As our students complete their studies, these alums continue to contribute to the health of our region. Join us in congratulating our new UW Tacoma alums. We look forward to hearing of their achievements and personal celebrations, too, in the coming years. Read on for updates about our faculty and their publications and presentations. And enjoy the coming summer!

Healthcare Leadership Students Present at American College of Healthcare Executives

In March of 2019, Healthcare Leadership students Jason Muncy and Peter Wangigi presented their research findings at the American College of Healthcare Executives Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago, IL. They collaborated with Assistant Professor Sharon Laing, who also secured funding to allow them to attend the event.

This was a unique experience for undergraduate students. Dr. Laing notes that Jason and Peter were “in a line-up of presenters comprised of CEOs, COOs, [and] CFOs” and that “typically, students do not present...at this meeting”. Jason said “it was an amazing opportunity to take what we have learned in the program and not only apply those skills but take them a step further. Being able to present in a professional environment such as the ACHE gave us valuable experience that we could not get in the classroom.”

Yuwen and Haerling in China

Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen and Associate Professor Katie Haerling traveled to Shanghai, Yangzhou, and Nanjing China where they each presented their research. Their audiences included nurses and educators at Xinhua Hospital in Shanghai, an international audience of students, academics, and clinicians at the Yangzhou International Geriatric Nursing Forum, and nursing students and educators at Nanjing Medical University.

Alumni Focus

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

Two MN alumni teaching at Tacoma Community College were recently awarded tenure: Dr. Delilah Bruskas, MN ’06, and Joanne Iverson, MN ’15.

Jillian Edwards MN ’09, also faculty at TCC, recently completed the UW School of Nursing DNP program.

Carol O’Neal, MN ’05, joined the Nursing Program Approval Panel of the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission. Carol is Associate Dean for Nursing at Grays Harbor College.

Three BSN grads have been admitted to the UW School of Nursing DNP program. They are: Holly Brezynski, BSN ’17, Andrea Hoppenworth, BSN ’19, Jessica Williams, BSN ’19.
2019 MN Outstanding Scholar Award

Mwanaidi Lokeno, MN ’19

Each Spring, the UWT Nursing & HCL Program faculty nominate Master of Nursing graduates for the MN Outstanding Scholar Award. The 2019 recipient was Mwanaidi Lokeno for her research of factors associated with falls in an adult psychiatric facility. Mwana developed a data collection tool based on nurse-sensitive indicators such as staffing levels and reviewed over 250 records in her analysis. She is applying the results of her data analysis to improve fall protection at her own and another psychiatric facility.

2019 MN Student Speaker

Rasheda Hatchett, MN ’19

Rasheda Hatchett was selected by graduating Master of Nursing students to speak at this year’s hooding ceremony. She encouraged her fellow graduates to seek leadership positions in their workplace, and to advocate for themselves and future generations of nurses. Rasheda included this call to action from Shirley Chisholm, the first African-American woman elected to the United States Congress: “If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair!”

Rasheda received her BSN from the UW Seattle School of Nursing in 2015.
Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew was featured in a segment on KIRO News in relation to his work with Mujeres Latinas Apoyando La Comunidad (Latinas Helping the Community). Dr. Evans-Agnew assisted the group in developing tools to educate Latino families and daycare providers on preventing environmentally-caused asthma attacks. Additionally, Dr. Evans-Agnew has had work funded through the EarthLab Innovation Grants Program. The Program is supports his project “Voices Unbound: Amplifying perspectives of disenfranchised communities to provoke environmental change.”

Associate Professor Christine Stevens spoke to both KOMO News and the Tacoma News Tribune about food insecurity and the food pantry program at UW Tacoma. Additionally, Dr. Stevens was awarded a grant by the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities to increase culturally appropriate items in the UWT food pantry.

Uba Backonja, Assistant Professor, was a guest on episode three of the UW Tacoma podcast, Paw’d Defiance. She spoke about her career, how Jurassic Park inspired her love of science, and other fun topics!

Assistant Professors Sunny Cheng and Weichao Yuwen were awarded a University of Washington Population Health Initiative grant for their work testing “technology to provide family caregivers of children with chronic asthma and arthritis with on-demand and interactive self-management skill development.”

At the 41st Symposium of the Puget Sound Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society, Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, Senior Lecturer, was awarded the 2019 Dr. Ruth McCorkle Lectureship. Read about it here.

Lecturer Lisa Davidson was part of a group that developed the curriculum for an Advanced Pediatric Transport Course (PATC), in conjunction with the Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association. She wrote the section on pediatric anatomy and physiology. In April she spoke at the Southeast Region Alaska EMS Conference.

Lecturer Jan Runbeck was part of the Pierce County Medical Reserve Corps team that received a Tacoma City of Destiny Award for their educational, direct care, and shelter work with the homeless population in Tacoma. A video presentation of the awards can be found here; Jan and he colleagues can be seen starting at about minute 24.
On May 28, twenty-one undergraduate and graduate nursing students were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. The induction ceremony was held in William Philips Hall on the UW Tacoma campus.

The guest speaker was UW Tacoma alumna Denise Stinson, MN ‘07. She spoke about her experience as program manager in the Communicable Disease Division of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and its responses to several important outbreaks.
Nurses of Influence Banquet

In April 2019, the UW School of Nursing hosted a banquet recognizing outstanding nurses, including UW alumni, researchers, and practitioners. Information about the event and registration information for the 2020 banquet can be found here.

UWT Nursing was represented by Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew, Assistant Professors Dr. Weichao Yuwen and Sunny Cheng, and Emeritus Associate Professor Janet Primomo.

Also in attendance were multiple UW Tacoma Alumni, including Lauri Brown MN ‘01, Theresa Braungardt, MN ‘08, and Ruth Flint, MN ‘07.

UWT Clinical faculty Patty Hayes received the Peter Dyer Heart of Nursing Award

Left to right: Laurie Brown, Ruth Flint, Theresa Braungardt and Janet Primomo

Left to right: Patty Hayes, Janet Primomo, Robin Evans-Agnew

MN student Lisa Delvalle represents UW Tacoma Nursing on a panel.