



Sharon Gavin Fought, Dean

Welcome to autumn quarter with all of its challenges! In addition to welcoming new faculty, staff and students, we have cause for celebration! The BSN programs at UWT, UWB and UWS have been highly rated by US News & World Report. THE BSN is tied for #2 overall and #1 among public Universities! In addition, Washington Monthly has rated UW Tacoma as #6 in terms of "best bang for the buck" in September 2021! It's not often that these rankings coincide--enjoy knowing you are in the RIGHT place to continue your education--hooorah! And stay well!

New Faces at the School

Johnica Hopkins is the new undergraduate advisor for the School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership. She most recently was an academic advisor at Seattle University, advising undergraduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences. She has her BA in Psychology from Western Washington University and her MA in Teaching ESOL from the University of Washington (2011). Prior to academic advising she taught English at the University of Washington and Chosun University.



Johnica Hopkins



Shamay Thomas

Shamay Thomas, MSN, FNP-C, ARNP, is the new Assistant Teaching Professor and new Clinical Placement Coordinator for SNHCL. Shamay is a PhD candidate with the UW School of Nursing. She is a Nurse Practitioner with over twelve years of nursing experience treating and attending to patients in a variety of medical settings and is passionate about instructing and mentoring nurses and students. Her research interests include how racism and misogyny may intersect and influence the health of Black women and how individuals create healthy spaces for themselves.

Faculty Promotions

Dr. Katie Haerling has earned promotion to Professor in the School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership! Dr. Haerling's research and expertise in simulation are well known and are influencing nursing education here and abroad. Congratulations!



Dr. Katie Haerling

Dr. Sharon Laing has earned promotion to Associate Professor with tenure in the School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership! This reflects her strong teaching, service and health services research in cancer prevention, workplace wellness, and use of mobile technology in self-management. In addition, Dr. Laing is an Adjunct Associate Professor with the [UW School of Public Health](#). Congratulations!



Dr. Sharon Laing

SNHCL News

Dr. Uba Backonja stepped down from her faculty role at the School in September. She can be contacted at backonja@uw.edu or via [her LinkedIn account](#).

Before moving on from UW Tacoma, Dr. Backonja completed work on a project called [SHARE-NW](#). The product is a website “designed specifically for rural professionals in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington state with limited resources and little to no data experience. The goal of SHARE-NW is to increase the availability of, access to, and use of data for rural health agencies in their efforts to identify and understand complex underlying social conditions impacting their communities.”

Dr. Kathleen Shannon Dorcy has retired from her 30+ year career at the School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership. Just as she was finishing her Master of Nursing degree in 1991, Kathleen was recruited in Seattle to work with the Project 2000 team, whose task was to document the need for RN-BSN education in Western Washington and provide such education in select locations. Since that time, she consistently provided high quality education and research opportunities through her part-time faculty role at UWT and full time role at the [Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center](#) and [Seattle Cancer Care Alliance \(SCCA\)](#). Kathleen was among the four faculty who initiated the UWT RN-BSN program in June 1992. Kathleen is currently the Director of Clinical/Nursing Research, Education and Practice at SCCA.



Dr. Kathleen Shannon Dorcy

In the ensuing years, Kathleen worked with nearly every faculty member, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and guiding scholarly inquiry projects which were either published or presented at refereed meetings.

She was recruited for the NIH doctoral studies program focusing on oncology at University of Utah—no small task, as she had to make time to engage in such study. Her work focused on hope and decision making in oncology research participation and she graduated with her PhD in 2011. And, in more recent years, Kathleen was elected to and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Kathleen can be reached via her UW email, ksdorcy@uw.edu.

Among our clinical faculty, **Ms. Patty Hayes** has recently retired from her role as Director of Public Health for Seattle and King County. In addition, **Dr. Sally Watkins** will step down from her role as Executive Director for the [Washington State Nurses Association](#) this month. Congratulations to both!

The School is grateful to receive an original portrait of **Mary Mahoney**, the first African-American to have been educated and work as a professional nurse in the US, gifted by the family of **Dr. Lois Price-Spratlen RN, PhD, FAAN**. Dr. Price-Spratlen, who had been the Ombudsman for Sexual Harassment at UW and faculty at the School of Nursing, was a transformative voice for advanced practice in psychiatric nursing in our state. [Learn more about her here](#). In part, this gift came to the School in recognition of our efforts to recruit, educate, and graduate nurses from diverse backgrounds—and especially African-Americans. **Ms. Frankie Manning, RN**, facilitated communication in this process. Ms. Manning was an administrator at the Veteran's Administration Puget Sound and on the Board of Health for both King County and Washington State. The portrait was created by [Seattle-based artist Al Doggett](#).

Faculty Updates

Assistant Professor Chieh (Sunny) Cheng and her fellow researchers were awarded grant funding by the [UW Medicine Garvey Institute of Brain Health Solutions](#). The grant will fund a project, psychosis iREACH, for developing a digital platform to deliver an evidence-based cognitive-behavior informed intervention for families supporting the recovery for individuals with psychiatric disorders. This tool will offer broad and equitable access for diverse families and caregivers in the community. The project represents a multidisciplinary collaboration among faculty in the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew will be on sabbatical for the 2021-2022 academic year, focusing on his scholarship in leadership. He plans to advance his scholarship of leadership and followership, including designing new ways to teach group work and resiliency strategies to students.

Associate Professor Sharon Laing and UW Tacoma students from Vietnamese, South Asian, African and African-American communities are exploring the physical, environmental and mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color. The student researchers recruited and interviewed (on Zoom) individuals from three of those communities and will partner with [HealthPoint Community Health Centers](#) to conduct interviews. This project, titled "Scientists in Training: Supporting Black Indigenous and Other People of Color (BIPOC) Student Success in Research," is supported by the [UW Tacoma Strategic Initiative Fund](#).

Dr. Laing was a facilitator for the UW School of Nursing Anti-racism and DEI Teaching Institute in September. Recently, Dr. Laing delivered a seminar to nurse leaders and professionals nationally at the [Association for Nursing Professional Development](#) titled "Pedagogy and Reducing Bias in Healthcare Delivery."

In addition, Dr. Laing was appointed to the [UW Population Health Initiative Executive Council](#) in August and just recently to the [UW SoN Continuing Nursing Education](#) Advisory Committee.

Lecturer and Clinical Faculty member Anne Mulligan is the new president of Psi-At-Large, the local chapter of Sigma. On November 13, the Chapter will host a presentation of new research by local nurses. Next year, April 30 2022, the Chapter will host presentations on expanding and developing relationships globally with a variety of nurse speakers. The fall event will be virtual with free contact hours for all attendees. Sigma membership is not required; [visit the website to register](#). The Psi-at-Large Board approved a revised strategic plan and is working hard at sustainability and member retention, and promoting nursing leadership, knowledge resources, and engagement in the community. [Contact Dr. Mulligan for further information](#).

In addition, Dr. Mulligan contributed a brief presentation on Washington State Rules and Regulations for new clinical instructors at the New Clinical Instructor and Preceptor Workshop in September.

The University of Washington received a 4-year grant funding for the Advancing BIPOC Learning and Engagement (ABLE) Nursing Progression Project through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The ABLE Project is led by Drs. Jamie Shirley and Selina Mohammed (UW Bothell School of Nursing & Health Studies) and three UWT School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership faculty members (**Drs. David Reyes, Robin Evans-Agnew, and Weichao Yuwen**). The project offers a comprehensive pipeline for students from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) backgrounds to progress from pre-licensure associate degree in nursing (ADN) programs to RN-BSN to graduate studies, particularly in the advanced practice areas of nursing education and public/population health nursing. The project includes evidence-based strategies for recruiting, supporting, and retaining students in their educational programs and provides scholarships as they advance their education. Additionally, the project includes creating a community network to support multicultural nursing organizations build capacity to mentor BIPOC students and nurses.

[Read the abstract here.](#)

SNHCL Alumni and Student News

Heidi Bircher, MN '05, recently presented at [Sigma's 32nd International Nursing Research Virtual Congress](#) on Thursday, July 22, 2021. Her presentation was entitled, "Improving Nurse-Hospitalist Communication with SBAR."

Nikki Graham, MN '13, received the [Association of Nursing Professional Developments Change Agent of the Year](#) Award for 2021. [Watch her acceptance speech for the award](#) in which she credits her mentors and team for her success. In addition, Nikki was admitted to the Boise State University DNP program in August 2021.

Robert Carver, MN '14, is teaching a fundamentals lab class at St. Martin University this autumn quarter.

Joanne Iverson received her Doctorate in Nursing and Nursing Leadership certificate in May 2021 from Washington State University. In addition, Joanne is working toward a Public Health Certificate in Nursing.

Susan Ramos Moore, MN '14, in collaboration with **Assistant Professor Chieh (Sunny) Cheng**, is involved in community engagement work which aims to develop a triad coalition of the SNHCL, Tacoma Public Schools, and MultiCare Health System, to promote youth behavioral health in the Tacoma Public Schools system. This work is intended to help students as they re-integrate to in-person education in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tiffany Smith-Fromm, MN '14, has accepted the position of Dean with the Clover Park Technical College Nursing Programs. Previously, she held a similar position at Pierce College.

Susan Workman, MN '09, has returned to Swedish Medical Group Enhanced Care Services, where she provides telephonic complex care management services to patients with multiple chronic conditions, high risk of re-hospitalization, high utilization, and those who need to develop better self-management skills.

Faculty Publications

Uba Backonja and co-authors: "[How to Support the Nursing Informatics Leadership Pipeline](#)," [ePub ahead of print] in *CIN: Computers, Informatics, Nursing*, DOI: 10.1097/CIN.0000000000000827

Chieh (Sunny) Cheng and co-authors: "Dementia Detection Using Transformers-Based Deep Learning and Natural Language Processing Models," from proceedings of the [IEEE ICHI Fourth International Workshop on Health Natural Language Processing](#).

Chieh (Sunny) Cheng keynote speaker, "Rapid transition from didactic to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic: a lesson learned from USA," at [UNPAD \(Padjadjaran University\) Nursing Symposium, July 27 2021](#) (Virtual)

Denise Drevdahl and co-author: "[The White Coat Ceremony: A Response to Mitchell and colleagues](#)," in *Journal of Professional Nursing*, DOI: 10.1016/j.profnurs.2021.01.004.

Katie Haerling and co-author: "[Questions Regarding Substitution of Simulation for Clinical](#)," in *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*, DOI: 10.1016/j.ecns.2020.06.014.

Katie Haerling and co-author: "[Evaluation of Simulation Outcomes](#)," in *Annual Review of Nursing Research*, DOI: 10.1891/0739-6686.39.149

Patsy Maloney and co-author: "[Informing the Nursing Professional Development Scope and Standards. Journal for Nurses in Professional Development](#)," in *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, DOI: 10.1097/NND.0000000000000735.

Patsy Maloney and co-author: "[Informing the Nursing Professional Development Scope and Standards Part 2. Journal for Nurses in Professional Development](#)," in *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, DOI: 10.1097/NND.0000000000000747.

Weichao Yuwen, Chieh Cheng and co-authors: "[Self-Care Needs and Technology Preferences Among Parents in Marginalized Communities: Participatory Design Study](#)," in *JMIR Pediatrics and Parenting*, DOI: 10.2196/27542



If you have suggestions or questions about the newsletter, please [click here](#).

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)