Welcome to spring! We look forward to celebrating graduation with students and their families in June and to sharing the good news of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and alums. As always, we look forward to hearing from you all as well. Do check out our Facebook page, too!

South Sound Health Leaders Engage With HCL Students

Alexis Wilson, RN, Ph.D.  Principal Lecturer

For the sixth year in a row, South Sound healthcare leaders have provided their insight and advice to aspiring leaders in UWT Healthcare Leadership Program. Paul Opgrande, CEO of Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community, Laurie Brown, SVP and Chief Nursing Officer of CHI Franciscan, Alexis Wilson, RN, Ph.D. Principal Lecturer, JD Fitz, Senior Director of Physician Development at Sound Physicians, and Jane Taylor, Founder and Chief Strategy Officer at the Geneva Foundation participated in the panel. These leaders took time to answer student’s questions and give advice. When asked what his biggest challenge is as a leader, Paul Opgrande said, “Having humility, courage, and innately knowing how to lead. It’s easy to focus on problems we cannot change, but instead we need to focus on what we can do to improve.” The panel engaged and encouraged students to contact them for informational interviews and to ask more detailed questions. Most importantly, the panel shared their strong values, intentionality, and the importance of giving back.

Asthma Management Disparities

A Photovoice Investigation with African American Youth

Robin Evans-Agnew, RN, Ph.D. Assistant Professor

Disparities in asthma management are a burden on African American youth. The objective of Dr. Evans study was to describe and compare the discourses of asthma management disparities (AMDs) in African American adolescents in Seattle to existing youth-related asthma policies in Washington State. Adolescents participated in a three-session photovoice project and presented their phototexts to the Washington State asthma planning committee.

To read the publication click here.

To learn more about Photovoice click here.
The Path to Success!
Shallae (Eugley) Hobbs, RN, MN

Nursing for me has been a fulfilling career of pursuing my passion to meet the needs of those around me - physically, emotionally, and spiritually. After graduating from Pacific Lutheran University with my BSN degree in 2010, I started my career as a Pediatric Nurse at Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital, learning the foundations of Nursing practice and the clinical skills I needed to become an effective nurse. I then branched into the community as a School Nurse for the Fife School District. This drive led me to UW Tacoma Masters of Nursing Program where I focused on Communities, Populations and Health as well as Nursing Leadership and Management. The program was rigorous and at times exhausting, but I felt constant support from faculty to help me succeed. In addition, the fieldwork opportunities within the program further opened doors for me in community health nursing. For example, because of my fieldwork experience, I was offered a position with Healthy Communities of Pierce County and implemented a school based wellness council program. My program at UW Tacoma helped me to gain a global understanding of community health nursing, challenged my leadership and organizational skills, and allowed me to directly take my academic work into the work place.

With my Master of Nursing degree from UW Tacoma and my growing experiences, in 2015, I felt confident in taking on an administration position within the Tacoma Public School District. I am now the Administrator of Health Services and oversee 55 sites and 44 nurses throughout Tacoma Schools. I am responsible for the coordination and supervision of the delivery of health services to all district students, as well as responsible for providing clinical consultation, professional development, support, and supervision of health services staff.

I can truly say both my education and career have been an adventure. I am excited for the future!

UWT Nursing Students Participate in National Point-In-Time Event
Corrie Matlock-Hightower, RN, MN, Lecturer

UW Tacoma RN to BSN TNURS 414 students participated in this year’s Point-In-Time count, a nationwide count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January. In partnership with Pierce County Public Health Department, Medical Reserve Corp, Making a Difference in Community, South Sound Homeless Connect and other partners, the students participated in the count and donated personal items to homeless men, women and families. These donated items were collected by the students and gave them an opportunity to learn about community assessment, public health nursing and populations and health. This count is used by programs dedicated to serving persons who are homeless by providing emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing, as well as other needed services. The Point-In-Time event contributes to students achievement of learning outcomes by providing students with real opportunity to meet an at risk population, assess for needs, help connect and provide for services, and extend hope and caring to those often neglected in our society. As a faculty for TNURS 414 and as a member of our community, I am so proud of these students and thank you to all those that donated needed items.
Tougher E-cigarette Regulations Needed
Janet Primomo, Associate Professor Emeritus
The Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health will soon consider new regulations on e-cigarettes and vaping products. The board passed a resolution urging the state Legislature to pass tougher laws to regulate electronic cigarettes last spring.
To read full article, click here.

Nurses Ranked as Most Honest and Ethical Profession
Nurses have topped Gallup’s Honesty and Ethics ranking every year but one since Nursing was added to the list in 1999. The exception was in 2001, when firefighters were included on the list on a one-time basis, shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. With an 85% honesty and ethics rating -- tying their high point -- nurses have no serious competition atop the Gallup ranking this year. Pharmacists and medical doctors constitute the next tier, with about two-thirds of Americans viewing each highly, followed by high school teachers at 60% and police officers at 56%.
To read full article, click here.

Student Focus
The UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership Program celebrates the achievements of our current students

Michael Miller, HCL Student
Michael Miller, current senior in HCL, recently published an article in the Seattle Times on the power of community college in pursing a career.
To read the article, click here.

Partners in Action To Transform Healthcare (PATH)
PATH went on their first trip to Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Institute on February 23rd in Seattle. The center’s mission is to “eliminate cancer and related diseases as causes of human suffering and death”. The students learned about Fred Hutch’s commitment to scientific breakthroughs, their history and life-saving discoveries. PATH is an organization comprised of Healthcare Leadership and Nursing students and is dedicated to building a platform where students, faculty and South Sound leaders can come together to form lasting relationships.
Click here to learn more about PATH

Pierce County Students Smoke Out What’s Behind Indoor Air Pollution
By Debbie Cafazzo, The News Tribune
Ten Pierce County middle and high school students got a chance to become citizen scientists as part of a project sponsored by the University of Washington Tacoma. They measured the amount of a trace element from wood smoke inside their homes and found it present in indoor air samples — even during a burn ban. Then, they scoured their neighborhoods and their imaginations to produce photographs illustrating their findings and their feelings about wood smoke pollution. Finally, each student wrote a short essay reflecting on their experience. The student-collected data, photos and essays were on display at a public event held at the Grace Moore Branch Library in Tacoma on March 1.
To read full article, click here.