Happy 2018! We are pleased to share in this issue some of the many achievements of our alumni and faculty. Read on to discover who is an “emerging leader” in informatics, writers of editorials, presenters at international conferences, published in journals and who chaired an award ceremony! Please let us know what you would like to see in future updates!

**Dr. Christine Stevens, Associate Professor, Receives Distinguished Community Engagement Award**

Dr. Christine Stevens received her Ph.D. in Nursing Science from the University of Washington. Her research focuses on social justice and how structural disadvantages affect health, housing, and food security, especially among low-income and adolescent populations. Dr. Stevens uses participatory research to develop long-term relationships with communities and partners with residents to develop interventions that are relevant at the local level.

Dr. Stevens’s collaborations with a variety of organizations have resulted in changes that include process improvement, collaborative research methods development, and program development and implementation. Her work with community partners empowers them to lead and direct projects while she graciously provides her expertise and guidance as needed.

For read full article [click here](#).

**David Reyes Elected President of Washington State Public Health Association Board of Directors**

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Dr. David Reyes, on his election in October as the new President of the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) Board of Directors.

David joined our faculty in 2014. His research interests include the intersection and impact of policies, systems, and environments on health, and health systems improvement and leadership.

For more than 80 years, WPHA has convened those who care about the public’s health in the state of Washington. They share ideas, support leadership development, and take action to achieve a healthier community. To find out more about WSPHA, and how you can become a member, [click here](#).
Sunny Cheng, RN,

We Can Do A Lot More For Mentally Distressed Kids in Pierce County

For acute treatment. But just this month, the Telecare Recovery Partnership in Lakewood announced it will close its 16-bed unit. Opening more beds, however, cannot be the ultimate answer for addressing mental health crises in the South Sound. We need to improve mental health through early prevention. Research shows we can mitigate the downward trajectory and poor outcomes associated with poor mental health through early recognition and intervention in children and youth. Research shows that depressed mood is often the first symptom before the onset of schizophrenia.

To read full Opinion in the Tacoma News tribune, Click here.

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**FACULTY EDITORIALS**

**Tacoma Kids Have Stake in Our Industrial Future**

*Robin Evans-Agnew, RN, PhD*

This week, as we continue an important debate about the future of our city and the Tidflats (this time over interim land-use regulations), I urge you to listen carefully for the voices of youth.

You might not hear anything. Yet what we choose to do with Tacoma Tidflats has everything to do with the youth and children who will grow up to inherit whatever messes or opportunities we create through this process.

It is timely that our city is setting future directions for controlling pollution in an important West Coast urban environment at a time when Gov. Jay Inslee has been in Bonn, Germany. He helped lead a delegation of the United States Climate Alliance to the 23rd annual United Nations Climate Change Conference.

To read full Opinion in the Tacoma News tribune, Click here.

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**We Can Do A Lot More For Mentally Distressed Kids in Pierce County**

*Sunny Cheng, RN, PhD*

Mental health continues to be a priority health issue for Pierce County, and it sometimes seems like we will never be able to fully address the demand for acute services.

The new behavioral health facility at Allenmore Hospital now being built by Franciscan and MultiCare health systems will provide an additional 120 beds for acute treatment. But just this month, the Telecare Recovery Partnership in Lakewood announced it will close its 16-bed unit.

Opening more beds, however, cannot be the ultimate answer for addressing mental health crises in the South Sound. We need to improve mental health through early prevention.

Research shows we can mitigate the downward trajectory and poor outcomes associated with poor mental health through early recognition and intervention in children and youth. Research shows that depressed mood is often the first symptom before the onset of schizophrenia.

To read full Opinion in the Tacoma News tribune, Click here.
Carolyn Milander, BSN Student, Shares Her UWT Experience

I was in the final quarter of my RN program at Olympic College in Bremerton, WA when my Intensive Care Unit preceptor, Aljade Rosario, pulled me aside and asked me if I had considered getting my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. When I said that I had, he praised the University of Washington Tacoma’s BSN Program and highly recommended that I apply there as he had done a few years prior. That interaction changed my life. When I went home that night to look into the program, I noticed that the deadline for applications was in three days. Thanks to my supportive RN faculty members and Aljade, I was able to apply just in time to be considered and soon after I received the exciting news that I had been accepted. It has now been a year and a half ago since I moved for the first time in my life to be closer to Pierce County for the program.

The UW Tacoma nursing program has unwaveringly supported my education as a nurse leader and encouraged a work, life, and school balance. I started the BSN program as a full-time student three days after completing my RN program, but when I accepted my first nursing position in the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) at Tacoma General Hospital, UW Tacoma allowed me to switch to a part-time student track. The faculty at UW Tacoma is exceptional. Every professor is professional, highly intelligent, globally aware, inspiring, compassionate, and dedicated to students. I really enjoy my professors and I feel grateful for the opportunity to further my education in the BSN program.

Every day I feel thankful for my role as a nurse and grateful to help patients improve their health. Ultimately, I dream of becoming an advanced practice nurse and teaching future generations of nurses. I am proud to be a UW Tacoma BSN student and thankful for all that the nursing program has done for me and my career as a nurse!

BSN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN POINT IN TIME COUNT

48 RN-BSN students participated in the Pierce County Point In Time count of people who are homeless in Pierce County. Organized by the homeless Programs Unit and Pierce County Human Services, the Point In Time count is an important annual assessment of homelessness in our county. The UWT TNURS 414 students made up over 10% of the group. As part of their fieldwork in the Health, Community & Populations course, students and walked in small groups around various locations in Tacoma, Lakewood, Tillicum, and other suburban areas interviewing anyone who stated that they had been homeless the previous night and were willing to talk. Using a downloadable app as their assessment tool, students gathered basic demographics and more detailed information about chronic diseases and disabilities.

Originally pioneered as a learning opportunity by faculty Corrie Matlock-Hightower, this year all course faculty (Corrie Matlock-Hightower, Jane Cornman, Robin Evans-Agnew, David Reyes, & Jan Runbeck) participated. Students were visibly moved by the experience; one student stated, “I was initially afraid to do the assessment, but I was surprised by the generosity and depth of compassion of the people that I met. I was also surprised that so many have lived in the county all their lives. This experience has changed how I view persons who are homeless and will influence my nursing practice in the future.”
Faculty Focus
The UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program celebrates the achievements of our faculty.

Sunny Cheng RN, PhD
Assistant Professor Sunny Cheng recently published an article, “From manageable to losing control: a grounded theory study of psychosis risk syndrome” in the Early Intervention in Psychiatry Journal. To read the full article, click here.

Lisa Davidson, RN, DNP
Lisa Davidson, Lecturer, has been published in the Air Medical Journal. Her article, “Development and Testing of a Neonatal Intubation Checklist for an Air Medical Transport Team” can be read here.

Uba Backonja RN, PhD
Assistant Professor Uba Backonja recently co-authored an article, “Acceptance and perceived usefulness of robots to assist with activities of daily living and healthcare tasks”. To read abstract in the Assistive Technology Journal, click here.

Susan Johnson RN, PhD
Assistant Professor Susan Johnson has a chapter called “Workplace bullying and mobbing within specific employment sectors” in the new book Workplace Bullying and Mobbing in the United States. Click here to find out how to get the book.

Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen on China’s National Two-Child Policy Change
Dr. Weichao Yuwen, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor, visited China twice in 2017 as part of a project funded by the UW Office of Global Affairs Global Innovation Fund (PI: Jane M. Simoni, Professor of Psychology, UWS). The team visited key hospitals and Schools of Nursing in Beijing, Changsha, and Shanghai, China and discussed the impact of the recent national policy change (Two-Child Policy) on population health outcomes in maternal and child health. Dr. Yuwen presented the project at the UW Tacoma Global Lightening Talks last Autumn.

Uba Backonja Selected as Alliance for Nursing Informatics 2018-2019 Emerging Leader
Two nursing informatics professionals have been selected by the Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) to participate in the Nursing Informatics Emerging Leaders Program. Based on competitive criteria, Uba Backonja, PhD, RN, and Alvin D. Jeffery, PhD, RN/APN, were chosen for this exclusive two-year program designed to develop professionals capable of assuming national leadership positions in informatics-related organizations. The program provides emerging leaders with invaluable mentorship and opportunities to participate in educational industry meetings and events.

To read full article click here.

Clinical Faculty Highlight
Geri Babbo, RN, EdD 2016, Anne Mulligan, RN, EdD 2016, and Minerva Holk, RN, EdD 2016, Clinical Faculty of our program, presented their doctoral work at the Region 1 Sigma Theta Tau International Conference in Vancouver BC in July. “Education and Advocacy for Military Medics and Licensed Practical Nurses transitioning into a Streamlined Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. “

The presentation focused on the creation of curriculum and a faculty development program to support the achievement of student-veterans in the higher education setting, specifically in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. The curriculum would be based on the training, education, and experience of students who are former US military medics. Learners would be enrolled in a streamlined BSN program. This model provides a framework for students to transition into high wage, high demand careers. The team described methods followed to determine required curriculum and faculty development to support learning. The intent of the model is to increase the diversity and add to the baccalaureate prepared registered