

ALUMNI UPDATE



### Can you put us in the picture?

The School of Nursing building on the Portland campus is getting a face lift! Among other changes we are re-hanging the composite class photos – and are finding some holes. We are urgently in need of graduation photos for the classes of 1966-1970, 1975, 1984 and 1985. If you have graduation composites for any of these classes, please contact the alumni office at 503 552-0667.

### Alumni Advisory Council Profile



**Amy Blankenship, R.N., B.S.**, graduated from the OHSU School of Nursing, Klamath Falls, in 2011. She received the Elnora Thompson leadership award at convocation for her involvement in the Klamath Falls campus Student Nurses Association. Amy is currently working on her masters degree in nursing education and plans on pursuing her doctorate. She has been a post-surgical nurse and a case managing hospice nurse since graduation. She is a new faculty member for the bachelors program at OHSU's Klamath Falls campus.

Amy is passionate about nursing, OHSU and education and wants to encourage other alumni to get involved. "I'm very blessed for the education I received from OHSU," said Amy. "I had wonderful faculty who were supportive and challenged me. It's a magnificent program and I'm part of the OHSU alumni council because I want to give back and encourage others to be part of this great school."

The Council continues to seek alumni who are interested in participating. Please call 503-552-0745 for information.

#### SN Alumni Advisory Council 2014-2015

- Deb Carter, B.S. '77, R.N., president
- Jean Bates, B.S. '59, M.S.N. '71, immediate past president
- Gillian Beck, B.S. '11 (Portland)
- Kira Biron, B.S. '11 (Monmouth)
- Thomas Blackman, B.S. '14 (La Grande)
- Amy Blankenship, B.S. '11 (Klamath Falls)
- Amy Ciecko, B.S. '09 (Portland)
- Lauren Danahy, B.S. '07, R.N. (Portland)
- Emily James, B.S. '14 (Portland)
- Jane McEldowney, B.S.N. '63, R.N., N.C.S.N. (Bend)
- Teri Woo, B.S. '84, M.S.N. '89, M.N. '93, Ph.D. (Tacoma, WA)

### Puhaty Lecture Puts Teamwork in the Spotlight

**By Genevieve Long**  
Nurse: "I'm the patient advocate."  
Pharmacist: "So what does that make me? The patient's enemy?"

These lines from the play "Bedside Manners," performed at this year's Henrietta Doltz Puhaty lecture, show how a common phrase can create conflict between health care providers in different professions. Training, traditional hierarchies and terms like "physician extender" keep nurses, physicians and other practitioners apart.

Suzanne Gordon, a nationally known patient safety advocate, says the results can be deadly. "When a doctor dismisses a nurse's concern or a nurse doesn't listen to a housekeeper, lives can be at risk." Gordon argues that interprofessional teamwork is essential to patient safety, and building true teams requires training every member to behave in new ways.



Check out the lecture recording at [www.ohsu.edu/son/alumni](http://www.ohsu.edu/son/alumni)

### Meet the Author

Suzanne Gordon has authored, coauthored and edited 18 books on patient safety and nursing. Her latest book, *Collaborative Caring: Stories and Reflections on Teamwork in Health Care* will be available in December from Cornell University Press. (Gordon co-edits the press's Culture and Politics of Health Care series.)



"Historically, every health care profession has strong patient safety advocates," Gordon says. "The Institute of Medicine's 1999 report *To Err is Human* launched a national dialogue about patient safety in the United States, and their second report, *Crossing the Quality Chasm*, launched our modern patient safety movement."

Gordon's books are available on Amazon.com or through her website, [www.suzannegordon.com](http://www.suzannegordon.com).

#### Why patient safety matters

"In 1999 and 2001, Institute of Medicine reports showed that 98,000 people die in the United States every year from preventable medical errors, and 1.5

million are injured," says Gordon. "Those reports also showed that more than 75 percent of errors are due to failed communication. Preventable medical errors are the third leading cause of death in the U.S." (Recent reports show more than 400,000 deaths from medical errors today.)

Health care can learn from an unlikely place: aviation safety. "The airline industry had similar problems with hierarchy," she explains. "Since the Federal Aviation Administration has required crews to work in teams and train together regularly, we've seen a steady decline in serious crashes."

#### New behaviors, better outcomes

Gordon says behavior change is the key. "If a physician or nurse is abusive, you might say 'A leopard can't change its spots. But the leopard can change its behavior. Sexual harassment used to be an everyday occurrence at work, and now it is no longer tolerated because we demanded behavior change.'"

Hosting "Bedside Manners" is just one example of the School of Nursing's commitment to interprofessional education and collaboration. "Team building, skill building, coaching—all those things must happen to change things for our patients," Gordon says. "It's good to come to a place that's on the right track."

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### Connect with Us

Read OHSU student experiences and how they are preparing for careers in science and healthcare. *StudentSpeak* blog: [www.ohsu.edu/blogs/studentsspeak/](http://www.ohsu.edu/blogs/studentsspeak/)

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Learn more about the School of Nursing community by following us on Twitter: [twitter.com/OHSUNursing](https://twitter.com/OHSUNursing)

Strengthen your professional network and stay connected with the School of Nursing. Join the SoN Alumni LinkedIn Community at <http://bit.ly/SOONALUMNI>



Have a story you'd like to share? Want to tell us how we're doing? Email: [snweb@ohsu.edu](mailto:snweb@ohsu.edu)

Learn more about our programs: [www.ohsu.edu/son/programs](http://www.ohsu.edu/son/programs)

Newsletter comments: [snweb@ohsu.edu](mailto:snweb@ohsu.edu)

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# School of Nursing Connections

A publication from the OHSU School of Nursing



Students participate in the fall welcome back photobooth during orientation.

### Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends



Ebola has overtaken the news of late and the situation is causing concern, fear, reactions and responses at local, state and national levels. Safety, teamwork, education and the essential roles of nurses as knowledgeable and trusted professionals are on my mind. We have made headway in advancing and yet some of those principles were at least momentarily forgotten, and individuals were scrutinized over protocols. This will be a case study for all of us and let's commit to learning from it.

At the School of Nursing, we began the fall term on strong footing, admitting highly academically qualified and more diverse students into our programs; received numerous awards and recognitions of our faculty, students and programs during the past year.

I remain excited and grateful for the opportunity to be on this journey with you.

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Ph.D., R.N., P.N.P.B.C., F.A.A.N.  
Dean and Vice President for Nursing Affairs

### Save the Date

June 7, 2015 Annual Reunion and Awards Lunch.  
Details to come.



# Type 1 Diabetes Gains Support with Help from OHSU Nursing Students

By Christi Richardson

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each year more than 13,000 young people are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. The national incidence of type 1 diabetes among those aged 10-19 years is 19 per 100,000. Managing diabetes is challenging and that's why Aletta Mannix and Rose Keppinger, BS with a major in nursing students on the Klamath Falls campus, decided to take action. Because of their experience in the nursing program they had an interest in starting a support group. After attending an annual Sky Lakes Diabetes Services Advisory Board meeting they were prompted to start a support group by Dr. Eccles, a Sky Lakes physician.

Keppinger explains, "I know what it's like being diagnosed with type 1 at eleven years old. I want people to look at the disease as a partner in life, not a crutch. It's manageable. Besides, it's time. Klamath Falls hasn't had a diabetes support group for several years."

More people are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at a young age and because of this, the support group is focused on helping children and adolescents with the disease, and their families, to make the difficult transition into a new lifestyle.

"It's totally possible to live a normal active kid life. We want people to know they are not alone and that even though it isn't easy, there are ways to manage this disease," said Mannix.

Jennifer Lehman, Diabetes Services Program Coordinator at Sky Lakes Medical Center said, "I'm thrilled to help get this support group up and running. It's a much needed resource that the community has been lacking." Lehman will help Mannix and Keppinger with materials, coordinating speakers or lectures, and will be a resource for the two as things come up.

Forming the first diabetes support group meeting Mannix and Keppinger helped out at the Superhero 5k which helped to raise funds for Tayler's Stand, a non-profit group, led by Jennifer Stevens that hopes to raise funds for a diabetic alert dog for her nine-year-old daughter. Alert dogs cost around 15k, but can work for 12-15 years. Regular alert systems must be replaced after about four years. Mannix and Keppinger had a booth at the finish line providing information about the support group. Stevens, a supporter of the group, says that she hopes having a support group will "gain more awareness for diabetes in Klamath County because the disease is silent and not talked about here. It will help make the community more aware."

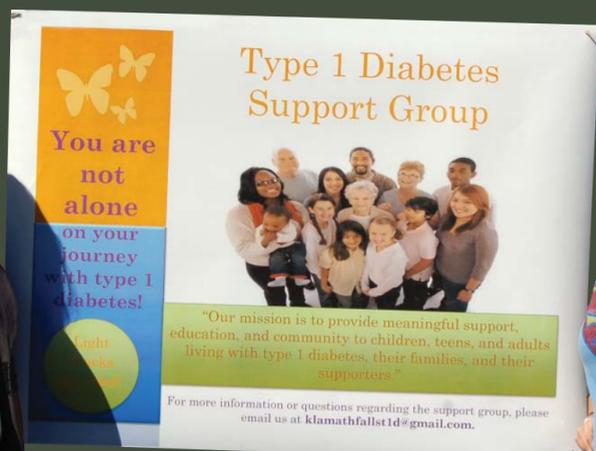
**"We want people to know they are not alone and that even though it isn't easy, there are ways to manage this disease,"**

**– Aletta Mannix**

The group held its first meeting immediately following the event. During the discussion a father and child asked about managing fluctuating blood sugars while participating in sports. Mannix says, "We used what we learned from this meeting to create a focus for the next meeting: diabetes and sports. This is a learning process of what the community's biggest needs and concerns are."

Contact Aletta or Rose for more information about the support group: [klamathfalls1d@gmail.com](mailto:klamathfalls1d@gmail.com).

For more information on Tayler's Stand email: [run@taylersstand.org](mailto:run@taylersstand.org).



Aletta Mannix (left) and Rose Keppinger (right) stand by to answer questions about the type 1 diabetes support group.



From left to right: Jennifer Anderson, Leslie Garcia, Dean Susan Bakewell-Sachs and Robin Corbo cutting the ribbon to commemorate the diversity mural on the first floor of the Portland campus building.

## Picturing Diversity

By Genevieve Long

Visitors to the OHSU School of Nursing's Portland campus see plenty of art commemorating the school's long history. In September, the school unveiled a new mural reflecting its vision of the future. Prominently placed in the first-floor lobby, the piece by artist Robin Corbo depicts the cultural, geographic and professional diversity of nursing in Oregon.

### Art reflecting people

"Be a great organization, diverse in people and ideas," is the first goal of Vision 2020, the university's roadmap to the future. OHSU's Diversity Wall, which features photographs and text on the school's history of diversity, sparked the idea for a School of Nursing installation.

"We wanted to represent how we see nursing today and how it's changing for the future," says Jennifer Anderson, M.P.A., Ed.D., School of Nursing assistant dean for admissions and recruitment. "Research shows that visible representations of diversity help students and faculty members feel at home in higher education."

### Coming together for diversity

Anderson and School of Nursing leaders developed the mural with OHSU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which provided essential support. After discussing the concept with diversity center director Leslie Garcia, M.P.A., Anderson formed a School of Nursing art committee and worked with faculty and staff on ideas.

OHSU's Marquam Hill Art Committee helped the school find artist Robin Corbo, a noted muralist. Corbo, whose background includes social work and

art therapy, held a brown-bag session with 15 members of the School of Nursing community to discover their vision of diversity.

"The group wanted the mural to be very welcoming," Corbo says. "It was important to represent professional diversity as well as racial, ethnic and geographic diversity. It was also crucial to show a modern view of nursing, avoiding stereotypes."

### A bold reflection

The new mural greets all who enter the Portland campus building. "We created it to showcase everyone's contributions, and we want every member of our community to see themselves and feel wanted," says Garcia.

In addition to celebrating student and faculty diversity, the mural aims to remind students of the communities they serve. "We want to instill the value of inclusiveness in our students as they prepare to practice in changing communities," Anderson says.

### Inviting interpretation and conversation

Parts of the mural are straightforward, while others invite personal interpretation. The farm, forest and skyscrapers represent the School of Nursing's statewide campuses and OHSU's commitment to serve all 96,000 square miles of Oregon.

Corbo says the mural's work has just begun. "This painting was not complete when I added the final brush strokes," she says. "It will be completed as the audience participates in viewing, thinking and talking about it—and by what grows out of those conversations."

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

By Christi Richardson

At a young age Matthew Bledsoe, senior B.S. with a major in nursing student on the Monmouth campus, knew two things: he wanted a career in a health care setting and he wanted to fly an Apache helicopter. The inspiration for these objectives was Bledsoe's uncle who stopped by one day wearing his army uniform. Bledsoe learned from his mother that the uniform signified his uncle's status as an Army Officer who just happened to be a doctor. Bledsoe set his sights on similar goals.

Three tours in Iraq, rising to the rank of sergeant, and leading infantry soldiers built a strong foundation for Bledsoe's next ambition. Once back to civilian life he enrolled in school right away, taking

prerequisites for a nursing degree. His time in Iraq and his preparation paid off.

Bledsoe says, "We had a lot of cultural sensitivity training in the infantry. We were dealing with regular people who wanted a safe environment for their kids. I learned that respect is fundamental in helping people and I hope to bring that to my nursing career."

Health care careers run in Bledsoe's family with a brother who serves as a combat medic in the National Guard; his mother, a recent B.S. with a major in nursing graduate from the Monmouth campus, his step-dad is an x-ray technician, and his uncle a doctor. Bledsoe hopes to take his education further and go to school for Nurse Anesthesia.



## News and Announcements

Congratulations to **Basilia Basin**, SoN PhD student, who received the "Knowledge Award" from OHSU Healthcare for a poster she presented at the Western Institute of Nursing conference this past year.

**Dr. Kerri Winters-Stone**, a research professor in the SoN and **Dr. Jackie Shannon**, an associate professor in public health and preventive medicine, are co-principal investigators for the Oregon Cancer Community Research Collaborative at OHSU (OR-CCRC). **Drs. Nancy Findholt, Cindy Perry and Frances Lee-Lin**, associate professors in the SoN, are co-investigators in the OR-CCRC, and will bring their expertise in community-based research in diet,

physical activity and cancer screening to address the program's goals. The OR-CCRC works to address the cancer prevention and control needs of rural, tribal and other underserved communities through community-driven research and training, dissemination, implementation and evaluation activities.

**Congrats to this year's Jonas Scholars: Tamara Rose**, interim campus associate dean, Klamath Falls campus (Jonas IV Nurse Leader Scholar); **Kari Firestone**, PhD student (Jonas IV Nurse Leader Scholar); **Mary Ann Jessee**, doctoral candidate (Jonas IV-NLN Scholar) and **Ellen Tilden**, PhD student (Jonas IV Nurse Leader Scholar).

## SNA Awards 2015 – Call for Nominations

The Awards Committee of the SNA Advisory Council invites input on awards for 2015 and onward.

### Distinguished Alumna/us of the Year

The Distinguished Alumna/us of the Year Award recognizes an OHSU SoN graduate who has made a significant impact and demonstrated a commitment to educating and mentoring the next generation of nurses.

### Early Career Achievement Award

This award recognizes an alumna/us who has made significant contributions in improving patient care and health in a community setting or in the areas of scientific research or academia within five years of graduation.

For further details and a form please contact [alumni@ohsu.edu](mailto:alumni@ohsu.edu).



Strengthen your professional network and stay connected with the School of Nursing. Join the SoN Alumni LinkedIn Community at [bit.ly/SONALUMNI](http://bit.ly/SONALUMNI)