Welcome to our spring newsletter, in which we celebrate the achievements of our faculty, staff and students. We have much to celebrate: our graduates who persevered in the midst of COVID constraints on campus and work settings and, frequently, additional roles at home. Our faculty have been awarded grants to support their research—so important to the health of our communities! Work will soon be underway with our UW Bothell colleagues on a funded project on workforce diversity, for example. Our staff have been amazing, supporting our students remotely. And our clinical partners and preceptors have been graciously flexible; their support and creative thinking have been so essential to student learning this year. Enjoy reading this overview and celebrate the completion of this stage of our students’ education. We look forward to hearing of their contributions to the health of our region. We hope, too, that they leave open the possibility of taking a “next step” in their professional education in the future. Thank you for your support during this VERY challenging year!

2021 MN Student Speakers—Linda Fish and Diana Su

The theme of Linda’s speech was perseverance. She cited the stories of cultural figures like Michael Jordan, Jerry Seinfeld and Oprah Winfrey as proof that determination can overcome setbacks, and celebrated the MN class of 2021 for the same drive to complete graduate school during the pandemic. She thanked many supporters, including everyone in the MN program, her parents, her husband, her son, her friends, peers and mentors. She also toasted them, “to the nights that turned into mornings, friends that turned into family, and dreams that turned into reality.”

For her speech, Diana transported the MN Hooding audience to the UW Tacoma campus! While there she explored the (largely inaccessible) campus while celebrating the resilience of her peers. Additionally, she expressed her appreciation for her co-speaker Linda Fish and for the MN students who nominated two Asian American women to speak for them. She acknowledged Kathleen Shannon Dorcy, Dana Malick, Andrea Navarre, and many others for their support. Diana also described the great lengths she took to involve Taylor Swift in the proceedings, even learning how to use Twitter, but Diana was able to “shake off” Ms. Swift’s absence.

2021 Outstanding MN Scholar

Andrea Navarre’s scholarly inquiry project, “ Palliative Care Education for Inpatient Oncology Nurses: An Educational Intervention,” is an outstanding example of the application of research to practice.

Andrea built on the earlier work of MN graduate Lisa Delvalle. Andrea completed an assessment that demonstrated the need for more palliative care education opportunities for nurses within her organization. Based on findings of the assessment, Andrea developed an electronic resource which includes topics related to palliative care such as symptom management, communication, cultural considerations, and spiritual assessment.

This educational intervention is easily accessible and includes hyperlinks to both internal and external resources. One unexpected outcome of the project was the discovery that many newer nurses were unaware of the professional development opportunities available to them. In addition, Andrea created a professional development resource to help nurses take advantage of the professional development resources and available funding.
SNHCL Alumni and Student News

Outstanding Alumni Award: Sandra Olson, MN, RN, OCN

The following is adapted from Associate Teaching Professor Kathleen Shannon Dorcy’s nomination letter.

Sandra Olson (MN ’18) demonstrates exemplary leadership in clinical practice at the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC), having served as a nurse manager in the bone marrow transplant and immunotherapy unit. She leads collaboratively with executive nursing teams and medical leadership at UWMC in the delivery of oncology care for the Pacific Northwest region. Sandra’s leadership skills have been recognized in her promotion to Associate Director of Nursing and Clinical Operations at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (SCCA) Hospital in 2019.

Nurse Leadership mentoring is an intrinsic talent of Sandra’s. She has facilitated promotions for newly graduated Masters prepared nurses into management positions at UWMC.

Sandra also provides leadership to the regional oncology community by serving on the Board of Puget Sound Oncology Nurses’ Society in the Annual Symposium Planning committee which provides oncology nurse education for the entire Pacific Northwest Region.

Sandra Olson epitomizes a UWT Outstanding Alumnus as an expert clinician, a superb leader, an accomplished educator-mentor and an influential voice in national oncology policy and quality.

Graduation numbers, 2021

RN to BSN 72

BA in Healthcare Leadership 51

Master of Nursing 20

On May 17, twenty undergraduate and graduate nursing students were inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (known as Sigma). Due to the COVID-19 situation, the induction ceremony was streamed on YouTube.

Psi-at-Large Chapter President-Elect Anne Mulligan was the speaker. She used examples from her own life to demonstrate the themes of Sigma: love (Sigma), courage (Theta) and honor (Tau). She spoke of her early experiences hearing about Sigma but not seeking membership until later in life.

Anne completed her undergraduate nursing education in Ohio, and later joined the Navy Nurse Corps. She noticed her fellow Navy nurses were all members of Sigma, so when she went back to graduate school, Dr. Mulligan became a member. Anne identified the benefits of Sigma membership for nurse leaders, and said the honor society is for “action minded nurses who want what is best in nursing.”

The UW Tacoma induction ceremony was overseen and led by Assistant Professor Chieh (Sunny) Cheng. During the ceremony she welcomed the new inductees and expressed her enthusiasm for her position as the Sigma school counselor and research committee chair for UW Tacoma. She encouraged students to make use of the opportunities presented to them by membership in Sigma.
Faculty Activity & Events

Assistant Professor Chieh (Sunny) Cheng was awarded Founders Endowment funds to support a planned need project between May 1, 2021 and April 30, 2022. Founders Endowment funding is provided through the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. This project, titled “Psychosis iREACH,” is a digital platform that uses Artificial Intelligence technology to enhance broad and equitable access to 60 million families and caregivers navigating psychosis. Psychosis iREACH represents a multidisciplinary collaboration among faculty in the School of Medicine, School of Nursing and School of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics.

Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen was awarded the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award! From the announcement on the Chancellor’s website, “[Dr. Yuwen’s] teaching is recognized for using innovative and creative teaching approaches to inspire students. Dr. Yuwen is committed to active learning experiences and opportunities for students that give them the space to be co-producers of knowledge and learning. She excels at providing research opportunities for students across disciplines and campuses. The committee also recognized Dr. Yuwen for her leadership on diversity and equity initiatives within her School.”

Later this month, Dr. Yuwen will be awarded the Rising Star in Family Nursing Award by the International Family Nursing Association. She was nominated as one of the IFNA members “who has shown exceptional early career efforts to advance family nursing by contributing to the dissemination and implementation of family nursing as a new scholar.” She will be formally awarded during the opening ceremonies of the IFNC15 conference on June 28.

Dr. Yuwen, along with Associate Professors David Reyes and Robin Evans-Agnew, joined with UW Bothell’s Dr. Jaime Shirley and colleagues to create a successful team and proposal on “Nursing Workforce Diversity.” The team has been notified that their proposal has been funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. Work can begin with community partners and will continue over the next four years. The Washington Center for Nursing will be a major partner, working with the project team to expand relationships with multicultural nursing organizations and with community colleges. Among other services, this work will offer support programs and scholarships.

In March, the Population Health Initiative featured an article about Dr. Yuwen and her CocoBot project.

Associate Professor David Reyes was awarded the Ethics and Human Rights Award by the Washington State Nurses Association. Dr. Reyes’ is involved in community-based participatory action and community engagement work, particularly in East and South Tacoma. He has actively involved neighborhood residents in community assessment to identify health priorities as well as taught residents to participate as community researchers. Much of this work has been in addressing food insecurity and priorities for improving the food environment.

As part of Associate Professor Robin Evans-Agnew’s healthcare leadership course, nine BA in Healthcare Leadership students launched the Husky Vaccine Task Force. The objectives of the task force were to disseminate information about the importance of vaccination for COVID-19 and to engage with community stakeholders to spread that message. They also endeavored to recruit volunteers to assist with vaccination clinics in Pierce County.
Professor Emeritus Marjorie Dobratz was honored with the Professional Achievement Award from Marquette University’s College of Nursing, Dr. Dobratz’s alma mater. She expressed her appreciation to Marquette for both the undergraduate and graduate education she received there and said that the “skills and education that she received at Marquette have helped her find meaning and to support her hospice patients, mentor faculty, and teach students.” Find out more and see a video of the awarding here.

Senior Lecturer Emeritus Jane Cornman presented on NEAR (Neuroscience, Epigenetics, ACEs & Resilience) Science — How to support our families and community to be WELL. She discussed the most recent research on ACEs — Adverse Childhood Experiences, the potential long-term effects in each category of mind, body and spirit — and how each one of us can be an active participant in helping reduce the frequency of these events, reduce retraumatization across the lifespan, and support healing and resilience long term.” You can find the link to Dr. Cornman’s presentation here.

Professor Emeritus Marjorie Dobratz was honored with the Professional Achievement Award from Marquette University’s College of Nursing, Dr. Dobratz’s alma mater. She expressed her appreciation to Marquette for both the undergraduate and graduate education she received there and said that the “skills and education that she received at Marquette have helped her find meaning and to support her hospice patients, mentor faculty, and teach students.” Find out more and see a video of the awarding here.

Jan Runbeck (MN ’06 and clinical faculty member) was named the 2021 Nurse of the Year by the Rainier Olympic Nurses Association.

The article describes the award and Jan’s long history of contributions to the health of her community cite numerous activities as a RN, volunteer, and educator in Pierce County. From working on a dude ranch for children to an ER in a “Coal Miner Hospital” and working with Southeast Asian refugees in Thailand, Jan has always contributed to the health of her community. The award notes “Jan’s passion and dedication to improving the health of our community by building coalitions; supporting our most vulnerable community members; managing projects and volunteers, while helping to educate future nurses is an inspiration.”
Student and Alumni Recognition/News

Kathryn Burger (MN ’20), with Associate Professors Robin Evans-Agnew and Susan Johnson, published an article in Public Health Nursing titled “Reproductive justice and black lives: A concept analysis for public health nursing.” The article reported their systemic review of social science literature “to analyze the concept of reproductive justice as used in peer-reviewed publications with the aim of reframing black maternal health in public health nursing scholarship, research, practice, and advocacy.”

Peterson Chum (HCL ’14) participated in the UW Tacoma Alumni Speaker Series and was interviewed by HCL student and ASUWT president Vincent Da. Peterson spoke about his current role at the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and spoke about the impact the department made on his childhood. He also credits the education he received in the Healthcare Leadership program in preparing him for his role. Read more about the event and watch the interview here.

Vincent Da received the UW Tacoma 2021 Gift of Service Award for philanthropic work that included his participation in the UW Tacoma Food Pantry, alongside Associate Professor Christine Stevens. The award includes a $1,000 donation directed by the recipient and Vincent chose Nourish of Pierce County, which works to address food insecurity throughout Pierce County.

Healthcare Leadership student Veronica Ramirez Ramsay was selected as a Mary Gates Research Scholar in winter quarter 2021! Veronica was supported in her research by Assistant Professor Weichao Yuwen. Here is a statement by Veronica: "I am honored to receive the Mary Gates Research Scholar Award. Thank you to the faculty and staff who have supported me, as well as my faculty advisor Dr. Yuwen for her continued and dedicated mentorship. As an aspiring healthcare leader, my long-term career goal is to improve access to healthcare for underserved communities and marginalized populations through research, policy, and advocacy. My research focus is to investigate access to healthcare in populations with chronic health conditions. The global component that I have included in my research is comparing a local healthcare system in the U.S. to an international one. In addition, my research focus also consists of investigating the laws and policies that contribute to the lack of support for individuals and families with chronic conditions and barriers of access to healthcare. I will suggest policy changes that enable equal access to healthcare for individuals with chronic conditions."

In April, Tao Zheng (MN ’14) was named the 2021 UW School of Nursing Magnuson Scholar. Recipients of the honor receive substantial scholarship awards, which Toa will use to continue his PhD research.

Alumni Updates

Kyessa Hudson (BAHCL ’15) graduated from the University of Washington Pharmacy School.

Ricel Payopay (BAHCL ’20) was accepted to the Master of Health Informatics program at UW Seattle.

Jenny Perkins (BSN ’19) has been admitted to UWS SON PhD Program.

Jennifer Smith (MN ’15) started her position as a clinical adjunct professor for the UW School of Nursing in spring, 2021.

Marcia Statz (MN ’98) will be retiring this June. Marcia was a full-time school nurse for South Whidbey School District. She was named Washington State School Nurse of the Year in 2012.

Veronica Tecsi (BSN ’18) has been accepted into the DNP-PMHNP program at UW School of Nursing.

Keandra Thompson (MN ’15) graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, College of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program in 2020. She is now the Health Services Supervisor for Lake Washington School District.

Vitaly Vavrinyuk (BSN ’17) has been admitted to the Post-Baccalaureate Premedical program at Washington University in St. Louis.

Anteneh Woldeselassie (BSN ’20) has been admitted to the DNP-PMHNP program at UW School of Nursing.

If you have suggestions or questions about the newsletter, please click here.
To remove your name from our mailing list, please click here.