



Sharon Gavin Fought, Dean

Welcome to Autumn 2020! Yes, we all are here--at least virtually--and our classes are starting in this challenging COVID-19 era. We are fortunate to have Dr. Anne Mulligan and Jodi Erickson, RN Ph (c) joining us this quarter. Dr. David Reyes starts autumn quarter with a new title: Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Patsy Maloney is now Teaching Professor Maloney, and Dr. Kathleen Shannon Dorcy is Associate Teaching Professor, reflecting changes in UW faculty titles.

Teaching, evaluation, meetings, advising, budget and hiring--everything is virtual these days. Our School is challenged by this change. Because students are understanding and tech-savvy as well as flexible, faculty are creative and persistent, and staff are great problem solvers, we are off to a terrific start!

SNHCL Alumni and Student News

Karen Park, BSN '14, MN '16, was one of many individuals who opened the [Virginia Mason Birth Center](#), an alliance with CHI Franciscan, this August. The birth center is an obstetric and neonatal 24/7 in-patient hospital unit. Virginia Mason has not had an in-patient birth center in approximately 24 years.

Jan Runbeck, MN '06 and former part-time faculty, has been [involved in the efforts to assist those living homeless, in the midst of severe wildfire smoke and COVID-19](#). The County and the City of Tacoma set up the Clean Air Day Shelters. They requested that the Pierce County Medical Reserve Corps staff and provide public health services for the shelters. Due to the excellent Community Health curriculum in the MN program, Jan was prepared to help the activation of preventative measures which promote the health of those who are most vulnerable to environmental disasters.

Healthcare Leadership student **Vincent Da** was elected for a second term as [ASUWT](#) President. He is entering his senior year in the Healthcare Leadership program. [Read about ASUWT's goals for the coming year in an interview with Vincent from the Ledger.](#)

Theresa Braungardt, BSN '94, MN '08 and UWT SNHCL clinical faculty, recently became a [Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives \(FACHE\)](#). Earning the distinction of Board certification demonstrates a commitment to excellence in serving patients and the community.

Anna Howard, HCL '20, was recently granted early admission to the [UW School of Public Health Epidemiology](#) program. This is a highly rigorous and competitive program.

Yusra Iftakhar, HCL '20, recently began the Family Nurse Practitioner program at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Francesca Stracke, BSN '10, completed her DNP program in 2020 and gave a [poster presentation](#) of her culminating project at the Western Institute of Nursing Conference in April 2020.

Doris Thomas, BSN '11, MN '13 and former faculty, is now a full-time tenure track professor at South Puget Sound Community College in the prelicensure associate degree in nursing. She will be working primarily with the second year students teaching theory along with clinicals and ethics for the 1st year students.

Rosie Watson, MN '20 joins the Pierce College Nursing Program this autumn as part-time faculty. She will be working with other UW SNHCL alumni, including Mattie Brickle and Tiffany Fromm-Smith (who is also director of the program).

Featured Faculty: Dr. Sharon Laing

Supporting Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Engagement in Young African American Girls: The Mini-ME Intervention

Congratulations to **Assistant Professor Sharon Laing** and collaborators as they have received NIH funding to support their plans to address obesity and promote health in young African American girls. Dr. Laing joins a team of faculty and technologists from across the US to conduct phase 1 of a study that will use an innovative early childhood prevention program to support African American girls in adopting healthy eating and active living lifestyles. Phase 1 starts this autumn and will use role modeling with a “smart doll” that offers culturally relevant, age-appropriate behavior change communications; an animated video series; and mobile apps to support caregivers and the population of young girls. The study will evaluate the extent to which this program of interventions supports obesity prevention.



Assistant Professor Sharon Laing

This builds on and takes advantage of Dr. Laing’s expertise in mHealth technology, health disparities, and psychological support. Her role in this research includes providing psychological support and determining the most appropriate strategies to maximize children’s engagement with the “smart doll” as a tool.

As a result of this work, it is hoped that childhood obesity, which has tripled in the past 40 years, might be reduced in an early developmental stage, before it becomes a chronic health problem. With such reductions, rates of Type 2 diabetes, asthma, and joint problems might also be reduced in young African American girls.

Dr. Sharon Laing is an Assistant Professor with UW Tacoma School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership and an Adjunct Assistant Professor with UW School of Public Health, Health Services Department .

Dr. Laing co-authored the article “Short-Term Outcomes of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Institute for Nursing Faculty,” which was selected by the judging committee of Journal of Nursing Research as this year’s winning article for the **Christine A. Tanner Scholarly Teaching Award**. The paper was published in the [November 2019 issue of the journal](#).

Over two episodes of the [Paw’d Defiance podcast](#) in August 2020, **Assistant Professor Sharon Laing** and **UW School of Nursing Associate Professor Wendy Barrington** discuss how structural racism within American health policy has negatively impacted communities of color and how the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a disproportional toll on those communities.

Part 1—<https://www.buzzsprout.com/265902/4900661-racism-is-a-public-health-crisis-part-i>

Part 2—<https://www.buzzsprout.com/265902/5067431-racism-is-a-public-health-crisis-part-ii>

Faculty Activity

Assistant Professor Uba Backonja and fellow investigators were awarded supplemental funding by the Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health to integrate data and training on COVID-19 and related social determinants of health into their project, [SHARE-NW: Solutions in Health Analytics for Rural Equity](#) across the Northwest.

Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew and his project partner, UW Tacoma SIAS Assistant Professor Christopher Schell, launched the second series of the [Voices Unbound podcast](#), funded through an Earthlab Innovation Grant. In the first new episode, participants discuss “how racism in law enforcement and governmental responses to the COVID-19 epidemic contribute important environmental threats to communities in our region and elsewhere.”

Associate Professor Katie Haerling was awarded \$33,541 from the University of Washington Royalty Research Fund for the study, *Examining Theory-Based Debriefing Practices after Virtual Simulation Experiences*. From the proposal abstract, “the primary purpose of this project is to deepen knowledge about effective strategies for debriefing after virtual simulation experiences – a vital but under-examined component of experiential learning that is key to unlocking the potential of virtual simulation in nursing and other practice-based fields.”

In June, **Associate Professor Susan Johnson** was elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors for the [International Association of Workplace Bullying and Harassment](#) (IAWBH). The board is responsible for the operations of the IAWBH which include overseeing the planning of conferences and summer institutes.

Teaching Professor Patsy Maloney ended her 2+ year tenure as [President of the Association of Nursing Professional Development \(ANPD\)](#) on September 17. ANPD’s membership consists of over 6000 nursing professional development (NPD) practitioners, also known by a variety of titles such as clinical educators, educators, and staff developers. Instead of students, NPD practitioners teach and develop practicing nurses and other health care providers in their work setting. Dr. Maloney describes the last 6 months of her tenure as a “wild ride.” Under her leadership, ANPD supported NPD practitioners with information and resources to swiftly and creatively respond to the pandemic. NPD practitioners prepared frontline healthcare team members in record time for deployment outside their specialty, and adapted their instructional methods from in-person to virtual. At the same time, ANPD leadership rapidly shifted from an in-person to a virtual convention with over 3000 participants. ANPD also published a Commitment to Racial Justice, a pledge of action that includes “actively working to assess for the presence of injustice and inequities within our organization, with the intent of discovering and disrupting the pathways of systemic racism” and “provid[ing] NPD practitioners with the resources to fight injustice and facilitate equitable opportunities and health.”

Faculty Activity Continued

Dr. David Reyes was promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure, of the School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership. Dr. Reyes also holds adjunct faculty positions with the UW Seattle School of Nursing and the UW School of Public Health.

Associate Professor Christine Stevens received funding from Washington State for three students to receive year-long fellowships focusing on food insecurity and civic leadership. The three student fellows will continue the work on Dr. Stevens' research on sustainability of access to cultural foods in college food pantries and [Nourish Pierce County](#).

In addition, Dr. Stevens received funding from APLU and USU to explore student experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on students basic needs security. The study will also explore the influence of the innovative solutions of the [UWT Food Pantry](#) on students' food security.

Associate Professor Emeritus Cathy Tashiro was invited to give a guest lecture at Duke University's Global Mixed Race Studies class on September 15, 2020. Students were assigned her book chapter Tashiro, C.J. (2013). Mixed Asian Americans and Health: Navigating Uncharted Waters, in G.J. Yoo et al. (eds.) [Handbook of Asian American Health. Springer, pp. 129-134](#). The title of her talk was "Race, Racism, Ancestry and Health: Implications for Mixed Race People."

Dr. Weichao Yuwen presented a Zoom STEAM Cafe at Lake Washington Girls Middle School

by Janet Primomo, Associate Professor Emeritus

Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen presented a *STEAM Cafe* for students at Lake Washington Girls Middle School (Seattle) via Zoom on September 23. She discussed her two interventional research studies that utilize technologies to promote health in children with chronic conditions and their families: Sleep Innovations for Preschoolers with Arthritis, and [CocoBot \[Caring for Caregivers Online\]](#). CocoBot is on-demand therapy using artificial intelligence to help caregivers monitor symptoms, problem solve, and cope with stress. The empathetic chatbot does smart chats, offers resources to improve caregiver quality of life, and helps caregivers track their progress.

During her Zoom talk, Dr. Yuwen polled students about their sleep habits and responded to students' questions, including why she chose to study sleep. 31 participants, including several teachers, joined the students. Following the presentation, the interim head of the school stated "the topic of sleep really resonated with all of us, especially the students" and asked Dr. Yuwen to speak at an upcoming all-school meeting on how the 6th-8th grade girls can develop healthy sleep schedules, a goal shared by many girls.

Dr. Primomo's daughter teaches science at the school and volunteers for health and public health related topics. She hopes some of the middle school students are inspired by Dr. Yuwen to consider nursing as a career!

Faculty Publications

Uba Backonja and co-authors: "[Modules Over Models: Participatory Explorations of the Menstrual Tracking Application](#)" in *ACM Transaction on Computer-Human Interaction*, DOI: 10.1145/3397178

Dr. Backonja, with her PhD student, Ross London, and other co-authors: "[How Patient-Generated Health Data and Patient Reported Outcomes Affect Patient-Clinician Relationships: A Systematic Review](#)" in *Health Informatics Journal*, DOI: 10.1177/1460458220928184

Dr. Backonja and co-authors: "[ENVISION: a tool for improving communication of interdisciplinary hospice teams](#)" in *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, DOI: 10.3928/00989134-20200605-03

Katie Haerling and co-authors: "[Letter to the editor: NCSBN Clinical Judgment Measurement Model clarification](#)" in *Journal of Nursing Education*, DOI: 10.3928/01484834-20200617-02

Katie Haerling and co-author: "[Making sense of methods and measurement: Negotiating authorship. Clinical Simulation in Nursing](#)" in *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, DOI: 10.1016/j.ecns.2016.09.003

Sharon Laing and co-authors: "[Provider perceptions of mHealth engagement for low-resourced, safety-net communities](#)" in *Public Health Nursing*, DOI: 10.1111/phn.12811

Weichao Yuwen and co-authors: "[Parental readiness for hospital discharge as a mediator between quality of discharge teaching and parental self-efficacy in parents of preterm infants](#)" in *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, DOI: 10.1111/jocn.15405



If you have suggestions or questions about the newsletter, please [click here](#).
To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)