Meet the Alumni Advisory Council!

The School of Nursing Alumni Advisory Council supports the Dean and Alumni Relations Program in advocating for the mission and priorities of the school. Each quarter we’ll meet two Advisory Council members and learn more about their passion and motivation for supporting the School of Nursing on the Council.

Tent Moser Woo, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., earned her B.S.N. in 1984, her M.S.N. in Childhood Nursing and Family Nursing in 1989, and a Post master’s Certificate as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in 1993 from OHSU. As Alumni Association President, she completed her Ph.D. in Nursing in 2008 at University of Colorado Denver College of Nursing. She is currently an Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Nursing Programs at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. Lead author of Pharmacotherapeutics for Nurse Practitioner Practitioner 3rd Edition (2013), she has also served on the Fierce Kennedy Sherer National Institute for Child Health and Human Development Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act Working Group. She holds national certifications as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Leader and has been practicing as a FNP at Kaiser since 1999.

“I volunteer my time with the OHSU School of Nursing Advisory Council because I believe in the education the School of Nursing provides to all levels of students from the B.S.N. to the Ph.D. student,” she said. “As a three-time OHSU SON alumni, I want to do what I can to further the mission of the school.”

Amy Ciecko, B.S., graduated from the OHSU School of Nursing in 2009 and says she was fortunate to find a job at PeaceHealth Southwest as an emergency department nurse intern. I had six months of training and within a year of hire became a certified emergency nurse. I have continued as an emergency nurse and now frequently serve as a preceptor for new nurses and students. On a personal note, since graduation my husband and I have been blessed with two amazing little girls. I feel so fortunate to have such an incredible family and a nursing career with so many possibilities.”

Puhu Speaker Addresses Challenges of Collaboration Among Health Professionals

By Lee Lewis-Brock

Collaboration. Teamwork. It makes sense, right? But is not always the norm among health professionals in various work and education settings. One nurse who believes in making her life work to study interprofessional relations believes there’s much room for improvement, for example, when conflicts arise from lack of knowledge, traditional hierarchies, competing scopes of practice and licensure issues.

Madeline (“Matty”) Schmitt, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., F.N.A.P., brought that message to Oregon in October as the featured speaker for the Henrietta Doltz Puhaty Annual Lectureship. Schmitt, professor emeritus at the University of Rochester, travels the world sharing her knowledge gained from almost 50 years of nursing experience and scholarly research.

“Because we’ve been educated in silos, all health professionals, including nurses, need to think outside our professional boundaries,” she said in an August telephone interview. “We need to begin to think more interprofessionally.”

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School of Nursing Connections

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News Flash!

PhD student, Julie Bidwell, received a National Research Service Award (F31) from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. Congratulations!

OHSU School of nursing celebrates with Christopher Lee, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., as receiving the Marie Coven Promising Young Investigator Award for 2013.

OHSU School of Nursing received an Innovation award for 2014 from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

Olivier Hayes received the Pride of the Rose Scholarship from Equity. Congrats!

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School of Nursing and Veterans Affairs Formalize New Partnership

By Lee Lewis Hink

A collaboration, dubbed the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP), opens new educational channels for OHSU nursing students while creating a pool of nurses well versed in the health care needs of veterans, according to Laura Mood, R.N., M.S.N., clinical instructor for the VA accredited school of VANAP. “Our role is to introduce all our students to veteran-centric concepts, with a subset of them spending the majority of their clinical experiences in facilities where veterans receive health care.”

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The Oregon collaborative is among six VANAP programs selected by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to form partnerships that promote safe and effective care of veterans. The Oregon VANAP will receive approximately $4 million over the next five years, with funding split between the nursing school (Portland and Ashland campuses) and veteran health care facilities in Portland, Roseburg and White City.

“The VA faculty who are experts on veteran care will pair up with OHSU’s excellent teaching staff,” says Michele Cooper, R.N., M.S., nurse educator in Portland and co-director with Mood. “The cool thing about this grant is it allows staff nurses who have worked in the VA system for years to gain faculty appointments with the OHSU School of Nursing while remaining VA employees.”

The program funds five faculty positions the first and fifth years of the program, and a total of 10 positions in years two, three, and four.

Sophomore student enrollment will increase by 24 this year, and by the third and fourth years the school will take 60 additional students in addition to seniors. The increase will accrue at the Portland and Ashland campuses, and students in VANAP will experience most of their clinical rotations across VA health care settings.

“From OHSU, our faculty can provide coaching and mentoring on teaching-learning to clinical experts in the VA system. Conversely, VA nurses will help faculty and students become better versed in the special needs of veterans,” says Mood.

In addition to common acute and chronic medical problems seen in the civilian population, veterans have conditions associated with military service, such as traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma and combat stress reactions. Veterans are also vulnerable to heavy metals and years of indoor and outdoor pollution. Many veterans are from rural areas and are already experts in rural health care, Mood notes.

Mood emphasizes that VANAP will impact all undergraduate nursing students, not just those selected for the program. “Our role is to introduce veterans-centric concepts within the curriculum so that all of our graduates are familiar with the specific needs of this growing population.”

Cooper says that unlike the other U.S. sites where one VA site and one school are paired, Oregon’s program includes two nursing campuses and three VA sites at opposite ends of the state. “Our veterans are everywhere, and we feel we had the resources and relationships to make it work.”

“I had been encouraged to engage in something different she is able to keep a smile on her face. Because Allen loves learning and school gives her the opportunity to engage in something different she is able to keep a smile on her face. Allen summed it up in one word. “Commitment to Rural Care Drives New Scholarship

As a third-generation nurse, Beth Wilson embodied a tradition of compassionate care passed down from her mother and grandmother. A graduate of OHSU School of Nursing’s campus in Ashland, Ore., Beth developed expertise in pharmacology and worked as a nurse practitioner in the Rogue River Valley. Her true passion was serving the rural community. More than anything, she loved the connections she made with her patients. She was often heard to say that “the best nurses are those who start with the most basic bedside nursing and never lose those skills.” Thanks to her father, Frank Wilson, with support from Beth’s sisters, Ann and Cate, and her brother, Dean, future generations of nurses will be able to learn those vital skills. The family created the Beth Wilson Memorial Scholarship Fund at the OHSU School of Nursing to celebrate Beth’s life, work, and spirit. Recognizing the leadership role that nurses fill in providing critical, primary, and urgent care, the fund will support the health of rural communities through the education of health care providers.

“Vanessa quickly realized how scientific inquiry can lead to better patient care,” Winters says. “Recognizing where clinical information should be coming from — high-quality research — has the potential to make her a better nurse.”

The Summer Equity Research Program is run by OHSU’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion. By providing opportunities for disadvantaged students, it connects OHSU’s education mission with its vision of helping all Oregonians. The chance for hands-on research and mentoring is especially important for students who may be first in their families to pursue academic and professional interests in health science careers.

After completing her associate’s degree, Lianoz plans to enter the OHSU School of Nursing for her BSN. “She is grateful that the Oregon Consortium of Nursing Education partnerships between OHSU and Oregon community colleges allows her to make this transition seamlessly. The support she has received through the Summer equity internship and the chance to continue directly to her bachelor’s degree make it easier for Lianoz to be a trailblazer. “My parents never got to go to school, and it was hard to get my education started because I was on my own,” she says. “Opportunities like this allow me to enter a career I love.”

Interested in becoming a Summer Equity Research Program recipient? Visit the School of Nursing website to learn more about a student who might qualify.

Contact The Center for Diversity & Inclusion (CDI) at 503-494-3657 or cd@ohsu.edu

Summer Research Program Opens Doors for Disadvantaged Students

By Genevieve Long

Every summer, a dozen or so college students are chosen to join OHSU faculty and research staff for hands-on lab work. For a student planning a health care career, it’s an enviable opportunity. But these aren’t just any students. Participants at OHSU’s Summer Equity Research Program are high achievers who face socioeconomic challenges to entering the health sciences career they dream about.

Vanessa Lianoz is one of those students. This summer, the Clackamas Community College nursing student worked in the human performance laboratory with Kerri Winters, Ph.D., associate professor of nursing. She entered data, ran statistical analyses and graphed results for the GET FIT trial, a community-based study of exercise for women over 60. “It was eye-opening,” Lianoz says. “I didn’t have a research background. I wanted to learn what nurses can do in research, but I also had a lot of preconceived notions about what research is. Patiently working with raw data, watching patterns emerge, taught her a new way of thinking that she says will influence her future learning.

“I’ve been trained to assess patients and consider what to do in each moment,” she said. “But in research, it’s not about figuring out the trend in the moment. It’s about putting together the data, taking your time and stepping back to view the big picture.”

Winters says the Summer Equity program helps students appreciate the rigor of the research process.

Byline: Vanessa Lianoz and Kerri Winters present their poster at the Puhaty lecture.

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The scholarship fund is a fitting tribute that honors Beth’s hard work and dedication to nursing – a career she pursued in addition to helping run the family farm. During her lifetime, Beth served as a preceptor and mentor to nurses in training. This gift will build upon that legacy for years to come. “Nursing runs deep in our family,” says Frank, “and Beth would have been proud and grateful to give back to her community in this way”

To establish the scholarship fund, Frank Wilson was able to utilize an IRA rollover provision that makes giving easy and may provide tax benefits. This provision has helped many families maximize their charitable contributions. The provision ends on December 31, 2013. For more information, please contact Sarah Schwarz, director of gift planning, at 503-552-0702 or sschwarz@ohsu.edu

Next article: Stronger your professional network and stay connected with the School of Nursing. Join the SoN Alumni LinkedIn Community at bit.ly/SONALUMNI

Save the date: Reunions for classes ending in 4 and 5 are scheduled for May 31 – June 1. All alumni are welcome to attend! If you are interested in helping coordinate your class reunion please contact Alumni Relations at 503-552-0708.

For all the latest information on the Vassall, reunion and other alumni events please visit www.ohsu.edu/son/alumni

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Tiffany Allen

You’ll know her by the smile on her face and the stylish mop of hair on her head. You’ll see her at any number of volunteer and community events from the Nursing Students without Borders Uneeda Health Fair to the Ashland Student Nurses Association meetings (she’s president, you know!). Tiffany Allen gets involved and stays involved as evidenced by her time plus years of service to the OHSU School of Nursing and the American and Associate and Academic, not to mention the past two years as a BS nursing student.

When asked what challenged her most in her schooling, Allen summed it up in one word: Scheduling. With a four year old daughter, a husband with asymptomatic lateral sclerosis (ALS often referred to as Lou Gehrig’s Disease), making time to study, and working, Allen says she has a very strict schedule. It can get complicated, but with support from her family and friends, and help with childcare from her mother-in-law and neighborhood friends, Allen forge forward.

Because Allen loves learning and school gives her the opportunity to engage in something different she is able to keep a smile on her face. She says, “I had been encouraged to run nursing for years by bothiale Cartwright (current faculty) and Heather Young (former faculty) and finally went for it. Being in nursing school is a gift and a privilege. It has changed my perspective on health and wellness and has made me more of an advocate. I love the talk, as caring for myself as well as my family.”

Allison and Tiffany will be posts to great contraception and refinements after the 2012 Puhaty lecture.