Alumni Reunion Draws Classes from ‘54 December, and ‘65
By Mark Kendall
Dean Susan Bakewell-Sachs and Alumni President Deborah Carter welcomed nearly 60 alumni and guests to the alumni reunion lunch, held in the atrium of the OHSU Center for Health & Healing on Sunday, June 7. “Second and your fellow alumni are a valued and valuable part of our school and university community,” said Dean Bakewell-Sachs in her opening remarks. “We are proud of you and your achievements.”

Ms. Carter presented the Alumni of the Year award to Daniel Sheridan, R.N., Ph.D. ’98 and the Early Career Achievement award to Laura Jensen, M.S. ’99, M.P.H. ’10. Dr. Sheridan was recognized for his work in forensic nursing — the care and criminal justice enforcement — the care and criminal justice coordination of those experiencing domestic abuse, family violence and elder assault.

Dr. Sheridan has a long and rich history of achievements. “You and your fellow alumni are a valued and valued part of our school and university community,” said Dean Bakewell-Sachs in her opening remarks. “We are proud of you and your achievements.”

By Christi Richardson-Zboralski

The 2014/15 academic year finished out well with many accomplishments. This newsletter highlights examples of how the School of Nursing is actively engaging in global health projects. We have a strong commitment to faculty and student opportunities in learning experiences, research and health care and are thoughtfully planning and plotting for the future. An OHSU-Mahidol University partnership offers the potential for us to consider nursing and interprofessional projects, exchanges for faculty and students and research collaboration. In September we will embark on a new strategic plan, a process that will include internal and external stakeholders. If you would like to offer input, please let me know.

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Ph.D., R.N., FNP-C, F.A.A.N.
Dean and Vice President for Nursing Affairs
By Genevieve Long

When disease travels by jet and populations migrate seasonally across borders, public health is a global concern. SON Global is an OHSU School of Nursing program that helps students prepare for 21st-century practice by studying abroad. Since 2013, students at the OHSU School of Nursing in Portland have been able to meet placement requirements for NR514: Population Based Care with service learning in Ashland, Nicaragua, through OHSU’s partnership with the Jesse F. Richardson Foundation for older adults.

In spring 2013, the OHSU School of Nursing in Ashland inaugurated the SON’s second study abroad opportunity in Guanajuato, Mexico. Guanajuato is a sister city to Ashland, and Southern Oregon University has had long-standing exchanges with the university. Now, students can also meet NR514’s clinical learning requirements there. SON Global is planning to add more study abroad locations in the future, including Bangkok, Thailand.

Cross-border Abroad

For now, study abroad programs are available through the Portland and Ashland campuses. Student applications include an essay on why they want to go and how they believe it will change their practice. Up to eight students are accepted for each trip. Groups travel to Jinotepe in spring each year and to Guanajuato in the spring.

“It’s important for our students to be aware of what’s happening in Nicaragua and staying with a local family takes their language skills to a new level,” says Fresco. “Understanding different cultures makes you a more capable and thoughtful nurse,” says third-year nursing student Rorey Patterson, who was in the first group of students in Guanajuato. “Population-based health care is increasingly the model for nursing.”

Nursing Students Expand their Horizons

By Lewis Hank

The global reach of OHSU and its School of Nursing recently expanded by 7,577 miles. That’s the distance between Portland and Bangkok, Thailand, where the university has recently formed an alliance with Bangkok Duang Medical Services (BDOMS), Thailand’s largest health care network, and Mahidol University.

In announcing the collaboration, OHSU President Joe Robertson said: “We are taking collaboration to the next level. This initiative will serve both Oregon and Thailand as a platform for education and research and cross-cultural exchange.”

The nursing school has two building partnerships in OHSU Global – Southeast Asia. The first is a partnership with Mahidol University’s School of Nursing. Leaders from both schools have met in person to develop a list of potential partnership opportunities, according to Peggy Wos, Ph.D., R.N., senior associate dean of student affairs and diversity. “There’s pent up demand among students and faculty for international experiences,” she says. “We have things to learn from and to offer each other.”

Wos says that Mahidol is developing a family nurse practitioner program and that it may want to send a visiting professor to OHSU to observe classes and clinical experiences in the FNP program. Other ideas being considered are the exchange of undergraduate students for up to a month at a time, collaborative research projects, and hosting Thai nurses working toward a doctoral degree. She says that international experiences are important to Thai educators and pointed out that many of the Mahidol leaders were educated in the United States.

“OHSU is developing a comprehensive international program,” Wos says. “This is the start of a strong partnership.”

The entire global initiative is very broad and creates a center for OHSU in Southeast Asia, says Lea Cronn, J.D., who along with Justin Donny, M.D., is lead staff for OHSU Global. In October 2014, OHSU and BDMS signed a five-year memorandum of understanding to establish centers of excellence built on interprofessional relationships.

“For OHSU, this initiative provides students and faculty with unique opportunities to work internationally and bring back ideas to improve the quality and standard of care here in Oregon,” Cronn says. “For our partner, our goal is to create a learning environment that is bilingual. We can also help build capacity in Southeast Asia so people there nurture hubs of knowledge.”

“OHSU and Thai Health Systems Forge Alliance: Better Health Care for Both Sides of the Pacific Rim” – Joe Robertson, OHSU President

They want to become an international referral center, so we did partnering with them,” Nielsen says. For example, members of the OHSU group worked with nurses on team-based NICU resuscitation and stabilization techniques. With that focus, PUCU nurses, the Americans explored ways the Thai nurses might achieve more autonomy and expand their clinical judgment and assessment skills.

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