



*Sharon Gavin Fought,
Dean*

Welcome to our winter newsletter! Do take a moment to read about some of the activities and accomplishments of our current students, faculty and staff, and alums. Our students and alums have persevered in their studies and work lives. Faculty have mastered "hybrid teaching and learning", combining live, online learning with other approaches. Staff have become experts at supporting students via zoom and face to face appointments--though face to face meetings are rare. I'm grateful for everyone's efforts, time and energy to insure our learners' success--a real challenge in these times.

After 30 years with UW Tacoma, Dr. Sharon Gavin Fought retired as Dean of the School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership at the end of January 2022.

The following is a contribution by Emeritus Faculty Janet Primomo in honor of Dr. Fought.

Reflections on the Leadership and Contributions of Dean Sharon Gavin Fought, PhD, RN

**Contributed by Janet Primomo, RN, PhD
Associate Professor Emeritus**

Since 1992 when the RN to BSN program began, Sharon has capably led the development and growth of not only the UW Tacoma Nursing & Healthcare Leadership, but also the UW Tacoma. Sharon's contributions and leadership to nursing, nursing education, healthcare, work force development, and higher education in the South Sound and state of Washington are remarkable.

It hardly seems like thirty years ago. I fondly recall those early days when the Nursing Program was located in the Tacoma Security Building on Pacific Avenue. As founding faculty, Sharon as Program Director, Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, Kären Landenburger, and I were given the charge of starting a new RN to BSN program and helping build a new urban university in Tacoma that would serve working adults. Another special memory is the eagerness and great appreciation of Pioneering Graduating Class of 1993, the Nurses of Destiny, as they called themselves. Beginning with that first cohort of RN-BSN students and under Sharon's leadership, UWT has been able to provide a long line of eager and accomplished students an educational opportunity to advance their careers, seek advanced degrees, and improve their lives.



Sharon Gavin Fought, Dean

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*Dr. Fought with another
SNHCL retiree*

From the very start of the Nursing Program, Sharon has always graciously welcomed faculty, staff, and students to the University of Washington Tacoma. Her warmth, personal touch, commitment to quality education, and deep regard and respect for adult learners has been vital in the recruitment and retention of students. Sharon's heartfelt concern for student well-being set the tone for new faculty and staff, and others tried to model and embrace her learner-centered approach. Sometimes this meant putting more toilet paper in the women's restroom just before class breaks!

Sharon's involvement with local and statewide nursing education and healthcare partners has enhanced access to advanced nursing education and improved the healthcare workforce. She wrote the proposal for the MN program, sought approval of the University of Washington, testified before the State Legislature and Higher Education Coordinating Board, and launched the program. She served on a Nursing Education statewide council, helped establish a local nursing clinical consortium, assisted Olympic College as they launched an RN-BSN Program, helped develop the Doctor of Education (EdD) in Educational Leadership program, and participated in workforce development groups. For many years, she also served in UW campus leadership positions in academic affairs, helped bring additional degree programs to UWT, and wrote many accreditation reports.

The UWT Nursing Program has evolved over the years under the direction of Director Sharon Fought and in 2019 it became the School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership with Sharon as inaugural Dean. Throughout Sharon's leadership, there has been commitment to social justice and health equity as evidenced by requiring a course in diversity long before Nursing accrediting bodies, the University, or state of Washington did. That strong commitment remains.

No doubt, these past two years have been extraordinarily challenging as faculty, staff and students have had to maintain quality education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We do not know what the School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership or UWT will look like in another thirty years. We do know that it will grow, develop, and thrive thanks to the solid basis established under the leadership of Dean Sharon Gavin Fought. THANK YOU!

[Read and contribute the Kudoboard for Dean Sharon Gavin Fought](#)

Associate Professor David Reyes will take on the role of Interim Dean of the UW Tacoma School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership. Dr. Reyes joined the faculty at the University of Washington Tacoma in 2014, and has held clinical, educational and leadership roles in community and public health, acute care, home health, and perioperative nursing.

In addition, **Dr. Reyes, Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew and Dr. Weichao Yuwen** received grant funding from [UWT's Office of Research](#) to explore COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and confidence among BIPOC communities in Pierce County. This effort is in partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.



Dr. David Reyes

Clinical Faculty Spotlight

Tiffany Smith-Fromm, MN '14, RN is the Dean of Instruction for [Nursing Programs at Clover Park Technical College](#) (CPTC). She oversees the practical nursing program and various Nursing Assistant Certificate programs. Tiffany has worked in nursing education for the past 8 years. As the Nursing Program Director at [Pierce College](#) she, along with a team of fantastic faculty, implemented a new curriculum, created a part-time LPN-RN program and demonstrated success at increasing the nursing enrollment of underrepresented minorities. At CPTC, her goal is to implement a new curriculum that lines up with pathways in the state that streamline nursing education for all nursing students that enter the CPTC doors. Furthermore, she and her wonderful faculty are so excited about bringing back the LPN-RN program in the next couple of years. Tiffany enjoys precepting graduate students from various higher education institutions and has made it her mission to continue to make all levels of nursing education attainable for everyone.



Tiffany Smith-Fromm

Currently, Tiffany is a member of [the BIPOC Healthcare Ecosystem](#) interim Board of Directors and is currently working with the Ecosystem team to attain funding to meet its mission of increasing the number of underrepresented minority healthcare leaders and health professionals in Washington State.

Lecturer and Clinical Faculty member Anne Mulligan participated in the [Sigma Theta Tau International's Biennial Conference Convention](#). As current Psi at-Large Chapter president, Dr. Mulligan shares that Sigma's new Call to Action asks for nurses to collaborate with disciplines outside nursing and healthcare to influence decisions about nursing, populations, and the planet in three critical domains: economics, technology, and conservation. There will be an [informal event via Zoom in February](#), discussing working with Generation Z nurses, and the annual meeting in April, featuring Global Health Topics.

Clinical faculty member Jamilia Sherls-Jones was recently honored at [the March of Dimes "Heroes of Action" event](#). She received the "Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion" award for her efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion through practice, education, leadership, and research. Dr. Sherls-Jones' introduction and awarding starts at 54:19 in [this YouTube video](#).

We are interested in what YOU would like to read about in future issues.

Email tnursing@uw.edu with suggestions.

Alumni can send us information [here](#).

Faculty Spotlight

Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen was awarded the [UW Distinguished Teaching Award](#) on January 21, 2022. In the announcement for the award ceremony, Dr. Yuwen was lauded for “using innovative and creative teaching approaches to inspire students” and for “providing research opportunities for students across disciplines and campuses.” At the ceremony Dr. Yuwen gave a presentation titled “Beyond Planting Seeds,” in which she shared her passion and motivations as an educator and examples in working with and supporting students as co-creators of knowledge. Read about Dr. Yuwen and other UW Distinguished Teaching Award winners [here](#).



Dr. Weichao Yuwen

Photo by Jackie Russo

In addition, Dr. Yuwen was nominated and selected to participate in the 2nd cohort of the [LEAD Institute \(Leading for Equity, Antiracism, and Diversity\)](#). The LEAD Institute is a 6-week cohort-based leadership program for mid-level faculty and staff administrators. The aim of this initiative, begun in 2021, is to grow a critical mass of faculty and staff administrators whose work and leadership practices are grounded in equity, antiracism and inclusion, and to create a campus climate of accountability for this work, that will benefit UW Tacoma students and the communities served by the University.

Faculty Updates and Activity

Assistant Professor Chieh (Sunny) Cheng was awarded grant funding from the [Office of Community Partnerships' Faculty Fellows program](#)! This award lays the groundwork for a community engagement project titled "A Collaborative Health Coalition (Co-HEAL) to Support Equitable School Behavioral Health." Dr. Cheng's proposal noted that Washington is ranked 43 out of 51 in the US for equitable access to mental health care for youth, and based on a recent U.S. News report, [Tacoma School District's minority enrollment is 60%](#), with 42.2% of students eligible to participate in the federal free and reduced-price meal program. Dr. Cheng will collaborate with [Dr. Michelle Garner](#) from UW Tacoma's School of Social Work and Criminal Justice, MultiCare Health System and Tacoma Public Schools to respond to the urgent mental health inequality by developing an alternative, low barrier, pathway for school staff to receive evidence-based behavioral health interventions and learn informed triage from mental health professionals.

Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew presented a [global nursing agenda for climate justice](#) at [COP26](#), the global climate change conference, in Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. Evans-Agnew notes that this is only the second time nurses have had a presence at this important meeting where world leaders discuss and determine strategies for mitigating and responding to the global threat of climate change. Arguing that nurses should be caring for both people and the planet, Evans-Agnew led an international group of nurses from the US (including the [Philippine Nurses Association of America](#) and the [Asian American/Pacific Islander Nurses Association](#)), [Canada](#), and [South America](#) in determining upstream principles for nursing practice within five domains: ecological, economical, ideological, political and social.



Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew

Faculty Activity Continued

Professor Katie Haerling is serving as a Pro Tem Member of the [Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission](#). Dr. Haerling began working with the Commission in 2019 by informally sharing her research and providing support on issues related to the use of simulation in nursing education. In 2020, she accepted an appointment as Pro Tem Member. She serves on the Research Sub-committee and contributes to several projects related to the use of simulation.

Recent Faculty Publications

Chie (Sunny) Cheng: "[Mobile Health for Caregivers of Young Adults with Early Psychosis: A Survey Study Examining User Preferences](#)" in *Psychiatry Services*, DOI: 10.1176/appi.ps.202000193

Robin Evans-Agnew: "[HIV stigma and its metaphors: Photos, symbols, and solutions](#)" in the *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, DOI: 10.1080/15381501.2021.1911903

As part of a [Strategic Initiative Fund award](#), **Associate Professor Sharon S. Laing** and her students are researching the mental health toll that the pandemic has taken on marginalized communities. This research involves collecting data on Vietnamese, African and African American communities, in partnership with [HealthPoint Community Health Centers](#). One of her students will present their findings at the [Washington State Public Health Association's](#) autumn 2022 meeting.

Dr. Laing was Co-Chair of the [UW Climate Survey Faculty Implementation team](#). In her role, Dr. Laing evaluated data on faculty experiences at UW Tacoma and specifically, feelings of being unwelcomed and unsupported on campus and lacking the capacity to meet personal and professional priorities. Her team identified 16 major problems ranging from unwanted sexual experiences, biases in hiring practices and lack of support for BIPOC faculty. Dr. Laing and her team developed recommendations targeting campus-level leadership (Deans and Chancellors) that were designed to improve the climate on the UWT campus and to support the retention of all faculty, particularly marginalized faculty including BIPOC faculty.

Associate Professor Christine Stevens was recently appointed to be co-chair of the National Basic Needs for Students Committee for the [Coalition for Urban Serving Universities \(USU\)](#). The committee meets monthly to examine effective approaches among USU members in order to share with national leaders, to implement and measure the impact of innovations in basic needs provision.

Lecturer Lisa Davidson presented at two conferences late last year: two sessions at the September [Mary Bridge Pediatric Emergency Medicine conference](#) and, at the [Tacoma Trauma Conference](#) in November, a session on electric bike and scooter injuries.



Sharon Hansen

Lecturer Sharon Hansen, was named "Distinguished Nurse of the Year" by the [March of Dimes of Washington](#), as part of their Heroes in Action awards. Sharon was lauded for her role as a nurse educator and mentor as well as her dedication to improving nursing care, with specific attention given to her work in sepsis management.

The presentation of the award begins at the 1:07:05 in [this YouTube video](#).

SNHCL Alumni and Student News

Vincent Da, BAHCL '21, started his professional career at MultiCare. Since November, Vincent has been promoted from a vaccine coordinator to the program assistant for the [Center for Health Equity & Wellness](#). Vincent has been doing pediatric COVID-19 clinics across the Pierce County School Districts and has helped out over 500+ students and their families in 3 school districts.

Healthcare Leadership student **Adilene Jaime-Eustaquio** is the ASUWT (Associated Student Body of UW Tacoma) Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Senator for 2021-2022. Adilene says that the role of student government is to “represent and promote student interests, and advocate student issues within our program.” In her role as ASUWT senator, Adilene “[collaborates] with other organizations on campus to increase health motives and accessibility to all students.”

Trevor Lanz, MN '16, presented a quality improvement project at the [Seattle Nursing Research Consortium's](#) annual research workshop. The project presents a framework for conducting falls focused unit surveys. The framework focuses on in-the-moment environmental observations and conversation with patients, family, and care team members, with a focus on meaningful, collaborative interventions that are quickly implemented in patient care plans.

Princess Magadia, BAHCL '19, is a community health worker for the Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics in La Grande, Oregon. She says she enjoys the concept of being part of a team that has the vision and mission of improving quality of care at their hospital.

Since graduating from UW Tacoma, **Ayub Nur, BSN '15**, has worked as a patient access representative for Kaiser Permanente and a unit coordinator at Seattle Children's Hospital. She is currently enrolled in the physician assistant program at Southern California University of Health and undertaking a residency at Seattle Children's Hospital.

In Autumn 2021, **Karen Park, BSN '14 and MN '16**, began the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Frontier Nursing University.

Valorie Taylor, MN '20, co-authored an article in the [American Journal of Nursing](#) titled “[An Overdue Reckoning on Racism in Nursing](#).” The article details a project developed by four nurses to address racism in the nursing field and to center the voices of nurses of color in discussions of racism.

Dr. Keandra Thompson, MN '14, was recently nominated for the [2021-2022 Life Changer of Year Award](#). She is health services manager with the Lake Washington School District.

Tao Zheng, MN '14, is currently a PhD in Nursing Science student at the University of Washington School of Nursing in Seattle. He was recently featured in the [de Tornyay Center for Healthy Aging's Scholar Spotlight](#).

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