Welcome a new academic year! We are excited about the possibilities before us: partnering in support of our region’s nurses and future healthcare leaders, research to address healthcare challenges and service to organizations and communities. As 1 of 3 campuses of UW School of Nursing, we recently joined colleagues and alumni to celebrate the School’s centennial. We look forward to sharing your news in the future! Please Let us know what you would like to see in future updates!

Celebrating 100 Years of UW Nursing

The University of Washington School of Nursing celebrates its centennial and celebrated 100 Nurses of Influence at a brunch. UW Tacoma faculty and alumni included: Theresa Braungardt BSN ’94, MN ’06, Clinical Faculty, and VP Chief Nursing Official at Valley Medical; Patty Hayes, Clinical Faculty; Janet Primomo, Emeritus Associate Professor; and Patti Taylor, BSN ’93.

UW Tacoma Assistant Professor and School of Nursing PhD alum Weichao Yuwen was on the planning committee, contributing to this successful event.

Patti Taylor UW Distinguished Alumni Veteran Award

Patti Taylor, from the first cohort of UW Tacoma BSN students, is this year’s recipient of the University of Washington Distinguished Alumni Veteran Award. She is also the first UW Tacoma recipient of this prestigious award!

Patti served during the Vietnam War, Desert Shield and Desert Storm as an Army nurse. At UCLA, she was a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) in the Liver Transplant Unit. Later, she joined the UCLA Nursing School and taught RNs preparing to become nurse practitioners.

In 2007, Patti joined Operation Mend Team. Initially, this group provided facial reconstructive surgery to soldiers who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and returned with disfiguring facial burns. Later, services expanded to reconstruct hand and other injuries.

Among other University-wide events, there will be a recognition ceremony held November 8 in the Tioga Library Building. RSVP for the event here

Alumni Focus

Heidi and Josh Bickford, BSNs ’14 have been furthering their nursing education. Heidi finished her DNP at Frontier Nursing University last summer. Josh received his MSN from Western Carolina University and is now a CRNA.

Kathleen Daman, MN ’15 contributed to The Washington Nurse, discussing the use of the TeleLung Cancer Screening program she manages at Swedish Medical Group. Read about it in the Spring 2018 issue, page 19.

Joanne Iverson, MN ’15 has been admitted to Washington State University’s DNP program in Population Health. Congratulations to her!

Rema Perry, MN ’18 presented on transitioning LPNs to practice for competency at the 2018 Professional Nurse Educator’s Group conference in Fort Wayne, IN.

Tiffany Smith-Fromm, MN ’14 became Interim Nursing Program Director at Pierce College Puyallup.

Keandra Thompson, MN ’15 is currently in the second year of the FNP/PMHNP DNP program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.
Assistant Professor Uba Backonja was recently in a feature on the UW Tacoma homepage about her career, inspiration, and focus in data visualization. Also, dinosaurs. [Read the article.]

Clinical faculty Elin Björling was spotlighted for her work with Project EMAR (Ecological Momentary Assessment Robot), a cross-campus, cross-disciplinary group of faculty and students creating social robots to help understand stress in high school students. [Read the article.]

Emeritus Professor Marjorie Dobratz continues her work with the Roy Adaptation Model. This past June she presented a workshop on spirituality within the context of the model at Mount St. Mary’s University in Los Angeles.

Robin Evans-Agnew has been promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure. Congratulations Robin!

Sharon Laing, Assistant Professor, presented the findings of Phase II of her ongoing research (Informing mHealth Delivery in Healthcare Settings) as a virtual poster at the 13th Annual International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences. [Read about the conference and see her virtual poster (page 7)].

Patsy Maloney, Senior Lecturer, spoke at the 45th Annual Professional Nurse Educator Group (PNEG) conference in Fort Wayne, IN, on academic nursing education and transitioning to nursing professional development.

Contre l'intimidation à Bordeaux

Assistant Professor Susan Johnson attended the June 2018 International Association of Workplace Bullying and Harassment conference in Bordeaux, France. She led a pre-conference workshop on “Organizational and Bystander Influences on Workplace Bullying.” Participants included practitioners who work with organizations as well as targets of bullying and researchers from multiple disciplines. She also gave a presentation entitled, “Basic bullying with a racist slant, discourses of workplace bullying in the United States Nursing profession.”

Sepsis Hero Update

In September, Lecturer and 2014 MN Alum Sharon Hansen was named a Sepsis Hero by the Sepsis Alliance for her educational work in sepsis and post-sepsis syndrome. This was done in her role with MultiCare Health System as a Deployed Educator.

She received the award at an event in New York City, pictured here. Learn more about her award and teaching here.

UW Team Presents at WA Campus Compact

Washington Campus Compact is a coalition of higher education institutions committed to advancing the public purpose of colleges and universities, educating students for civic and social responsibility, and working in partnerships to cultivate vital and sustainable communities across the state.

In Pullman, during the annual meeting held in the WSU Elson Floyd cultural center, the UWT team, including Associate Professor Christine Stevens, was invited to share the successful innovative strategies used on campus to address basic needs insecurity.
UW Tacoma Nursing Program Recognized for Advancing Population Health in Nursing Education
By David Reyes

The UW Tacoma Nursing Program and UW School of Nursing are honored to have been nationally recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s (RWJF) and the AARP Public Policy Institute for our work teaching population health. On September 17th and 18th, UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership faculty hosted a team from RWJF/AARP as part of a larger initiative to explore best practices for integrating and teaching population health concepts in nursing education. During the site visit, UW Tacoma faculty described exemplars of how our programs include the upstream determinants of health in our courses, and the community partnership framework used to achieve population health educational outcomes. Community partners from First Five Fundamentals, Mountainview Community Center, MultiCare Health System, and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department also participated in conversation about their partnership role in supporting our undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, a panel of UW Tacoma students and alumni met with the RWJF site team to describe their learning experiences. As one student said, “their eyes opened” to the importance of population health to caregivers, individual healthcare consumers and communities.

UW Tacoma Nursing Programs strive to meet and demonstrate our commitment to improving population health throughout our curricula. Later this year, RWJF is planning to publish findings from across the country, showcasing best practices in advancing population health in nursing education. The Nursing Program at UW Tacoma is proud to have been considered among these national exemplars.

Dr. Reyes is an Assistant Professor with UW Tacoma Nursing and Healthcare Leadership.

Faculty Presentations and Publications

Uba Backonja, Assistant Professor, co-authored an article on data visualization in the Oct-Dec 2018 issue of JMIR Human Factors.

Sunny Cheng, Assistant Professor, presented research projects at the International Early Psychosis Association’s 11th Conference in Boston, MA. Her research is in identification and early intervention for mental health conditions. One project was done in collaboration with UW Bothell Computer Science faculty and students.

In the July-August 2018 issue of the Journal of Professional Nursing, Professor Denise Drevdahl co-authored an article titled “Public health nurses’ graduate education decision making process.”

Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew co-authored an article appearing in the journal Action Research on his work with youth-driven environmental research.

Sharon Laing, Assistant Professor, authored an editorial for Annals of Community Medicine and Practice advocating further research into the use of mobile technology (such as smart phones) in patient care.

Patsy Maloney, Senior Lecturer, presented a session on the Association of Nursing Professional Development’s Meritorious Academic Partnership (MAP) designation program. The MAP designation recognizes excellence in the academic preparation of nursing professional development (NPD) practitioners.
Alumni Contribution

By Jana Duriga, MN, RN

SIM International, Niamey, Niger, West Africa

Recently, I found myself on the receiving end of healthcare in a small clinic in the capital of Niger, a country in West Africa located on the edge of the Sahara. Although familiar with healthcare in West Africa from previous nursing experiences, I still felt unprepared as a patient to face the differences in culture and practice between Niger and my passport country.

My Nigerien nurses’ role, I observed, was to dispense medications, requiring my husband to remain with me to provide all other care or go to the pharmacy for necessary medications during my inpatient stay. The nurses’ problem solving techniques usually involved going to the attending physician for a directive, and I secretly wished to see them expand in skill to a broader capacity. As an American-trained nurse, the care felt neglectful and reactive, and it was not easy to ignore, for example, the lack of handwashing, lack of physical assessment, the nonchalant attitude toward the dozens of cockroaches, or the lack of informed consent prior to surgery.

Despite these issues and delays to care due to inadequate equipment, I was still aware that I was receiving the best care in the country. Unlike many of my Nigerien friends, being an American aid worker gave me access to an outstanding surgeon, a Nigerien woman. The fact that my surgeon was a woman thrilled me since it is rare here to meet a woman with a university education, much less one who had completed medical school in this country that, historically, competes for dead last on the United Nation’s Human Development Index.

As I walked out of the clinic 13 days later, after paying my bill for hospitalization and major surgery (full payment required prior to discharge), I felt privileged and grateful to be able to pay my obligation that might have financially ruined my local friends. I paused in amazement and gratitude at the fact that the system here in Niger, as imperfect as it was, had worked, and that my excellent surgeon and nurses had saved my life. There was so much more work to be done tomorrow, but in that moment, that was good enough for me.

Jana Duriga (Glessner) is a 2005 MN graduate and former Nursing program lecturer.