I trust you will enjoy the spring edition of the newsletter. We celebrate the next steps in our students’ lives—graduation! Faculty have been productive in their scholarship and in their retirements, too.

Let us know what you have been doing. We look forward to sharing your good news.

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**Janet Runbeck, MN Alum & Lecturer, Named South Sound Magazine Citizen of the Year**

John Burkhardt, UW Tacoma Communications

South Sound Magazine has named UW Tacoma MN Alumna, Janet Runbeck, its Citizen of the Year for 2016. The honor recognizes Runbeck’s work in the community to raise awareness of and prevent human trafficking, especially sex trafficking.

This important work is just the latest example of Runbeck’s decades of community-engaged efforts. She received her Master of Nursing degree from UW Tacoma in 2006, but that already was simply the capstone to a career focused on public and community health that started in the 1970’s.

To read more click [here](#).

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**Dr. Robin Evans-Agnew, Assistant Professor, Winner of the UWT 2016 Community Engagement Award**

Dr. Evans-Agnew has built diverse and innovative partnerships to address the harmful effects of woodsmoke and indoor-air pollution. He has engaged community members, grassroots organizations, public health professionals and UW Tacoma and local high school students in meaningful and impactful ways.

His work includes partnering with Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to engage diverse adolescents in an innovative citizen-science project to collect air samples in their homes. He also established a new partnership with Mexican-American mothers who have children with asthma, leading both to a new working relationship between these mothers and the Asia-Pacific Cultural Center and to a new tool for childcare centers to assess environmental risks for asthma.

To read more click [here](#).

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**Healthcare Leadership Students Dominate UWT OSCAR Awards!**

Congratulations to our Healthcare Leadership students who won in many of the categories at the 2016 UWT OSCAR Awards.

**Top Dawg** – Nedra Mailo

**Student Organization of the Year** - Asian Pacific Islander Student Union (President Nedra Mailo)

**Dean’s Leadership Awards** - Rafe Saucedo and Nicole Kim

**Husky Volunteer of the Year** - Nicole Kim

**Spring breakaway volunteer of the year** - Michelle Voluntariso

Nominees for other awards include Duyen Tran for Student Volunteer, Nicole Kim for Top Dawg and Rafe Saucedo & Nicole Kim for Outstanding Student Leader.

The many winners and nominees in Healthcare Leadership show what an important roles our students have in their program and across the campus and community!

For more information on the OSCAR Awards, click [here](#).

At the 2016 Commencement the National Anthem was sang by our very own Nicole Kim, HCL Major!
**West Meets East: A report on the European Citizen Science Association Conference**

Robin Evans-Agnew, Assistant Professor

The Field of Citizen Science (CS) studies owes much to pioneering “citizen Bird Count” work conducted in both Europe and the United States at Cornell University, turning citizen action into the collection of big-data sets that in the early 1970’s gave one of the first indicators of the affects of global warming on bird habitat.

The focus for this conference in Berlin was advancing the methods of CS to engage citizens more thoroughly and equitably in the design and execution of research.

I presented a paper describing a pilot CS study monitoring woodsmoke pollution in the homes of ten youth from Pierce County. The presentation was one of three examining air pollution and the only study from nursing. Discussion included methodologies that could be scaled up to collect air pollution data on a population-level.

After the conference I took two walks, one from the Prenzlauer Berg district to the city center. The memories of World War II were very present. I viewed the Holocaust Memorial, the Prussian era Reichstag building and Humboldt University. On the second walk, I visited the official interpretive site for the Berlin wall. I found this to be a fitting closure to the few days of promise for advancing citizen-inspired action and research in my own scholarship in Tacoma.

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**Retirement Does Not Equal Retired**

Janet Primomo, Associate Professor Emeritus

It’s been almost a year since I retired from the Nursing & Healthcare Leadership Program. As a new retiree, many people ask me what I do to keep busy. For me, someone who spent over 30 years in the academic world, I have found that retirement is a gradual process. I still work with graduate students, write letters of recommendations, review papers for journals, write, attend meetings of the Puget Sound Asthma Coalition, assist with research projects, serve on a UWT committee, and informally mentor colleagues and former students. I always loved the advising part of the faculty role and am thankful I can continue to do some of it.

A particularly rewarding activity has been volunteering at the girls’ middle school where my daughter teaches science. I assist her and the 7th grade students with their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) projects that focus on public health. Over several months, the girls explore public health topics of interest, design and conduct studies, and succinctly present their projects to the school community during National Public Health Week. They address the problem, purpose, background literature, hypothesis, methods, data analysis, results, conclusions, and suggestions for future research.

One final major retirement activity for me has been adjusting to new hearing technology. Hearing loss is one of those ‘invisible disabilities’ that affects about 48 million Americans, including me. My audiologist recommended that I get a cochlear implant in my ‘worst’ ear. A year-long decision-making process culminated in surgical implantation of a cochlear implant last May. I have made progress and I have become involved in the Hearing Loss Association of Washington.

Teaching and learning will be always something I engage in!
Faculty Focus
The UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program celebrates the achievements of our faculty!

Robin Evans-Agnew, Ph.D.
Robin Evans-Agnew, Assistant Professor was honored as a 2016 Washington State Public Health Association Health Champion for his advocacy and research on public health issues, particularly clean air. His woodsmoke pollution research is raising awareness about important local public health issues.
To read more click here.

Beth Wilson, M.Ed
Congratulations to Beth Wilson, UWT Clinical Faculty who received recognition for her work as a Public Health Champion. The Washington State Public Health Association honored Beth for her work on reducing infant mortality and preterm deliveries in Pierce County.
To read more click here.

Kathleen Shannon-Dorcy, Ph.D.
Kathleen Shannon-Dorcy, Senior Lecturer, was selected as one of the 2016-2017 Sigma Theta Tau and The Elsevier Foundation Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA) participants. The NFLA is a highly selective, 20 month mentored leadership academy designed to foster academic career success and encourage personal leadership development.
To find out more about the academy click here.

Never say Never
Planting a Seed in Africa

Jana (Glessner) Duriga, 2006 UWT MN Alum

Years ago, I learned the phrase, “Never say Never”, yet I have often made absolutist statements like this that I later came to regret. Many have experienced the irony of saying, “I would never work there (fill in the blank)” and then finding themselves in that very position only a little while later. For me, it was that I would never work in Niger (pronounced “nee-ZHER”), and yet I write today from my home in Niamey, the capital of Niger, Africa.

As a Master of Nursing (MN) student at UWT, I focused on Communities, Populations, and Health with the purpose of working in Togo, West Africa. Although there were challenges, I found the Togolese to be friendly and open, and the climate, though hot, to be enjoyable, with lush rainforest and hiking to my heart’s content. It was here that I made the statement, “I would never work in Niger”, after a conversation with friends about the landlocked, desert country which year after year, maintains its place, dead last, on the Human Development Index. I thought the challenge would just be too great.

Well, now, ten years later, I call Niger my home and I am learning first-hand why the challenge really is far too great. For their work, Nigeriens receive very little in return in this exceedingly harsh desert. Yet, unbelievably, even in the most forgotten places, among some of the most apparently forsaken populations, there is always hope, and my husband and I, along with our two young children, are desperate to find this seed and watch it grow.

Twice a month, undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students gather at the university student center to listen to all genres of topics and so a few months ago, I presented a lecture on community health. I dug back through my MN project notes and dusted off some of my favorite authors’ works, including Meredith Minkler, to present an overview of what I considered to be simple, community-oriented principles for building solidarity in development projects. It went well and a couple of older men who have worked with the United Nations and Nigerien government on public projects, commented on how much they learned and how projects in Niger rarely “start where the people are”. They went on to say that development projects are completed mainly for political reasons, and ultimately, without assessment of whether the project is needed. That is not to say that there are not well-meaning people and organizations working very hard and doing well, but after years of work, there is surprisingly little to show for it. Talking with university students has also been enlightening.

Students have told us about how the educated here often keep their learning to themselves. Likewise, if a student shows potential, those above them may do their best to discourage their progress, so as to keep the competition at bay. In addition, there is the unquestioned respect for elders, even if their theories or methods are flawed. So, one asks, how can the newly educated Nigerien ever get ahead?

By ourselves, we know we are incapable of eliciting such change, and there are many days when I would like to pack up and go home. But having received so much ourselves, this is our chance, with God’s help, to persevere and reach out to the neglected, the forgotten, in this obnoxiously hot, desert land. We are just getting started, but we work and pray for a positive transformation among the educated in Niger that will endure. This is why we are here.

And at the end of the day I cheerfully and emphatically tell my husband, “I will never move to Hawaii.”
The conference was attended by researchers, mental health practitioners, organizational consultants, and government employees from over 30 countries. Academic disciplines which were represented included Psychology, Sociology, Industrial Relations, Nursing, Medicine, Management Studies, and Law. Due to the multi-disciplinary and international focus of the conference, I also attended a lot of interesting sessions and learned about cutting edge research and practice on the issues of workplace bullying and harassment.

Additional highlights of the trip included hiking (including a night-time walk in the woods to see Kiwi birds), taking a boat tour to see dolphins and seals and visiting deserted beaches.

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**TNURS 414 Students Partner with Living Access Support Alliance**

In Spring, TNURS 414 students and I participated in a “needs” survey of community underserved individuals in the Lakewood near the Living Access Support Alliance (LASA) shelter. LASA is a community-supported agency which is committed to the prevention of homelessness and recurrent homelessness. The seven TNURS 414 BSN students, all nurses, worked in partnership with Metropolitan Development Center (MDC) , Making a Difference in Community and LASA staff to conduct a survey of local area individuals to identify the health concerns of low income or underserved individuals near the LASA site.

The LASA center is hoping to expand its services by having a weekly clinic for those experiencing chronic health care problems and a hygiene center which supplies free laundry facilities and showers. The students created a survey tool and collaborated with the community partners to perform the survey. This was a true community partnership event.

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**Alexis Wilson, Principal Lecturer, Retires from UWT**

Dr. Alexis Wilson will be retiring this year from the Nursing and Healthcare Leadership program at UWT. Dr. Wilson has taught in all our academic programs, sharing her expertise in policy and administration. With a long history of professional practice in home health and as a consultant, business owner, and more recently as the Executive Director of the Carol Milgard Breast Cancer Center, Dr. Wilson has contributed significantly to the growth and development of our programs. She has touched the professional lives of many graduating students in our programs.

Join us in wishing Dr. Wilson well in the next step in her personal and professional life.
2016 HIGHLIGHTS!

Congratulations to our 2016 graduating class!
Healthcare Leadership graduates: 27
BSN graduates: 65
MN graduates: 23
And we celebrate Nurse Leaders!
Doctorate in Educational Leadership: 6

2016 Annual Award Recipients

**MN Outstanding Scholar Award:** Stephanie Koch, BSN 2012, MN 2016
Stephanie Koch is a dedicated and scholarly thinker. Her scholarly project focused on Active Duty and Military Dependent Women’s Body Mass index and gestational weight gain, pregnancy complications and prenatal health outcomes, part of a larger study at Madigan Army Medical Center. Stephanie developed her own research questions from literature and experience with active duty and military populations during her time in the reserves as a NCOIC, and analyzed over three hundred cases. Results of this study are relevant to pregnant women on active duty moving along in their careers.

**Community Partner Award:** Tacoma Fire Department FD Cares
The Community Partner Award goes to the Tacoma Fire Department and the FD Cares Program. Accepting the award were Ms. Laura Morris, Program Director, and Chief Mike Newhouse, Medical Services Officer.

The Tacoma Fire Department initiated a program that identifies individuals with chronic illness. These individuals are aided by personnel at FD Cares to address illness or injury before an emergency occurs. This program is based on a team of firefighters, healthcare professionals and others to improve the health of those in our communities. FD Cares works to encourage student engagement in the community through learning opportunities and involvement. Students at all levels develop skills working with the community.

**Alumni Award:** Kathleen Clary, MN 2003
Dr. Kathleen Clary graduated from the UW Tacoma Master of Nursing program in 2003 and earned her DNP in Systems Leadership from Rush University in 2014. Currently, Dr. Clary is an Administrator of Patient Navigation and Care Coordination. She is responsible for program development, business planning, policy setting and coordination of the system wide approach to care services delivery. She also was responsible for the design and implementation of a new care coordination model across ambulatory and acute care settings in several hospitals and over 75 clinics. Dr. Clary has been the director of major capital projects for MultiCare and of the Emergency Department and urgent care in Covington. She has been an outstanding preceptor for our healthcare leadership students, providing the student opportunities related to leadership in her organization.

Whether as head nurse for the ICU or at MAMC or as a colonel and chief nurse for a medical brigade, her capacity to lead teams and get results is amazing.

To learn more about the annual awards, criteria and nomination processes, click here.

MN Hooding Ceremony Student Speaker, Trevor Lanz and his Chair, Dr. Denise Drevdahl

Sheri Burden, Editor
If you have suggestions or questions about the newsletter, please click here.
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