Dear Alumni, Colleagues, and Friends

Geha 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 these 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 Bakevoll Sachs, Ph.D., R.N., PN PBC, F.A.A.N.
Dean and Vice President for Nursing Affairs

School of Nursing

A publication from the OHSU School of Nursing

Save the Date

June 7, 2015 Annual Retirement and Awards Luncheon
Details to come

Connect with Us

School of Nursing Connections

Fall 2014

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 healthcare 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.

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.

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.”
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, RN with a major in nursing services 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. Eccle, a Sky Lakes physician.

Keppinger explains, “I know what it’s like being diagnosed with type 1 at eleven years old. I don’t want people to look at the disease as a path to failure, not a catch. 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 the disease,” said Mannix.

Mannix and Keppinger had a booth at the finish line providing education and diabetes checks for runners. During the discussion they told parents that a child should be tested for diabetes before and after exciting athletic events. “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 the disease,” said Mannix.

“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

Picturing Diversity

By Genevieve Long

Visitors to the OHSU School of Nursing’s Portland campus are 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 Robert Corbo depicts the cultural 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 Robert 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 welcome,” 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 practice to prepare 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.”

News and Announcements

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

Dr. Kerri Winter-Wilson, a research professor at the SoN and Dr. Jackie Shannon, an associate professor of Health and prevention, is one of 50 co-principal investigators for the Oregon Cancer Community Research Collaborative at OHSU (OR-CCRC). Dr. Nancy Hinnblutt, 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 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: Tomara Rose, intern campus associate dean, Klamath Falls campus (Jonas IV Nurse Leader Scholar); Kari Firestone, PhD student (Jonas IV Nurse Leader Scholar); Mary Ann Jesse, 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 SNAA Advisory Council invites input on awards for 2015 and onward.

Distinguished Alumna/us of the Year

Congratulations to Francis Martin, former SoN student and current SoN faculty, who is this year’s Distinguished Alumna/us of the Year. Martin was a former SoN student and current SoN faculty member. She is known for her dedication to the School of Nursing and her commitment to education and mentoring the next generation of nurses.