We are so pleased to share recent good news, including:

The Gallup Poll reports that for the 18th consecutive year, nurses are the highest rated on a list of professions in terms of honesty and ethics.

And, as part of the UW School of Nursing, our BSN and MN degrees were reaccredited through 2029 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

In this issue, UW Tacoma School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership is recognizing the contributions by our clinical faculty. Clinical faculty associated with the School work in many positions around the South Sound region and contribute by precepting fieldwork students, working with faculty on research and as guest lecturers.

**Dr. Jamilia Sherls-Jones DNP, MPH, RN, CDP, CDN** is the Director of Health Equity in the Center for Health Equity & Wellness at MultiCare Health System. She oversees the organization’s health equity initiatives, community health needs assessments, and interpreter services.

Dr. Sherls-Jones has presented on health equity and community benefit at state and national conferences, in webinars and on podcasts. She has received numerous awards for her work, including “40 Under 40” recognition for professional achievement and community involvement in the Puget Sound region.

In her role as clinical faculty, Dr. Sherls-Jones enjoys precepting graduate nursing students, speaking to students about public health nursing and guest lecturing. She has also worked with **Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew**, on a youth environmental justice research project.

**Dr. Elin Björling** partners with faculty in research projects, such as a recent study on the use of art therapy to relieve stress in teenage girls co-authored by **Associate Professor Christine Stevens**. She is also co-director of MeLab and Team Lead on Project EMAR, “an interdisciplinary investigation of teen-robot interaction in an effort to effectively capture adolescent stress levels during interactions with a social robot.” Learn more [here](#)!

**Shirley Carstens**, was named a “Health Hero” by Community Health Care at their 50th Anniversary Event. She has deep and broad knowledge of nursing and her roles have included faculty at PLU and Central Washington University, school nurse, and planning chief of the Pierce County Medical Reserve Corps. Through her role with the Medical Reserve Corps, Ms. Carstens has been a partner in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing practicum classes.
In December, the UW Tacoma home page spotlighted the work of Assistant Professors Weichao Yuwen and Sunny Cheng. As discussed in the article, Dr. Yuwen and Dr. Cheng are part of a tri-campus team developing a web-based tool to help caregivers manage stress by interacting with a chatbot named “Coco.”

Assistant Professor Uba Backonja presented two posters at the American Medical Informatics Association’s annual symposium in Washington, DC. One poster described Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen’s work, on which Dr. Backonja was a co-investigator, developing a website to support the sleep of children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis. A second poster focused on the qualitative research conducted to inform the development of a website for rural public health practitioners to identify and address health inequities. During the conference, Dr. Backonja was honored as a distinguished reviewer for the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association and received a certificate of completion for her Emerging Leaders fellowship with the Alliance for Nursing Informatics.

At the 2019 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo Professor Denise Drevdahl presented her critical discourse analysis of how social justice is enacted within various public health nursing practice guidelines. Her research highlighted important inconsistencies across the documents, analyzed how social justice is being described and discussed inadequacies in terms of robust metrics for social determinants of health.

Assistant Professor Sunny Cheng is one of seven faculty participating in the 2019-20 cohort of UW Tacoma Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Fellows. The program, supported by the UW Tacoma Strategic Initiative Fund, is “an initiative that links our university courses with courses in different countries through a variety of real-time and asynchronous technologies.” Dr. Cheng has proposed the course T HLTH 285, Introduction to Global Health, as her contribution to the initiative.

Assistant Professor Sharon Laing will contribute to the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH) as Topic Editor for the new Digital Health section. Her responsibilities include setting up at least one special issue of the journal, proposing a detailed strategy plan for that issue (including soliciting papers and promoting the SI), and providing support for other special issues on topics related to her expertise.

Associate Professor Emeritus Janet Primomo was a guest editor, with UW School of Nursing faculty Dr. Basia Belza, on a special issue of Gerontological Nursing (December, 2019) that examined an important new framework for self-management of daily living and aging. This framework is based on the groundbreaking work of UW School of Nursing Faculty Emerita Doris Carnevali, who publishes her reflections in the Engaging with Aging blog.

Associate Professor Christine Stevens was co-PI on a tri-campus research team that explored housing and food insecurity among University of Washington Tacoma students in 2018. This team was invited to speak at the December 2019 Pave the Way conference hosted by the Washington State Legislature Student Achievement Council. The annual Pave the Way conference focuses on strategies to advance equity, increase college readiness, and broaden access to higher education in Washington State. The conference brings together educators, policymakers, and community partners from across the education system. Pave the Way aims to ensure historically marginalized students receive the support they need to succeed. The team’s presentation was “Postsecondary Housing Insecurity and Homelessness: Research, Advocacy, and Strategies,” which you can find on this Google Drive page.

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Recent Faculty Publications

**Uba Backonja** with co-authors: “Citizen Science to Further Precision Medicine: From Vision to Implementation” in *JAMIA Open*, DOI: 10.1093/jamiaopen/ooz060

**Uba Backonja** with co-authors: “Defining Menstrual Literacy With The Aim Of Evaluating Mobile Menstrual Tracking Applications” in *Computers, Informatics, Nursing: CIN*, DOI: 10.1097/CIN.0000000000000559


**Sunny Cheng** and co-authors: “Family experiences prior to the initiation of care for first-episode psychosis: A meta-synthesis of qualitative studies” in *Journal of Child and Family Studies* [In Press].

**Sunny Cheng, Uba Backonja** and co-authors: “What Do Early Psychosis Family Caregivers Need Prior to First Hospitalization and How Do They Adopt Digital Solutions for Coping? A Qualitative Study” in *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. [Accepted on September 22, 2019]


**Sharon Laing** with co-authors: “Short-term outcomes of a diversity, equity, and inclusion institute for nursing faculty” in *Journal of Nursing Education*, DOI: 10.3928/01484834-20191021-04


**Sharon Laing with Kathleen Shannon Dorcy** and co-author: “Technology’s role in promoting physical activity and healthy eating in working rural women: A cross-sectional quantitative analysis” in *Avicenna Journal of Medicine* [In Press].

**Patsy Maloney** and co-author: “Three Years’ Experience” in *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, DOI: 10.1097/NND.0000000000000578

**Janet Primomo** and co-author: “Advancing Our Understanding of Engaging With Aging” in *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, DOI: 10.3928/00989134-20191105-01


**Janet Primomo** and co-authors: “It May Be a Bit Uncertain But It’s Never Boring: Thematic Analysis of a Blog About Engaging With Aging” in *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, DOI: 10.3928/00989134-20191105-03

**David Reyes** with co-author: “Identifying Community Priorities For Neighborhood Livability: Engaging Neighborhood Residents to Facilitate Community Assessment” in *Public Health Nursing*, DOI: 10.1111/phn.12674
Other Events and Contributions

Every winter and spring quarter, BSN students in T NURS 414 focus on “applying community and public health concepts.” With community partners, students learn under the direction of faculty and community experts. For example, in winter quarter 2020, with Assistant Professor David Reyes and the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department in Lakewood, WA, students facilitate community conversations about health, collect and analyze data, and share findings. With Professor Denise Drevdahl, students work with the Tacoma Community House education program to develop, plan and offer health education and other resources to immigrant populations. And with Senior Lecturer Jane Cormman and Lecturer Jan Runbeck, students collaborate with the Medical Reserve Corps of Pierce County and the Clover Park School District to mentor at-risk children, engage in social-emotional skill building, and educate youth on public health subjects.

In November the UW Tacoma First Generation Fellows began the We Are First Generation campaign. According to Healthcare Leadership student Cindy Thao, the We Are First Generation campaign is an effort to “[create] awareness about first generation students on the UWT campus, which is roughly 56% of the school’s population.” The First Generation Fellows program, which is part of the Division of Student Affairs, has “provided services such as peer success mentorship, workshops, signature events, and a safe space for first generation students to do homework, study, eat, and hang out.” These services contribute to the ultimate goal of the program, which is to retain first generation students at UW Tacoma.

In addition to Cindy, the We Are First Generation promotion also features Healthcare Leadership alumni Kirsten Garcia, Nedralani Mailo, and Joana Cervera, and Assistant Associate Professor Katie Haerling and Advisor Audrey Cox participated in Emerald Ridge High School's first Aspiring Medical Professionals Summit on January 11, 2020 in Puyallup. Audrey represented the University of Washington Tacoma School of Nursing and Healthcare Leadership and interacted with Summit attendees at the health careers fair. She shared informational resources, engaged in dialogue, and answered questions to help students make informed decisions on their journey to a career in healthcare. Dr. Haerling provided the keynote presentation for students, parents, teachers, and other healthcare professionals participating in the Summit. In her presentation, Katie described her personal and professional journey to a career in healthcare and opportunities for students to find their “passion, profession, and paycheck” in a health career.

Lecturer Jan Runbeck addressed the Pierce County Council as it signed the proclamation which recognizes January as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. Click here and seek to 22.15 minutes to see Jan in action. Jan was also mentioned in an October 2019 article in The Suburban Times about the Truckers Against Trafficking program.
Senator Rosa Franklin Oral History Published

Rosa Franklin: A Life in Health Care, Public Service, and Social Justice

From Oral History and Archives to Publication

By Janet Primomo, RN, PhD, Associate Professor Emeritus

Senator Rosa Franklin, RN, signed copies of her new biography at the State Capital in Olympia on Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King Day. The book, Rosa Franklin: A Life in Health Care, Public Service, and Social Justice by Tamiko Nimura, chronicles the life and contributions of an extraordinary public servant whose 30-year career has focused on creating policy to eliminate health disparities and achieving health equity. The oral history and book were commissioned by the Washington State Legislative Oral History Program.

The first oral history of Senator Franklin was conducted by UWT BSN graduate Elizabeth Walter in 1995 and is available online through the UW Tacoma Community History Project. In 2003, Dr. Primomo and Sally York (UW Tacoma BSN ’94 and MN ’01 graduate) built on Walter’s work in “Community Activist, Nurse and South Puget Sound Legislator: Washington State Senator Rosa Franklin,” which was published in UW Tacoma’s journal Crossroads.

The first year BSN courses were offered Senator Franklin was the guest speaker at the Nurse’s Week celebration. Over the years, UW Tacoma students who participated in Nurse Legislative Days in Olympia had an opportunity to meet with and be inspired by Senator Franklin. In her talks to BSN and MN students, she emphasized the importance of healthcare, housing, education, economic opportunity, and a healthy environment. She continues to encourage all citizens to take an active role in the political process. Senator Franklin was held in such high regard by the Nursing faculty that a nursing scholarship fund was named for her in 2002. Senator Franklin received the UW Tacoma 2019 Martin Luther King Legacy Dream Award and was inducted into the Washington State Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 2002.

Watch for details about an April book signing event with Senator Franklin at UW Tacoma!

To order a copy of the book, contact The Washington State Legislative Gift Center at 360-786-1889