursing staff. She enjoyed her time in politics but she wanted to make a bigger and more direct impact on people’s lives.

A career change was in order.

In April 2013 Nease was accepted into nursing school. Before her first day of class, she came face-to-face with faculty that were extremely supportive and willing to work with her.

Nease’s advice for future nursing students is to “be persistent in learning and advocating for yourself and your patients throughout your life.”

Nease got her dream job in the cardiovascular ICU in Salem hospital where she completed her IP. She will also be getting married this summer. Her long-term goals include more schooling to earn a Master’s and possibly a DNP in education.

Dr. Janis Hootman (’66) receives the Alumna of the Year award from SNAA President Deb Carter (’77).

News and announcements

I-CAN a positive force for students and people’s lives; expanding to rural areas

I-CAN involves students in different health professions working in interprofessional teams with community partners to help at-risk populations in various communities. Now entering its fourth year, I-CAN will partner with several community agencies and health care providers to bring the program to the school’s Monmouth campus in fall 2016. Read the full news story on our website: www.ohsu.edu/ohsu/publications

Ph.D. student Jon Auld was awarded an individual F31 National Research Service Award (NRSA) from the National Institute of Nursing Research for his project titled “A Study of Pulmonary Congestion and Patient-reported Outcomes in Heart Failure (MONITOR – HF).” Jon will work closely with his sponsors, Christopher Lee, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., F.A.N.E.S.A. and James Mudd, M.D., the OHSU director of heart failure, transplant, and heart assist devices.

By the numbers*

539 Number of new alumni SoN graduates in 2015

125 Number of new graduate certificate, masters, post-masters, D.N.P. and Ph.D. degrees

414 Number of new alumni with baccalaureate degrees

1 Rank of School of Nursing at OHSU in number of new graduates in 2016

*As of June 2016.

Pulhuy Lecture – Save the date!

Theresa Brown, R.N., clinical nurse, New York Times contributor and author of The Shift, will present the 2016 Pulhuy Lecture on Thursday, November 10 on the Marquam Hill Campus. Invitations will be mailed in early Fall.

The #PetsofSoN social media campaign was a success!

We had submissions featuring photos of canines, felines, poultry and even a reptile. The School of Nursing participants included students, staff, faculty and alumni from each of our campuses.

We used this opportunity to introduce our social media followers to the programs that some of the contestants are involved in (such as VANAP).

Greetings colleagues and friends

By Susan Bakewell-Sachs, dean and vice president of nurse affairs

Each year we recognize contributions that OHSU School of Nursing faculty, staff, students/alumni are making. Since our last issue, the SoN finalized the 2016-2019 Strategic Map with a major focus on improving health and healthcare through our missions. The school welcomed Dr. Sarah Shannon as Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Dr. Asma Taha as director of the pediatric nurse practitioner program. We also graduated over 500 from our baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral programs.

This issue showcases some notable contributions in rural health. Oregon is a rural state and the OHSU School of Nursing has a continuing strong commitment to preparing nurses in and for our rural and frontier regions, across our missions of education, practice, and research. Nursing students are gaining valuable research experiences and choosing to serve in rural areas. Nursing faculty are creating innovative practice and education programs and conducting research that will improve health. Enjoy!
Grads need to be collaboration-ready; new OHSU tool assesses “teanness” for clinical placement

By Lee Lewis Hukx

Today's graduates still need the knowledge and skills of their health profession, but now they must be ready to collaborate in interprofessional teams. One OHSU nurse researcher and her colleagues have developed a tool to assess how well sites that train health care professionals, including nurses, achieve interprofessional collaboration.

"It's not about any of us working in splendid isolation," says Virginia Tilden, Ph.D., R.N., interim senior associate dean for research. "It makes a difference for patients and families how well they're treated and that's the result of interprofessional collaboration."

A well-published clinical researcher, Tilden points to several national reports linking poor communication with medical error or a poor quality patient experience. "We need to bring everyone to the table to begin teaching students how to reach across the aisle in patient-centered teamwork," she says.

Interprofessional education (IPE) at OHSU got a big boost with the arrival of the Program of Excellence in Primary Care Education (POE) at the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) School of Medicine. POE is considered “best in class.” Since then, the tool has achieved widespread use and acceptance.

The Assessment for Collaborative Environments, ACE, was created by Tilden and OHSU colleagues Elizabeth Eckstrom, M.D., M.P.H., and Nathan Dickenschmidt, Ph.D. after more than two years from conceptualization to finalization. "We went through many steps of development, ending with a 15-item survey that assesses a clinical setting's success in achieving "teanness," including mutual trust, shared goals, clear roles, effective communication and organizational support."


In 2015, the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education cited ACE-15 as one of three measurement tools considered “best in class.” Since then, the tool has achieved widespread use and has been requested by sites in clinical settings across the country. The national Veterans Administration is including it in its toolkit for its School of Medicine. Additionally, the tool is being used in rural research initiatives.

One off-shoot of testing the tool beyond its value in placing students is that clinicians found ACE-15 useful for team self-analysis and reflection.

"When we started, there wasn't as much appreciation for IPE, but the level of commitment to IPE has risen steadily in this country," she says. "It's very exciting - we're never going back to the old model of completely siloed training of students. Students now must be collaboration-ready on graduation. This reality is a new era."