**Student Highlight**

**Amanda Vieira De Melo**

By Christi Richardson-Zboralski

Amanda Vieira De Melo, 23, a senior nursing student at OHSU La Grande, grew up surrounded by family in Recife, the capital city in the state of Pernambuco in Brazil. Her grandmother was a doctor and Vieira De Melo was drawn into the healthcare environment at an early age; healthcare ran through her veins.

Vieira De Melo has always loved assisting people from underserved populations. She spent the past 12 years helping people in need of basic care, education, clothing, and food. She volunteered to serve the homeless, orphans and the economically challenged in urban and remote communities in Brazil before taking a leap to join her father in the rural community of Joseph, Oregon. Her commitment to health for all and to serve those in need never wavered.

Vieira De Melo said, “I work at the top of my license and have taken on a role to help with more gender-inclusive campaigns on our social media channels. I provide Narcan education to staff and community members and safe medication administration protocols.”

When she chose to attend the OHSU School of Nursing in La Grande, Vieira De Melo received an Oregon Primary Care Transformation grant (OPACT), as well as a Wallowa Memorial Foundation Scholarship, which helped pay for her schooling. The grant includes a professional development opportunity and membership in the Ambulatory Care Nursing Conference.

In 2021, while working on her BS with a major in nursing, Vieira De Melo was hired for an OHSU-sponsored summer research internship. In this role, she assisted a professor with building a scientific model for analysis of nursing workforce burnout levels in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. This work encouraged her to start her own systematic research review during Fall 2022 on RN-led patient remote monitoring programs. She was recently nominated for a Flame award for excellence in research.

Vieira De Melo graduates in June 2023 and hopes to continue her work in research, leadership, public health and diversity, inclusivity and equity. She will be eligible for her green card soon after graduation.

More information on how students can get involved and fund their education:

Global Brigades: www.globalbrigades.org/ and OPACT: www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/oregon-primary-care-transformation

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**NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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OHSU School of Nursing alum aims to make end-of-life a social, not medical event

As a hospice nurse, Erin Collins, M.N.E., RN, observed that many of her patients were afraid of dying, in denial of their imminent death and consequently unprepared for it. Collins is a certified hospice and palliative care nurse with 16 years’ experience in oncology and end-of-life care. She recently completed a Master of Science in Nursing Education at the OHSU School of Nursing, Portland campus, and was selected as a 2022 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar.

“End-of-life care is a place where compassion counts for everything,” Collins said. “The patient is not just on the way out. They are on the way in, to a better world, to a world of hope and healing. They are being present.”

During a community event people were able to write down what was on their bucket list before they die.

**Additional Resources**

- Houselessness Populations
- Services Focus on Rural
- www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/oregon-primary-care-transformation
- www.globalbrigades.org/
- OPACT: www.ohsu.edu/school-of-nursing/oregon-primary-care-transformation

**STUDENT PERSPECTIVES**

**What students love about the OHSU School of Nursing**

SCHOOL OF NURSING CONNECTIONS SPRING 2023

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“As health care providers, it is not always about saving lives at all costs, it’s about supporting someone to live and die well,” Collins said. “That often includes where they want to die and who they want to be present.”

Read the full story: https://www.ohsu.edu/2023/03/24/new-end-of-life-doula-services-focus-on-rural-houseless-populations

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**GREETINGS!**

By Susan Bakerwell-Sachs, dean and vice president of nursing affairs

I hope that you are doing well in 2023. It is mid-cycle for the 2022-2023 academic year and your OHSU School of Nursing is having a productive year. Our courses and programs are in session and increasingly back in person. In December the school affirmed updated Mission, Vision and Values statements, along with a 2022-2025 Strategic Map that sets forth priority areas of focus for the next three years. We are moving forward on 16 proposals approved for funding from new state appropriation monies that will allow us to educate more graduates, build diversity and inclusion of our members, including faculty and students, and invest in our people, programs and spaces. In March, we will host a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation site visit. Our faculty continue to lead for the future in education, research and scholarship, and practice and our alumni are serving Oregon and beyond.
“We want a culture that supports all of our members, including students, to be and feel safe, be able to be their best selves and do their best work,”

~ Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Dean, OHSU School of Nursing

Rural health professionals are crucial in providing health care in rural communities, but the field faces challenges such as recruitment and retention of nurses, especially in rural and frontier communities. The School of Nursing at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is addressing these challenges through various initiatives, including the 30-30-30 plan, which aims to recruit and retain faculty and staff. As the need for professional nurses continues to grow, budget constraints, an aging faculty and minority communities were made worse during the pandemic.

Amplified deficiencies in the health care system had become painfully obvious to anyone needing access. Clinicians weren’t always available when someone needed care, and inequities in marginalized and minority communities were made worse during the pandemic. Clinicians weren’t always available when someone needed care, and inequities in marginalized and minority communities were made worse during the pandemic.

Swain and Paeth both have high praise for OHSU’s nurse-midwifery program. “We’re trying to build on prior success of the HealthE STEPS program,” said Karen Rotenstein, Ph.D., R.N., senior associate dean for student affairs and diversity. “We think this model could be a best practice in the retention of underrepresented students and help diversify the workforce.”

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The School is a partner with 10 community colleges through the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE), housed in the Department of Family Medicine, offers initiatives to accelerate the success of native health professionals. A program known as HealthE STEPS (Advancing Health Equity Through Student Empowerment & Professional Success). Diversity coordinator positions were created to support students as part of the HealthE STEPS program. Their role is being sustained but with a new title: student inclusion and success coordinators.

By Anna Lagoon
OHSU School of Nursing alumna Sarah Paeth, B.S. ’14, M.N. ’16, CNM, grew up in Toledo, Oregon, and remembers that her rural community was not often served by a medical provider. Believing that all communities deserve access to quality health care, especially essential maternal-child health care, inspired Paeth to become a certified nurse-midwife.

Paeth first practiced midwifery in the rural community of Roseburg, Oregon, which saw high rates of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use. When they became pregnant, her patients were often motivated to overcome their substance use.

“This is the only time in a person’s life where they get to see a provider practically every other week for nine months,” Paeth said. In her experience, patients are often motivated to make positive changes in their lives that can ripple out to affect their families and community.

Lori Swain, B.S. ’14, M.N. ’16, CNM, D.N.P. ’17, agrees that prenatal and postnatal care provide an opportunity to affect the well-being of entire families.

“Once they have a baby, a family is growing,” Swain said.

Swain and Paeth both have high praise for OHSU’s nurse-midwifery program. “I feel called to serve people in remote locations,” Paeth said. “Your access to quality care should not depend on your zip code.” Her commitment to this belief has also taken her to South Sudan, where she has worked with Doctors Without Borders.

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Full article can be found at shsufoundation.org/stories/ohsu-school-of-nursing-alumna-committed-to-providing-nurse-midwifery-care-in-rural-communities/