

FALL 2014

# THE pulse

MAGAZINE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

OPERATING ROOM EXPERIENCE PAYS OFF  
FOR NURSING STUDENTS

EXPERIENCE MATTERS:  
BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE COMMUNITY

TRANSFORMATIVE PATIENT-CENTERED CARE:  
A MASTERFUL BLEND OF SCIENCE AND ART





## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

This is a year of new beginnings. One of these new beginnings is mine as I left Oakland University School of Nursing this summer and returned to Northern Michigan University in Marquette as the Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Professional Studies. It was a difficult decision to make; leaving a School with such dedicated and talented faculty, staff and students, but in the end, I chose to return home to the Upper Peninsula and take the opportunity to broaden my skill set working with a variety of disciplines and schools. During my time at OUSON I was consistently amazed at the accomplishments, efforts, passion and drive of the School of Nursing. I was fortunate to be able to leave the School in the capable hands of Dr. Gary Moore who has been with the School for more than 30 years. Dr. Moore will continue on the trajectory of progress that we have been pursuing since I became Dean, which includes the development of a PhD in Nursing program, Masters track in Forensic Nursing and the many other exciting changes that you will read about in this and upcoming issues of the Pulse magazine. I want to thank all of you for your support and well wishes. I will miss you all!

Kerri Schuiling, PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN  
Dean  
School of Nursing



Greetings. As Interim Dean of the School of Nursing, I want to wish Dean Schuiling the best of luck at Northern and know that they are getting a dynamic dean with boundless energy, innovative ideas and the ability to find a way to make things happen. She will be greatly missed. It is my goal to bring those innovations to fruition here as we conduct a national dean search. As I am getting acclimated to this new position, I have enjoyed talking with faculty and staff and ensuring that our transition is a smooth one. As you will see in this issue of the Pulse, we have a broad variety of research, student and alumni accomplishments and rich programming. I hope that you enjoy reading about them and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Interim Dean  
Gary Moore



# contents

## FALL 2014



4



6



8



13



14



22

### FEATURES

- 4 Oakland University and Turning Point host the Pediatric Sexual Assault Conference**  
Professionals from a variety of fields learn strategies for dealing with victims of sexual assault
- 5 Judith Colson Ganton Healing Garden**  
SON alumnae gives students, faculty and staff a serene seating area
- 6 Operating room experience pays off for nursing students**  
The new perioperative program prepares students for the challenges of the OR
- 7 Winning ways**  
Two DNP students receive prestigious Jonas Scholarships
- 8 When the student becomes the educator**  
Steve Apigo realizes his dream of teaching with the help of his favorite professor
- 10 Alums rule in CRNA program**  
The nurse anesthesia faculty share their OR and OU experiences
- 12 For Dr. Pamela Marin, retirement won't stop her from doing the work she loves**  
The devoted assistant dean retires
- 13 Poster presentation winners from the Sigma Theta Tau Theta Psi chapter 10th annual research day**  
More than 100 attendees gleaned new information from 39 poster presentations
- 14 Experience matters**  
Kim Holka embraces partnerships with Oakland County Health Division and Macomb County Health Department
- 16 Practice what you teach**  
Transformative patient-centered care: a masterful blend of science and art
- 22 Student group strives to raise awareness about human trafficking**  
Nursing students believe that doing nothing is not an option
- 28 New Center for Excellence expands AAT program**  
Center will emphasize research and best-practices

### DEPARTMENTS

- 29 Highlights and accomplishments**
- 30 News briefs**
- 32 A Poem from a Nursing Student's Perspective**





## Nominate a nurse for a Nightingale Award for Nursing Excellence®

Each of the nine winners of a Nightingale Award will receive a check for \$1,000 and a solid bronze statue of Florence Nightingale. The nine runners up will receive an engraved plaque and pin. All winners will be recognized at the Nightingale Awards event on May 7, 2015 at the San Marino Club.

Awards are given based on nurses' achievements and community and professional involvement. Leadership, quality of care given, innovative practices and advances in research are also valued in the selection processes.

Nominations are being accepted at [oakland.edu/nightingale](http://oakland.edu/nightingale) now through February 3, 2015. If you have any questions regarding this nomination form, please contact Ashley Samson at [samson@oakland.edu](mailto:samson@oakland.edu).



**OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY™**

---

School of Nursing



## **The Pulse magazine**

### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Gary Moore, *Interim Dean*  
Deana Hays, *Interim Associate Dean*  
Cheryl McPherson, *assistant dean*  
Pam Marin, *assistant dean*  
Colette O'Connor,  
*director of development*

### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

Amy Johnson, *editor, project manager*  
Eric Zurawski, *art director*  
Chuck Cloud, *photographer*  
Rick Smith, *photographer*

### **WRITERS**

Sandra Beckwith  
Cara Catallo  
Mary Gunderson-Switzer  
Alice Rhein  
Rene Wisely

*The Pulse* magazine is published one to two times per year. It is distributed free of charge to Oakland University's School of Nursing alumni, staff and friends, and select school of nursing deans nationwide.

Reproduction without  
permission is prohibited.  
ISSN 1946-7257  
Issue No. 12.

### **EDITORIAL OFFICES**

3060 HHB  
Oakland University  
2200 North Squirrel Road  
Rochester, MI 48309-4401  
Phone (248) 370-3184  
Fax (248) 370-3182

Letters to the editor and other  
correspondence about this and future  
issues should be mailed to:

*The Pulse* magazine  
School of Nursing  
Amy Johnson

3060 Human Health Building  
Oakland University  
2200 North Squirrel Road  
Rochester, MI 48309-4401

or emailed to [johnson2@oakland.edu](mailto:johnson2@oakland.edu).  
Include your name, address, and a  
phone number or email address.

### **SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**

For sponsorship information and  
opportunities in future issues of *The Pulse*  
magazine, please contact Colette O'Connor at  
(248) 364-8723 or [occonnor@oakland.edu](mailto:occonnor@oakland.edu).

Oakland University is an equal opportunity  
and affirmative action institution.

**[oakland.edu/nursing](http://oakland.edu/nursing)**

# Consider a gift that gives back



**T**he United States needs nurses. An estimated 125,000 nursing positions are open nationwide. That number is projected to rise to 1 million in the next decade. OU's School of Nursing is taking steps to address this need, and you can help. In partnership with local health care organizations, we actively recruit faculty and students for our programs. Applications and admissions have risen by 40 percent, but much more can be done to ease the current and future nursing shortage. The development of scholarships and distinctive campus, online and satellite programs will serve as an important catalyst for future growth. This also will provide important incentives in attracting, retaining and graduating students into the ranks of professional nursing.

Please consider a gift to the School of Nursing. For more information about gift opportunities to the School of Nursing, please contact Colette O'Connor at (248) 364-8723 or [occonnor@oakland.edu](mailto:occonnor@oakland.edu).





*Left to Right: Renae Diegel, Turning Point; Kelly Berishaj, Oakland University School of Nursing; and Jamie Ferrell*



*Renowned forensic nurse, Jamie Ferrell, spent three days sharing real life experiences with attendees*

# Oakland University and Turning Point host the Pediatric Sexual Assault Conference

Professionals learn how to recognize and act upon pediatric sexual assault

**T**he issue of domestic violence and sexual assault stirs up a lot of emotion, as it should; but it does not always stir up action. Whether it is a failure to report, a downplaying, denial or justification of the event, or simply doing nothing despite the fact that one knows the act is occurring, all accounts of inaction come at a cost to the victim.

When patients present in the emergency room because of sexual assault, most health care providers are not equipped to handle the situation. It takes a specially trained professional like a forensic nurse who has training as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) to provide appropriate care for these patients. But how does a nurse become SANE trained? She must receive 40 hours of didactic education followed by precepted clinical experiences demonstrating competence in practice prior to actually working independently as a SANE.

Forensic nursing is the practice of nursing when health and legal systems intersect. Competencies include the use of a medical/forensic assessment to care for patients who have experienced intentional/unintentional trauma or death. In order to provide forensic nursing education, the School of Nursing along with Kelly Berishaj, faculty member, are proposing a MSN with Forensic Nursing focus and a Graduate Certificate in Forensic Nursing to provide education on the subject. Both proposals are working their way through the University approval process.

The OU SON in partnership with Turning Point of Macomb County and sponsorships from OU-Macomb and Wayne County SAFE, recently presented a Pediatric Sexual Assault Conference at the Lorenzo Cultural Center in Clinton Township. Jamie Ferrell, BSN, RN, DABFN, CA/CP-SANE, SANE-A, CMI-III, CFN, participated in the seminar that educated 50 nurses and other service professionals from Michigan and the surrounding states on how to best care for pediatric victims of sexual assault and abuse.

Ferrell has spent the past 21 years practicing as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner / Forensic Nurse and is a founding board member and past president of the International Association of Forensic Nurses and a founding member of the Forensic Nursing Certification board for the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

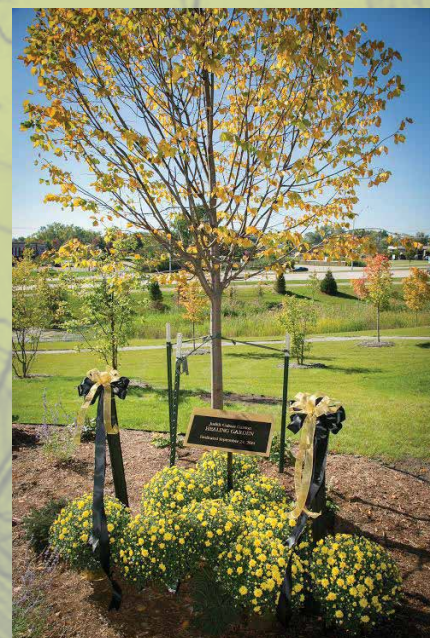
Attendees were captivated by the information she shared so passionately including staggering statistics that included the death of 2,000 children each year as a result of abuse and neglect and how child abuse is the leading cause of death. She discussed the laws, the horrors, the procedures and the reality of child sexual abuse and subsequent actions. Other speakers were Sergeant Detective James Selewski of the Sterling Heights Police Department, Chief Tim Wiley from the New Baltimore Police Department, social worker Katherine Connell who is a child/adolescent forensic interview specialist with the FBI, Sarah Dobbyn from Turning Point, Inc. and Jeannie Cloud, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Macomb County.

Kelly Berishaj says, "We are so happy about the response received from our community and participation in this event. Children who are victims of violence are one of the most vulnerable populations of patients that we encounter as nurses. It is our professional responsibility to make sure that we are able to deliver quality care that meets their identified need."

Additionally, Kelly Berishaj also brought the Mentors in Violence Prevention program, a project run with HAVEN, to campus which works to educate men and women on how to engage in culture change to help end gender-based violence.

For more information, contact Kelly Berishaj at (248) 364-8750 or [berishaj@oakland.edu](mailto:berishaj@oakland.edu) ■





## Judith Colson Ganton Healing Garden

On September 24th under perfectly blue skies, the School of Nursing celebrated the dedication of the Judith Colson Ganton Healing Garden and the career and contributions of an outstanding alumna of the School of Nursing. Judi Ganton shared her many talents with the School of Nursing during her time as a student – from designing the pin all students receive at their pinning ceremony which is still used today to founding the nursing honor society. Today, Judi continues to share her talents and support with the Oakland University School of Nursing as she always has. The legacy she has left is a tangible one, and the presence of a healing garden accessible to busy nursing students is fitting for someone who gave so much and continues to give so much of herself to those around her.

The event was well attended by the campus community as well as friends and family of Judi and Lloyd Ganton. Interim Dean Gary Moore along with former Dean Keri Schuiling were present to thank Judi and Lloyd Ganton for their generous gift. Phil Snyder, Assistant Vice President for Development, Alumni, and Community Engagement, shared remarks and the School of Nursing Board of Visitors was represented by long-time friend of the University, Maggie Allesee.





# Operating room experience pays off for nursing students

Perioperative program helps students gain extensive experience in the OR

*By Cara Catallo*

**J**anean Monahan's students know their way around an operating room.

That's because the SON perioperative program run by the assistant professor prepares students not only in the classroom, but also in ORs throughout metro Detroit.

"The students love it. It usually takes six to nine months to educate new nurses in the operating room. For my students it's a lot less, probably half," says Monahan about the program, open to finishing seniors. Since it began last year, the program so far counts 18 students at 10 area hospitals as participants with nine more students starting rotations this fall.

For the hospital, half the time means savings of half the training money, Monahan adds, giving both the hospital and the student – already functional in the OR by the end of the program, unlike inexperienced new hires – an advantage. "They are expected to prep the patient and provide nursing care, like a registered nurse would do. It's a true clinical. It's more than observing. It's hands-on," says Monahan.

Because they aren't registered nurses yet, the students never function alone, but in a preceptorship, and still attend weekly classes and receive clinical site visits from faculty members. The opportunity makes it easier to see if a future nurse is comfortable in the operating room setting, which may not be for everyone. Learning that in school means the hospital isn't out money spent training a nurse who chooses not to stay after orientation.

For Henry Ford Macomb Hospital, having that firsthand perioperative experience can make a difference long term too. The hospital hosted four students through the program last fall. And after graduation and the boards, they hired four for full-time day positions.

"The majority of students are not exposed to perioperative nursing, so the impact it has on the hospital is really when we are looking at our future," says Claire Everson, surgical services education coordinator at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital.

"In surgical services especially we are having a difficult time finding people who will stay after orientation," says Everson, adding that oftentimes even an experienced nurse may have a skewed perspective about working in the operating

room because of television portrayals or family members. "So we can hire an experienced RN who has never had any experience in the OR and some of them don't stay." Observing for a week doesn't provide an accurate snapshot for the nurse or the hospital. Having a student nurse consistently in the operating room does, she explains.

"It allows the students to have a prolonged experience so when they graduate from Oakland University and are looking at all the varied ways their RN careers can progress they can consider their perioperative experience," says Everson.

Everson echoes the cost-savings likelihood, but the hospital won't know for certain until they measure retention of the nurses hired from the program: "The early indicators are yes, it should save us money on orientation costs."

That's music to the ears of Monahan, though she is leaving Oakland University to focus more on and further develop her perioperative research theories and models. She is quick to say she will be just a phone call away should her replacement have any questions, and hopes that those who follow in her footsteps share her passion for the program and the relationships with the hospitals involved.

"The hospitals where we have students just love it," she says. "What better way to get to know someone before you offer them employment." ■



*Claire Everson applauds the SON perioperative program as a way for students to gain a better understanding of OR nursing.*



# Winning ways

*Coveted Jonas Center grant sends two alumni into DNP program*

*By Rene Wisely*

**G**ood news travels far and fast.

Leslie Kearfott (MSN '13) was in Ecuador, while TaSondra Foltz (MSN '14) was on a 15-minute break at her job at the VA Medical Center in Detroit when Kathleen Spencer, visiting assistant professor in Oakland's SON and coordinator of Veterans Education Programs, tracked them down.

She had life-changing news: They won.

Kearfott and Foltz won \$20,000 scholarships from a Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Health care grant to go after their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), the final degree for nurses in clinical practice.

Registered nurses who possess a DNP degree are ready to assume clinical and leadership roles in both academic and practice settings.

The Jonas Center grant, which funds Oakland's 2014 DNP Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar and its DNP Jonas Veterans Health care Scholar, is part of a national effort to stem the faculty shortage by doubling the number of doctorally prepared nurses as America's health care system evolves.

For Kearfott, the Nurse Leader scholarship completely changed her plans.

"I really had no intention of going back for my DNP," said Kearfott, a pediatric clinical instructor at University of Michigan-SON, who also works as a family nurse practitioner for a pediatric office in Bloomfield Hills and as a medical missionary. "I didn't want to take on more student loans."

After seeing an email about the Jonas opportunity, she considered applying for it for several weeks without acting on it. Days before leaving on back-to-back missionary trips – one to Nicaragua and the other to Ecuador – I said, "What the heck do I have to lose?"

Instead, she won.

After receiving Spencer's congratulatory email in Ecuador, she felt much gratitude for the opportunity to impact the profession and the future nurses of the world.

"I know this is a huge honor," Kearfott admitted. "I hope I do it justice."



*TaSondra Foltz and Leslie Kearfott*

Foltz, who finished her MSN in August, was ready to take a break from schooling. Between clinicals, attending school full time and working full time on the mental health unit at the VA Medical Center, she was ready for at least a year off. She also was eager to make a dent in her student loan debt.

But after reading the scholarship requirements, she knew she fit the requirements to a tee. The generous funding was a big motivator, too, she admits.

"I figured if I won it, then it was meant to be," Foltz explained.

And it was meant to be.

"I was so excited when I got the phone call," she said. "I couldn't believe that out of many applicants, I was the selected candidate. I have never received any financial aid scholarship awards especially to the magnitude of \$20,000. This scholarship was the removal of another barrier that would have prolonged me from attaining my DNP," Foltz said.

She's ready to help shape the way treatment is delivered to military heroes.

"A lot of our new veterans have post-traumatic stress disorder and are having a hard time dealing with it," she said.

She helped revise a workbook to speed their recovery and the veterans are responding to its helpfulness.

"The workbook has helped us increase group participation 75 percent since we revised it," Foltz revealed.

"This Jonas scholarship is going to help me help our veterans even more," she predicted. ■

*Rene Wisely is freelance writer based in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.*

# When the student becomes the educator

Steve Apigo turned his struggle into his strength

*By Rene Wisely*

**S**teve Apigo (BSN '98) is down to one hat. After 15 years of juggling several hats at once, including ER nurse, entrepreneur and home health agency clinical director, his new role as clinical educator at Oakwood Hospital allows him to sport just one.

In this leadership position, he is responsible for Oakwood's staff development, orientation of new employees, competency assessment and the like.

"Teaching is always something that has been in the back of my mind and I found myself doing it in every job I've ever had," said the Clinton Township, Mich., resident. "When I told people I was taking this job, they said, 'Educator? Of course. It's a good fit for you.'"

Oakland University was a good fit for him as well.

He enrolled after a year at Macomb Community College because of its "growing reputation for being a good school and because OU was more affordable than other nursing schools," Apigo explained.

It was one of those decisions that impacts him daily. Not only did he meet his future wife and fellow nurse, Jennifer Fyda (BSN '98), there, but also he soaked up all he could from the most influential professor of his educational career, Dr. Gary Moore, PhD, RN, SON's interim associate dean.

Apigo respected him for many reasons. He is direct, genuine, entertaining -- a naturally gifted teacher, he says.

But what he most appreciated him for were for the little things he taught that prevented him "from running around like a chicken with his head cut off, like all the other nursing college graduates were," Apigo revealed.

Moore stressed prioritizing. He'd create scenarios for the students to instruct them how to manage their time, even if it was just going to the supply closet.

"As with all of my students, I make it a priority to build upon their strengths and help strengthen areas that may need a little work," said Dr. Moore. "In Steve's case, he struggled with decision making and organization for a time in school. It was such a pleasure to watch him overcome these initial difficulties and become a knowledgeable, skilled, caring nurse upon graduation. I'm really gratified by his continued success in nursing."

Apigo confirmed, "He taught us how to organize the notes we carried in our pocket that helped us with patients," he revealed. "It was invaluable."

Moore also gave a list of why he himself would never work in an ER room, but his reasons enticed Apigo to give it a try. Until recently, Apigo's worked in one at least part time since graduation.

Apigo helped launch a medical spa company in 2004, providing such services as spider vein removal. Before Oakwood, he opened Lutheran Social Services, a home health agency.

Apigo was inspired to be a nurse after being hospitalized several times as a child with severe asthma.

"I was familiar with it and realized in high school that I really like people and helping others, so I knew nursing would be a good fit for me," Apigo revealed.

And if the hat fits, he wears it. ■

*Rene Wisely is freelance writer based in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.*





*Steve Apigo reaches his goal to educate others in his new role as clinical educator at Oakwood Hospital.*



# Alums rule in CRNA program

By Sandra Beckwith

**O**U collaborates with the nationally renowned Beaumont Health System for the school's 28-month long certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) master's degree program.

The partnership offers a range of hands-on learning experiences in Beaumont's facilities for CRNA students, but they have another key educational advantage, too: Their CRNA instructors are especially familiar with OU's nursing education programs.

After all, every instructor but one has at least one OU nursing degree – and two have two OU degrees.

Program director Anne Hranchook, SON '93 and '14, got her master's in anesthesia at OU and followed that up two decades later with a doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) this year. Andrea Bittinger, '89 and '96, admissions and clinical coordinator, got her nursing bachelor's degree in 1989 and her master's in anesthesia in 1996. Three others – clinical coordinators Linda McDonald, '94 and Laura Rodgers, '99; and John Roebuck, '99, simulation coordinator – all studied at OU for their master's in anesthesia.

## Unique OU experiences

OU training brought unique benefits to each as they moved through their nursing careers.

"The education I received prepared me first and foremost to be able to handle the highly complex, high acuity, and fast-paced environment of Beaumont Health System's anesthesia department as a CRNA," says Hranchook, who joined OU's faculty seven years ago.

Roebuck, who is also a CRNA at Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak, credits the CRNA program for his career success.

"The professors and clinical instructors set me on course to become a clinical expert early in my career," he says. "That led to this opportunity to work for the program I graduated from as a clinical and simulation coordinator."

Rodgers, who also works for Comprehensive Anesthesia providing services in outpatient surgical centers and for

Beaumont Hospital Royal Oak, is grateful for the diverse experiences offered by the program.

"The nurse anesthesia program here at Oakland gives students the opportunity to practice in a variety of settings, which then gives them the confidence to practice anesthesia anywhere life might take them. In my case, it gave me the necessary tools to go out of the hospital comfort zone and practice independently in outpatient centers," she says.

For McDonald, also a CRNA at Beaumont's Clarkston Surgery Center, the school's nursing educators helped her understand her professional responsibility as a nurse.

"While the classes at Oakland taught me to practice clinically, the instructors emphasized that nursing is more than a job – it's a profession," she says.

## Next generation nurses

Bittinger is grateful that her SON education has allowed her, in turn, to introduce others to the profession.

"I now have an opportunity to inspire many to think about nursing and nurse anesthesia by speaking at career fairs and high school career days, mentoring leadership students, facilitating shadow opportunities, running Information sessions, and taking calls from students interested in learning more about the program," she says. Bittinger has worked with and helped educate all but four of the program's graduating classes.

"I believe we have some of the most dedicated faculty in the field," adds Hranchook about both the School of Nursing and the CRNA program. "I've seen firsthand how hard it can be to make the transition from student to full-fledged CRNA, and our graduates do it seamlessly because of the support and education they receive here."

Credit the staff's familiarity with the program for much of that success. ■

By Sandra Beckwith, a Fairport, N.Y.-based freelance writer.





## Accelerating a career

Looking back, Leah Nida is glad she chose to enroll in the SON Accelerated Degree Program. Had someone asked her midway through the program, her response would likely sound less enthusiastic.

"It was very intense," admits Nida, who finished in summer 2011. "I remember questioning the first semester if I really wanted to do it. I didn't like being at the bedside. I absolutely hated it. The only thing that kept me going through the program is it's only a year long. I don't know if I would have stuck with it had I done the traditional program, but I'm glad I did."

Now Nida can't imagine being away from the bedside, though she hasn't ruled out also teaching in the future. She's currently enrolled in the MSN Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist program at Loyola University Chicago, thanks in part to a \$20,000 scholarship grant the American Cancer Society awarded her in May. Nida credits her professors at the SON for helping her get into the program and receive the grant, which acknowledged Nida's strong commitment to quality of life and patient symptom management.

"One goal of the American Cancer Society's Research and Training Program is to strengthen the cancer workforce by providing grants to train health professionals who will deliver cancer care," adds Virginia Krawiec, MPA, director of health professional training in cancer control for the American Cancer Society Extramural Grants Department. "Leah Nida was



Leah Nida

chosen to receive a Graduate Scholarship in Cancer Nursing Practice through a peer review process that considered her professional qualifications and career goals as well as the strength of the master's program in oncology nursing at Loyola University Chicago."

When Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak first hired Nida out of school, she wasn't sure oncology was the right fit for her, but patients – one breast cancer patient in particular – and their families helped her to see that it was.

"I absolutely love it over here," says Nida, who now works in the oncology/hospice unit at Beaumont Hospital, Troy. "I work

with great oncologists and a fabulous team of nurses. And we have hospice. As hard as it is, it's nice to kind of see them through. It's nice to support their families. It's very rewarding. There's not a day that I work that I don't feel that I've truly done something for someone."

Nida says she hopes her advanced degree will help expand her abilities to provide patient education and increase their quality of life, and to be able to practice to the fullness of the abilities she's gained through her education at OU and Loyola.

She credits the nursing faculty – including Dr. Barbara Penprase, Lynda Poly-Droulard and Kelly Berishaj – for helping her navigate the Accelerated Degree Program and for where she is today, saying: "They're committed to advancing the education even beyond the accelerated program." ■

# For Dr. Pamela Marin, retirement won't stop her from doing the work she loves

Assistant dean transitions from academics to the arts

By Alice Rhein



**A**ssistant Dean Pamela Marin, Ph.D. may have retired this month, but she's hardly done working. "I have enjoyed every job I ever had and I love working," says Dr. Marin. "I'm not intending to stop. I'm just looking forward to what's next."

When Marin joined the School of Nursing in 1998, she had already been with Oakland University for 25 years – first as an admissions adviser who was quickly promoted to Assistant Director of Admissions, then to Career Advising and Placement, followed by Executive Assistant to the President, and then Director of Continuing Education. It was when she was working in continuing education that the SON approached her. Marin says, "The SON actually created the position for me. After 25 years, I was able to write my own job description. How many people are fortunate to do that?"

Her role as assistant dean allowed her to utilize all of the skills and knowledge that she had gained throughout her career. Marin's role became the point of central communication among students, academic advising staff, faculty and administrators. She built the academic advising staff from an initial one advisor to four, along with two clerical staff, a whole host of students and an intern. The programs offered greatly expanded as well.

When she accepted a national award for academic advising administration from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) in 2011, Dr. Marin listed many of her achievements with the SON including: expansion of the SON new student orientation; initiation of the Enterprise database for academic advising; audit to ensure compliance with CAS Standard and Guidelines for Academic Advising; assist with development of online RN-BSN degree completion sequence and NCA approval; administer SON scholarships and awards, and, in 2004, initiated a student town hall series to provide nursing students at all levels an opportunity to have direct access to the SON deans on a regular basis.

"It really opened up a channel of communication between administration and students. The dialogue was amazing with mutual problem-solving and sharing. These are still going on today," she says.

Achieving and maintaining an open dialogue is what Marin feels has been the key to success, and her main advice that she would pass along to the next assistant dean. "When we offer new programs, students help to plan. Students understand that the role we play is student advocate in the SON. They trust us and we trust them. I think that is key to the success as a team, and we try to be as accessible as possible," says Marin, who notes that her role in working with the Dean's Circle has also been informative and rewarding. Marin hopes to continue to work in her area of expertise and will likely remain active in her outside interests, which include her pets, exercise, attending plays and visiting museums.

"When I go to any art museum anywhere in the world, I feel like I have arrived home. There is just something about the amazing work that artists do," says Marin.

An avid reader who has been in the same book club for 25 years, Marin is also a master gardener and active with the Meadow Brook Garden Club. She and her husband Bob, also love boating, and have been doing so since they got married 41 years ago.

"One thing that he said to me early in my career that really made a difference was 'Don't ever let anything stand in the way of your career.' How supportive is that for a husband to be? That has really helped me," says Marin.

As far as the SON, Marin is confident that the administration and faculty will continue to address new standards, update curriculum to reflect changes in health care, and strive to provide students with the tools needed to move on to the next phase in their education, their career and their lives. ■



## Poster presentation winners from the Sigma Theta Tau Theta Psi chapter 10th annual research day

**W**ith 39 student poster presentations and more than 100 attendees, the 10th Annual Research Day hosted by Sigma Theta Tau Theta Psi Chapter, was the largest event in its history.



DeAnne Ramos, Assistant Vice President Branch Operations of the Oakland University Credit Union was on hand to present the financial

awards to the winning recipients. Awards went to first, second and third place each in two categories, undergraduate and graduate. First place was \$600, second place was \$400 and third place was \$250.

Posters from undergraduate and graduate students were on display on the second floor of the Human Health Building and viewed by nursing students, health science students, staff and faculty and then rated by judges DeAnne Ramos, Claudia Grobbel (SON) and Tammy Hew (SHS). Kelly Berishaj DNP, RN, ACNS-BC, CFN, School of Nursing faculty member, presented on the need for Forensic Nursing and what it takes for a nurse to be a forensic nurse.

The winners are:

### Undergraduate

**1st place:** The Effects of Massage Therapy on Osteoarthritis of Weight-Bearing Joints. Anita Fabian, Victoria Ipina, Jicyn Nucum, Seungii Ryu-Roest and Antonia Yee

**2nd place:** Evaluation of Cricoid Pressure Knowledge in Nurses. Arianna Szkilnyk and Alyssa Minich

**3rd place:** Early Ambulation in Postoperative Elderly Patients to Decrease Hospital Length of Stay. Mikaela Bernardo, Carleen DeLuna, Kandice Escoe and Katherine Kurkowski

### Graduate

**1st place:** Educating to Prevent Childhood Obesity. Amity Bates, Susan Bieda, Rita Cangemi, Jennnifer Kinaia and Sunita Pudasaini

**2nd place:** Effectiveness of a Low Carbohydrate Diet on Lowering Metabolic Syndrome Risk Factor in Women. Jennifer Gideon, Fariba Imran, Joseph Smith and Alta Zabegaylo.

**3rd place:** Healthy People 2020 Objectives: Breastfeeding. Michale Heuninckx, JoeAnna Ingram, Lauren Kakish, Allison LaPrise and Meghan Sutton.

Plans are already underway for the 11th Annual Research Day. For more information, please contact Claudia Grobbel at [cgrobbel@oakland.edu](mailto:cgrobbel@oakland.edu). ■



# Experience matters

## Building Bridges in the Community

*By Rene Wisely*

**K**im Holka may as well list “bridge builder” on her résumé. The SON full-time adjunct instructor is often building bridges with various community organizations with OU nursing students in mind.

Holka has forged partnerships with government health divisions, charity foundations and local school districts, which give OU students opportunities to practice various skills, fully understand the reaches of their craft and expose them to different nursing careers as well as prime them on different diseases and community dangers.

“It’s one way to show them that nursing is more than support at the bedside,” Holka explained.

With Oakland County Health Division, for instance, Holka had her students learn about safe sleep behaviors for infants as a means of reducing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths. The students then prepared a presentation to give to day care facilities throughout Oakland County, acting as a health department expert about this danger.

Not only did the students learn about tragedy prevention, but they also learned communication skills, working as a team, how to think on their feet and discovered the resource of the county’s public health nurses.

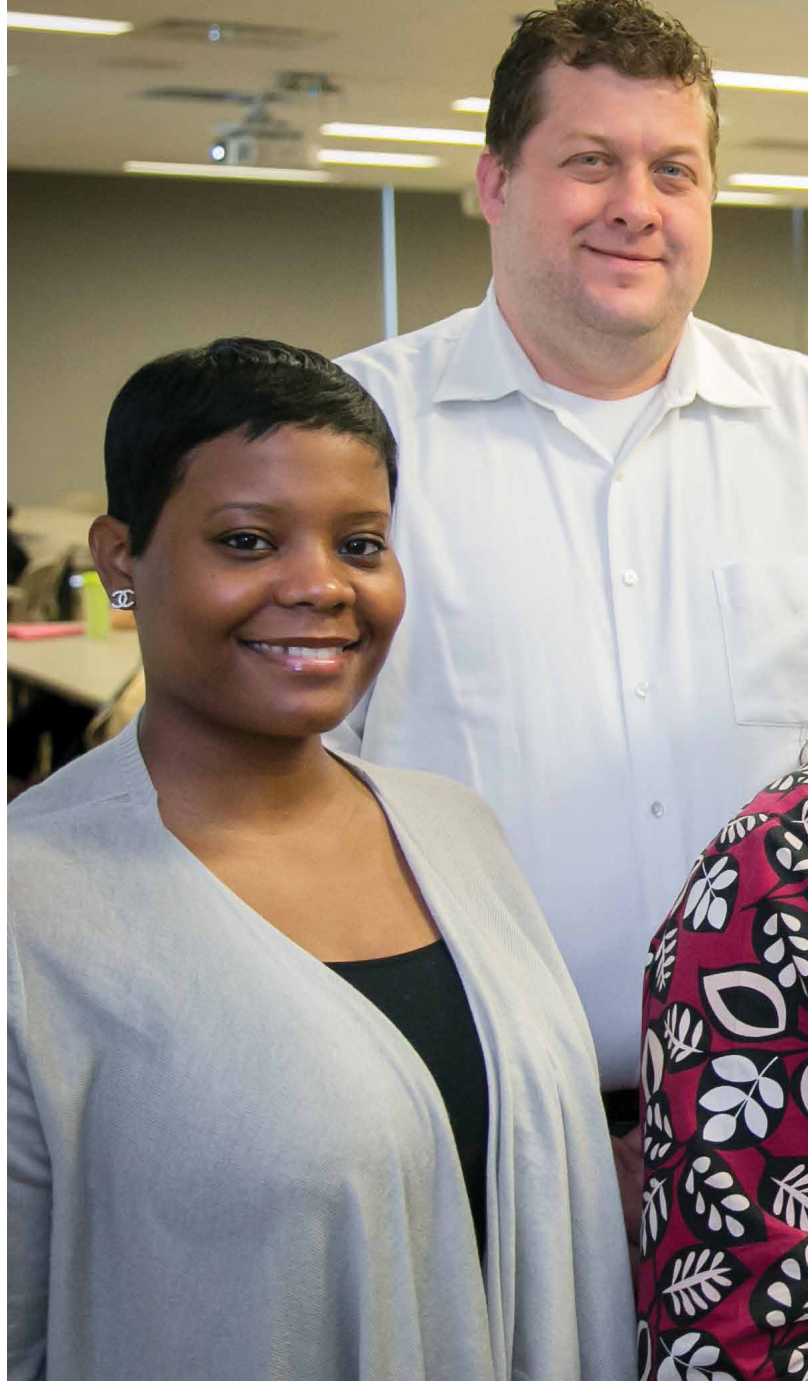
It’s a beautiful fit,” Holka enthuses, “to tie into the Healthy People 2020 objectives by implementing community health initiatives. Nursing students develop an understanding of the role and challenges of the public health nurse. These are examples of providing our nursing students with the opportunities to work in interdisciplinary teams.”

Jacob Allen, one of Holka’s second-year students, agrees. Holka gave Allen special permission to present his team’s poster to his alma mater, Utica High School’s nursing assistant class.

“You learn the material inside and out when you’re teaching it,” Allen explained.

Jill Bologna (BSN, ’87), the nursing assistant instructor at Utica High, said Allen and the safe sleep team made a positive impression on her students.

“They asked some questions and took a quiz on it after, but I think they enjoyed learning about nursing school from a peer or someone they see as a mentor, like Jacob,” Bologna said.



As a result, Bologna and Holka are working on bringing the high school students for a tour of OU’s SON and put them in touch with an admissions advisor.

Allen will be busy this fall as Holka will have him and other sophomores learning about immunizations thanks to a new partnership with Oakland County Health Division.

“Nurses are asked to be an expert when they graduate, whether it’s through a job or with a family member, so it’s important for a nursing student to know all they can about vaccines while still in school,” said Patricia Vranesich, a registered nurse with the health department.



*Front row: Sonya Gary, RN, Kim Holka, RN, Marianne Crane, RN, and Kara Marsh, MPH  
Back row: Andrew Cox, REHS and Suzanne Lugger, RN*

"Communicable diseases aren't as present as they once were and it's important for nurses to understand the scientific research of the vaccines that helped us reduce it," Vranesich reasoned.

Holka also used her networking skills to assist the Macomb County Health Department with a \$20,000 grant its Medical Reserve Corps won for emergency preparedness education. OU students will learn the program and then teach it to the 5,000 fifth graders in the county, who would then pass the knowledge on to their families.

"Kim has 90 students, so they can take the lesson across the county," said Kara Marsh, Medical Reserve Corps volunteer coordinator. "This partnership is essential for this project."

Jennifer Nagy was just looking for some volunteers when she met Holka about 10 years ago.

They've worked on several student-led projects, highlighting various cancer awareness campaigns including colorectal, skin and breast cancers.

"Kim has helped us create a whole new level of ambassador," said Jennifer Nagy, an account representative of the American Cancer Society.

"Partnerships are essential to our success," Nagy added. ■

*Rene Wisely is freelance writer based in Bloomfield Hills, Mich*



knowledge guide example  
creativity intelligence idea  
growth advice relationship  
practice coaching  
**Learning** analysis  
training ability tutorial  
education teaching principle  
skill instruction development  
responsibility potential system  
solution potential system  
communication inspiration

# Practice what you teach

Faculty member Carolyn Tieppo balances teaching with private practice

**“W**hich do you like better – teaching or practicing?” It’s a question that faculty member and private practice Nurse Practitioner Carolyn Tieppo is asked quite often.

“I respond by saying that teaching children and families and managing their health needs is equally important to me as my work in preparing future nurses and nurse practitioners. I cannot imagine one without the other since my clinical practice permits me to stay up-to-date and share elements of my practice and clinical examples with students to help increase their understanding.”

For Tieppo, who earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from OU in August 2013, an early interest in biological science, chemistry and health care made nursing a natural fit.

A metro Detroit area native, Tieppo received her BSN and MSN from Wayne State University with a major in Advanced Practice Nursing and a concentration in Pediatric Primary Care, which prepared her for examination and board certification as a pediatric nurse practitioner in primary care (PNP-PC). She has worked solely with children since 1991 including the neonatal intensive care unit, general pediatrics, pediatric mental health and school health.

Tieppo says another area of her work she is often asked to explain is the difference between a nurse practitioner, a nurse, a physician’s assistant and a pediatrician. “I explain the difference by saying that my education as a baccalaureate nurse prepared me to become a registered nurse (RN), which was the foundation for my education in advance practice nursing and my work as an NP. The NP’s approach to patient care includes nursing theory which makes the role unique,” she says.

Although her function is very similar to that of a primary care pediatrician, the educational background and approach to health care delivery does differ.

“I have a very similar schedule to the physicians in the practice with a few exceptions, including completing rounds in a hospital,” says Tieppo, who, in addition to her full-time faculty position, also works in a Downriver private pediatric practice. “In pediatric primary care we see well children for

routine physical examination to the very acutely ill, needing hospitalization.”

Tieppo often advises her students to job shadow and talk to people who are in the role they wish to pursue. “The SON has many information sessions for students wishing to learn more about the NP program,” says Tieppo, noting that the OU/SON website is a good place to begin.

OU’s NP program consists of two tracks; the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) track and the Adult Gerontological NP track (AGNP). Students may enter the program as post-baccalaureate earning a MSN or post-master’s certificate program. Completion of each track prepares the student for national certification by examination as either a FNP or AGNP.

OU graduates become employed in a variety of settings including private practice, community health centers, health care systems and government jobs.

For Tieppo, contributing to and witnessing both the BSN and MSN students’ growth is equally as satisfying as treating children in practice. She notes that the great constant in nursing education and private practice is that there is always change, and staying ahead through training is key. One example is with the Affordable Health Care Act. While it has increased access to primary care for many people, it has also brought about significant changes in reimbursement but it has also affected access to health care through co-pays and deductibles.

“Health care remains a dynamic field and change is to be expected. As an NP, clinical decision making includes many factors, so learning the changes that affect patients is an ongoing endeavor,” she says.

This fall, Tieppo will be representing OU at the Michigan Center for Nursing Summit where her doctoral research has been selected for a poster presentation. She was also awarded a Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) grant to attend the Lilly Conference Series on College and University Teaching and Learning in Traverse City in October. ■



# Balancing act

## Transformative patient-centered care: a masterful blend of science and art

*By Mary Gunderson-Switzer*

**N**ursing isn't only about how to attend to diverse medical needs and perform care-related tasks; at its best, nursing is about insight that comes with establishing a meaningful connection with each patient – something Claudia Grobbel helps her students put to practice.

"Today's nurse has a lot of duties to manage in environments that are in flux," says Grobbel, DNP, RN, assistant professor at Oakland's School of Nursing (SON). "It can get hectic, but nurses need to make patients an intentional priority, taking the time to engage with every patient...these interactions enable nurses to gain insight on how to respond most effectively to each patient's unique situation."

In addition to providing classroom instruction, Grobbel offers students a creative way to hone their decision-making skills.

"There's an interesting, interactive way for students to practice prioritization of their nursing duties so that patients are never lost in the shuffle," Grobbel says.

How?

She allows her students to experience a dose of controlled chaos.

### Care in practice

As part of Grobbel's nursing leadership and management course simulation lab, students step into a nurse's shoes.

The program was established based on using the Quality and Safety Education in Nursing (QSEN) six core competencies, which not only address patient-centered care practices but also include: quality improvement; safety; teamwork/ collaboration; evidence-based practice, and informatics.

While clinical experience provides nurses with the science involved with direct patient care, these simulations target the communication and leadership aspects of care. In other words, "How do interactions with people impact the quality and safety – the overall best care – of the patients?"

Oakland's SON students and faculty participate in making the mock lab scenarios as real as possible.

While performing routine nursing duties, students are thrown curve balls that come with the job, including reporting/ documentation work; billing questions; and numerous – but

often necessary – interruptions, such as a physician's phone call or a lab technician's page.

"The question for students is: 'What comes first?', which is more an art than science," Grobbel explains. "When students are asked to follow established protocols in caring for patients and maintain effective communication with staff, they see what it's like to juggle many tasks and must quickly make judgment calls based on priority."

Students receive a "debriefing" after their experiences; they talk about what they feel went right or any bad consequences they saw with their decisions.

"They learn what to do differently next time, and I think it sticks with them," Grobbel says. "I hear from our nurses now out in the field, and they express how well these simulations prepared them."

Grobbel's involvement with her students doesn't end with class instruction and "real-world" simulations; she supports their efforts to dig deeper into community outreach and research.

### Leading by example

As the faculty adviser for the Student Nursing Association at Oakland University (SNAOU), Grobbel believes in the value of participating in an organization that offers nursing students a forum to share ideas and become active in their communities.

A service-driven organization, SNAOU members participate in numerous charitable events, including the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life" and "Walk for Warmth," an annual campaign to help Oakland County families cover winter heating expenses.

"Leadership is an action, not a title," says Grobbel. "In stepping up to help those in their communities, they show themselves to be leaders-in-the-making."

The SNAOU routinely teams up for community fundraisers/ volunteer work with OU's Sigma Theta Tau Theta Psi Chapter, an extension of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Both groups explore evidence-based nursing principles and develop leadership practices by attending various events throughout the year.



Grobbel also believes in the value of fun.

"Part of nurse networking is simply participating in pleasurable activities, whether that's a fall newcomer bonfire or a winter dance, and they enjoy their time together," she says.

Grobbel is always available to members to provide guidance and direction on their career goals.

It's this extraordinary faculty support SON students have come to expect, and it extends into the world of research.

### Looking ahead

This year's Sigma Theta Tau Theta Psi 'Research Day' at OU's Human Health Building (HHB) showcased the largest number of poster presentations in its 10-year history.

"Faculty incorporated the research poster presentations into classroom assignments this year, which created increased enthusiasm for the event," Grobbel says.

Posters from undergraduate and graduate students were on display in a hallway at the HHB and viewed by nursing students, health science students and staff and faculty.

Poster topics ranged from preventing childhood obesity – to the effects of massage therapy on osteoarthritis – to the effectiveness of a low-carbohydrate diet on decreasing the risk of Metabolic Syndrome.

In addition to excitement generated by financial awards for the top-rated undergraduate and graduate winners (presented by a representative from the Oakland University Credit Union), the event featured a talk on the need for forensic nursing, delivered by Kelly Berishaj, DNP, RN, visiting instructor.

The number of event attendees was also the largest in the event's history.

"We had to move the presentation to a larger room, which was a happy, last-minute adjustment," Grobbel says.

The number of attendees and dynamic dialog that ensued is a good sign of things to come.

"The inquisitive, driven nature of our students is encouraging," Grobbel reflects. "These nurses of tomorrow are as dedicated as ever to balance both the science and art of nursing, and that bodes well for the 'above and beyond' type of care their patients can expect." ■

*Mary Gunderson-Switzer is a freelance writer living in Warner Robins, Ga.*



# Nurse practitioner graduates achieve a 100% pass rate on national certification exams

*Reprinted from the OU Magazine*

**F**or the second year in a row, graduates of Oakland University's nurse practitioner programs achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national certification exams in their respective fields.

Oakland offers Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner programs, which provide registered nurses with specialized knowledge and advanced training to manage both acute and chronic illnesses in a variety of settings. The programs are part of the OU School of Nursing's Master of Science in Nursing program.

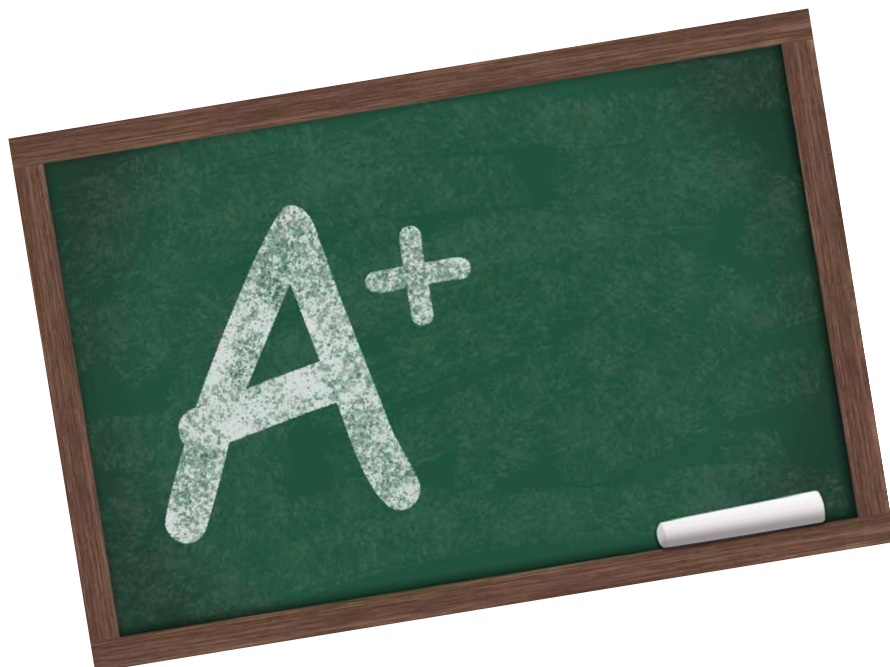
Working in community-based clinics, hospitals, and long-term care settings, nurse practitioners possess clinical expertise in diagnosing and treating numerous health conditions, with an emphasis on health management and disease prevention. Family nurse practitioners treat a multitude of populations, from the neonate to the elderly, while adult/gerontological nurse practitioners specialize in caring for aging populations.

A total of 36 OU students passed the Nurse Practitioner exams, according to Deana Hays, director of nurse practitioner programs.

"I believe what has made us so successful is that we focus on quality, rather than quantity," Hays said. "We have wonderful faculty that work collaboratively to ensure that our students are receiving a comprehensive curriculum that builds as the student progresses through the program. All of our NP faculty currently practice as nurse practitioners, which allows them to bring a high level of clinical expertise to the classroom."

Administered through the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the exams gauge student knowledge on the assessment, diagnosis and management of various illnesses across multiple populations and age groups. They also evaluate students' ability to communicate with patients and address questions related to health insurance coverage and exploring cost-effective care options.

"We are proud to have our students achieve a 100 percent pass rate on these exams. That's well above the national average of 83.38 percent," Hays said. "This achievement is a testament to how prepared our students are for practice in the primary care areas." To learn more about nursing programs at OU, visit the website at [oakland.edu/nursing](http://oakland.edu/nursing). ■





# School of Nursing programs

**Basic Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)**  
**Accelerated Second Degree (BSN)**  
**BSN Degree Completion Sequence (fully online)**

**Master of Science in Nursing:**  
**Adult/Gero Nurse Practitioner**  
**Family Nurse Practitioner**  
**Nurse Anesthesia**

**Doctor of Nursing Practice**







# Student group strives to raise awareness about human trafficking

Doing nothing is not an option for these students

*By Cara Catallo*

**C**hristine Johnson knew she had to do something: Doing nothing wasn't an option.

When the SON senior, set to graduate in December, heard a lecture about human trafficking, the graphic stories about modern-day slavery abroad and in the United States propelled Johnson and fellow OU student Jessica Hartman to start Freedom Fighters 6.12, a faith-based campus organization committed to raising awareness about human trafficking and fighting modern-day slavery. The pair chose the name to reflect hope and a sense of guiding purpose, referring to the Biblical verse Ephesians 6:12, says Johnson, adding that although the organization is faith-based, it welcomes everyone.

Human trafficking – defined as the exploitation of a person by use of force, fraud or coercion – can mean sexual, labor, human organ or even infant trafficking and affects an estimated 27 million people worldwide, says Johnson, adding that statistics are approximate because of its difficulty to track.

"There is something that you can do to help fight this injustice," says Johnson. "I do know what's going on." There's a sense of responsibility with that knowledge of doing your part even if it's small. Our mission is to raise awareness at Oakland University and to fundraise for local organizations who actually are on the front lines of fighting human trafficking."

Since starting last September the group hosted speakers from the Michigan Abolitionist Project and Detroit-based All Worthy of Love, which distributes hygiene kits, food and support to Detroit-area prostitutes. They partnered with SNAOU to hold a hygiene kit drive to collect toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and shampoo, and along with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship assembled more than 100 kits for All Worthy of Love. Freedom Fighters 6.12 also partnered with Sigma Theta Tau to host an inter-professional

educational seminar in April where a panel discussed the different roles social work, nursing and law enforcement, among other fields, have in combatting human trafficking. Freedom Fighters 6.12 believes in collaboration and represents that by having a board consisting of students from different majors. The current board consists of Jessica Hartman, a pre-med major, Christina Ramsey, a social work and theater double major, and Tiffany Calderon, Vicky Toth-Kenward, and Johnson who are nursing majors. Johnson emphasized the need to relay the signs of human trafficking stating, "If you don't know what the signs are, you won't know to report it. It definitely needs to be a team effort."

Signs of human trafficking include psychiatric issues, such as a patient fearing the person accompanying them; explanations that seem rehearsed; malnutrition; untreated STDs or other diseases; bruises in low-visibility locations; tie-marks; and tattoos similar to branding, perhaps on wrists or the inside of lips. It is important to note that if victims reach a medical setting, manipulation and psychological trauma from traffickers' threats make it unlikely victims will risk self-reporting.

"We really have an opportunity to do something great and revolutionary," Johnson says. "I think Oakland has a great opportunity to reach more people and I love the idea of the next generation having a big impact on this."

Johnson's enthusiasm resonates with the SON faculty too.

"I think it's a much-needed organization," says SON Associate Professor Carrie Buch, faculty advisor for Freedom Fighters 6.12. "They've been outstanding. Their energy and enthusiasm was infectious. They were very well organized. All of the events were very successful. It amazed me how well informed they were. They went above and beyond to make the first year a success. To learn more about Freedom Fighters 6.12 visit Facebook or GrizzOrgs. ■

# Giving back through mission trips

By Sandra Beckwith

**G**ood nurses are known for the compassion they bring to their patients, but sometimes that concern extends far beyond their work environment.

Several OU students and alumni from the certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) program have taken their nursing skills to the needy in Third World countries by volunteering for medical mission trips. They overcame travel difficulties, dealt with medical challenges and uncertainty, and made personal sacrifices to serve those who don't have regular access to health care.

Mission travel can be particularly challenging, since locations with the greatest need are often the hardest to reach.

When student Rachael Shulskie volunteered for a 10-day mission trip to Kenya earlier this year, she had to fly to Nairobi, then take a 12-hour van ride to reach the clinic in Migori, Kenya.

Similarly, with her first mission relief trip to Haiti immediately after the January 2010 earthquake that devastated that Caribbean nation, grad Angie Williamson couldn't fly into Port-au-Prince because of the damage there. She flew to the neighboring Dominican Republic instead and took an 11-hour bus trip to the Haitian capital.

## Clinic conditions pose problems

Conditions at mission medical clinics are rarely ideal. In the Kenyan clinic where Shulskie served through the nonprofit Kenya Relief, random power outages made surgery challenging.

"We lost power every couple of hours and couldn't use some of our tools for cauterizing and suction then," she says.

And because the Kenyan clinic couldn't store much blood, Shulskie was concerned about patient blood loss, especially during one particularly difficult procedure. That patient had a nearly 8-pound goiter interfering with his breathing and swallowing.



"He lost a lot of blood and we didn't have any on hand. I was worried, but I'm so glad he came through the operation fine," she says, adding that without surgery, the patient would have died within a year.

In Gracias, Honduras, where CRNA student Will Sikes worked at a clinic built and supported by a Kalamazoo, Mich., orthopedic surgeon in the fall of 2013, guns are commonplace.

"It's not one of the safest places. There are a lot of drug crimes and shotguns, but the guns are mostly for protection, not for attack," says the military veteran.

## Assignments depend on surgeon specialties

All three noted that the work they did on site often depended on the specialties of the physicians on the trip. Sikes provided anesthesia for knee and shoulder operations as well as cleft and prostate surgery. With two otolaryngologists, a general surgeon, and an obstetrician on her team, Shulskie provided anesthesia for a range of procedures, but primarily goiter removal and hernia repair.

Williamson's second mission trip through the I Wish Foundation of Midland, Mich., included obstetricians, so much of her work involved assisting with obstetric operations and procedures. She also taught courses in airway management and another on epidurals.







### **Paid their own way**

All OU volunteers made financial and personal sacrifices to participate. In addition to paying their own way, they often left families and clocked out of their studies to participate.

"I can't count this training toward my degree and it was a week of not logging cases, but I can't explain how rewarding it was," says Sikes. "Those people stood around all day waiting for help and never complained. They were so grateful."

Shulskie overcame fear and family objections to travel to Kenya.

"The immunizations made me sick and I was afraid to go," she says. "There were plenty of news stories saying it wasn't a safe place and there was a travel advisory about Nairobi. But I never once felt unsafe. And the people there were so gracious, polite and welcoming. I would absolutely love to go again," she adds.

Williamson, a mother who has completed two trips, is hooked.

"I loved seeing the nursing students' faces light up when I showed them tools and techniques that were more advanced than what they were using," she says.

Shulskie points out that you don't have to leave the country to make a difference, though.

"You can donate supplies or contribute to fundraisers," she says.

Still, Sikes knows he'll do more than that again.

"I will absolutely do another mission trip, without a doubt," he says. ■

*By Sandra Beckwith, a Fairport, N.Y.-based freelance writer.*







*In August, the Oakland University Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program held its pinning ceremony in the Oakland Center where thirty-six beaming students, dressed in all white nursing attire, were pinned, as they completed their course of study in the LPN program. The students' family members, staff from the LPN program, as well as the new President of Oakland University, Dr. George Hynd was in attendance as well as Provost James Lentini and former Board of Trustee member Monica Emerson. The pride was evident as students embarked on their new journey into the professional world of nursing. Best of luck to them on their state examination.*

# OU pursues partnership with Focus:HOPE

**L**ynda Poly Droulard, MSN '11, MSN, MEd, RN, CNE, says the timing could not have been more perfect for the collaboration between OU SON and Focus:HOPE.

"In November 2013, we were approached by Focus:HOPE with the desire to partner with OU in order to bring health care education under the auspice of their services. At the time, our lease agreement at the Riverview Institute was coming to completion, so it was serendipity," says Poly Droulard, former Executive Director of the Riverview Institute.

Focus:HOPE is nationally recognized for its commitment and services to the residents of Detroit. For more than 40 years, Focus:HOPE has reached out to Detroit residents and the under-served to provide education, training and professional development.

The proposed partnership between Focus:HOPE and Oakland University evolved from both parties having a similar vision and goal of assisting the residents of Detroit and surrounding communities with health care training to address the current nursing shortage.

Jenaye Lisbon, MSN, RN, Director-Practical Nursing Program, says there are currently two groups that are matriculating through the LPN program: one just finished in August and another this December.

"We are very excited about this opportunity to collaborate with Focus:HOPE and the surrounding communities. This collaboration will allow us to reach community members that previously did not have access to our educational services," says Lisbon. "We take pride in the opportunity to remove barriers that have hindered clientele from our services."

Poly Droulard says she worked closely with the Dean of Nursing and the administrative team to obtain Board of Trustee (BOT) approval to relocate the LPN and other certificate programs, specifically the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program to Focus:HOPE. The Accelerated Second Degree Nursing program that was housed at



*Jenaye Lisbon and Poly Droulard*

Riverview Institute was relocated to the Anton Frankel Center in Mt. Clemens and Oakland's main campus.

In addition to assisting in negotiating the lease agreement and the move of almost 60,000 square feet of equipment and furniture to several different locations, Poly Droulard says she was most pleased when then Interim President Betty J. Youngblood and Senior Vice President and Provost James P. Lentini toured Focus:HOPE and met the executive team prior to BOT approval.

Moving forward, Poly Droulard says she will be working with the administrative team to form a more long term relationship with Focus:HOPE and seek out grants and program funding to create a Health care Career Ladder opportunity for the residents of Detroit and clients in surrounding communities.

"Our goal is to reach out to the under-served and provide opportunities for career development," says Poly Droulard.

The career ladder model will include a CNA and LPN program with plans for a LPN to BSN program in the future. Lisbon says Focus:HOPE's expertise with job training and career development will have far-reaching effects into the community and over time. "Partnership with Focus:HOPE paves the way for a collaboration model for nursing education that would provide a pipeline of students for our continuing education program in nursing," she says.

Oakland University Continuing Education programs meet the growing demand for nurses and nursing personnel by offering certificate programs that allow students the opportunity to work in entry level nursing positions in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities.

A long-term relationship will provide opportunities for program funding and services that OU would have been otherwise unable to offer to clients. The OU partnership with Focus: HOPE, once final approval is given by the Board of Trustees, will provide the ability to reach communities that many of its nursing graduates serve. ■



# New Center for Excellence expands AAT program

By Sandra Beckwith



**O**akland University's new one-of-a-kind Human Animal Interaction Center for Excellence is designed to reinforce and expand the School of Nursing's position as one of the top educators in the world for animal assisted therapy.

The online animal assisted therapy certificate program started in 2008 and now attracts global students from as far away as Hong Kong and Israel. The new Center for Excellence hopes to become the primary resource for all things related to the field including standards, best-practices and research.

Cynthia Sifonis, a Department of Psychology faculty member who teaches a module in the current certification program, stresses the importance of the Center's research component.

"People with the best intentions can be implementing something that not only doesn't work, but could have adverse effects, too. Research will prove whether a particular approach is or isn't effective. That will help practitioners make sure they're using the right tactics," Sifonis says.

## Establishing standards

The Center combines the expertise of leaders in the field to disseminate benchmarks, best practices and ethical standards as well.

"We hope that the benchmarks will encourage collaborations with people in the field, whether they're training animals or working with special populations," says Jennifer Cepnick, program assistant, who helped establish the Center. The new Center acts as a role model for those hoped-for inter-disciplinary collaborations, too. Center director and program instructor Amy Johnson has recruited high-profile board members from a variety of the disciplines involved to guide its development by serving on the Center's advisory

board including Melissa Winkle from Animal Assisted Interventions International, Dr. Aubrey Fine (author), Colleen Pelar (author) and other impressive colleagues.

"In addition to representing different disciplines, they bring new perspectives to our program. This approach will help us make sure that we're promoting the same competency standards across all disciplines involved with animal assisted therapy."

## Creating a credentialed program

One of the Center's goals is to expand the certification program to include credentials that become recognized as animal assisted therapy professionals in the field.

"Those letters after your name on a resume give you a certain legitimacy," says Cepnick. "We want to offer our animal assisted therapy students the type of credentialed training that gives them a competitive edge when they're applying for a job or introducing an animal assisted therapy program to an organization."

In addition, while the training up to this point has been non-credit, Johnson hopes to offer for-credit courses in the coming semesters as a part of the Center's mission.

"Our goal is to provide students with all of the tools they need to fully understand the dynamics of human animal behavior and animal assisted therapy. Just as importantly, though, we will support the industry with research conducted through the Center and provide best practices that everyone can turn to and learn from, whether they go through our training program or not," she says.

"We know it will take time," she says, "but we're excited about the impact we'll be able to have on practitioners and the people and animals they support."

To learn more about the new Center for Excellence, visit [oakland.edu/animalassistedtherapy](http://oakland.edu/animalassistedtherapy). ■



# SON Highlights



**Amanda Green, PhD (c), MSN, PHCNS**, is currently enrolled in the MS-to-PhD program's Population Health track. She earned her BSN from Oakland University and her MSN from Boston College. She has worked at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago in general medicine and at Upham's Corner Health Center in Dorchester in urgent care. She is interested in reducing health disparities in the

urban community, specifically with asthma and other chronic disease management in school-aged children. She chose UMass Boston because of its shared commitment to urban and global engagement and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences because of its strong nurse scholar leadership. Amanda is a Jonas Scholar and received the Arlyne Barnett Doctoral Scholarship from Sigma Theta Tau International's Theta Alpha Chapter for leadership and academic excellence. She continues to work with colleagues at Boston Children's Hospital related to the School Inner-City Asthma Study and with the Healthy Directions team from Dana Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) on qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

**Barbara Penprase, Janean Monahan and Lynda Poly-Droulard** conducted the first collaborative simulation between the Basic and ASD Nursing students in the perioperative elective course.

**Faculty and students** received 8th place out of 20 in Top 20 articles of 2013 from the American Association of Nurse Anesthesia for their article: McLott, J., Jurecic, J., Hemphill, L. & Dunn, K. (2013) Development of an amygdalocentric neurocircuitry-reactive aggression theoretical model of emergence delirium in post-traumatic stress disorder: an integrative literature review. AANA J; Oct; 81(5): 379-84

**The Human Health Building** won the 2014 Construction and Design Award from The Engineering Society of Detroit.

The manuscript entitled "Student Immersion Into Perioperative Nursing" written by **Barbara Penprase, Lynda Poly-Droulard, Janean Monahan and Stephanie Prechowski** was accepted for publication in the AORN Journal.

**Jillian Gookin and Lana Elia** are SON students in the Perioperative Program who attended the Association of Operating Room Nurses 61st Annual Surgical Conference and Expo in Chicago and made it in the AORN magazine.



**Carolyn Tieppo's** poster abstract was accepted for the 2014 Michigan Center for Nursing Summit.

**Kelly Berishaj's** poster abstract was accepted for the 2014 Michigan Center for Nursing Summit.

**Nicole Clark's** poster "An Evidence-Based Intervention Project: Giving Back to the Preceptor" was accepted for the 2014 Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioner's conference.

**Barb Penprase and Lynda Poly-Droulard's** poster entitled "Pedagogical Strategies to Empower Students to Learn" has been accepted by the Oakland University / University of Windsor 8th Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning 2014.

**CEO Denise Rabidoux, BSN '77**, was the winner in Crain's Detroit Business: Corporate Achievement in Health Care for leading Evangelical Homes to a transitional nursing home to a provider of various services.

**Simon Keleel, BSN '10**, was a winner of Children's Hospital 2014 Nurse of the Year – Practice out of over 400 nurses.

# Calendar of Events

## Human Health Day

**April 18, 2015, 9 a.m. - Noon**

### Human Health Building

Attention future health professionals: come to Human Health Day to learn about academic offerings in the School of Nursing and School of Health Sciences. You'll get to talk to faculty and staff during a lab and facilities tour in the Human Health Building. You'll also learn about OU's admission requirements, scholarships and financial aid. Reservations are required. Reserve your spot today at [oakland.edu/visit](http://oakland.edu/visit).

## 8th Annual Nurse Practitioner Networker and Preceptor Appreciation Night

**March 5, 2015, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

### On the campus of Oakland University

Enjoy an evening of professional networking, career building, and help us thank our preceptors. Please check the website for details and updates.

## Nightingale Awards

### for Nursing Excellence®

**May 7, 2015, starting at 5 p.m.**

### San Marino Club in Troy

The Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence® celebration recognizes the hard-working, highly skilled, caring individuals who play such a vital role in our health care delivery system. Nightingale celebrations have provided Oakland University's School of Nursing with numerous benefits for students and faculty that include: Scholarships for students, research support for faculty and cutting-edge technology and resources for the School of Nursing to ensure access to advanced nursing education at Oakland University.

# News briefs

**Associate Professor Dr. Karen Dunn** and **Adjunct Instructor Kim Holka** worked with **Susan Zacharski** from the Michigan School Nurse Task Force along with SON master's students to write school nurse primers and modules which are now live on the Michigan Department of Education website. Primers are available at [www.michigan.gov/schoolhealthservices](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolhealthservices)

SON professor **Dr. Suha Kridli** has been notified that she was selected to be the Editor of a special issue of The Scientific World Journal. The special issue is titled: Childhood Obesity: Causes, Prevention and Treatment.

The School of Nursing, along with HAVEN of Oakland County, have offered six week leadership development workshops designed to motivate students to play a central role in ending bullying, violence and sexual assault on campus and in the community called the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program. Both sessions were filled to capacity and the winter sessions are on their way to a full section as well.

# Transitions

## In Appreciation

The School of Nursing is thankful for the efforts and talents of faculty and staff who have changed their career trajectory. Everyone in the School of Nursing wishes them the best of luck.

**Peggy McLaughlin**

**Janean Monaham**

**Sandra Deering**

**Gina Palombo**

**Carrie Sliwinski**

**Deana Hays** has become the Interim Associate Dean

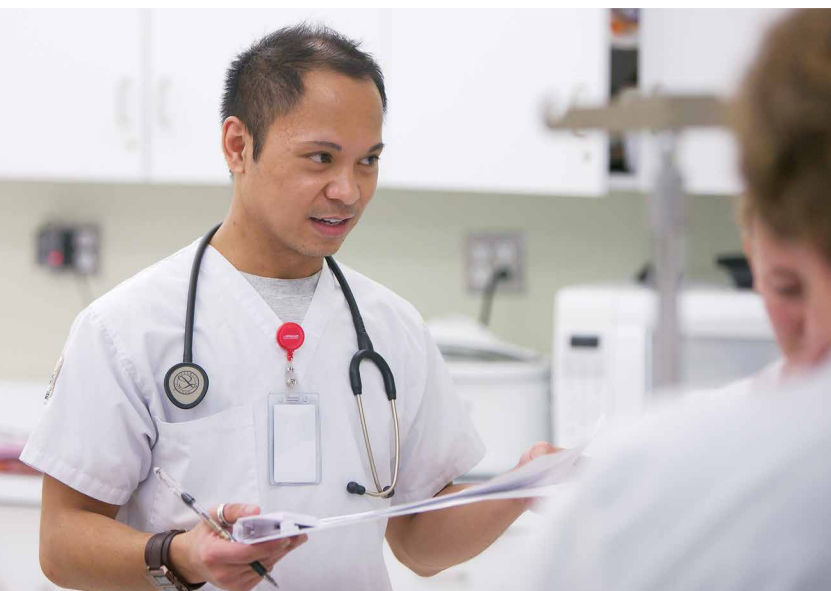
**Barb Penprase** has been appointed Full Professor

**Colleen Meade Ripper** is the new Director of the Nurse Practitioner Program

**Kristina Aaron** has become the Interim Assistant Dean of Academic Advising

**Jill Asselin** is the new Assistant to the Associate Dean





## Take your nursing career to the next level **DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM**

Oakland University is a Carnegie Doctoral Research University. The School of Nursing programs prepare students for 21st century nursing practice at all levels. The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program emphasizes excellence in practice, interprofessional leadership in a variety of environments and the importance of evidence for best practice.

Oakland University is a state-assisted school with nearly 20,000 students. All programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

### **THE DNP NURSING CURRICULUM FOSTERS SKILLS IN**

- Advocacy and reform in health care and government on local, regional, state and national levels
- Improvement of various population health outcomes
- Integrating translational research into evidence-based practice models
- Interprofessional collaboration
- Clinical professorships in academic institutions
- Incorporating information systems and patient care technologies
- Preparation in becoming clinical leaders in health care systems

### **DNP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- **First school** in Michigan to offer the DNP program
- **Flexible:** Full-time working nurses can complete the program by following a part-time plan of study.
- **Diverse:** Students throughout the U.S. are enrolled online.
- **Leadership experiences:** Curriculum includes a trip to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. and courses emphasizing leadership.
- **In-state tuition for out-of-state students**



# A student's perspective

A Poem by Andrew Alayoubi

I am studying to be a nurse. I've taken classes and prepared to assess patients. I've been taught what to look for to reach a diagnosis. I've seen what makes an abnormality, just that. I've learned processes and flow diagrams on how the body works. I've prepared myself, mentally, to assess patients in the hospital. I've reviewed in my mind, the complications of diseases along with the assessment findings that follow. I started my shift. I read the chart, "Failure to thrive." I gave this patient a death sentence before I even stepped foot in the room. I prepared myself, mentally, on having this patient die on my shift. I went through the scenario of a rapid response that would mean nothing because the patient was a "Do not resuscitate." I was prepared to let go of a patient, on a permanent discharge. I walked into the patient's room.

That's when life happened.

She tried to hold my hand when I went to turn her wrist to see her ID band. She tried to speak and gave everything she had to let her voice be heard by me. She tried to move her arm as much as she could, more than she had in the past 12 days. She looked at me. She looked at me, not just with her eyes, but with her soul.

That's when life happened.

I looked at her face but couldn't see her eyes. I couldn't assess corneal reflex or check her pupils. I couldn't see her eyes. I saw her soul. I didn't see her diagnosis. I didn't see her DNR. I didn't see what the night nurse said about her. I didn't see the topic of my next concept care map. I didn't see my next 12 hours. I saw her soul. I didn't see her giving up. I didn't see, just a body. I saw her soul.

That's when life happened.

Classes can't teach me about life. Life is a course that I study for every day. Everything in life is on the final exam. I am studying life. I am studying to be a life technician. When I am a RN, I am still studying. Life's course doesn't end until I end. When my course ends, I want to know I did everything I could, not for the human body or carrying out an intervention. I want to know I did everything I could in someone else's life. I want to pass my final exam. Class is in session, and I learned that the body is just the surface of who I am caring for, every day, not just every shift.

That's when life happened.

- A student in life, and also in nursing



## Animal-Assisted Therapy certificate program

Animal-assisted therapy offers a positive behavioral support intervention for people with emotional or behavioral problems as well as provides support for the critically ill, elderly, physically impaired and more. The difference you'll make in the lives of others is extremely rewarding.

Gain the skills necessary to properly use animal-assisted interventions in the Oakland University Animal-Assisted Therapy certificate program.

The five eight-week modules include an introduction to animal-assisted interventions, the psychology of animal-assisted interventions, special populations, working with

animals and a final capstone project. The program is completely online with a couple of the assignments involving meeting with people in the field in your area.

For more information, visit [oakland.edu/animalassistedtherapy](http://oakland.edu/animalassistedtherapy) or contact Amy Johnson, director for the AATC program, at (248) 364-8704 or [johnson2@oakland.edu](mailto:johnson2@oakland.edu).



3060 Human Health Building  
2200 North Squirrel Road  
Rochester, MI 48309-4401





For more information about the School of Nursing at Oakland University,  
visit [oakland.edu/nursing](http://oakland.edu/nursing), email [nrsinfo@oakland.edu](mailto:nrsinfo@oakland.edu) or call (248) 370-4253.

