ALUMNI UPDATE 2013

Nursing Specialty Speed Dating – In April we hit the road and hosted a career networking event for students at all five campuses. Over 50 students and 50 alumni from across the state participated in Nursing Specialty Speed Dating. Every 15 minutes students would speak with a different alumnus/alumna from a wide variety of specialty areas, such as psychiatry, pediatrics, intensive care, prison nurses, hospice and even military nursing. The students loved being able to pepper alumni with questions and alumni appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences.

The School of Nursing Reunion Luncheon – On Sunday, June 2 over 60 School of Nursing alumni and friends helped us celebrate class reunions ending in 3 or 8. Lunch was held at the Center for Health and Healing atrium and highlights included a nurse-practitioner set performed by four current doctoral students as well as the class of 1963 pinning ceremony. After lunch the alumni gathered in a shuttle for a campus tour of Games Hall (the old dormitory for the class of 1963), Mackenzie and Emma Jones Halls and the old library.

I had a wonderful time at the reunion! It is amazing how much the class of ’63 has done. Imagine the accomplishments of all of the previous and future classes!

— Pat Jackson, B.S., ’63

Advisory Board Profiles

Deb Carter, R.N., B.S.N.
I have made a conscious effort throughout my career to introduce and mentor students into this great profession, and particularly into my primary field of operating room nursing. Being a member of the School of Nursing Alumni Advisory Council is an extension of something I love to do. I enjoy being part of a group that encourages our alumni to reconnect with the School of Nursing and its students. There are so many ways we can provide support to the students in developing their careers. When I am not nursing, I try to balance hiking, spending time with my husband, two adult sons and two grandchildren, or pursuing my singing career, as vocalist with the Bridgetown Big Band!

Kira Bron, R.N., B.S.N.
My name is Kira Bron and I graduated from the OHSU School of Nursing in June 2011. Right after graduation, I was tremendously privileged and was hired into Valley Hospital’s Adult Medical Intensive Care Unit where I continue to work to this day. I absolutely love my job and am currently studying for my CCRN certification. In the future, I am planning on attending OHSU’s graduate program to get my Master’s in Nurse Anesthesia, which has been a lifelong goal of mine. I live in Keizer with my incredible husband, Blake, and I spend most of my free time outdoors riding my retired race horse and training my German shepherd. I am honored to be a part of the OHSU Alumni Advisory Council and am looking forward to the opportunities ahead.

By the Numbers

5,154
Number of Oregon-licensed nurses who received their training at OHSU

1,024
Number of Oregon-licensed advanced practice nurses who received their training at OHSU

30.9
Percentage of Oregon-licensed advanced practice nurses who received their training at OHSU

Student Highlight

By Christ Richardson

Wafa BinAli, M.N., R.N.,
an international student and researcher, was awarded the right fit. She wanted to do clinical research in acute kidney injury and the OHSU School of Nursing had a number of faculty with a critical care background who are actively doing research.

According to the OHSU Nursing Society 2009 graduate nurses’ database project, in Saudi Arabia only 15 R.N.s have a doctorate degree. BinAli wants to change that. She is pursuing her degree with a scholarship she received from King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, where she is on the faculty. By helping to expand and contribute to the existing body of knowledge, BinAli hopes to help move nursing in Saudi Arabia to the forefront.

She cites her family, especially her mother as strong supporters of her education and when asked what other driving forces are behind her adventurous trek across the continent, BinAli said, “I tell my students to look at what changes they can make themselves and how they can impact the nursing profession.” And so, she practices exactly what she tells her students to do.

“I always tell my students that nursing will open their horizons, allowing them to work, present and connect with other cultures.”

— Wafa BinAli, M.N., R.N.

News Flash!

• Congratulations to 2013 American Academy of Nursing Scholars: Bratsek-Sachs, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., and Gary Larson, Ph.D., R.N., A.P.R.N., F.A.A.N.; Larson is also a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

• Congratulations to Peggy Wise and Jacqueline Noone, recipients of a $10.0 million award from the HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant.

• Soledad Rosario received a Junior Faculty Career Development Award from the National Palliative Care Research Center.

• Doctoral student, Julia Bobek and Quinn Denfield will each receive $50,000 in scholarships for two years from the OHSU National Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing.

• OHSU SoN was awarded $100,000 in Scholarships through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing Program.

Alumni Scholarship Fund

By Rachel Hitchcock

Gratitude is realized in many ways. In 2003, the forward-thinking Alumni Association established the School of Nursing Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund. The fund was created to ensure that the alumni appreciation of the education they received at OHSU would be recaptured in perpetuity. The fund also honors the compassionate and quality care provided by its more than 10,000 graduates who have positively impacted health care and patients in many areas around the world. Since its inception, the fund has awarded more than $54,000 in scholarships to 31 recipients, with an equal average of $1,600. Nearly 1,700 people have donated to the fund and minds approximately 3,500 outright gifts and pledge payments.

Thank you to all who have made gifts to the Alumni Scholarship fund. The impact on students’ lives is significant, this impact over time is immeasurable.

Save the Date

Pahutay Lecture
Thurs., Oct. 24
OHSU Auditorium
5 p.m. – reception
6 p.m. – lecture

2012 Pahutay Lecturer
Darby Lecture
Wed., Nov. 13
Ashland, Ore.
Reunion
June 1, 2014

Partnerships and Collaborations

As a publication from the OHSU School of Nursing, the School of Nursing Connections is supported by the School of Nursing’s Alumni Relations Program.

As a result of programmatic partnerships, we are able to provide more educational and career opportunities for our students. In addition, we are able to provide our alumni and friends with extended career and learning opportunities.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

School of Nursing Connections
A publication from the OHSU School of Nursing

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a great 18 months since I accepted the position of interim dean. In April we had a successful accreditation survey visit and we have recruited many outstanding faculty to each of our campuses including program directors Mary Karlet, for the Nurse Anesthesia Program, and Cindy Perry, for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. In that role Carla Hargan will assume the role of campus associate dean for the La Grande campus.

I have loved being dean, and the opportunity to lead and represent the school. I am excited to hand over the reins to our new dean, Susan Bakodred-Sachs, to work with her during the transition and to return to my teaching and research. I look forward to continue to thrive with Susan’s very able leadership.

With warm wishes,
Chris Tanner, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Interim Dean and AB Youmans-Spaulding Distinguished Professor
For Women with Physical Disabilities and Depression
Healing Pathways Program Shows Promise

by Lee Lewis-Blank

School of Nursing Connections
An article published in April 2013 in the online journal, Rehabilitation Research and Practice, describes Healing Pathways’ effectiveness in reducing depression among women with physical disabilities.

“Depression negatively affects almost every conceivable outcome for women with physical disabilities, from physical health and functioning to employment, quality-of-life and mortality.”

— Dena Hassouneh, Ph.D., R.N.
A.N.P, P.M.H.N.P., F.A.A.N.

An article published in April 2013 in the online journal, Rehabilitation Research and Practice, describes Healing Pathways’ effectiveness in reducing depression among women with physical disabilities. Lead author and OHSU nursing school Professor Dena Hassouneh, Ph.D., R.N., A.N.P, P.M.H.N.P., F.A.A.N. and her colleagues write that “depression negatively affects almost every conceivable outcome for women with physical disabilities, from physical health and functioning to employment, quality-of-life and mortality.”

To learn whether Healing Pathways, a program developed by OHSU and PSU in collaboration with community partners, could reduce depression in this group, the researchers enrolled 80 women in both urban and rural communities throughout Oregon. Recruitment occurred at Centers for Independent Living, local disability service organizations, Craigslist, grocery stores, bus stops and other places.

Among the volunteers, 44 received the Healing Pathways intervention, and 36 were assigned to the control group. The intervention consisted of 14, two- and a half-hour therapy sessions, led by two females who also had physical disabilities. The peer leaders received extensive training by the research team in facilitating group mental health sessions.

The results of this initial study shows that participants, who ranged in age from 28 to 89 with varied physical disabilities, reported lower depression scores (based on the Center for Epidemiologic Depression Scale) immediately after the sessions, and they remained stable in two follow-up time periods. This comparison with little change in the control group whose participants had similar demographics, characteristics. Hassouneh emphasizes that the results are encouraging, but much work remains.

One result caught the researchers by surprise—employment outcomes among the treated group improved. “We didn’t design Healing Pathways to improve employment outcomes,” says Hassouneh, who adds that the finding was “definitely a bonus.” Among 14 chronically unemployed women in the treatment group, eight found a job. The positive findings caught the attention of the Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services office, which is exploring the use of a modified version of the HP program to help women with physical disabilities find or maintain stable employment.

The four-year study was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Collaborating researchers on the study include Elizabeth McKeff, Ph.D., of the Regional Research Institute at PSU and HASL Independent Abilities Center in Gants Pass, Oregon.

Hassouneh, whose research focus is on the mental health of women in marginalized populations, says her work is gratifying because it has the potential to change the course of illness faced by women that Healing Pathways saved their lives.

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