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

Saying Farewell

Two of our esteemed faculty members are moving on to new endeavors. We wish the best for them in their new roles.

Dr. Gail Houck has been with the OHSU School of Nursing (SoN) for 26.5 years, since graduating with a PhD from the University of Washington. Dr. Houck has served on many committees and councils and has held numerous leadership roles in the SoN. She has also served in significant leadership positions within the university, including the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Oregon Inter-institutional Faculty Senate. Throughout her tenure, she has been telling to step up, even when the effect was a delay in achieving some of her own professional scholarship goals. She has also been highly involved within the discipline of nursing and in the local community.

Dr. Houck served as program director in both the PhD and DNP programs, leading curriculum reform efforts in both programs. Her understanding of how people learn and of cutting-edge instructional practices have supported her efforts to lead faculty in making substantial advances in program development. She has provided critical leadership to the Western Institute for Nursing’s NEXus program, a collaborative among doctoral granting schools of nursing to provide shared coursework and increase access to highly specialized training.

Dr. Terri Harvath has been with the SoN for 13 years. During that time she has served on numerous committees and councils and held numerous leadership roles. She has also served in leadership positions within the university, most recently co-chairing a Interprofessional Education Task Force. She has been highly involved within the discipline of gerontological nursing serving on local and statewide committees and task forces and several national boards and advisory committees. She has been the director of OHSU’s Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence since 2008 and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Excellence since 2008 and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence Board of Directors.

While on faculty at OHSU, Dr. Harvath has been recognized for her contributions to nursing education and scholarship, receiving awards for both undergraduate and graduate teaching, and was the recipient of the Excellance in Gerontological Nursing Education, Advanced Practice Curricular Innovation from the John A. Hartford Foundation and the American Associate of Colleges of Nursing. Dr. Harvath has been with the SoN for 26.5 years, since graduating with a PhD from the University of Washington. Dr. Houck has served on many committees and councils and has held numerous leadership roles in the SoN. She has also served in significant leadership positions within the university, including the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Oregon Inter-institutional Faculty Senate. Throughout her tenure, she has been telling to step up, even when the effect was a delay in achieving some of her own professional scholarship goals. She has also been highly involved within the discipline of nursing and in the local community.

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Spotlight on La Grande

On Monday, Jan. 6, Dean Bakewell-Sachs accomplished her goal of visiting all four regional campuses within her first six months at OHSU. During the winter assembly in La Grande, Dean Bakewell-Sachs encouraged students to stay active and engaged and to take time out for fun during their time in school.

In addition to hearing remarks from the dean the students also had the opportunity to participate in Nursing Specialty Speed Dating, a career networking event jointly hosted by the Student Nurses’ Association and the School of Nursing Alumni Association. Seven School of Nursing alumni volunteered their time to chat with over 60 students in 10 minute intervals about their professional achievements, specialty area and diverse career paths. Arielle Humphrey, a junior, said, “It was great speaking to such a wide variety of careers. It was especially helpful to talk with a recent grad about how she got a job before graduation and tips for taking the NCLEX.”

The La Grande campus also hosted a welcome reception for Dean Bakewell-Sachs and Associate Dean Carla Hague, Ph.D., M.P.H., B.N., former director of Nursing at George Fox University.

Nursing Specialty Speed dating events have taken place on all four campuses with over 50 alumni volunteering to participate. If you are interested in getting on a volunteer list to participate in this event or other student and alumni engagement opportunities please contact the Alumni Relations Program at alumni@ohsu.edu

Did You Get the Email?

That’s right – the School of Nursing now has an alumni e-newsletter! Don’t miss out on all of the latest happenings at the school. As a companion information resource to our printed newsletter we are delighted to bring you e-updates on current alumni events and programs, spotlights on our regional campuses as well as exciting news about our faculty, students and alumni.

In our January issue we featured a spotlight on all five campuses with over 50 alumni volunteering to participate. If you are interested in getting on a volunteer list to participate in this event or other student and alumni engagement opportunities please contact the Alumni Relations Program at alumni@ohsu.edu.

We want to hear from you!

School of Nursing Connections

Spring 2014

Specialty Speed Dating, La Grande Campus.

Greetings Alumni and Friends,

Since July I have had the opportunity and pleasure to visit all of our campuses, meet with faculty, students, alumni and donors and learn about this fine school. I have been struck by the extraordinary talents, abilities and dedication that exemplify the members of our extended community.

In this issue of Connections I think you will see outstanding examples of how our community members are making a difference. I feel privileged to be part of the OHSU School of Nursing community and I hope you do too.

Warmly,
Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Ph.D., R.N., P.N.P.-B.C., F.A.A.N.
Dean and Vice President for Nursing Affairs
A Secret Revealed: Achieving A Hard-won Dream

By Lee Lewis Hubbard

Thalia Delgado, 23, spent years living in fear of deportation. Mexican by birth, American by any other standard. Brought to the United States at a young age, Delgado was a grant of a single mother who emphasized academics. She graduated from high school with high marks and a full ride to George Fox University. She completed her first bachelor's in three years by pushing herself, even taking 21 credits in one semester. “I felt selfish staying any longer, knowing that my scholarship could go to another student in need,” she explains.

“I can return the care and compassion my mother and family received throughout her birth experience.”

Ultimately, Delgado found nursing through the birth of her sister. Her mother, 41, had pre-eclampsia; however, mother and baby did well during delivery. “The nurses were amazing,” Delgado says. “They were there and very loving, and one nurse volunteered to stay extra. She planted the seed in my head, telling me that I should pursue nursing. She changed the trajectory of my life.”

In 2012, Delgado was accepted into the accelerated baccalaureate program and with that came a new worry: how to afford tuition. She worked full time during her first term and saved $3,000, plus her mother offered her lifecare of $2,000. But she was short of the full tuition and federal loans were not available to her.

“I wasn’t going to be able to do this,” she remembers. “I contacted an OHSU professor that I felt I could trust. I broke down and told her my situation. I didn’t want to give up my dream of becoming a nurse.”

In separate projects, Bidwell and Denfeld are studying older adults with heart failure, the fastest-growing cause of cardiovascular disease. Associate professor of nursing Christopher Lee, Ph.D., B.N., principal investigator of a four-year, $2.2 million study of heart failure in OHSU patients, advises both students. Denfeld is investigating the relationship between objective measures of heart failure severity and patients’ presenting symptoms, which don’t always match. In addition, physical frailty is linked with adverse health outcomes, and Denfeld is studying its relation to heart failure symptoms and disease markers. The Archbold award requires Ph.D. students to have approval on the dissertation plan, and Denfeld is co-mentored by professor of nursing Jill Bennett, Ph.D., B.N., an expert in patient care and quality of life.

In the same patient population, Bidwell studies patients with hypertension and their experiences with life change. She explains, “To gain a better idea of what to tell patients and caregivers about the VAD experience and determine who— in both groups—are at risk for adverse outcomes.”

Bidwell is co-sponsored by Karen Lyons, Ph.D., a family psychologist at OHSU who specializes in dyads (relationships between two people). Both also credit OHSU and the School of Nursing’s Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence and served on the School of Nursing faculty.

Delgado was inspired to care for Ph.D.s after working with them in the NICU, where she was a part of the OHSU clinical care units. The award has particular significance for her because of one of her clinical mentors, assistant professor of internal medicine and palliative care, Cassie Casey, Ph.D., A.P.R.N.-C.S., received the Hartford Foundation award in 2005. “I thought it was an amazing honor. It’s a privilege to receive it,” she says.

The pioneering July Bidwell and Denfeld focused on “Many doctors can’t commit to their academic programs full-time,” Bidwell says. “I can be here all day, every day. Having funding has even made it possible to maintain that earlier.” Both students hold concurrent funding from OHSU’s Graduate School, OHSU’s Office of Research, the Portland chapter of the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Foundation and Bidwell from the National Institute of Nursing Research.

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