WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR!

We are fortunate to start this academic year with four new faculty, all with different areas of expertise and experience. Our additional faculty are much needed to facilitate learning and participate in and support plans for growth. I trust that you each will enjoy reading about the newest members of our team as well as our current students and outstanding alums.

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

Welcome New Members of the Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program Team!

Uba Backonja, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor
Dr. Uba Backonja joined the faculty in August 2016. She teaches courses in the RN to BSN, MN, and Healthcare Leadership programs. She comes to UWT after completing her degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, her dissertation, ‘Adiposity, Physical Activity, and Endometriosis’ at the NIH, and a National Library of Medicine postdoctoral fellowship at UWS School of Medicine. Her areas of expertise in teaching, research, and service include: health informatics, women’s health promotion in the community, health disparities, data visualization.

Weichao Yuwen, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor
Dr. Weichao Yuwen joined the faculty in June, 2016. Dr. Yuwen worked as an RN at a progressive care unit in Arizona before she moved to Washington for her doctoral study at UW Seattle. She has been teaching nursing classes and evidence-based pedagogy in nursing education to undergraduate and graduate students. Her research focuses on addressing health disparity issues and promoting physical, psychosocial, and sleep health in vulnerable children, including children with chronic conditions, and their families.

Jodi Erickson, RN, MSN, Lecturer
Jodi Erickson joined the faculty in September, 2016. Jodi’s clinical experience has been primarily in critical care, including working in the ICU and as a STAT RN. She has extensive management experience to include managing volunteers, nurses, and others. She has 4 years experience teaching nursing in the university setting and is currently pursuing her PhD at Villanova University and her dissertation focus is end of life decision making.

Rachel Radenkovic, RN, MSN, Lecturer
Rachel Radenkovic joined the faculty in September, 2016. She has been faculty in the Chicago area for over 10 years. Her RN staff experience paved the way to hospital education roles, and a pre-licensure faculty role at Purdue University. Her experience includes critical care staff education, as well as pre-RN licensure medical/surgical education. Her clinical experience includes medical/surgical ICU and cardiac ICU. She earned her MSN from Rush University in Chicago, with a specialty in clinical nurse leadership.

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

Tyler Sundsmo, BSN
Congratulations to Tyler Sundsmo, 2014 BSN alum, who has a new position at Sound Physicians as a Hospitalist RN. In this role, he will be a liaison between the MultiCare inpatient staff and hospital administrators.

Eugene Liu, MN
Congratulations to Eugene Liu, 2014 MN alum, who recently started in a tenure track faculty position in Nursing at East Los Angeles College!

Yolanda Fong, MN
Yolanda Fong, a 2012 MN alum, is currently working with the Kitsap Public Health District and was recently quoted in the Kitsap Peninsula Business Journal’s story, ‘Kitsap companies get creative to keep employees health’. Full article, here.

Amy Burfoot, HCL
Thank you to Amy Burfoot, 2014 alum in HCL, who shared her experience as a UWT student in the Healthcare Leadership major during an Alumni Perspective Series event.

Latosha Dent, MN
Congratulations to Latosha Dent, 2014 MN alum, who was accepted to start the family psych/mental health nurse practitioner program this fall at Seattle University.
Community Health Needs Assessments: 
Expanding the Boundaries of Nursing Education in Population Health
Robin Evans-Agnew, David Reyes, Janet Primomo, Corrie Matlock-Hightower and Karen Meyer

Current and emeritus faculty collaborated with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department’s Karen Meyer on a new publication. The ability to assess the needs of communities is increasingly important for all nurses—not only those working in public health. This rich work reflects the depth of expertise and experience of the coauthors.

To read article in Public Health Nursing Journal, click here.

Penn Press to re-release Professor Emeritus, June Lowenberg’s book as part of their 125th Anniversary Collection

To mark the 125th anniversary of its founding, Penn Press is re-releasing many of its classic titles including Caring and Responsibility, The Crossroads Between Holistic Practice and Traditional Medicine by June S. Lowenberg. This work focuses on the foundation of holistic health. Dr. Lowenberg emphasized the historical context and forces influencing holistic health throughout her teaching and scholarship.

For more information about the Penn Press release, click here.

Visualization approaches to support healthy aging: 
A systematic review
Uba Backonja, - UW Tacoma Nursing & HCL, and Nai-Ching Chi, Young Choi, Amanda Hall, Thai Le, Youjeong Kang and George Demiris - University of Washington School of Medicine

Our new Assistant Professor, Uba Backonja, along with colleagues from the UW School of Medicine, coauthored this recently published work. Their work states that over three quarters of older adults are receiving care at home and emphasizes: “Informatics tools can address the needs of older adults aging in place, including telehealth and smart home systems. Research has focused on the technical feasibility of these systems rather than on the effectiveness of visualizations that such systems generate.”

To read article in Journal of Innovation in Health Informatics, click here.

Faculty Corner
Sharon Laing PhD
Congratulations to Sharon Laing, recently appointed as Affiliate Assistant Professor, in the Dept. of Health Services, School of Public Health, UW Seattle. Sharon also has an original research article in press and scheduled to be published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine in their November issue; the title of the article is ‘Anxiety and depression mediate the relationship between perceived workplace health support and presentism: A cross-sectional analysis’ with co-author Salene MW Jones, Ph.D. of the Health Research Institute. In addition, Dr. Laing co-authored an article with Cindy Mendez-Hernandez with Women’s Collective and Carlota Ocampo and Stacy Baugh with Trinity College titled ‘Mobile Technology and Promoting Health Equity for Low-Income Patients’ and was featured in the Journal of Patient-Centered Research and Reviews.

Click here to read article.
**Faculty Focus**
The UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program celebrates the achievements of our faculty

**Uba Backonja, RN, PhD**
Uba Backonja will be presenting her abstract, ‘*Desired Data Elements and Features for a Visual Tool to Support Hospice Interdisciplinary Meetings*’ at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Annual Scientific Meeting in November in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Weichao Yuwen RN, PhD**
Congratulations to Wiechao Yuwen, one of our newest faculty members, for receiving the UW Seattle School of Nursing Dissertation Award in Nursing Science. The title of her dissertation is ‘Sleep Quality and Parent’s Experience in Caring for Young Children Newly Diagnosed with Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis’. Click here for all award winners.

**Katie A. Haerling, RN, PhD**
Congratulations to Katie Haerling for her recent promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor! Additionally, Katie along with Yelena Watson, 2015 MN graduate, co-authored an article, ‘Comparing the effects of virtual and manikin-based simulations: Qualitative findings’, that was accepted for presentation at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in Orlando, Florida, January 2017.

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**CAMPUS NEWS AND UPDATES**

**Nursing and the Educational Leadership Program Celebrates their Graduates**
Among those who worked with Nursing & Healthcare Leadership faculty and who earned doctorates in Educational Leadership from UW Tacoma in June 2016, are several who are registered nurses, UW Tacoma alums, and/or faculty colleagues at other institutions. We congratulate these colleagues on their accomplishments and look forward to sharing information about their professional activities in a future edition:

- Geri Babbo, RN EdD, Associate Dean, Nursing, Olympic College
- Sarah Bear, RN, EdD, Associate Dean, School of Nursing, Seattle Pacific University
- Gloria Brigham, RN, EdD, Director of Risk Management, Franciscan Health Systems
- Mattie Brickle, RN, EdD, Nursing Administration, Western State Hospital
- Minerva Halk RN EdD, Professor, Nursing, Olympic College
- Anne Mulligan RN EdD, Nursing, Olympic College

To find out more about UW Tacoma’s Educational Leadership Program click here.

**University of Washington Tacoma named ‘Best Value’ by South Sound Business Examiner**

A study done by financial technology company SmartAsset has ranked a pair of South Sound universities among the “best value” schools in the state.

The list ranks colleges and universities through a scale, among other factors, that gave 25 percent weighting to starting salary, tuition and living costs, and 12.5 percent weighting to scholarships, grants and student retention rate.

University of Washington-Tacoma came in at ninth on the list. Its average starting salary for graduates, the eighth highest in the state — comes in at $46,800, and its average tuition, on the other hand, is $11,902.

To read full article, click here.

**Charting Our Course—UW Tacoma Launches 2016-2021 Strategic Plan**

Shortly after UW Tacoma celebrated its 25th year in July 2015, Chancellor Pagano launched a strategic planning process for the campus. He enlisted leaders, which included our very own Nursing and HCL programs David Reyes, Assistant Professor and Sheri Burden, Office Assistant and Staff Association board member, to define a shared vision and clear direction for UW Tacoma. He appointed Dr. Bonnie Becker, Associate Dean of Curriculum and Academic Initiatives, School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, and Richard Wilkinson, Associate Vice Chancellor for Organizational Effectiveness & Development, to serve as co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. They chose consultant Kathleen Deakins, President of JayRay, as their partner. Their charge: Lead an open, inclusive and transparent process that clarifies the vision for the campus’ next 25 years and charts the initial course toward achieving that vision.

To learn more about the strategic plan, click here.