Autumn quarter brings new students in our BSN, MN and Healthcare Leadership programs and this year, a new faculty member, Dr. Sunny Cheng. We are pleased to share a sampling of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alums. And, of course, we look forward to hearing from you and sharing your updates!

Please Let us know what you would like to see in future updates!

Welcome Sunny Cheng to the Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program Team!

Dr. Chieh (Sunny) Cheng joined the faculty in August 2017. She teaches courses in the RN to BSN, MN, and Healthcare Leadership programs.

In August, Sunny completed her dissertation using grounded theory to explore prodromal experiences of those who eventually are diagnosed with schizophrenia, and earned her PhD from the School of Nursing at UW.

She completed her BS in Nursing from Kaohsiung Medical University and her MS in Nursing, psychiatry, and mental health from National Cheng Kung University. During her PhD studies she was a TA and RA; her practice experience is in psych nursing.

Weichao Yuwen featured as PhD Alum, on UWS School of Nursing Annual Report

Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen, 2016 UWS SON Alum, was featured in this year’s SON Annual Report. Weichao states, “I truly enjoy engaging the students in active learning, inquiry, and critical thinking. Some students tell me that they see me as a role model, which inspires me to hone my teaching skills and become a lifelong learner and educator.” Congratulations Weichao!

Alumni Focus

The UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program celebrates the achievements of our alumni

Ace Agustin, MN
Congratulations to Ace Agustin, MN 2016, who was admitted to Pacific Lutheran University’s DNP program and started coursework in September 2017.

Leah Chapman, MN
Congratulations to Leah Chapman (Butler), MN 2014 who married Joshua Chapman in February.

Kyessa Hudson, BAHCL
Kyessa Hudson, BAHCL 2015, was admitted to the Doctor of Pharmacy program at UW Seattle. Good job Kyessa!

Lucretia Berg, EdD
Opportunities in the integration of primary care and public health nursing: Two case exemplars on physical activity.

Robin Evans-Agnew, PhD, RN, Kala A. Mayer, PhD, MPH, RN, Lori L. L. Miller, PhD, MPH, MS

Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew, Associate Professor, collaborated with Dr. Kala Mayer, School of Nursing, University of Portland, and Dr. Lori L. L. Miller on a new publication about primary care and public health nursing. Their methods focused on two research case exemplars in physical activity for female adolescents and a focus group study of African American adults in a community kitchen program. They found that integrating primary care and public health nursing could improve the tailoring of physical activity and nutrition programs to local populations.

To read full article, click here.

Dr. Christine Stevens, Associate Professor, Appointed as a University of Washington Urban Fellow

Associate Professor Christine Stevens, RN, PhD was appointed as a UW Urban Fellow this year. Urban@UW extends the understanding of cities—from people, buildings, infrastructure, and energy to economics, policy, culture, art, and nature. Urban@UW positions UW as a leading university in urban issues.

Dr. Stevens is currently working on understanding housing and food insecurity among University of Washington students. A survey is used to investigate the prevalence and characteristics of University of Washington Seattle, Tacoma and Bothell students experiencing housing and food insecurity. The research will examine the diverse populations who may bear the burden of these inequities, and will pave the way for subsequent qualitative analysis of students’ lived experiences. The baseline data as well as perspectives from students and service providers will inform future interventions for the UW to address this population health challenge effectively.

For more information about Urban@UW, click here.

Katie Haerling, 2014-2017 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Nurse Faculty Scholar graduate

Katie Haerling, Associate Professor, recently graduated from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars program. This program was originally developed to fund nursing research and to elevate the nursing profession, to make academic nursing more prestigious and popular, and to create new pathways for career success. The program aims to strengthen the academic productivity and overall excellence of nursing schools by providing mentorship, leadership training and salary and research support to young faculty. With 90 scholars, the Nurse Faculty Scholars program has been a resounding success. To view a full list of this years graduates, click here. You can also find out more about the program here.
Faculty Focus

The UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program celebrates the achievements of our faculty

Robin Evans-Agnew, RN, PhD
Robin Evans-Agnew has been elected to serve as section councilor for Public Health Nursing with the American Public Health Association. Congratulations Robin!

Sharon Hansen, RN, MN, CCRN
The Sepsis Alliance Newsletter shared that Sharon Hansen, UWT, Lecturer, is currently presenting a series of Webinars designed to remind us that signs and symptoms of sepsis can present in a wide range of settings, including home. To find out more about the Webinars, click here.

Sunny Cheng, RN, PhD
Assistant Professor Sunny Cheng recently published an article, “Scale of Body Connection: A multi-sample construct validation study, which focuses on the need for a self-report measure to examine body awareness and bodily dissociation in mind-body research.” To read full article, click here.

Weichao Yuwen RN, PhD
Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen published an article in Pediatric Nursing titled “Struggling in the Dark to Help My Child: Parents’ Experience in Caring for a Young Child with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis.” To read full article, click here.

Faculty Corner

Uba Backonja, RN, PhD
Assistant Professor Uba Backonja continues to be extremely productive and has been involved in many projects. She is currently a co-Investigator/Director for SHARE-NW, Solutions in Health Analytics for Rural Equity across the Northwest. This is a 5 year, $2 million grant provided from the NIH’s Office of Minority Health and based out of the UWS Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP). The project PI is Dr. Betty Bekemeier, Professor at UW Seattle's School of Nursing and Director of the NWCPHP. To find out more about the project, click here.

Dr. Backonja’s work uses participatory design to learn what women and health practitioners want in technologies to support menopause; this was presented in early October at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science 2017 Advanced Methods Conference in Washington, DC, and the North American Menopause Society Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Copies of the posters can be requested by emailing Dr. Backonja.

Dr. Backonja conducted an invited workshop on data visualization in grant writing to the City University of New York School of Nursing in September. She worked with faculty and PhD students on how data visualization can be used throughout the grant-writing process. She also just recently published an article in the Journal of Nursing Scholarship titled; “How could nurse researchers apply theory to generate knowledge more efficiently?” To read full article, click here.

Alum Highlight

Nedralani Mailo, Healthcare Leadership Alum, starts a new job at University of Washington Tacoma

Welcome Nedralani (Nedra) Mailo to the Office for Equity and Inclusion! Nedra joined the center as Program Supervisor in the Center for Equity and Inclusion in August. She will work closely with UWT students, student workers in the Center, and other campus partners to plan programs, training, and activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is also responsible for supervision and operation of The Pantry.

Prior to beginning her work in the Center for Equity and Inclusion, Nedra was a UWT student and employee. She graduated June 2017 with a Bachelor’s degree in Healthcare Leadership. She also worked in the University Y Student Center as a team lead in her position as Senior Student Center Coordinator.