

KCON

KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING

KCON's Wesorick Center

Building a Legacy of
Health Care Transformation

The Wesorick Center:
Building on a Dream

Studying Local Health Care
Services Integration



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

KCON

KCON MAGAZINE PRODUCTION

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From The Dean

As new graduates enter into the profession of nursing, they are challenged to consider the question, "Are you on this planet to do something, or are you here just for something to do?" This becomes a question that can be instrumental in motivating someone to become a *legacy leader*. Being a legacy leader brings with it a responsibility to do something of significance — something that truly matters — that ultimately makes individuals, families, communities, organizations, nations, and even the world better than they are today. It often means going beyond one's own personal interests or needs and doing that which is for the greater good.

In this edition of *KCON Magazine*, the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation is featured, and this concept of legacy leader comes alive as the outcomes of Bonnie Wesorick's work are explored. How Bonnie's legacy will be extended is made evident through an interview with the executive director of the Wesorick Center. Current accomplishments, including a major local research study, and future goals are highlighted in this issue. Evidence that the Wesorick Center can truly promote Bonnie's legacy is revealed in stories shared by KCON undergraduate and graduate students. And we announce the opening of the Institute for Polarity Thinking in Health Care, located in the Wesorick Center. This Institute will serve interdisciplinary leaders and teams in academia, research, and practice by developing the polarity thinking knowledge and skills critical for those seeking to transform health care.

I am excited to bring greetings to our collective community and to share the work and aspirations of the Wesorick Center. We continue to strive to *make a difference* through our work, knowing that society counts on the relevance we bring to the educational process. We challenge you to consider something. IF you are on this planet to do something, then what is it? What difference will it make? Because we must have legacy leaders if we want to transform health care, please join KCON's work and define your legacy. As the writer Goethe noted, "*Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.*"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cynthia McCurren'.

CYNTHIA McCURREN, PhD, RN, FNAP
DEAN AND PROFESSOR
KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING



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Kirkhof College of Nursing Position Available

Tenure Track Faculty: Seeking faculty member, with preference given to applicants with expertise in psych/mental health, community health, or nursing administration, and applicants with certification as an Adult/Gero NP, Adult NP, or Pediatric NP. GVSU is a comprehensive university located close to Lake Michigan in beautiful West Michigan. KCON is housed in a state-of-the-art facility located on "Health Hill" in Grand Rapids; our Academic Nurse Managed Center is located nearby.

For more information, please contact the dean, Dr. Cynthia McCurren, at (616) 331-5726. Apply online at www.gvsujobs.org; for assistance call Human Resources at 616-331-2215. TDD Callers: Call Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777.

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Building a Legacy of Health Care Transformation

By Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN, FNAP

What is the purpose of the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation at KCON? For those who have heard me speak or have read my previous reflections about the Wesorick Center, what follows will sound familiar. Since launching the campaign for the Center in 2009, our goal has remained unchanged. It is to ensure the ongoing legacy of Bonnie Wesorick.

"Legacy" refers to the life you lead and how you will be remembered. It might be the lessons that people say you taught them, the ideals you stood for, the feelings people had when they were with you, or the contributions that came from your leadership. A legacy emerges when the motivating focus in your life makes a meaningful impact and sets an example for the future. Legacies leave pathways for future generations who want to do something great.

So, what is the legacy of Bonnie Wesorick? Why is it so important that we sustain that legacy among our current and future health care providers? I have come to describe Bonnie's legacy as the "fire in the belly" that she instills in others. I believe this is the missing link needed to ensure person-centered care through effective, sustained,

team-based efforts. "Fire in the belly" has a generally accepted definition: " ... if you have 'fire in your belly,' you are ready to fight with energy and determination for what you believe is right; individual passion for the work that comes from within, and not from the dangling carrot of a paycheck or a good grade; the authentic self-desire to make a difference" (<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com>).

While there have been many laudable efforts to transform health care through person-centered care facilitated by teams, we are still falling short. Despite efforts to market "relationship care" and bring teams to the bedside, patients still feel isolated. They enter an uncoordinated quagmire of follow-up care after hospitalization. Universities preparing students for health careers launch interprofessional education initiatives and simulation experiences prior to graduation. However, upon graduation, a work setting that uses interprofessional team competencies as a framework for practice is not a job search criterion. And there are serious questions. Why do errors still occur? Why do patients feel like "another lump of flesh" on an assembly line? Why do we still focus on only one part of the patient's history when we need the whole story to promote a successful outcome?

DeWitt Baldwin (2007) has traced the path of interprofessional education and collaborative practice (IPECP) in health care in the U.S. from post-World War II efforts to the present. Historically, interprofessional teamwork generally emerges as an emphasis whenever there are fiscal pressures. The last 70 years have consistently shown that interdisciplinary education and practice is not easy. Barriers include disciplinary territoriality and systems apathy. Each step forward seems to end with a return to the status quo. Just having members of different professions work beside each other is not enough to generate change. Across the nation we are expending enormous resources in time and money to make IPECP work. So now is the time to give consideration to the legacy of Bonnie Wesorick.

More than 30 years ago, a former nursing student confronted Bonnie, saying that her nursing education had been a lie. The ideal of holistic, person-centered care taught in academia was simply not reality in the health care environment. We were compelled to deal with complex care issues and life-threatening decisions at a frantic pace, while unable to connect to the personal needs of individuals. Even today, working relationships among professionals are often unsupportive, intimidating, stressful, and even abusive. The work of healing, which should be rewarding, can easily become shrouded with self-doubt and disappointment.

While most of us accept what seems impossible to change, Bonnie refuses to believe this. She has committed her intellect, her spirit of inquiry, and her very soul to the work she knows she must do. Bonnie's true legacy is what she has lived: having the belief in what is right, the conviction to do something about it, and the perseverance to never give up. She has carried this fire in her belly, and she instills it within individuals in every system where her work is embraced. She begins with two core beliefs:

- Each person has the right to safe, individualized health care that promotes wholeness in body, mind, and spirit.
- A healthy culture begins with each person and is enhanced by self-work, healthy relationships, and system supports.

To ignite the passion for person-centered care, Bonnie has always believed in knowing the patient's story — connecting to each person's *humanness*. As she works with interprofessional teams of care providers, she takes them back to the core of why we do the work we do, using actual patients or videos to tell their stories. Utilizing a framework for practice, she guides each professional through the development of skills needed to work intentionally for person-centered care, applying the collective wisdom of the team.

We will never create teams that work together on behalf of every patient until there is a groundswell of those motivated to do this work. This is why Bonnie's work is successful. One person at a time eventually becomes a collective team. Collective teams spreading throughout a system can change outcomes at the systems level.

We cannot instill motivation to bring about true culture change simply because we engage in a few designated activities. Students can review IPE modules and do IP simulations. Staff can write on white boards and do shift report at the bedside. Primary care offices can make appointments through e-mail and provide health promotion teaching through computer-generated care plans. But these actions will not create teams or person-centered care. Not until each of us has the fire in the belly to be motivated *to make a difference, to fight with energy and determination for what is right, and to have the individual passion that comes from within* will we overcome today's health care barriers. This is Bonnie's legacy, and this is the work of the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation.

Reference

Baldwin, D. (2007). Some historical notes on interdisciplinary and interprofessional education and practice in health care in the USA. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 21(S1), 23-37.



Photo Left to Right: EVELYN CLINGERMAN, BONNIE WESORICK

The Wesorick Center: Building on a Dream

The Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation was founded at KCON in 2009 with the dream that a center for scholarship could generate practical results in the nation's daily health care practices. Based on the legacy of Bonnie Wesorick's life work, the Wesorick Center is now five years old and is on an accelerating path to tackle big hot-button issues, such as person-centered care, cost reduction, interprofessional education and collaborative practices, and health care culture change.

KCON Magazine recently talked with **Evelyn Clingerman**, PhD, CNE, FNAP, executive director. Here are some of her observations.

Q: How do the Wesorick Center and KCON relate to each other?

"I see KCON and the Wesorick Center as a double helix. We are intimately connected at multiple places and through experiences with students, faculty, and community partners. For example, three students were invited to attend our inaugural Interprofessional Summer Institute for Polarity Thinking. KCON faculty also were deeply involved in this institute and will be in the future. As an endowed Center situated within KCON, the two are integrated on multiple levels, and we welcome opportunities to partner with all other disciplines and organizations."

Q: Who does the Wesorick Center work with?

"Many GVSU faculty, primarily from KCON, ask for consultation services, including research data analysis, project and grant development, publication reviews, and assistance with scholarly projects. We also

work with Grand Rapids area partners who are interested in pragmatic scholarly work. The Center has projects underway with four faculty, two community partners, and multiple students."

Q: Tell us more about the KCON students.

"Students are critical to our mission. We have received graduate student funding from GVSU's Office of Graduate Studies, which allows a graduate student to enhance their education while contributing to the Center's projects. Four graduate students have taken independent studies to work on projects, and 10 graduate students have benefited from project consultations and direction. Also, four undergraduate students have taken independent studies, another undergraduate worked as a research assistant with a funded study, and two others have served as volunteers in the Center.

"Students come to the Wesorick Center seeking writing assistance and opportunities to become involved in projects with our community partners. They recognize a dissonance between practice and academia, and they want to make a difference in health care. So they come to us to find ways to become engaged in activities that are 'value added' to their already excellent education at GVSU. Students want to know how to contribute in meaningful ways to creating healthy work cultures for patients and providers."

Q: How does the Wesorick Center's work support KCON's alumni?

"Supporting our alumni is as critical as supporting our current students. We can't focus on one and omit the other. We plan to provide our graduates with increasing opportunities to experience our strategic initiatives, such as our Polarity Thinking Institute, and implement what they learn in their current work roles. I've spoken with our alumni group, and we're beginning to establish our relationship. I intend to work with them more closely over time."

Q: What makes the Wesorick Center unique in comparison to other similar efforts?

"We are more than a scholarly center in a university setting. This Center was founded on the legacy of Bonnie Wesorick, whose life work created a clinical practice model (CPM) that has been implemented and tested in more than 400 health care practice settings. The CPM gives us a strength that others often do not have — a framework that establishes our structure and direction. This is the very essence of our work: creating the best places to give and receive care and developing highly sought-out graduates who will ultimately transform health care workplaces. The Wesorick Center is a premier link between academia and practice, and our work with our community partners validates this thinking."

Q: What is the most important project the Wesorick Center has participated in so far?

"This is a challenging question! All of our projects point to at least one aspect of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim, and some relate to more than one aspect. One project has led to discoveries that could alter savings in hospital recidivism, while another has the potential to promote person-centered care by changing environments to support interprofessional collaborative practice. We also have looked at the way polarity thinking can change how teams of practitioners from multiple disciplines interact to meet the health care needs of patients and families."

Q: What is your vision for the next two or three years at the Wesorick Center?

"As our endowment campaign is completed, we will extend our efforts to continue to raise operational funds to support the Center's work. I expect that our relationships with partners will continue to grow and lead to innovative projects that influence health care outcomes. And I believe our students will be involved in health care improvement projects regularly, making the Wesorick Center a conduit for implementing evidence-based practices in this area and the greater health care community.

"The Wesorick Center is not the answer for all that ails health care, but I believe we can promote tremendous change through our academic/practice partnerships. In two to three years, I believe our consultation list will have increased remarkably and we will be recognized as a valuable resource for health care transformation knowledge and processes."

The Wesorick Center Mission

The Wesorick Center at KCON is a dedicated interdisciplinary setting where scholarly work is done to advance knowledge of health care delivery and transform practice at the point of care. It supports students, faculty, community partners, and providers who are interested in collaborating, developing, and implementing sustainable projects related to health care clinical practice and delivery.

The Wesorick Center's support includes proposal and writing consultation for grants, data analyses, implementation assistance, and evidence-based science projects. Its workshops focus on polarity thinking, interprofessional education and collaborative practice, health informatics, and evidence-based clinical practice.

Studying Local Health Care Services Integration

Fully integrated health care systems (i.e., networks of health care organizations under a parent holding company) have the potential to reduce costs and streamline fragmented services. When structured and utilized correctly, they also can improve clinical outcomes, quality of life, patient satisfaction, and the use of evidence-based practices (Minkman, Ahaus, & Huijsman, 2009).

Many forces have accelerated the need for integrated care systems during the past decade, including an aging baby boomer population, increasingly sophisticated medical technologies, escalating service costs, and the creation of the Affordable Care Act. At the same time, health care services are still trending toward fragmentation, duplication, increased complexity, and higher patient utilization rates. Health care leaders must be involved in identifying effective integrated clinical practice models and finding creative ways to improve their systems. To do this, these leaders' beliefs and perceptions about integrated health care services must first be identified.

The Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation at KCON has been involved for nearly two years with just such an effort. A qualitative research study, titled "Integration of Community Health Care Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan," was developed beginning in 2013. The project was designed to gather the perspectives of leaders in local health care agencies and organizations — to better understand how adult health care services are currently integrated across the continuum of care in Grand Rapids and to identify what these leaders would like to see in the years ahead.

Study Purpose

This study was designed to:

- Compile evidence and fill gaps in knowledge about existing integrated health care services for adults in Grand Rapids.
- Extend understanding of problems and concerns regarding integrated services while highlighting health care leaders' values and beliefs.
- Offer practices and ideas for improvement that may benefit local agencies, providers, patients, families, and communities as the integration of health care services occurs.
- Acquire qualitative findings that may shape the opinions of health care decision makers and policy leaders.
- Build a foundation for a future research study that will investigate the effects of an integrated clinical practice framework on health outcomes and provider/patient satisfaction.
- Contribute to the scientific discussion of integrated health care services.

Study Structure

Planning for the study began in January 2013 and interviews began in June 2013, following GVSU Institutional Review Board approval. The research team was led by principal investigator **Evelyn Clingerman**, PhD, CNE, FNAP, executive director of the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation. The team also included **Bonnie Wesorick**, MSN, RN, FAAN, an expert in health care delivery systems; **Samantha Utter**, a traditional BSN program student; and **Maria McCormick**, a DNP student.

The study utilized a qualitative descriptive exploratory design, collecting data from semi-structured individual interviews with system leaders. There were two specific aims:

- [Aim #1](#) - Synthesize how system leaders in Grand Rapids health care organizations and agencies define and describe integrated health care services for adults.
- [Aim #2](#) - Synthesize local health system leaders' suggestions to ameliorate fragmented health care services and facilitate integrated health care services.

Twenty leaders were recruited for this study. They emerged from a pooled list of mid- to high-level leaders (e.g., CNOs, directors) of health care agencies and organizations serving adults in Grand Rapids. A snowball sampling plan was used to identify the most appropriate leaders to interview.

A semi-structured interview guide was developed and used to gather information from the participants, including appropriate demographic data. Field notes were used to record nonverbal and paraverbal behaviors, impressions, and other observations. The interviews, which lasted approximately 30 to 45 minutes each, were recorded and then transcribed verbatim for analysis.

Data Analysis & Findings

After all field notes were gathered and all interviews were completed, transcribed, and checked for accuracy, data analysis began in April 2014; it was nearing completion as this issue went to press. The research team began by utilizing an immersion process to obtain a general sense of the data.

The data were then analyzed in detail using Weber's (1990) method of content analysis for classifying data. Research team members worked individually and as a group to identify the level of coding units (i.e., phrases, sentences) and define various categories and subcategories of concepts. A final list of identified categories of responses emerged from this process. Several iterations of categorizing the data took

place as the researchers moved from one level of data extraction to another. During this process, data were collapsed as they were examined for fit between and within categories.

Findings & Implications to Date

Because the study data were still being analyzed when this issue of KCON Magazine went to press, final outcomes and implications have not been determined. However, preliminary analyses of 1,000+ pages of transcribed interview data have revealed three categories of interest: integration, partnerships, and patient-centered care. Each of these primary categories, in turn, contained between four and seven subcategories, with detailed third-level categories identifying issues such as trust and risk taking.

"Although the data are incomplete, we can already see that this study has significant implications for our Grand Rapids community providers," says Clingerman. "The local health care leaders we interviewed were able to identify significant limitations, but they also addressed ways to work collaboratively to ensure improvements. This study also has implications for health care educators. So far, the findings point toward a significant need for students and practitioners to be prepared to practice as an interprofessional team.

"In addition," she continues, "this study has confirmed the importance of undergraduate and graduate student involvement in our research and scholarly projects. Two KCON students were able to develop dissemination projects as a result of working on this research study. They are now more fully prepared to conduct scholarly projects of their own and to enter competitive graduate programs."

According to Clingerman, when the compilation of final results has been completed, the study's findings will be shared with the participants prior to general presentations and publication. In addition, a follow-up report is planned for the Spring 2015 issue of KCON Magazine.

References

- Minkman, M., Ahaus, K., & Huijsman, R. (2009). A four phase development model for integrated care services in the Netherlands. *BMC Health Services Research*, 9(42), 1-11. doi: 10.1186/1472-6963-9-42.
- Weber, R. P. (1990). *Basic content analysis*. (2nd ed). Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.



Exploring the Academia/Practice Relationship #1

PhD or DNP? **Samantha Utter**, a traditional BSN program student, was pondering that seemingly simple question about her long-range future when she first walked into KCON's Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation. By connecting with the Wesorick Center, she ended up having opportunities for learning far beyond what she expected at KCON.

Utter has been deeply involved during the past two years with one of the Wesorick Center's major qualitative research projects, titled "Integration of Community Health Care Services in Grand Rapids, Michigan." (See related story on page 6.) "I learned about the process of conducting qualitative research," she explains, "and I developed and presented a preliminary analysis of our findings in a poster presentation at GVSU's Student Scholars Day this spring. I also had the opportunity to write a preliminary analysis report on the first five participants in the study."

Utter notes that being involved with the Wesorick Center gave her the chance to see real-world examples of how academia and practice can interrelate in everyday practice. "I gained a higher respect for using evidence-based practice in health care," she says. "Now that I have worked through this research project, I understand the length of time necessary for scientific research, the commitment of those parties involved, and how the findings could revolutionize our current health care practices."

"Most of all," Utter continues, "the Wesorick Center has strengthened my love for nursing and renewed my focus on patient-centered care. I have met so many people and experienced so many things through my work there. I felt like I was learning so much, but more importantly, I felt like I was making a difference. Now I think more holistically in terms of patients and families moving through the health care system. I constantly challenge myself to find gaps in the system and think of solutions for my patients. This is making me a stronger advocate for my patients."

Utter will graduate this December and, no, she hasn't chosen her long-range path yet. "Although I have an idea of where I'd like to go," she reflects, "I'd like to leave my options open. I have fallen in love with pediatric nursing, specifically neonatal, but I also love community health nursing. I plan to return to school in the future, but I want to spend the next few years exploring my interests and really finding my niche."

Note:

Samantha Utter received the Grand Valley State University Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Nursing award at GVSU's Annual Awards Celebration on April 7, 2014



Exploring the Academia/Practice Relationship #2

When **Mariah Hockin**, MSN ('13), CMSRN, CNL, left KCON in 2013, she had more than her degree in hand. Thanks to the Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation, she had solid experience with nursing research and evidence-based practice.

Hockin is a clinical nurse leader (CNL) and resource clinician on a 40-bed general medical unit at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. "I was introduced to Dr. Evelyn Clingerman at the Wesorick Center through Dr. Rebecca Davis at KCON," she explains. "My graduate work involved the Munson unit where I'm currently assigned. On that unit we have a very high population of COPD patients who have long lengths of stay and high rates of readmission. I chose an evidence-based practice project on post-discharge telephone callbacks to the COPD population in an effort to reduce readmissions.

"With the Wesorick Center's help," she continues, "I was able to identify through the data that the calls created a 10% decrease from baseline in the number of those patients readmitted. We had hoped for a larger percentage, but the 10% reduction did result in thousands of dollars in savings and less time spent in the hospital for the patients. So my project demonstrated the need for some type of effort aimed at our COPD population. We have since implemented a hospital-wide oxygen weaning protocol and COPD nursing pathway to be completed by the bedside nurses."

Hockin notes that her experiences at the Wesorick Center have opened her eyes to the importance of nursing research and evidence-based practice. "Without nurses who are willing to develop and test evidence-based theories and research," she says, "the profession can become stagnant or influenced solely by other professions. We need nurses who are willing to publish their work, share their findings, and help improve practice. I now understand how to analyze literary nursing publications and the quality of their work, and I am more cognizant of ongoing quality efforts and indicators in everyday practice.

"The Wesorick Center and Dr. Clingerman helped me to achieve my goals in finalizing my master's project, preparing for a professional presentation, and exploring the possibilities of publishing my work," Hockin concludes. "She continues to be a strong support in my career, and I look forward to continue working with the Center."

Note:

Mariah Hockin was designated as one of Sigma Theta Tau International's "Rising Stars" in 2013. She presented a poster titled "Hospital Readmissions in COPD Patients," which addressed evidence-based practice, at the Sigma Theta Tau International 42nd Biennial Convention.



ALUMNI UPDATE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear KCON Alumni,

I am so pleased to let you know that our group has grown during the past year. We are even more actively involved with events and have accomplished much as a result. For example, we had more than 150 attendees at our first annual Winter Continuing Education offering in February. KCON's Ruth Ann Brintnall gave a presentation regarding one of her specialties, neuropathic pain. It was full of helpful information related to a challenge many nurses face daily when caring for our diverse patient populations.

Not to worry if you missed this one, because there are many more opportunities ahead. Now is a great time to become involved and reconnect with other KCON alumni. This fall and winter will be full of fun. Watch the GVSU Alumni Association Email Newsletter and KCON's Facebook page for upcoming events, as well as networking and volunteer opportunities.

Remember, as a KCON graduate, you are automatically a member of our alumni group. We welcome you and will help you find the right fit if you'd like to be involved. Give back and you will be blessed by it. I have found rewards beyond my expectations.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Tracy Hosford, BSN ('02), RN, PCCN



Find us on Facebook at
"GVSU Kirkhof College of Nursing Alumni Chapter"



Photo: MARY KAY VANDRIEL

VanDriel Named President of Hospitals

Mary Kay VanDriel, PhD, MSN ('02), BSN, FACHE, was named in June as the new president of Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City hospitals. As president, she is responsible for strategic planning, budgeting, and daily operations at the two hospitals.

Before accepting her new position, VanDriel served as president of Value Health Partners in Grand Rapids, helping to coordinate efforts to improve community health. Previously, she worked as director of the DeVos Children's Hospital in 1986. In 1997, she joined the team that is now known as the Spectrum Health Healthier Communities program.

VanDriel has been named a Nurse Executive Fellow by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. She specialized in critical care nursing and has an academic background in nursing, management, and educational leadership. She is a past member of KCON's Nursing Advisory Board and a current member of the Wesorick Center Campaign Committee.

KCON GRADUATES 2013-2014

ALUMNI BRIEFS

**Master of Science in Nursing
– Fall 2013**

Mariah C. Hockin
Teri L. Ruiter
Michelle A. Smith
Amanda K. VandenBerg
Erin C. Wisniewski

**Doctor of Nursing Practice
– Winter 2014**

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**Bachelor of Science in Nursing
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**Bachelor of Science in Nursing
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Spring/Summer 2014**

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Amanda L. Taylor
Katie L. Thompson
Jodi M. Tyron
Thomas P. Van Der Schaaf
Maryann C. Watkins
Jie Zhang

Kelly Becker-Hess, MSN ('11), FNP, gave a poster presentation titled "Optimizing Aerosol Medication Delivery for Your Patients" at the 2014 Annual State Conference of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP), held in Lansing.

Cynthia Betterly, DNP ('14), BSN, RN, had her dissertation research about improving women's health literacy during pregnancy as the focus of an article in the March 24 Muskegon Tribune.

Jeffrey Bird, DNP ('14), BSN ('06), RN, was featured on the May 10 edition of the nationally syndicated talk radio program "Frontlines of Freedom." Focusing on veterans' affairs, it is locally produced at Radio 1260 AM in Zeeland.

Joanne Finazzi, DNP ('14), MSN, BSN, recently received two awards: the Graduate Dean's Citation Award for Academic Excellence for Outstanding Dissertation; and the Graduate Showcase 2014: Education for the Future, Certification of Recognition.

Pauland Aimée Johnson, BSN ('06), received her MSN in 2009 and completed a post-master's degree certificate in 2013. She now works as an FNP in an urgent care and medical weight loss program.

Kimberlie Moore LaFavor, BSN ('81), commenting on a recent *KCON Magazine*, said "I enjoyed looking at the Internet magazine. I must say the School of Nursing has certainly changed all for the better. Hopefully, I can get there to see it. Bonnie [Wesorick] was a new professor at the time."

Mary May, MS, BSN ('02), is a quality specialist at Mercy Health Saint Mary's Lacks Cancer Center. She contributed an article titled "If Cancer Strikes, Who Will Help You Navigate the Unknown?" to the March 23, 2014, issue of the Grand Rapids Press.

Kimberly Muma, MS, BSN ('09), BS, is serving as a learning resource coordinator for GVSU's Health Sciences Learning Resource and Simulation Center.

Linda Scott, PhD, MSN ('95), NEA-BC, FAAN, was the lead author in an article titled "Association of Sleep and Fatigue With Decision Regret Among Critical Care Nurses," published in the January 2014 issue of the *American Journal of Critical Care*.

Kathy Speeter, DNP ('12), passed her NP certification exam (Adult/Older Adult) and is now working for Pine Rest as part of the InterAct team in downtown Grand Rapids. Her focus is on physical health, assessment, and health promotion activities, along with psychiatric assessment and treatment.

Laura Wightman, DNP, MSN ('95), BSN ('86), is the chief nursing officer at Saint Agnes Medical Center in Fresno, Calif.

The following DNP program alumni presented posters in March at the 2014 Annual State Conference of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP) while they were KCON students:

- **Jeffrey Bird**, DNP ('14), BSN ('06), RN: "Implementation of Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire (INQI) as a Suicide Risk Screening Tool"
- **Joanne Finazzi**, DNP ('14), MSN, BSN: "An Evidence-Based Approach for the Implementation of an Osteoporosis Educational and Exercise Intervention Among Perimenopausal Women"
- **James Fix**, DNP ('14), BSN, RN: "A Process Improvement for the Treatment of Obesity in Primary Care: A Study in Progress"



Photo Left to Right: CYNTHIA McCURREN, LEDA EVANS, CYNTHIA COVIK, RACHEL CARDOSA, YVETTE PETTI

Photo: LISETTE WILSON



STUDENT/SNA UPDATE

KCON Receives Jonas Center Grant

This spring, KCON received a new grant of \$20,000 from the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare in New York. Matched with \$20,000 of KCON's own monies, this grant will fund scholarships for two DNP students in 2014. The grant supports KCON's work as part of a national effort to stem the nursing faculty shortage and prepare future nurses.

Yvette Petti, PhD, RN, APRN-BC, former associate dean for graduate programs, says, "We are pleased to receive this grant and recognize two DNP program recipients who are preparing to become primary care nurse practitioners. The 2014 Jonas Nurse Leader Scholar is **Rachel Cardosa**, MSN, RN, whose passion is care of the older adult with an emphasis on transitions and safety. The 2014 Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar is **Leda Evans**, BSN, RN, OCN, who is specializing in care coordination and access to care for veterans challenged by HIV/AIDs."

A version of this story was originally published in the June 24, 2014, issue of "GVNow."

Wilson Receives Mary Free Bed Scholarship

Lisette Wilson, a traditional BSN program student, has received the Mary Free Bed Minority Scholarship. This \$7,000 scholarship, awarded by Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, goes to qualified students of color who are majoring in nursing or health professions and have made a commitment to serving diverse populations.

Wilson enrolled in KCON in 2013 after working for two decades at Michigan Bell Telephone Company. "After 20 years at the phone company, my desire to become a nurse was still there," Wilson says. "When the opportunity arose, I took early retirement and enrolled in college the next day. This scholarship was essential for me to continue my studies, and I am very grateful to receive it."

Wilson works as a patient care provider at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services and is a member of the SNA and Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

A version of this story was originally published in the July 14, 2014, issue of "GVNow."

AWARD RECIPIENTS 2013-2014

December 2013 Award Recipients

Bonnie Wesorick Future of Nursing Award

Terri Ruiter, MSN

Graduate Student Award for Nursing Excellence

Michelle Smith, MSN

April 2014 Award Recipients

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence

Jena Brummans, BSN

Bonnie Wesorick Future of Nursing Award

Joanne Finazzi, DNP

April Polaski, BSN

Center of Distinction Award - Aging Populations Best Practices

Carolyn Fox, DNP

Center of Distinction Award - Human Response in Health and Illness

Joanne Finazzi, DNP

Center of Distinction Award - Vulnerable Populations Best Practices

Cynthia Betterly, DNP

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership (Graduate)

Cindy Bigler, MSN, NPC

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership (Undergraduate)

Alice McKay, BSN, RN

Dorothy E. Freeman Award for Outstanding Effort in Global Care

Jennifer VanRietie, BSN

Graduate Student Award for Nursing Excellence

Jeffrey Bird, DNP

Phyllis E. Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award

Angelica Johnston, BSN

August 2014 Award Recipients

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence

Natalie Escandon, BSN

Caitlin Gardner, BSN

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership (Undergraduate)

Kelly Theaker, BSN, RN

Dorothy E. Freeman Award for Outstanding Effort in Global Care

Jodi Tyron, BSN

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award

Nicole Childs, BSN

Phyllis E. Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award

Kathryn Gross, BSN

STUDENT BRIEFS

Jennifer Bowling, BSN, RN, a DNP program student, received the 2014 Glenn A. Niemeyer Award this spring, which is GVSU's most prestigious academic award. She also received a scholarship from KCON's graduate program to attend the Seventh National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference in Nashville, Tenn., in October.

Katherine Braspenninx, a traditional BSN program student, received the 2014 Glenn A. Niemeyer Award this spring. Named for its first provost, this is GVSU's most prestigious academic award.

Tami Pettenger, BSN ('02), RN, a DNP program student, was selected as one of only two students to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing to attend the 2014 AACN Student Policy Summit.

Two DNP program students recently had articles published on behalf of the GVSU Family Health Center in the Grand Rapids Press. **Tom Sanchez**, MSN ('06), RN, FNP-BC, contributed "Forging Community and Primary Care Partnerships" to the April 13 edition. **Sylvia Simons**, MSN ('91), RN, MHA, contributed "Academic Success Can be Tied to Health Care Access" to the July 13 edition.

Nicole Teitsma, a traditional BSN program student, attended the 2014 International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) Conference in June. She was one of the main participants during a birthing simulation demonstration experience.

Two DNP program students were sponsored by KCON's Graduate Student Organization to attend the Midwest Nursing Research Society meeting in March: **Rachel Cardosa**, MSN, RN, and **Nicole Zeller**, BSN, RN. In addition, two DNP program students presented posters:

- **Jennifer Ohman**, BSN ('02), RN: "Factors Associated with Life Space Mobility in Community Dwelling Older Adults"
- **Jennifer Zoeteman**, MSN, RN, GNP-BC: "Protecting the Skin of Older Adults Through Surveillance and Pressure Ulcer Prevention Beginning in Emergency Services"

Two students in the traditional BSN program gave podium presentations at GVSU's 19th Annual Student Scholars Day, held on April 9:

- **Brandy Alexander**: "An Eye Tracking Analysis to Identify Wayfinding Strategies of Older Adults in a Virtual Environment"
- **Jennifer Awad**: "Genetic Influence in Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease"

FACULTY/STAFF UPDATE

Clingerman and Conrad Elected as NAP Fellows

Evelyn Clingerman, PhD, CNE, FNAP, and **Dianne Conrad**, DNP, FNP-BC, CDE BC-ADM, FNAP, were inducted as distinguished Fellows into the National Academy of Practice in Nursing (NAP) at the organization's 2014 annual meeting in April. The NAP was founded in 1981 to advise governmental bodies on the nation's health care system. Distinguished practitioners and scholars from 14 different health professions are elected by their peers to become NAP Fellows.

Clingerman has been the executive director of the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation at KCON since 2012. She is noted for her expertise as a professional mentor and has an extensive background in research, presentations, and peer-reviewed publications.

Conrad has been on the KCON faculty since 2011. She is certified in advanced diabetes management and has expertise in the management of chronic disease and the standardization of nursing language for electronic health records.



Photo Left to Right: EVELYN CLINGERMAN, DIANNE CONRAD



Photo: DEBORAH BAMBINI

Bambini Elected to NLN Academy

Deborah Bambini, PhD, MSN ('95), WHNP-BC, CNE, CHSE, was inducted this September into the National League for Nursing (NLN) Academy of Nursing Education. The NLN established the Academy in 2007 to foster excellence in nursing education by recognizing and capitalizing on the wisdom of outstanding nurse educators, scholars, administrators, and others involved with nursing. NLN Fellows serve as mentors and resources for new educators and those in clinical practice who hope to enter the ranks of nurse faculty.

"I feel very honored to have been selected for induction into the Academy of Nursing Education," says Bambini. "The culture of excellence in teaching and the facilities at GVSU and KCON have provided a rich environment in which to flourish professionally, and I am grateful for the opportunities I have here to contribute to the future of nursing education."

Winter Joins Administrative Team

Dean Cynthia McCurren recently announced the appointment of **Janet Winter**, DNP, MPA, BSN, as KCON's new associate dean for undergraduate programs. Dr. Winter will provide leadership in managing all areas of the undergraduate academic degree programs, including faculty and student affairs, program coordination, program evaluation, resource development and management, and public relations.

Dr. Winter holds a BSN from the University of Michigan, an MPA with a health administration concentration from GVSU, and a DNP in administration from Rush University. Her area of practice expertise is in nursing administration and health care systems/policy. She has 30 years of nursing experience, largely in administrative positions, and has engaged in a number of initiatives to advance understanding of university leadership and the academic culture.



Photo: JANET WINTER



Photo Left to Right: KEVIN RAHRIG, JENNIFER AWAD, LORI HOUGHTON-RAHRIG

Houghton-Rahrig Scholarship Created

Lori Houghton-Rahrig, PhD, MSN ('01), BSN ('81), RN, assistant professor of nursing, and her husband, Kevin Rahrig, recently established the Teri Linn (Houghton) Marsh Endowed Memorial Nursing Scholarship in memory of Lori's sister Teri Linn. This scholarship is intended to assist students pursuing any degree at KCON, with preference given to those who demonstrate an interest in the study or research of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, obesity, or obesity-related diseases.

"Teri was a very active volunteer in her community," explains Houghton-Rahrig. "An ornamental horticulture/biology major, her spirit of hard work, encouragement, and giving back to the community is her legacy, which will continue through this scholarship."

In July, it was announced that **Jennifer Awad**, a traditional BSN program student, was the first recipient of this new scholarship. Awad has been working with Houghton-Rahrig since Winter 2013 on research and publication in this specialty, focusing primarily on genetics and the *PNPLA3* gene to identify individuals at higher risk of disease progression. Awad intends to continue this work following her graduation in December 2014.

FACULTY & STAFF BRIEFS

2014-2015 officers for Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large (Sigma Theta Tau International) include:

- **Meridell Gracias**, DNP, RN, vice president
- **Luanne Shaw**, MSN, RN, CEN, treasurer
- **Elaine Van Doren**, PhD, RN, secretary
- **Karen Burritt**, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, and **Barbara Hooper**, DNP, MSN, RN, NE-BC, faculty counselors
- **Sue Mlynarczyk**, PhD, RN, PNP, research committee
- **Joanne Finazzi**, DNP, RN, governance committee

Deborah Bambini, PhD, MSN ('95), WHNP, CNE, CHSE, has been appointed to the Education Committee of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation & Learning (INACSL). She will be contributing to the development of the processes for abstract submission, review, and acceptance for the annual conference.

Evelyn Clingerman, PhD, CNE, RN, FNAP, is a member of the planning committee for the National Academies of Practice 2015 annual meeting. She also has been invited to become an associate editor for the *Journal of Holistic Nursing*.

Dianne Conrad, DNP, FNP-BC, CDE, BC-ADM, FNAP, was notified that the book she co-authored with Katherine Moran and Rosanne Burson — "The DNP Scholarly Project" — received a 5-Star review by Doody's Review Service, a database of expert reviews of books, e-books, and software in the health sciences. The book is published by the Nursing Division of Jones & Bartlett Publishing.

Cynthia Coviak, PhD, RN, CNE, was nominated for the Kimboko Inclusion Award for Winter 2014 by the GVSU Graduate Student Association. This honor recognizes faculty members who have been nominated by the graduate students for outstanding contributions in moving graduate education toward greater diversity and inclusion.

Kimberly Fenbert, DNP, CPNP, is serving as president for the Michigan chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP).

Susan Harrington, PhD, RN, and **Elaine Van Doren**, PhD, RN, have been identified as curriculum innovators for public health content integration for a new cooperative effort by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The new agreement is designed to improve health outcomes by strengthening academia's linkages to public health practice.

Elaine Leigh, DNP ('12), MSN ('02), FNP-BC, was featured during a segment on the July 22 "Take 5" morning show on WZZM TV, Grand Rapids. The focus was on hepatitis C screening and treatment.

Kelley Monterusso, BBA, has presented a program titled "Professionalism Counts" twice this year. The program, which focuses on culture change, has received rave reviews from those attending.

The following KCON faculty are serving in practice roles.

Embedded Faculty

- GVSU Family Health Center: **Kimberly Fenbert**, DNP, CPNP
- Mercy Health Muskegon: **Elaine Leigh**, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC
- Mercy Health Physician Partners: **Erin Chillag**, DNP, RN, CPNP, and **Kimberly Lanning**, DNP, MSN, FNP-BC, APRN

Joint Appointments

- Mercy Health Saint Mary's: **Jean Barry**, PhD, NEA-BC, and **Karen Burritt**, PhD, MSN, FNP-BC

The following faculty have been featured recently in the Grand Rapids Press, Health section.

- **Nancy Carlson**, MS, RN: "Simulation Helps High Schoolers Better Understand Nursing," March 23.
- **Barbara Hooper**, DNP ('12), MSN ('92), NE-BC: "Recognizing the Signs and Symptoms of a Stroke," May 11.
- **Yvette Petti**, PhD, RN, APRN-BC: "Serving Those Who Serve Us," March 9.
- **Susan Strouse**, PhD, RN: "Changes Not Easy but Offer Growth Opportunities," June 8.

RECENT GRANTS

Butler & Osborne. (March 2013-March 2014). Grand Valley State University, Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. *Meal-Timing, Sleep and Chronotype in Obesity*; \$2,131.

Coviak. (July 2014-June 2016). Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. *Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program Grant*; \$698,760.

Harrington. (August 2013-June 2014). Grand Valley State University, Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. *Sedentary Activity, Sleep, Weight, and Academics in Third Graders*; \$3,000.

Houghton-Rahrig. (2014). Grand Valley State University, Academic and Professional Enrichment Fund. *Travel grant for the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) 25th Anniversary Conference*; \$400.

Houghton-Rahrig, Tsou, Shultz, Schutte, **Awad**, & Renter. (November 2013-October 2014). Grand Valley State University, Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. *Symptoms, Genetics, and Health-Related Quality of Life in Persons with Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease*; \$7,033.

Petti & Coviak. (2014). Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare. *Jonas Nurse Leader Scholars Program*; \$20,000.

RECENT FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Here are some of the presentations KCON faculty made during the past year:

Bambini & Bostrom. (2013, October). *Integration of virtual psychiatric-mental health clinical experiences across the nursing curriculum.* Poster presentation & participation in plenary session. Eighth Annual National League for Nursing Technology Conference, Philadelphia, Penn.

Beel-Bates, Borst, Burritt, Fenbert, Hooper, Mupepi, Shaw, Smith, Terry, Van Doren, & Wallsteadt. (2013, September). *Learning interprofessional skills through a college course.* West Michigan Interprofessional Education Initiative, 6th Annual Interprofessional Education Conference, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Brashler & Bostrom. (2014, March). *A daughter's a daughter the rest of her life: Negotiating the caregiving landscape in the 21st century.* 74th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Albuquerque, N.M.

Brintnall. (2013, October). *ELNEC core module 8: Final hours of life.* Webinar sponsored by Maggie Allesee Center for Innovation, Hospice of Michigan.

Carlson & Teitsma. (2014, June). *SNA breakthrough to nursing novel approach: Using simulation to engage HS students in the profession of nursing.* 13th Annual International Nursing Simulation/Learning Resource Centers Conference. Orlando Fla.

Chaponniere & Cherup. (2014, March). *Building value-based partnerships through nursing science, interdisciplinary service learning shaped by research: Nkuv Water Project, Cameroon.* Midwest Nursing Research Society, St. Louis, Mo.

Chillag. (2014, June). *A Case of Dopa-responsive dystonia with an inverted diurnal fluctuation.* 18th Annual Congress of Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders, Movement Disorder Society, Stockholm, Sweden.

Conrad, Rouen, O'Connor, Moran, & Burson. (2014, January). *Leadership initiatives to support the preparation and utilization of the practice doctorate in nursing.* AACN Doctoral Education Conference, Naples, Fla.

Damstra & Peterman. (2014, May). *Engaging healthcare providers and community partners in the baby-friendly designation journey: Barriers, facilitators, and lessons learned.* Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, Michigan Section Annual Conference, Frankenmuth, Mich.

Harrington, VandenBosch, Schoofs, Beel-Bates, & Anderson. (2013, September). *Flipping the classroom for second semester baccalaureate nursing students.* National League for Nursing Education Summit, Washington, D.C.

Hooper. (2013, November). *An evidence-based review of educational strategies to facilitate the development of critical thinking skills in graduate nurses.* 42nd Biennial Convention, Sigma Theta Tau International, Indianapolis, Ind.

Houghton-Rahrig, Schutte, Fenton, Given, von Eye, & Hord. (2014, March). *Building value based partnerships through nursing research: Does the PNPLA3 gene polymorphism contribute to differences in BMI in people with obesity-related nonalcoholic fatty liver disease?* Midwest Nursing Research Society, St. Louis, Mo.

Leigh. (2014, March). *Hepatitis C: The silent epidemic.* 2014 Annual Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners, Advanced Practice Conference, Lansing, Mich.

Mlynarczyk, Lyte, & DeWys. (2014, April). *Effective feeding dynamics for children from birth through adolescence.* Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large, Spring Research Event, Grand Rapids Mich.

Ohman & Davis. (2013, November). *Factors related to life space mobility in community dwelling older adults.* Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference, New Orleans, La.

Petti. (2013, August). *Overview: Women veterans and health services.* National Native Indian Health Board Conference, Traverse City, Mich.

Sanchez. (2014, January). *Project to improve physical activity levels in sedentary adults through primary care counsel, education and referral to YMCA community hubs.* Taking the Lead 2014: Innovations in Leadership Conference, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Schafer, Mlynarczyk, & D'Amour. (2013, September). *CATCHing on to health—a health promotion and child obesity prevention program offered in an after-school venue: Family health focus.* American Nurses Association, Michigan 8th Annual Conference and Assembly, Traverse City, Mich.

Robinson, Hooper, Barry, & Damstra. (2014, October). *Evidence of a robust administrative/leadership DNP program to impact health, care and cost.* Podium breakout session. Seventh National Doctors of Nursing Practice Conference, Nashville, Tenn.

Sheehan. (2014, March). *Overview of SB 2 and 568: Growing grassroots advocacy.* National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Michigan Annual Conference, Lansing, Mich.

Strouse. (2014, April). *Exploring nurse educators' perceptions of the subcultures within nursing as a means to bridge the practice-education gap: Findings from an ethnographic study.* Nursing Education Research Conference, National League for Nursing/Sigma Theta Tau International, Indianapolis, Ind.

VandenBosch, Robbins & Anderson. (2014, March). *Comparison of two instruments for measuring physical activity in middle-aged women with and without Type 2 diabetes.* Midwest Nursing Research Society, 38th Annual Research Conference, St. Louis, Mo.

Wallace. (2014 June). *Occupational justice among vulnerable, community dwelling older adults: Opportunities for OT practice.* 16th World Federation of Occupational Therapy Annual Conference, Yokohama, Japan.

Winter, Beel-Bates, Terry, & Wallace. (2014, January). *Interprofessional teams: Who should lead and how to lead.* Taking the Lead 2014: Innovations in Leadership Conference, Ann Arbor, Mich.

FACULTY & STAFF TRANSITIONS

Promotions

Cynthia Beel-Bates, PhD, RN, FGSA, has been promoted to full professor.
Rebecca Davis, PhD, RN, has been promoted to full professor.

Retirement

Patricia Schafer, PhD, RN, is starting phased retirement.

New Emeritus Status

Agnes Britton, MS, RN
Emily Droste-Bielak, PhD, RN
Phyllis Gendler, PhD, RN, NP
Linda Grinstead, PhD, RN, CPN, CNE
Kay Setter Kline, PhD, RN
Jean Martin, PhD, RN, CPNP
Kay Reick, MS, RN

Farewell & Thank You

Bethany Hartum, MSN, FNP-BC, has resigned from the Family Health Center.
Yvette Petti, PhD, RN, APRN-BC, has resigned as Associate Dean, Graduate Programs.

"Nurses have come a long way in a few short decades. In the past our attention focused on physical, mental and emotional healing. Now we talk of healing your life, healing the environment and healing the planet."

Lynn Keegan

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

de Voest, Raguckus, **Bambini**, & **Beel-Bates**. (2013). Interprofessional teaching: An inter-university experience involving pharmacy and nursing students. *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, 5, 450-457.

Hoffman, **Brintnall**, Brown, von Eye, & Jones. (2014). A rehabilitation program for lung cancer patients post-thoracotomy through chemotherapy. *Oncology Targets and Therapy*, 7, 415-423.

Hoffman, **Brintnall**, Brown, von Eye, Jones, Ritz-Holland, et al. (2013). Too sick not to exercise: Using a 6-week, home-based exercise intervention for cancer-related fatigue self-management for postsurgical non-small cell lung cancer patients. *Cancer Nursing*, 36, 176-188.

Hoffman, **Brintnall**, Brown, von Eye, Jones, Ritz-Holland, et al. (2014). Virtual reality bringing a new reality to post-thoracotomy lung cancer patients via a home-based exercise intervention targeting fatigue while undergoing adjuvant treatment. *Cancer Nursing*, 37, 23-33.

Hoffman, **Brintnall**, vonEye, & **Cooper***. (2014). The voice of post-surgical lung cancer patients regarding supportive care needs. *Lung Cancer: Targets and Therapy*, 5, 21-31.

Hoffman, **Brintnall**, von Eye, Jones, Alderink, Patzelt, & Brown. (2014). Home-based exercise: Promising rehabilitation for symptom relief, improved functional status and quality of life for post-surgical lung cancer patients. *Journal of Thoracic Disease*, 6, 632-640.

Hooper. (2014). Using case studies and videotaped vignettes to facilitate the development of critical thinking skills in new graduate nurses. *Journal for Nurses in Professional Development*, 30(2), 87-91.

Houghton-Rahrig, Schutte, Fenton, & **Awad***. (2014). Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and the PNPLA3 gene. *MEDSURG Nursing*, 23(2), 101-106, 121.

Jensen. (2014). A valuable education: Teaching case management to tomorrow's clinicians. *Professional Case Management*, 19(4), 194-195.

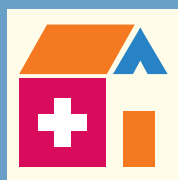
Nagelkerk, Peterson, Pawl, Teman, Anyangu, **Mlynarczyk**, & Baer. (2014). Patient safety culture transformation in a children's hospital: An interprofessional approach. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 28(4), 358-364. doi: 10.3109/13561820.2014.885935

Sanchez. (2014). Voting with my feet. *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 10, 146. doi: 10.1016/j.nurpra.2013.10.016

VandenBosch, Robbins, Pfeiffer, Kazanis, & Maier. (2014). Demographic, cognitive, affective, and behavioral variables associated with overweight and obesity in low-active girls. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, published online.

*Cooper is a KCON DNP program student.

*Awad is a KCON traditional BSN program student.



G V S U F A M I L Y H E A L T H C E N T E R

Collaborating to Grow Seeds of Promise

Collaboration between a local nonprofit, GVSU's Family Health Center (FHC), and KCON's Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation is empowering the residents of one neighborhood to create and sustain the changes they want to see in their community.

Seeds of Promise (SoP), a place-based urban community improvement initiative, serves the neighborhood surrounding Dickinson Elementary in southeast Grand Rapids. Facing a poverty rate of about 36%, SoP promotes neighborhood transformation through collaborations with 53 endorsing partners. It is currently focused on leadership training, housing, employment, education, health, and safety initiatives. The FHC is working with the organization's health, wellness, and nutrition impact team to develop an improved local health care delivery system for non-urgent care; develop a proactive neighborhood health, wellness, and nutrition program; increase awareness of and access to local healthy nutritious foods; and establish a community garden.

According to **Ann Sheehan**, DNP, RN, PNP-BC, assistant dean for practice, the philosophy behind SoP is that those who live in a community must direct their own self-sustaining improvement strategies. "Partners who serve a community must align their work with that community's strategy," she explains. "When they do this, the residents learn how to create the change they want to see. And the partners — in our case, the FHC's staff and students — develop more expertise as they participate in a real-world example of the social determinants of health."

In keeping with its role as a link between academia and practice, the Wesorick Center became involved when it offered in-service training to the FHC regarding grant writing and publication. **Evelyn Clingerman**, PhD, CNE, FNAP, executive director of the Wesorick Center, collaborated with Sheehan as a consultant to SoP by providing expertise on data collection. She also conducted training and education for "host neighbors" about the process of holding community conversations.

SoP's goal for improved access to non-urgent health care is moving into the future through a "call to care" grant in partnership with Mercy Health Saint Mary's and KCON. Providing holistic care for individuals, families, and the community, this effort is based on a service-learning model that engages nursing students who work with a nurse practitioner-led care team.

Sylvia Simons, MSN ('91), RN, MHA, a DNP student, has been a volunteer with the SoP initiative for 24 months; she served as secretary for the health impact team and worked extensively on a neighborhood survey. In reflecting on the FHC/Wesorick Center collaboration, she says, "I believe our participation in initiatives like this increases trust as community residents realize that the FHC is a reliable health care provider. As a student, I hope KCON continues to support these kinds of projects long after I've graduated."

KCON IN THE NEWS



Family Health Center Receives Quality Award

The GVSU Family Health Center (FHC) leadership and staff recently received a 2014 Priority Health Quality Award. This annual award recognizes practices that are among the top primary care practice groups within the Priority Health provider network. Measures include preventive care, control of chronic diseases, teamwork, and patient satisfaction.

"The Family Health Center is a significant part of KCON's strategic vision," says **Cynthia McCurren**, PhD, RN, FNAP, KCON's dean.

"This award recognizes our continuing commitment to excellence in practice, community engagement, and as a site for clinical instruction — not only for nursing, but multiple other disciplines within the university and community. This is only possible due to the sustained efforts by all of the staff. We are very pleased that they have received this recognition."

KCON Establishes Institute for Polarity Thinking

KCON recently announced the establishment of the Institute for Polarity Thinking in Health Care, to be located in the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation. According to **Evelyn Clingerman**, PhD, CNE, FNAP, executive director of the Wesorick Center, the Institute will serve interdisciplinary leaders and teams in academia, research, and practice.

"The Institute will provide numerous learning opportunities related to knowledge and skills specific to polarity thinking," Clingerman explains.

"This will include workshops, guest lectures, formal coursework, and a certificate program. Ultimately, we believe this will contribute to the success of leaders who are seeking to transform the health care system at the point of care."

www.gvsu.edu/giving/giveWesorick

YOU CAN HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE

As you can tell from the stories in this issue of *KCON Magazine*, the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Health Care Transformation is now fully endowed and rapidly maturing! But ongoing funds are needed to allow the Center to reach its full potential and involve even more students, faculty, and community partners in scholarly projects that will create transformative change.

If each person reading this issue gives \$10 per month (less than the cost of two movie tickets) or a \$100 gift by December 31, we will be able to fully support the Center's current work and make plans for a stronger future.

There are several other ways to contribute to the work of the Wesorick Center. For example, consider giving in honor or memory of someone who has supported your professional life or who has been deeply touched by your care. Visit our website...

http://wwwtest.gvsu.edu/wesorick/featured_stories_from_donors_5.htm to see how others have honored friends and colleagues.

YOU CAN HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE | WAYS TO GIVE

Online: www.gvsu.edu/giving/giveWesorick

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P.O. Box 2005
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www.gvsu.edu/giving/giveWesorick

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GRAND VALLEY
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GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING
SUITE 300
COOK-DEVOS CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES
301 MICHIGAN STREET, NE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503-3314



**THE KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING
CURRENTLY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:**

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
 - Traditional Undergraduate Program
 - Second Degree Program
 - RN to BSN Program
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

"We are creating exceptional opportunities for faculty and students, engaged in dynamic teaching and learning experiences. A revised curriculum for the BSN degree program tracks is ensuring that our graduates attain the competencies they need for an evolving health care system. With an urgent need for evidence-based care, care coordination, and quality/process improvement in our care delivery models, our MSN program prepares our graduates with these critical skills and eligibility for the Clinical Nurse Leader certification. Since 2009, we have been averaging 35 new students per year in our Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program, preparing them for Advanced Nursing Practice (Child/Adolescent or Adult/Older Adult) or Health Systems Leadership. All of our graduates are committed to the *Future of Nursing* — leading change, advancing health."

Dr. Cynthia McCurren
Dean, Kirkhof College of Nursing



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Web Site: www.gvsu.edu/kcon **Phone:** 616-331-3558 **Fax:** 616-331-2510 **E-mail:** Use "Contact Us" page on KCON's Web site

The Kirkhof College of Nursing is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and recognized for its outstanding teaching, scholarship, service and research.