

UBNURSING

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF NURSING

2014 - 2015





A Message from the Dean

Greetings!

The City of Buffalo is in the midst of a renaissance, and the University at Buffalo and the School of Nursing, along with many of our graduates, are playing a prominent role in this exciting and energizing time in our community. We at the School of Nursing are embracing this time of innovation, growth and rebirth as we take part in the transformation by preparing nurse leaders and advancing our programs of research to contribute to the future of nursing.

We have much to be enthusiastic about at the school and want to share news of our latest accomplishments, especially our students, who are recognized as leaders and scholars.

In this issue, we highlight some of the experiential opportunities in which our students engage both inside and outside the classroom. We have included a story on our DNP Program, complete with an account about

a recent alumna and her decision to pursue an advanced practice degree.

Our faculty are distinguished as leaders in the forefront of discovery with innovative projects, producing nationally and internationally recognized scholarship.

We celebrate all our alumni milestones and their accomplishments with features on outstanding alumni from far and wide, some who are just starting out, some who are branching out and some who have reached the pinnacle of their professional careers – but all who have brought pride to our school.

Please enjoy reading about all of the great things we have going on. Our future is bright, and I invite all of you to be a part of this exciting time at UB School of Nursing.

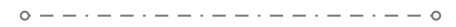
Warm regards,

Marsha L. Lewis, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

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Upcoming Events

- 19th Annual Bonnie Bullough Lecture**
September 18th, 2015 from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in 105 Harriman Hall
Dessert Reception to follow
Guest Speaker: Lynn Sibley, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACNM
Professor, Emory University
“Academic Partnerships in Global Maternal and Newborn Health: Experiences from Bangladesh and Ethiopia”
- Spring 2016 Events-** Margaret A. Nelson Lecture
Annual May Celebration
Class of 1966 Reunion Luncheon and Tour



Tammy Austin-Ketch, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP,
Assistant Dean for MS/DNP Programs

nursing schools identify a shortage in doctorate-prepared nurses as a major faculty recruitment issue. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), 68.2 percent of 714 schools surveyed for the academic year 2014-2015 reported a limited pool of faculty with doctorates, and 30.4 percent reported difficulty finding faculty willing/able to teach clinical courses. This need is further exaggerated by reported teaching responsibilities and degree requirements for vacant full-time faculty positions – 69.2 percent require both clinical and classroom teaching, and a whopping 89.6 percent require or prefer an earned doctorate in nursing or a related field.

Last is your wallet. ADVANCE for Nurse Practitioners' 2011 survey indicates DNP-prepared NPs earn about \$8,500 more per year than NPs with a master's degree. If this difference seems miniscule, consider this – with the AACN recommending the DNP as the educational requirement for state licensure and APRN national certification, coupled with the fact that the “changing demands of this nation's complex healthcare environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure quality patient outcomes,” the demand for DNP-prepared nurses is increasing and will continue to do so.

UB SON's Post-MS DNP is uniquely positioned to help NPs achieve higher levels of education and continue to flourish in their careers by advancing clinical practice outcomes. Some prime examples of the first-rate work of UB SON DNP students include Capstone Projects such as Lisa Berlinghoff's "Survey of Medication Injection Safety Knowledge and Practices Among Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists"; Lou Palowski's "Nursing Students Knowledge and Attitudes Regarding the Patient in Pain"; and Adam Gelb's "Ultrasound Guided Identification of the Axillary Component of the Brachial Plexus." These students, along with other fellow DNP students, were conferred their DNP in 2015.

This part-time program offers the only distance learning post-master's DNP among New York State public universities, allowing already established professionals to seamlessly transition back to school while maintaining employment.

"Being able to access course work at any time of the day from any location in the world has made our program unique and accessible for students across the globe," explains Assistant Dean for MS/DNP Programs and Clinical Professor Tammy Austin-Ketch, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP. "The many and varied work and life experiences of our diverse DNP students provide rich perspectives on patient care, administrative experiences, as well as past experiences with problem solving solutions for complex patient situations that serve to improve patient and quality care outcomes."

UB SON also offers a post-baccalaureate to DNP program designed for completion in three years of full-time study or up to seven years of part-time study – new graduates are also welcome to apply. In addition, the Early Assurance Program provides an early acceptance opportunity to well-qualified undergraduates focused on becoming advanced practice nurses.

- Sarah Goldthrite

Building the Future of Nursing Today

University at Buffalo School of Nursing's Post-Master's DNP Program is designed for full-time employed specialty-certified advanced practice nurses with a desire to improve clinical outcomes via application of the latest evidence-based science and innovation in practice. The program builds on the clinical preparation of NPs, CNSs and CRNAs, supporting professional nurses in their endeavor to reach their full potential.

Why bother with a DNP program? First and foremost is real world impact. The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 2010 report, "The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health," recognizes the vital role nurses play in the restructuring of healthcare in the United States following the Affordable Care Act. With more than three million nurses comprising the largest segment of the healthcare workforce, it is imperative that nurses progress to the highest level in academics and clinical practice. To this end, IOM recommends nurses engage in lifelong learning and "prepare to lead change to advance health" – with an aspiration of doubling the number of nurses holding a doctorate by 2020.

Preparedness for leadership is fundamental in providing quality clinical care and advancing the field while navigating the U.S.'s evolving health care landscape – nurses are on the front lines and are often the individuals best positioned to identify patient care deficits and needs. DNP preparation keeps nurses abreast of exciting innovations in research and practice.

The rapid expansion and increasing complexity in health care especially affects future nurse anesthetists – the Council on Accreditation (COA) of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs indicates DNP education is a requirement for CRNA practice by 2025.

Second is enduring impact on tomorrow's nurses. Doctorate-prepared nurses fulfill an array of needs in not just clinical practice, but also in educating and mentoring the next generation of nursing professionals. In fact, hundreds of

Fate and Resolve Bring Alumna Full Circle

When Corrie O'Hara, DNP '13, was 18 years old, she wanted to become a physician – that all changed, though, when at the end of her senior year in high school she was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. During her course of cancer treatment, she resolved to become a nurse.

Now, O'Hara is a cancer survivor and a practicing family nurse practitioner at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the same place she received her cancer treatment over 11 years ago.

At the time O'Hara originally enrolled, UB School of Nursing was still offering master's level NP programs. She was accepted to the MS Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program after graduating with her bachelor's in Nursing. Once O'Hara learned about the implementation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program, she inquired further and opted to join the Post-BS to DNP Program – and she never looked back. O'Hara is now a proud alumna, having graduated from the DNP Program in 2013.

O'Hara explains that she chose to pursue a DNP because it is a rewarding field that allows her the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with her patients. She also feels that the profession has an advantage over other health care providers, as it allows for and encourages a deeper understanding of the health care needs of patients and their families.



When asked what advice she would give to those completing a nursing undergraduate program and thinking about pursuing a DNP, O'Hara emphatically recommends that prior to enrolling in graduate school, students should be well-organized, research the program, explore possible capstone choices and talk to an advisor. She is quick to underscore that one of the keys to her success was building a support system of close family and friends who she could lean on as she was navigating her academic preparation.

"UB was my first choice for graduate school based on its reputation for providing an excellent education," O'Hara says. "The flexibility to complete the program in three years of full time study and the outstanding financial value were also major factors in my decision to go to UB School of Nursing." She also credits the support and encouragement she received from the faculty, along with her personal support system of friends and family, with providing her the opportunity to fulfill her dream.

- Donna A. Tyrpak

A Holistic Approach to Patient Care

Behind the Scenes at the Bedside

Something old, something new: A marriage of existing resources and novel approaches



Sarah Goldthrite

Sharon Hewner, PhD, RN

“Asking patients questions about their personal situation makes care person-centered and gives us an opportunity to ask what each patient needs. That is critical.”

Often people envision nurses as the ubiquitous physical presence at the bedside, on units and clinic floors, and in examination rooms, community health centers, and encampments in war-torn or impoverished communities. They fulfill a gamut of roles, from prescriber to confidant, from health assessor to wiper of tears, from teacher to life-sustaining force in the face of disaster. In any of these functions, the goal is ultimately the same – to deliver the best possible care.

There are nurses, however, who go largely unseen but whose mission is the very same. Nurse researchers like Assistant Professor Sharon Hewner, PhD, RN, with bedside experience in tow, aim to improve patient outcomes through innovation in research and data.

As Principal Investigator of the Coordinating Transitions Project, which has two years of funding (nearly \$300,000) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)*, Hewner is guided by her knowledge of informatics and data science. The Coordinating Transitions team aims to improve patient outcomes and decrease hospital readmissions among patients with chronic illnesses by utilizing discharge alerts and establishing an understanding of a patient's conditions and social and medical complexity across healthcare settings.

Working toward this end, the team created a Care Transitions Alert that uses already available data and technology in new ways. These include admissions, discharges and transfer (ADT) notifications collected by the clinical data repository (CDR) at HEALTHeLINK™, a regional health information organization (RHIO); Elmwood Health Center's electronic health record and subscribe and notify list, which identifies patients who have provided consent for the primary care office to receive information about them; and the Cohort Table of 12 chronic conditions.

The Care Transitions Alert includes a flag and relative risk of readmission for disease categories, the reason for admission and patient contact information. The nurse care coordinator receives the alert via secure email within 24 hours of discharge, prompting her to make an outreach phone call to assess the needs of patients with a high risk of readmission, review medications and complete the Patient Centered Assessment Methodology (PCAM).

“If the nurse care coordinator calls someone within 72 hours of discharge, gets that person into the primary care office within two weeks and prevents readmission within the first 30 days post-discharge, then that office visit is eligible for an enhanced payment,” Hewner explains. “One of the really exciting things about this program is that it has the potential to be sustainable. If it's successful, the initial visit can be reimbursed at a higher rate – it's a way of paying for this new nurse care coordinator role.”

Using the cohort table, which is based on Hewner's COMPLEXedex™ algorithm, the population is categorized into four complexity segments, 17 hierarchical disease categories and chronic disease cohorts based on 12 prevalent chronic conditions. A patient's social complexity is assessed using the PCAM. Developed at the University of Minnesota (UM), this simple tool asks the nurse to rank a patient's capabilities in terms of their health and well-being, social network, economic and other resources, and need for more care coordination or additional services.

“We're working with UM closely to create a web-based electronic PCAM tool with a built-in scoring mechanism and problem identification that gives the nurse a sense of how urgently the patient is in need of additional services,” says Hewner. “Asking patients questions about their personal situation makes care person-centered and gives us an opportunity to ask what each patient needs. That is critical.”

She also notes that although the PCAM is used frequently, it is rarely used systematically. “What's different in our case is we're directing the nurse using data mining to tell her who needs to be investigated more fully. That change, although it seems very simple, is critically important in building an informatics solution.”

Risk-stratified care management, Hewner explains, helps primary care nurses direct efforts more accurately and efficiently based on patient needs and comorbidities. The Care Transitions Alert system also streamlines the flow of information by increasing the accessibility of data at the hospital and ensuring that the primary care provider will receive the appropriate discharge information, resulting in more efficient and effective communication between acute and primary care. “It's getting the right piece of information at the right time to the person who needs it so he or she can intervene immediately and provide what is needed to keep a person healthy,” says Hewner. “By opening this line of communication, we're seeing a change in how both the patients and practice respond.”

“Nurses at every level have the opportunity to bring the patient front and center and improve the health of populations if we listen to the data and tap into it in meaningful ways – it can really help us to visualize how we form our research and practice in order to be more efficient and effective.”

- Sarah Goldthrite

**This project was supported by grant number R21HS022575 from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.*



A Case for Continuity of Care

Assistant Professor Jessica Castner, PhD, RN, is passionate about patient care and finding ways to improve the quality of care in our community to provide better patient outcomes. She and her UB colleagues, Sharon Hewner, PhD, RN, and Yow-Wu (Bill) Wu, PhD, are using data science to study emergency department (ED) utilization in those with behavioral health diagnoses.

As a former ED nurse, Castner is all too aware of the concept of ED “familiar faces” or “super users” – so named because they are frequently seen by the ED staff for their health care needs. Their recurrent visits do not just replace primary care, as has been commonly conjectured and frequently theorized; these individuals, in an effort to meet their complex health needs, are using the ED in conjunction with seeking care in all other forms, including primary care, specialized care and urgent care.

EDs have long been used as a safety net for the U.S. health care system. They are viewed as vital to public safety, providing both routine health care and emergency services to patients who rely on these visits to manage their frequent and complex health care needs. The researchers’ recent retrospective analysis utilizing 2009 Medicaid claims of work-aged adults (ages 18-64)



Sarah Goldthrite

Jessica Castner, PhD, RN

from two Western New York (WNY) State counties revealed that psychiatric diagnoses, substance abuse and smoking are associated with frequent ED utilization for Medicaid recipients in all categories of underlying disease complexity. There is a growing concern that ED utilization, especially in those with behavioral health diagnoses, provides less than ideal provider-patient relationship continuity, along with fragmentation and duplication of care. This, in turn, supports the growing demand to enhance both community and ED care and the capacity to support nurses in community-based prevention programs, as well as better co-morbidity screening for those seeking care.

The next steps for research include examining ED utilization for those with asthma in New York State (NYS) using the Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS) database. This data will allow for a broader picture, as it consists of comprehensive, all payer data reporting and contains data across the entire lifespan for those included in the dataset. Castner is particularly interested in asthma because not only is there increased ED utilization by those with asthma diagnoses in NYS, there is also an increased prevalence of asthma in Erie County, according to the NYS Department of Health. This problem presents a local challenge to health resources in WNY, as well as the added difficulty of self-management and vigilance that is needed by asthma sufferers. For patients with mental health and substance abuse co-morbidities, this can present overwhelming obstacles to overcome as they try to navigate the complexities of the health care system.

- Donna A. Tyrpak



Let's Talk: A Data-Driven Dialogue on End-of-Life Choices

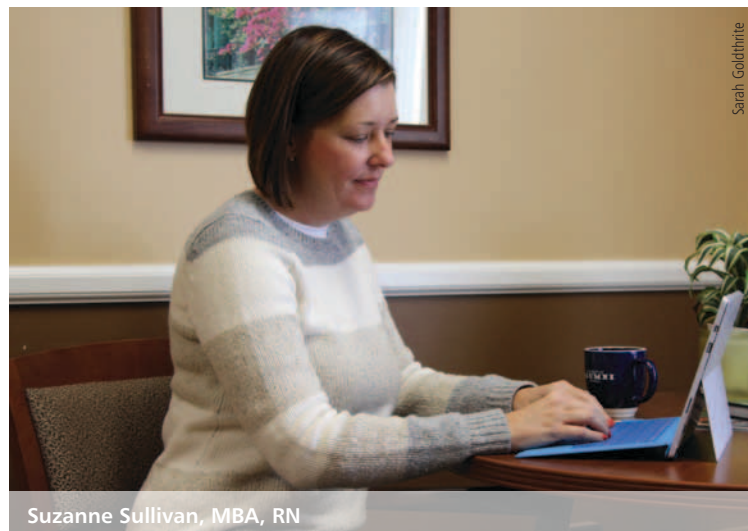
After spending close to two decades working in home care, Suzanne Sullivan, MBA, RN, wanted to make an impact on patient care in the community, so when it came time for her to choose a dissertation topic for her PhD program, she needed to look no further than her extensive nursing career experience to find her focus.

Sullivan has witnessed firsthand just how difficult it is for patients and their families to discuss and plan for end-of-life care. As a longtime director in a quality improvement department, she identified the need to equip home health nurses with assessment tools necessary to help identify those patients most at risk for repeated interventions in both inpatient and outpatient settings. According to data from the 2004 “National Nursing Home Survey” and the 2007 “National Home and Hospice Care Survey,” only 28 percent of home health care patients, 65 percent of nursing home residents and 88 percent of hospice care patients have an advance directive on record (as cited in Jones, Moss, & Harris-Kojetin, 2011). Sullivan’s goal is to assist these patients and their families by providing information to help make informed decisions about their advance care directives.

Targeting frail elders with multiple chronic illnesses who are at risk for imminent decline in their health status, Sullivan plans to use the federally mandated Home Health Outcome and ASsessment Information Set (OASIS) dataset to develop a predictive model to assist with identifying at-risk patients. Through the development of a clinical algorithm to be incorporated into the electronic medical record, she aims to set up a system that detects and alerts home health nurses to patients at risk for death within 12 months. This system would allow nurses to initiate meaningful conversations with the patients and their families regarding their desires for end-of-life care and create a proactive, patient-centered care plan with clinical decision support to help manage their complex care.

While lack of time is often cited as a major barrier to advance care planning, nurses must be encouraged to make this a priority in order to improve communication between patients, their families and their trusted health care providers. Spending time discussing their end-of-life wishes offers patients the opportunity to receive health care treatment consistent with their cultural values and ensures access to quality end of life care. By starting the conversation and nurturing the discussion, patients and families are empowered to make informed, thoughtful decisions and take charge of their lives to assure that they are receiving quality end-of-life care.

- Donna A. Tyrpak



Sarah Goldthrite

Suzanne Sullivan, MBA, RN

Outstanding Students



Sara Alexanderson, BS '15, (right) at Remote Area Medical Program in Tennessee.

Close to Home

Students discover health disparities are not far from their front doors

The UB School of Nursing's mission is, in part, to cultivate nurses who will make a positive difference in local, national and global health. While the stories from nursing students' adventures abroad are rightfully received with wide eyes and an eager curiosity, some may not realize just how urgently needed basic health care actually is for many people right here in the United States.

SON and UB Dental School students experienced this firsthand in March 2015 at the Remote Area Medical (RAM) Program in Sevierville, Tennessee. Three nursing students, Sara Alexanderson, Erika Bradley and Teresa Thompson-Webster, made the relatively short

trek south to participate in the program, which sets up mobile medical centers to provide impoverished and underserved communities with medical, dental, vision and preventative care.

Alexanderson, who has participated in a health promotion trip to Hato Mayor in the Dominican Republic and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, was intrigued by the opportunity to compare domestic health care access with her international experience. "Health care access inequity is a huge problem in some areas of the United States," she says. "During my time in triage [at the RAM clinic], I heard the same things over and over – the people I spoke with did not have health insurance. They did not regularly receive healthcare. They knew they needed certain medications, but they were not taking them because they could not afford them. This is a hard message to repeatedly hear from citizens of one of the wealthiest nations in the world."

The students worked prior to the first blush of sunrise and through the day talking with patients about care needs, gathering health histories and taking vitals; they also assisted during dental procedures, calming and reassuring patients between applying suctioning. Many of these patients faced multiple extractions due to periodontal disease.

"The patients were so grateful for the care that they received and were typically stoic during what were painful procedures with minimal anesthetic," Alexanderson recalls. "Many came with other family members, arriving the night before and sleeping in the parking lot. Even with long wait times, they were glad they had come."

“As nurses, we need to be aware that not all citizens in the United States are receiving the optimal care we are accustomed to.”

–Sara Alexanderson

The students were also grateful for the experience, urging others to volunteer for RAM. "Having the opportunity to talk with so many patients and hearing their health stories was eye opening," says Alexanderson. "As nurses, we need to be aware that not all citizens in the United States are receiving the optimal care we are accustomed to."

"By participating in this program, I strengthened my professional roles as a sentry, healer, teacher and collaborator," adds Erika Bradley. "Being able to view public health on a broader scale and interprofessionally communicate with other members of the health care team is invaluable and will only positively affect my professional practice in the future. I highly recommend this program to other healthcare providers."

- Sarah Goldthrite

Concurrent success – and sanity – in athletics and academics is a careful balancing act, one with which Erika Bradley, a traditional BS nursing student at the UB School of Nursing (SON), is well acquainted.

Bradley, who has been skiing since age 3 and ski racing since age 7, enjoyed some impressive triumphs during the 2015 season in the Mideast Alpine Ladies Division of the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA) Mideast Conference. At the January Alfred University Invitational at Swain, she captured first on the giant slalom and third on the slalom; the following weekend she again placed first on the giant slalom and third on the slalom

at the UB/St. Bonaventure University Invitational at Holiday Valley. Bradley won the overall title for the weekend and was subsequently ranked the number one individual female athlete in the Mideast region – this underpins the recognition she received as UB's sole victor in the 2014 season, in spite of UB lacking any recent team championships.

Bradley's skill on the slopes is even more noteworthy when considering that UB's ski team does not have a coach – the success of individual team members hinges entirely on self-assured drive, independence and critical thinking, all of which also characterize successful nursing students. Bradley, who has a private coach, taps into this drive in her daily life, whether missing that Friday night party to rise at 6 a.m.

Saturday or relentlessly cramming training into a few short weeks before a new semester begins. Her academic and athletic lives are parallel, each with teachers who strive to prepare her for that moment when, despite intense pressure, she must carefully apply those skills she's been learning.

"The pressure I face in ski racing has really helped me as a nursing student," explains Bradley, who currently works in critical care at the Buffalo VA Medical Center. "As a nurse, you have a human life in your hands. Nursing students have that extra level of professional accountability, often at a younger age, and I feel being a student athlete prepared me with a sense of confidence and the ability to prioritize my own needs as well as those of my patients."

The UB SON, Bradley says, has been incredibly supportive of her extracurricular endeavors. "Having the encouragement of the faculty and the dean definitely made me feel, even with 30,000 undergraduates at UB, that I'm more than just a person number," she says. "It's humbling and makes me proud to be a UB School of Nursing student."

Bradley's sage advice for other student athletes and nursing students? "Be willing to take a step back from a situation to take a look at the bigger picture and your goals. Stay positive – get rid of self-doubt and uncertainty and just go for it."

- Sarah Goldthrite

Belize: Parte Dos

Sweltering sun, mud, beaches, rain; snorkeling, zip lining, cave tubing, archeological exploring ...



This is not how your typical Buffalonian would experience winter – unless, of course, you’re one of those fortunate UB nursing students who took advantage of Clinical Assistant Professor Joann Sands’ winter intersession course, Community Engagement Across Populations. Now in its second year, this unique study abroad opportunity offers students a chance to immerse themselves in a culture outside of the United States, encouraging them to absorb new and exciting personal and professional perspectives on life and health. Returning to Belize for a second year, Sands’ group, which consisted of nine UB students and three Pace University students, visited two villages, More Tomorrow and Franks Eddy, for nine days in early January 2015.

“In nursing school, there aren’t many chances to study abroad, so this is really a once in a lifetime opportunity,” says Sands. “By taking this course, students learn so much about the world, about themselves, and about nursing and health care.”

The depth of benefits from this type of excursion goes well beyond the stimulating touristy activities the students enjoyed. Bunking at the Camalote Camp in the Cayo district, the group set up clinics under the direction of International Service Learning (ISL), a non-governmental organization that coordinates volunteers to provide aid to developing communities, with students working alongside two local physicians in intake, triage, a physical and history station, and the pharmacy. They also provided oral hygiene, personal hygiene and skin care education to children at More Tomorrow.

Armed with the previous year’s experience, Sands says they were better prepared in terms of knowing what specific supplies are in high demand, items that Americans often take for granted in everyday life – women’s and children’s multivitamins, pain relievers like aspirin, iron tablets, bandages, and toothpaste. With the wet weather, the group encountered a number of skin maladies; other issues were reminiscent of what Sands’ first group saw the previous year, including uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes and common colds and upper respiratory infections.

“The people teach you more than you could ever learn from a classroom setting or even volunteering locally because it diversifies you. It introduces you to a whole new perspective,” relates nursing student Nautica Lawrence, one of the nine UB students to go on the trip. “The most interesting perspective I gained was how to address the challenges associated with barriers to communication.”

“The people teach you more than you could ever learn from a classroom setting... because it diversifies you.”

Sands agrees that although communication was a barrier, it was also a learning opportunity. “When students come home, they will encounter patients who don’t speak English, much like they did in Belize. They’re now better equipped to approach and speak to these patients with whom they don’t share a common language.”

“It is not enough to sympathize for patients’ symptoms and provide treatment,” Lawrence says. “We must inquire about external factors, such as emotional strain and home environment, which can contribute to their conditions.”

“On this trip, I learned to dig deeper within myself and explore my capabilities. I struggled to take blood pressures, but I stepped in where I could and kept practicing. I was anxious about saying the wrong thing in Spanish, but I asked for help where I could and used body language where useful, and I just didn’t give up on communicating with the patient because I was determined to provide the best care possible. When you are able to be compassionate, you are able to provide high quality and patient-centered care.”

- Sarah Goldthrite



Belize 2015 UB nursing students with children.

Growing the DEU Model for Optimal Clinical Education

Partnering with our area hospitals and health care providers, UB School of Nursing has opened several new Dedicated Education Units (DEU) to provide more clinical opportunities in this collaborative undergraduate learning environment. The new sites include a 26 bed telemetry unit at the Catholic Health Systems Sisters Hospital, St. Joseph Campus; a medical-surgical unit at Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital; a medical-surgical/oncology/hospice unit at Sisters of Charity Hospital; and a perioperative surgical unit at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. With the addition of these four sites, the SON now offers undergraduate students experiences in a total of 15 DEUs comprised of 18 nursing units in both inpatient and hospice settings throughout WNY. On June 17, the SON held its third annual DEU collaborative partnership meeting. All DEU partners were represented and discussed ongoing

opportunities to collaborate in sustaining the DEU, potential expansion of the DEU into additional specialty areas such as critical care and ED, and ways to strengthen the undergraduate nursing program to bridge the gap between academia and practice.



Sarah Jane Saia, student nurse; new mother Kathryn Burzynski-Barracough with baby Ruby; & DEU nurse Julie Cardona, RN.



Erika Bradley, BS '15

RACE TO THE FINISH

UB nursing student and ski racer Erika Bradley finds equilibrium in athletics and academics

Outstanding Students

The Cost of Consistency



A quality improvement project aims to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infections

In 2014, a group of UB School of Nursing RN-BS students, Ann Duignan, RN; Naghma Mustafa, RN; Michelle Poole, RN; Leah Puckett, RN; and Jacqueline Somma, RN, PCCN, used their quality improvement project as an opportunity to attack an issue that is common and costly in terms of both lives and resources, for individuals and institutions – catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), the most frequently reported health condition acquired at hospitals, according to the American Nurses Association (ANA).

The Centers for Disease Control suggests that as many as 70 percent of all CAUTI cases are preventable and indicates that the annual cost to the United States is between \$400 and \$500 million and an estimated 13,000 lives. Mustafa also notes that CAUTIs can extend a patient's hospital stay by two to four days.

"Besides the financial burden, CAUTIs take a physical and emotional toll on patients and their families – all for an infection deemed preventable by following evidence-based guidelines," Mustafa says.

The team, studying the North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System adult telemetry unit in Nassau County, N.Y., examined the question, "What can nurses do to decrease the number of CAUTIs in a hospital setting?" and determined that a CAUTI prevention bundle – a structured small set of practices that, when performed consistently, improves patient outcomes – should be implemented for all clients in an inpatient setting regardless of age.

"CAUTIs are prevalent in the hospital and community and have such devastating effects, especially on the elderly, as they often lead to sepsis," Duignan explains. "We wanted to know if there was evidence that showed whether a specific protocol for inserting a Foley catheter was associated with lower rates of infection."

Though there was not one particular protocol that was more effective than others, Duignan notes, "Institutions adhering to their own consistent protocols have lower CAUTI rates, which seems to indicate that a consistent protocol is most effective."

The group indicates that with the annual estimated cost of implementing a CAUTI prevention bundle at about \$16,500, doing so would certainly be cost-effective when an institution considers the cost of CAUTIs without such a protocol.

"Nurses should participate actively towards implementation of evidence-based practice (EBP) in their respective organizations," Mustafa says. "The number of research studies in databases is overwhelming, so the real challenge is filtering the information and coming up with EBP interventions that are practical, cost effective and sustaining.

"The EBP project has ignited in me the spirit of inquiry, and I hope to continue to act as an EBP mentor, leader and innovator."

- Sarah Goldthrite



Dylan Buyskes/Orion Studios Inc.

Alumni and students join faculty and staff at the 2015 NYSANA Spring Educational Meeting.



Student News and Highlights



SON nurse anesthetist student **Cara Buchanan** has been selected as one of 10 student advocates for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Foundation, which raises funds to support AANA projects and research. In this role, Buchanan will undertake activities to increase awareness of the Foundation, promote the Foundation's programs and events, and assist the Foundation in cultivating and connecting with students.

As part of the Nursing Care of Women and Children Practicum clinical rotation at Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y., students conducted a systematic review on falls in the maternal-newborn clinical area. They reviewed articles from the professional literature and collaborated with the unit-based nurses to determine the level and quality of the evidence and its applicability in the clinical setting. "Patient Falls: What About Mothers and Babies?" was presented as a poster at the recent Western New York Professional Nurses Association/Sigma Theta Tau Research Dinner.

Four UB SON graduate students, **Michelle Gilliland, RN; Quinn Maloney, BS '12, BLS, ONS; Anastasia Scime, BS '95, MS '98**, Nurses Association of Buffalo Scholarship recipient; and **Dejen Tekeste, CCRN**, Nova G. Petsan Scholarship recipient, have been selected as Jonas Veteran Healthcare Program Scholars. Since 2011, the Jonas Center has supported training doctoral-level nurses with a focus on addressing the health care needs of the veteran population, including policy, administration and education, in order to provide optimal care.

Tracy Merrell, BSN, RN, and **Jessica Varghese, RN**, Maureen L. Mussenden Scholarship recipient, have been selected as Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholars as part of the class of 2014-2016. The Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program promotes both the educational development of nursing faculty and joint faculty cooperation between nursing schools and clinical partners.

As part of the Mid-Year Assembly through the AANA, **Cheryl Spulecki, DNAP, CRNA**, Interim Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, and three graduate registered nurse anesthesia students, **Priscilla Aguirre**, along with **Katelyn Kreuter** and **Cara Buchanan**, both recipients of the Nova G. Petsan Scholarship, lobbied at the Capitol. Issues brought to the House of Representatives and the Senate include: supporting Title 8 funding for advanced practice nursing students, supporting the VHA Nursing Handbook to include CRNAs with other advanced practice nursing groups to obtain full scope of practice, and supporting the Rural Access to Nurse Anesthesia Services Act.

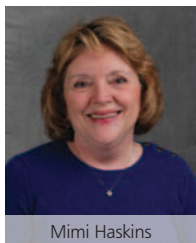


John Pender, a senior at UB SON, is one of four recipients of the 2015 Landau Making Lives Better Scholarship. Through this scholarship, Landau helps health care professionals in need make a difference. Pender has recently been elected as the President of the Nursing Student Organization for the academic year 2015-16 and is pursuing a dual major with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. This summer, he will participate in a summer nursing externship at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

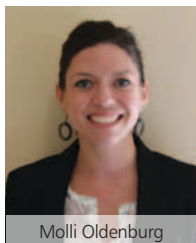


Lisa Wahlers, DNP '15 was the recipient of the Sheridan National Allied Health Scholarship for Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists.

Faculty Accomplishments



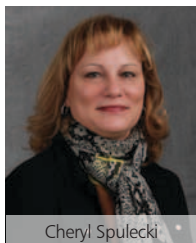
Mimi Haskins



Mollie Oldenburg



Louis Pawlowski



Cheryl Spulecki

Faculty and Staff Awards, Recognition, Promotions and Transitions

Tammy Austin-Ketch, PhD, RN, FNP-C, FAANP, was promoted to assistant dean for MS/DNP programs. She was also honored by the Professional Nurses Association of WNY/The Buffalo News as a 2015 Nurse of Distinction in Education nominee.

Carol Brewer, PhD, RN, FAAN, was named a UB Distinguished Professor and is a recipient of the Excellence in Policy Award from Nursing Outlook.

Jessica Castner, PhD, RN, was awarded a Junior Doctoral Award in Health Systems and Informatics Research at the 2015 Midwest Nursing Research Society conference in Indianapolis.

Rob Cenczyk was promoted to interim director of academic operations and assessment.

Diane Dempsey, grants manager in the Center for Nursing Research, received the UB SON 2015 Excellence in Performance Award for Professional Staff.

Kelly Foltz-Ramos, MS, RN, FNP-BC, RHIA, played a role as a TOEP fellow, keeping the SUNY campus contacts up to date and facilitating their interactions.

Susan Grinslade, PhD, RN, PHCNS, BC, has been promoted to the assistant dean for undergraduate programs and received the UB SON 2015 Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award.

Mimi Haskins, DNP, RN, received the Ruth T. McGorey Award from the WNY Professional Nurses Association honoring her service to the organization. She also received her Doctor of Nursing Practice at the 2015 UB SON commencement ceremony.

Sharon Hewner, PhD, RN, received the UB SON 2015 Excellence in Research Award.

Adrian Juarez, PhD, RN, won the Junior Investigator Award from the American Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Section.

Robin Lally, PhD, RN, AOCN, was promoted to assistant dean for the PhD program.

Mary Ann Meeker, DNS, RN, received the UB SON 2015 Distinguished Faculty Mentor Award.

Mollie Oldenburg, DNP, RN, FNP-C, received her Doctor of Nursing Practice at the UB SON 2015 commencement ceremony and is a TOEP first place awardee for her discussions about innovative uses of emerging technology tools within the TOEP community.

Cheryl Oyer was promoted to coordinator of online learning.

Pamela Papham, DNP, AOCNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, was selected as a 2015 Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and was selected to be the coordinator elect for the Oncology Nursing Society's Blood and Marrow Transplant (BMT) Special Interest Group and will be leading more than 3,500 BMT worldwide.

Louis Pawlowski, DNP, RN, ANP-C, received his Doctor of Nursing Practice at the 2015 UB SON commencement ceremony.

Davina Porock, PhD, RN, received the Distinguished Australian Alumni Award from Curtin University.

Deborah Raines, PhD, EdS, RN, ANEF, received the UB SON 2015 Dean's Award for Excellence in Clinical Scholarship. She also served as a TOEP Fellow providing mentoring and coaching in the social-network community and was issued an award as a TOEP Uber Fellow.

Sally Sams retired after 40 years of service to UB.

Yvonne Scherer, EdD, CNS, was honored at the Graduate School Spring Awards Ceremony on March 27, 2015 with the Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award.

Darryl Somayaji, PhD, RN, CNS, CCRC, will take over leadership for the Oncology Nursing Society's Advanced Nursing Research Special Interest Group and is serving as a steering committee member for the NYS Cancer Consortium.

Cheryl Spulecki, DNAP, CRNA, received her Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice from Virginia Commonwealth University in May 2015 and was named the Interim Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program.

Kathleen Thomas, MS, RN, received the UB SON 2015 Mecca S. Cranley Award for Excellence in Teaching.

RETIREMENTS



Carol Brewer, PhD, RN, FAAN, is retiring after more than 20 years of service to the UB School of Nursing. Brewer served as associate dean for academic affairs and is a UB Distinguished Professor. She is also the director of nursing for the NYS Area Health Education Center System and a member of the NYS Action

Coalition Steering Committee to implement the IOM Future of Nursing report. Brewer is the recipient of many awards, including the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, the New York Distinguished Nurse Researcher Award and the UB Exceptional Scholar Sustained Achievement Award.



Thomas E. Obst, PhD '98, CRNA and UB alumnus, has retired from the UB School of Nursing after more than 30 years of service, most recently serving as the program director for the Nurse Anesthesia Program. During his tenure at UB, Obst graduated nearly 400 CRNA students who have assumed clinical and leader-

ship roles throughout the United States and the U.S. Armed Forces. He established the Patient Simulation Center within the Nurse Anesthetist Program and expanded the program's original four clinical sites in Buffalo to 12. Obst has received several awards, including the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Foundation Researcher of the Year Award and two U.S. Army Commendation Medals.

New Faculty and Staff



Kafuli Agbemenu



Rose Bell



Susan Nierenberg



Mollie Oldenburg



Darryl Somayaji



Connie Vari

New Faculty

Kafuli Agbemenu, PhD, MPH, RN, is an alumna who earned her BS from UB SON in 2006. She went on to earn an MPH with a focus on behavioral and community health science and global health, as well as her MS and PhD in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research focuses on adolescent reproductive health and women's health in the African immigrant population.

Rose Bell, PhD, RN, joins the faculty as a clinical assistant professor. She is an advanced registered nurse practitioner who earned her PhD from the University of Hawaii in 2013 and completed nearly 23 years in the United States Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2010. Her current research interests include chronic lymphocytic leukemia and survivorship in chronic, incurable cancers; nurse workload in oncology; and empathy in nursing and its impact on staff retention and satisfaction.

Susan Nierenberg, DNP, RN, is a primary care nurse practitioner at Buffalo State College's Weigel Health Center and a SUNY Research Foundation project support specialist/clinical supervisor overseeing a pilot study on provision of mindfulness-based stress reduction treatment in primary care settings. A new clinical assistant professor in the UB SON, Nierenberg earned her DNP from Daemen College in Buffalo and her nursing MS from UB.

Mollie Oldenburg, DNP, FNP-C, RN, has joined the clinical faculty full time as a clinical assistant professor. She earned her MS and DNP at UB School of Nursing and currently works at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in the Department of Medicine, Leukemia Service. Her current research is based on cancer survivorship care and improving quality of care for adult cancer survivors in the primary care practice setting.

Darryl Somayaji, PhD, RN, CNS, CCRC, earned her MSN from D'Youville College and her PhD in nursing from the University of Utah. She recently completed a postdoctoral research fellowship in cancer and health disparities from the Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center-University of Massachusetts, Boston. Her research areas of interest include cancer and health disparities with a focus on access to care in cancer survivorship and recruitment and retention of underserved individuals to cancer clinical trials.

Connie Vari, DNP, MBA, FNP, RN, has joined the UB SON as a clinical associate professor. She earned her BS, MS and MBA at UB and has held many leadership roles in the Buffalo community. Prior to joining SON faculty, she held various leadership roles within Kaleida Health, including serving as the executive vice president and chief administrative officer for the corporate offices.

New Staff

Sarah Goldthrite has joined the SON team as assistant for communication and alumni engagement under Donna Tyrpak.

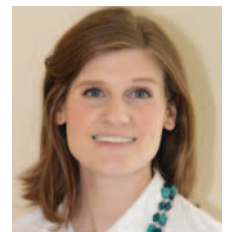
Lauren McGowan is now the SON recruitment and admissions specialist.

Andrea Proper recently joined the SON as department manager to manage the support staff team and will also be supporting Nancy Campbell-Heider and Suzanne Dickerson.

Jennifer VanLaeken is the new SON director of graduate student services.



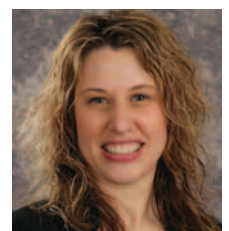
Sarah Goldthrite



Lauren McGowan



Andrea Proper



Jennifer VanLaeken

Research and Innovation



Kafuli Agbemenu

Kafuli Agbemenu, PhD, MPH, RN, received a Civic Engagement Research Fellowship from UB's Civic Engagement and Public Policy Research Initiative in support of her project, "Exploring the Reproductive Health Education Needs of Somali-Bantu Refugee Women Living in Buffalo, NY: A Pilot Study." The goal of the project is to examine reproductive health education needs and knowledge.



Rose Bell

Rose Bell, PhD, RN, received a Mecca Cranley Grant to explore a compassionate care program through a mentorship with Professor Belinda Dewar of the University of the West of Scotland in her project titled, "Developing Compassionate Care in Oncology Through a Relationship Centered Appreciative Care Leadership Program."

Rose Bell and **Susan Bruce, PhD, RN, ANP-C,** are moving forward with the Patricia H. Garman Grant study of female veterans' perceptions of the health care they received during and after their military service. The objectives are to identify perceptions of gender bias and the impact it has had on the female veteran's healthcare decisions and to identify the reasons why female veterans choose non-VA health care for health conditions felt to be service-related.



Nancy Campbell-Heider

Nancy Campbell-Heider, PhD, FNP, NP-C, CARN-AP, FAANP, is project director for an HRSA grant now in its second year. Her team continues to revise and expand the educational partnership between the Schools of Nursing and Dental Medicine. A cohort of BS to DNP FNP students are in screening and urgent care dental clinics participating in an interprofessional collaborative practice educational experience overseen by **Susan Nierenberg, DNP, RN,** the nursing clinical coordinator on the grant. **Patricia Nisbet, DNP, PMHNP-BC,** program coordinator for the PMHNP program, is working with her students and dental faculty in the Orofacial Pain Clinic to develop a wellness behavioral health program.



Susan Nierenberg



Patricia Nisbet



Jessica Castner

Jessica Castner, PhD, RN, is the recipient of a 2015 Nurse Scholar Award from the Heilbrunn Family Center for Research Nursing at Rockefeller University. The purpose of her funded project is to determine the feasibility of using a Fitbit for measurement of sleep disruption and

predictive modeling of asthma control in adult women.



Laura Anderson

Laura Anderson, PhD, is currently working on two projects funded through UB SON start-up funds. The Cleveland Hill Family Resource Center is partnering with Anderson and the PULSE Healthy Weight Research Team to provide the next level of intervention for parents interested in losing weight and promoting healthy weight at home.

Laura Anderson's second project is a follow-up to Characteristics of Obese Patients Evaluated for Surgery (COPEs). Bariatric surgery patients are being surveyed about their mental health support experiences and post-surgical changes since having undergone bariatric surgery for weight loss.



Carol Brewer

Carol Brewer, PhD, RN, FAAN, and her team, who are in their eighth year of funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the RNWork Project, have just completed collecting data on their sixth survey in a longitudinal project that started by surveying new RN graduates about various work attitudes and their intent to stay at their employer. Analysis and papers will be completed in the next few months. There are over 31 papers from this project, accessible at www.rnworkproject.org.



Yu-Ping Chang

Yu-Ping Chang, PhD, RN, received funding from the Patricia H. Garman Behavioral Health Nursing Endowment Fund for her project, "Developing a Primary Care-Based Behavioral Intervention for Chronic Pain Individuals with Comorbid Chronic Conditions." The study aims to develop a behavioral intervention targeting multiple chronic conditions in chronic pain patients and will facilitate the development of behavioral intervention guidelines in the primary care setting.



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



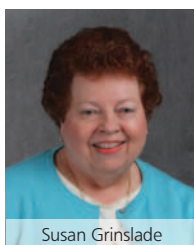
Grace Dean

Grace Dean, PhD, RN,

is in year two of an NIH/NINR R15 funded grant to study cognitive behavior therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) techniques for lung cancer survivors who suffer from sleeplessness related to

their diagnosis. The Jean Kimber Brown Faculty Scholar Grant is providing support for an undergraduate nursing student to participate as a part-time research assistant to work on data coding, data entry, data tables for poster presentations and manuscript preparation. She is also involved in developing educational and recruitment materials.

Grace Dean has also received funding from the **Oncology Nursing Society** to study "Bright Light Therapy (BLT) to Improve Sleep Continuity Disturbances in Lung Cancer Survivors." BLT has been shown to be effective in reducing sleep and circadian rhythm disturbances associated with a variety of disorders such as jet lag, seasonal affective disorder, depression, delayed or advanced sleep phase, and other sleep disorders. This study will deliver BLT via eye mask, requiring minimal effort for treatment.



Susan Grinslade

Susan Grinslade, PhD RN, PHCNS-BC, along with **Deborah Raines, PhD, EdS, RN, ANEF; Theresa Winkelman, MS, RN, CPNP; Linda Steeg, DNP, RN, ANP-BC; Penelope McDonald, PhD, RN;** and

Marie Larcara, EdD, have received a Seed Grant for Promoting Pedagogical Innovation from the UB Center for Educational Innovation. "Does Innovative Use of the KWLA+R© and a Flipped

Classroom Influence Achievement of Program Outcomes and 'Think like a nurse' in a Baccalaureate Nursing Education Program?" explores the use of innovative strategies to increase critical thinking skills and performance on process and outcome measures among traditional and accelerated BS nursing students.



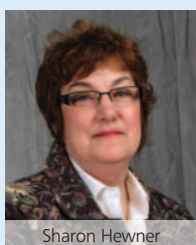
Theresa Winkelman



Linda Steeg



Penelope McDonald



Sharon Hewner

Sharon Hewner, PhD, RN, is working on a project titled, "Exploring Barriers to Care Continuity During Transitions: A Mixed-Methods Study to Identify Health Information Exchange Opportunity," which is funded by an Innovative Micro-Programs Accelerating Collaboration in Themes (IMPACT) grant through the UB Office of

the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Hewner is also working on "Nurse Communication During Care Transitions," funded by the Mecca S. Cranley Research Mentorship Award.



Carla Jungquist

Carla Jungquist, PhD, RN,

is currently working on the project, "Monitoring Hospitalized Patients Taking Opioid Medications per Best Practice," funded by a UB Civic Engagement Grant Development Fellowship for 2014-2015. This project

focuses on promoting safe and effective pain management by improving monitoring strategies.



Robin Lally

Robin Lally, PhD, MS, RN, AOCN, received a Mentored Research Scholar Grant from the American Cancer Society with supplemental funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo for her Internet-based, self-guided and tailored psychoeducational program for women newly diagnosed with breast cancer, CaringGuidance™: After Breast Cancer Diagnosis. The goal of the program is to facilitate psychological adjustment and support coping among women with early stage breast cancer and those who support them.

Research and Innovation



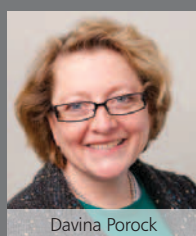
Mary Ann Meeker

Mary Ann Meeker, DNS, RN, is utilizing an IPCC grant to study “Unveiling Comfort Measures Only: Nurses Perspective.” The project is an examination of the practices related to the “comfort measures only” medical order from the perspectives of registered nurses. The findings will contribute to the revision of practices.



Deborah Raines

Deborah Raines, PhD, EdS, RN, ANEF, was awarded a Garman Grant to investigate obstetrical simulators. The research explores whether using a low- versus high-tech simulator during a high-fidelity obstetrical simulation has an impact on the learner’s confidence, satisfaction and performance, including nurse-to-patient and inter-professional communications. During the first phase, nursing and medical students participated in a simulation with either the Mama Natalie® (low-tech) or the Noelle® (high-tech) simulator, with students randomly assigned to simulation groups and the simulator type randomly assigned by coin toss. Raines’ next step is to begin the analysis process.



Davina Porock

Davina Porock, PhD, RN, and **Yu-Ping Chang, PhD, RN,** received funding from the Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation for their project, “Person-Centered Dementia Care in Specialist Units: A Feasibility Study and Pilot.” This study tested the feasibility of measuring salivary

cortisol in residents and staff of two specialist locked dementia units in assisted living facilities. This data will form the basis for a federal funding application in 2015 to test whether person-centered practices reduce stress and distress responses in residents and staff.

Davina Porock was also awarded a grant from Oral Care America with Stephen Abel, DDS, MSD, from UB’s School of Dental Medicine. The study, “Knowledge and Attitudes of Staff in Long-Term Care to Oral Hygiene Care,” is the first phase of a practice change project that aims to improve long-term care staff’s knowledge, attitude and skills regarding oral care of older adults living in skilled nursing facilities.



Carolyn Montgomery

Davina Porock and **Carolyn Montgomery, PhD, RN, ANP-C, GNP,** are working with a grant from Health Foundation of Western and Central New York on a project titled, “Geriatric Care Rotation.” This educational project aims to introduce general education undergraduates to older adults in a community senior services setting. Students will

spend time getting to know the older adult and record a story from the older adult’s life into the National Library’s oral history project.



Darryl Somayaji

Darryl Somayaji, PhD, RN, is currently working on a project titled, “Exploring Cancer Survivorship Needs in an Urban Community Health Care Center,” funded by the Cancer Care Equity Program, Dana Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. The study aims to expand understanding of the priority needs for cancer survivorship within racial/ethnic underserved populations in an urban health care setting that either speak English or Spanish.



Ellen Volpe

Ellen Volpe, PhD, FNP, is funded through the Mecca S. Cranley Nursing Research Mentorship Award to study “Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) Intervention Fidelity: Developing and Testing Measures of Therapist Adherence and Competence.” NET has demonstrated effectiveness in decreasing PTSD and depression symptoms in samples experiencing complex traumas. However, information and evidence regarding intervention fidelity in has been sparse. The purpose of this application is to acquire skills in developing and testing intervention fidelity protocols and measures.



Joining Forces

Susan Bruce, PhD, RN, ANP-C, continues the interprofessional relationship between the UB SON and the UB School of Social Work with Joining Forces, a 3E grant-funded project that introduces nursing and social work students to military culture. The “Have you ever served?” initiative is incorporated into a graduate course; a new elective course, Introduction to Issues in Veteran and Military Care, was added to both schools; and a veteran-themed standardized patient case scenario is currently in development. Bruce will also present “Understanding Military Culture in the Civilian Primary Care Setting: An Introduction for the Nurse Practitioner” at the New York State Nurse Practitioner Association’s 31st Annual Conference.

Collaborations

HomeBASE

The UB HomeBASE Respiratory Team is a partnership between nursing and engineering, headed by UB SON’s **Jessica Castner, PhD, RN,** and Albert Titus, PhD, from the UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The team is continuing to develop mobile technology that will enhance the self-monitoring of asthma in the home environment in their project, “HomeBase Asthma Medical Device for Decision-Support and Symptom Control.”

Institute for Person-Centered Care – IPCC

The IPCC has been able to extend its funding for another year. The Institute remains focused on its mission to develop and test the evidence base for person-centered care practices and to disseminate that through education and training as well as in academic forums. This year the IPCC awarded five small grants to faculty across UB, from engineering, psychology, medicine and nursing. Details are on the IPCC website. <http://www.buffalo.edu/ipcc.html>

Nursing Undergraduate Research Summer Experience – NURSE!

Over the last three years, several UB SON faculty members have been gradually building the summer research program for undergraduates interested in pursuing research as part of their nursing career. The program focuses on nursing students from underrepresented groups, with eight undergraduate students working with six faculty this year. Four students are funded by the NURSE program from the School’s Florence Nightingale Endowment. Donations to the School can directly support nursing students in this program – a pipeline to developing nurse scientists.

Spotlight on Alumni

UB Distinguished Alumni Award Presented to Rear Admiral Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, BS '81

The University at Buffalo (UB) Center for the Arts was the backdrop for a special night set aside to honor those extraordinary individuals who, with their remarkable achievements, embody UB's local and global impact. The UB School of Nursing (SON) is especially proud that one of our own, Rear Admiral Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, BS '81, is a recipient of the UB Alumni Association (UBAA) Distinguished Alumni Award for 2015. Her many accomplishments, along with her outstanding leadership, were recognized and celebrated by the university and the Western New York community.

After graduating from UB SON in 1981, Rear Adm. McCormick-Boyle was commissioned and reported to the Naval Hospital, Orlando, Florida, to work as a surgical and critical care nurse. She went on to serve in posts of increasing responsibility around the United States and overseas. Rear Adm. McCormick-Boyle is currently commander of the Navy Medicine Education and training command at Fort Sam Houston in Texas and director of the Navy Nurse Corps. She has consistently championed the academic excellence and educational preparedness she received as an undergraduate in the SON. In her acceptance speech for the UBAA Award she stated, "UB was the perfect place to develop, awaken and prepare." She reflected on how UB prepared her to understand the privilege of touching lives and pursue ongoing education, ultimately providing her with the resolve needed for each position of responsibility she has held in her prominent career in the U.S. Navy. Rear Adm. McCormick-Boyle credits UB with instilling in her a passion for life, learning and service. She vowed her continued commitment to prepare those in her command to care, to learn and to be a part of the solution as they advance in the nursing profession. Prior to this recent visit, she returned to the SON to speak to students during Buffalo's Fleet Week and to accept the SON Distinguished Alumni Award in 2013. A heartfelt congratulations to the Rear Adm. McCormick-Boyle on this tremendous achievement, and we thank her for her service!

- Donna A. Tyrpak

“UB was the perfect place to develop, awaken and prepare.”



Rear Admiral Rebecca McCormick-Boyle, recipient of the UB Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award 2015.



Dean Lewis with Dianne Morrison-Beedy, Distinguished Alumna UB SON 2015.

Alumna Recognized for Outstanding Research

UB SON alumna (MS '83) Dianne Morrison-Beedy, PhD, RN, WHNP-BC, FNAP, FAANP, FAAN, senior associate vice president of USF Health at the University of South Florida and dean of the College of Nursing, was recently selected for induction into the 2015 International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame by the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). She is one of 19 nurse scientists from around the world, including Australia, Belgium, Canada and the United States, to receive this coveted award.

Morrison-Beedy will be honored with the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame award during STTI's 26th International Nursing Research Congress on July 25, 2015 in Puerto Rico. During this event, the USF Nursing leader will also take part in a conversation with STTI President Hester C. Klopper, PhD, MBA, RN, RM, FANSA.

STTI recognized Morrison-Beedy for her outstanding achievements in research and leadership and for her continuous efforts to help transform health care. Her research on the Health Improvement Project for Teens (HIPTeens), an effective program that reduces sexual risk behavior among adolescent girls, was a major reason behind this recognition. HIPTeens is the

culmination of Morrison-Beedy's 20-year research efforts on HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

HIPTeens was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As a result, HIPTeens is now available to HHS grantees for reproduction through the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. CDC has also added HIPTeens to its Compendium website, making it available to communities, agencies and organizations.

According to an announcement from STTI, Morrison-Beedy's research will also be shared through the Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository, enabling nurses everywhere to benefit from her research findings.

STTI is a global nursing organization which helps advance world health and celebrate nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. The organization has more than 135,000 members from more than 85 countries.

- Denise Passmore, PhD,
University of South Florida



Class Notes



Class of 1955 with Dean Lewis.

On May 2, members of the class of **1955** met at Russell's Steak House in Buffalo, N.Y., to celebrate their 60th class reunion. Over 30 years ago, the class began monthly luncheon meetings that still continue today. They celebrated their 40th reunion with a cruise to the Bahamas and commemorated their 50th reunion with a week-long trip to Savannah, Ga. Calling themselves the "UB Basics" because they were the second class to graduate from UB's generic nursing program that began in 1950, the group was pleased to toast another class reunion and reminisce about their times together as young UB Basics.



Class of 1965 Reunion.

The class of **1965** returned to Buffalo on May 28 to celebrate their 50th reunion. The exciting two-day event kicked off with the UB SON Annual May Celebration at the Buffalo History Museum, where the class members celebrated with other alumni, faculty, staff, students and honored award winners. Day two included a tour of downtown Buffalo and the waterfront revitalization projects, along with a luncheon, tours of Wende Hall and Behling Interprofessional Simulation Center, an opportunity to spend time with ABS undergraduate students, and a dessert reception. The class enjoyed their visit to campus and the time they got to spend with former classmates, marveling at how much has changed in the last 50 years.

1960s

Karen (Hickey) Girton, BS '65, MS, has retired after 27 years as a clinical geriatric nurse specialist and nursing coordinator in the Palo Alto VA Extended Care Service in Palo Alto, Calif. Previously, she taught and developed courses for continuing education and worked in medical-surgical and adult and neonatal intensive care units.

Barbara (Topf) Uziel, BS '65, is retired but works part time as a nurse educator for emergency preparedness at a health department in Bethel, Conn., where some of her work includes recruiting and training volunteers and writing policies and procedures.

1970s

Dennis Dennis, RN, BS '72, PhD, consults with health care organization leaders to promote quality, retention and safety/satisfaction. He also developed online certification training used internationally for coaches and consultants in conflict and mediation.

1980s

Barbara Hoekstra, BS '83, recently became the director of Health Homes at Lake Shore Behavioral Health in Buffalo, N.Y. Hoekstra was also named among Business First's 2013 Health Care 50 and received the 2014 Hyman L. Levin Award for Outstanding Professional of the Year from the Mental Health Association of Erie County Inc.

Dianne Morrison-Beedy, MS '83, PhD, received the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UB School of Nursing.

Karen Ziemianski, MS '88, RN, Senior VP of Nursing, ECMC, received the 2015 Religious and Community Service Award from the Network of Religious Communities at their 35th Annual Appreciation Dinner.



Jannet Kim, BS '14, singing the National Anthem at Commencement 2015.



Betty Armenia, BS '91

1990s

Paul Austin, MS '90, PhD, was named the 2013 John F. Garde Researcher of the Year by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).

Betty Armenia, BS '91, was appointed as the trauma program manager for Women & Children's Hospital of Buffalo in 2014. Prior to this, Armenia was the performance improvement project coordinator for Kaleida Health.

Maj. Wayne Brasch, BS '94, recently accepted a civilian position with the U.S. Army and was employed by the U.S. military as field grade officer. Brasch's deployments include deployment to Iraq/Afghanistan in 2006 and forward deployment to Afghanistan in 2008.

Ngozi Nwokelo, MS '97, invented the MyHomeGyneExamBed (patent pending) to enable female patients to receive a pelvic examination in their own home.

2010s

Laiheng Cabral, MS '12, has been working as a family nurse practitioner in a primary care clinic in Bronx, N.Y., since 2013.

Feng Shi, BS '12, works in Highland Hospital's progressive care, ICU stepdown and cardiac units in Rochester, N.Y., following graduation. She was subsequently presented with the first place Quality and Safety Award and was named Employee of the Year for 2014-2015.

Jannet Kim, BS '14, gracefully sang the national anthem and alma mater at UB School of Nursing's 2015 commencement. She also sang at the 2014 UB SON commencement.

Spotlight on Alumni



Christina Slota, PhD, RN

A Path of Her Own

A rising star among our young alumni, Christina Slota, BS '09, came to the University at Buffalo to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse practitioner, a career she felt was her destiny. Slota grew into a young adult amidst an assemblage of nurses – her mother and many aunts – but, somewhere along the way, she fell in love with research.

Following a slight detour from her desired path, Slota's focus shifted during her junior year at UB. Slota, seeking out research assistantships, began working with Emeritus Professor Janice Feigenbaum, PhD, RN, on a literature review of parents recovering from addiction and, after being awarded a Lois Widly Scholarship, the group presented their work at a conference in Georgia.

Now immersed in research and scholarship, Slota paired with Associate Professor Mary Ann Meeker, DNS, RN, to investigate family caregiver issues. She assisted with a UB SON- and National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded qualitative descriptive content analysis of focus groups to identify needs of inner-city caregivers – it was these projects that ignited her initial interest in caregiver stress, a topic that has become her research area of interest and life's work. These early research experiences, along with her work as a nurse's aide on a hospice unit, became the prime motivators for her pursuit of a career in nursing research.

Slota says her desire to pursue a PhD was cultivated by UB's great educational environment, coupled with the abundance of opportunity for student

scholarship. Post-graduation, she went on to the University of Pennsylvania and earned her master's in nursing in 2010, a master's in bio-ethics in 2012 and a PhD in 2014, all while funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research as an NIH fellow. Slota dedicated herself to three years of dissertation research at the NIH Clinical Center working with Lt. Cmdr. Margaret Bevans, PhD, RN, AOCN.

Eager to share her experiences and guide current and former students interested in furthering their education, Slota emphasizes curiosity and connections – to professors, to nurses, to researchers, to other students and to ideas. She urges them to query faculty about possible pathways, to immerse themselves in the field by shadowing a nurse practitioner or researcher, to network with other students sharing similar interests, and to be determined.

Currently a nurse research specialist at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the NIH, Slota is a clinical coordinator researching patient-reported outcomes and quality of life for rare genetic disorders.

Slota credits Feigenbaum and Meeker with nurturing her passion for research: "They took me under their wings, supporting and mentoring me throughout my undergraduate studies. I owe them both a lot for all the support they have given me throughout this process."

She also praises UB for helping her form lifelong friendships with classmates who continue to support her through this arduous journey of making her dream a reality.

- Donna A. Tyrpak



On Their Side: Alumna Persists in Examination of Child Maltreatment, Education

As a registered nurse at Taiwan's National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) Hospital in the early 1990s, then later as an instructor in the child psychiatric unit of Taipei City Psychiatry Center, Jui-Ying Feng, DNS '03, RN, PNP, recognized the role of health care and social resource disparities in outcomes for abused children and their families. She has since carved a considerable path in child maltreatment research and education.

Since earning her DNS at the UB School of Nursing in 2003, Feng has worked as a postdoctoral research fellow and a visiting Fulbright scholar at the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y., with Professor Harriet Kitzman, PhD, RN, FAAN, in the internationally recognized Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), a program that has been successful in decreasing child maltreatment rates nationally and globally.

"The NFP program has demonstrated significant long-term positive effects on mothers and children of disadvantaged families by providing resources, health education and support to disadvantaged mothers starting during the pregnancy period," Feng explains.

Currently an associate professor teaching disaster nursing and pediatric nursing courses, among others, at NCKU, Feng, in 2014, earned awards for Outstanding Teacher and Innovation and Achievements of Teaching. She guides students with encouragement and optimism, constructively reiterating that persistence is central to the success of nursing students pursuing a PhD.



Jui-Ying Feng, DNS, RN, PNP

“The School [of Nursing] is like a family to me.”

Amid her teeming teaching schedule, Feng persists in her child maltreatment research endeavors. In 2012, she joined the Children Protection and Family Violence Protection and Intervention team at the National Taiwan University Children and Family Research Center, and she currently sits on the NCKU's Human Research Ethics Committee. Feng's co-authored article, "Prevalence of Different Forms of Child Maltreatment Among Taiwanese Adolescents: A Population-Based Study," the first population-based national study in Taiwan using adolescents' self-reports of violence experienced at home, was also recently accepted for publication.

Feng credits some of her success as an effective researcher and teacher to her educational foundation at the SON.

"I had the privilege of watching Dr. Jezewski interacting with and helping other faculty members to establish their academic pathway, organizing research activities, and establishing systems for grant applications and publications," Feng recalls. "Dr. Jean Brown showed me what a scholar looks like, and Dr. Wu has trained me to be a rigorous researcher – the School is like a family to me."

- Sarah Goldthrite

Happenings



Commencement 2015 reception.



2015 Nelson lecturer Karen Meneses, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Dean Marsha Lewis.



McLernon Scholarship Recipients with Dean Lewis and Mrs. Katherine Holler (Mr. James McLernon's sister) accepting the Patricia H. Garman Award for Excellence and Service on his behalf.



From left: Dean Marsha Lewis, Stephanie Mucha, Dr. Marla Salmon (guest speaker) and Thadeus Bienek at Bullough Lecture 2014.



May Celebration 2015.

Happenings



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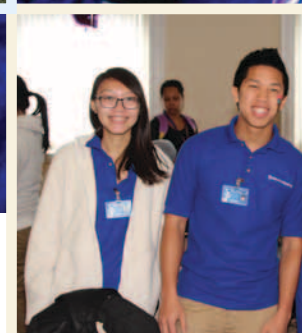
http://nursing.buffalo.edu/news-events/upcoming_events.html

Nominate a nurse with impact!

Nomination form: <http://nursing.buffalo.edu/information-for-alumni/award-nomination-form.html>

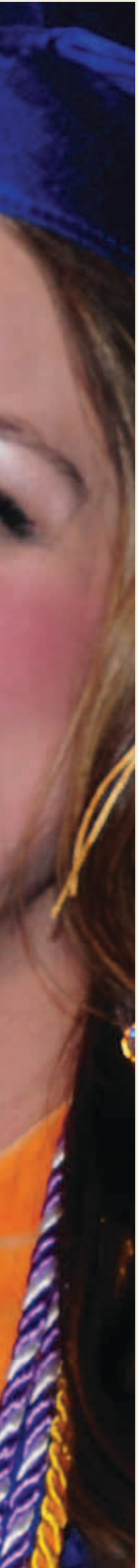


2015 Commencement speaker Maureen Kelly, MS, RN, OCN, NEA-BC; CNO, VP of Patient Care Services, RPCI.





RN-BS graduates at 2015 Commencement with Susan Grinslade, assistant dean for undergraduate programs.



Philanthropy



Record-Breaking Giving

The New York City-based Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Fund presented to the School of Nursing a three-year grant of \$600,000, the largest private grant ever awarded to the SON. Established by Dr. Leonhard Felix Fuld and his sister, Florentine, in their mother's memory, the Fuld Trust Scholarship Fund assists students in the Accelerated Baccalaureate Program in Nursing, as they prepare for careers in an increasingly complex health care field.



Passionate Provisions

Long time UB School of Nursing faculty member Carol Brewer recently established the Global Health Fund, supporting the SON's commitment to prepare students to live and lead in a global world. This endowment will enhance students' and faculty's understanding of global health problems and cultures, developing opportunities for student service learning and faculty scholarship. Brewer is passionate about providing these global opportunities and hopes to inspire others to support the SON's global outreach, health and scholarship goals: "When you support our students and faculty, you are also supporting communities they serve, both regionally and across the world." For more information about supporting the Global Health Fund, email glenn@buffalo.edu or call 716-829-4773.

Student Commencement Awards

Sara Alexanderson, BS '15, received the annual **Ethan Christian '12 Memorial Award**, which honors an outstanding University at Buffalo nursing student at graduation in memory of Ethan Christian, BS '12. The recipient demonstrates exceptional care, compassion and excellence in the practice of nursing as exemplified by Ethan Christian.

Pamela A. Almeter, DNP '15, and **Julia Rae Buscaglia, BS '15**, received the **Dr. S. Mouchly Small Award**, which recognizes graduating students who have demonstrated superior knowledge and skill in psychiatric mental health nursing and who exhibit an understanding of and sensitivity to the special needs of clients and their families, as well as the ability to respond to these needs.

Kaitlyn Dietrick, BS '15, **Gilbert Hernandez III, BS '15**, **Barbara Prescott, BS '15**, and **Vadim Korogoda, DNP '15**, received the **Anne Walker Sengbusch Award for Leadership in School and Community Activities** for notable service and leadership to the UB SON, university and/or community.

Jane Ginther, BS '15, and **Kaitlin Alyse Organisciak, BS '15**, received the **Ruth T. McGrorey Award for Excellence in Nursing**. Named to honor UB SON's former dean, the award recognizes baccalaureate students who have demonstrated outstanding knowledge of nursing theory and excellence in nursing practice.

Carla Moscato, DNP '15, **Gilbert Hernandez III, BS '15**, and **Samantha Kulu, BS '15**, received the **Shirley D. DeVoe Nursing Award for Excellence in Communication**. This award, endowed by UB SON alumna Shirley DeVoe, is presented to graduating students who demonstrated superior skills in communicating with clients.



Megan A. Pszonak

Megan A. Pszonak, BS '15, received the **SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence**.

She was a research assistant for three years, working on various projects, including a literature review that will be submitted for publication this spring. Pszonak, a flutist, was one of four performers selected for an inaugural performance of a collaborative concert series in downtown Buffalo. She also served as a volunteer leader for WyldLife.

Eman Abu Sabbah, PhD '15, and **Jin Young Seo, PhD '15**, received the **Ruth Gale Elder Award for Excellence in Nursing Research**. This award, established by Elder, faculty emeritus, recognizes graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding knowledge and ability in nursing research.

Nicole Marie Tripoli, DNP '15, and **Samantha Kulu, BS '15**, received the **Sigma Theta Tau, Gamma Kappa Chapter Award** recognizing their superior scholarship, leadership and achievement in nursing.

Selected Faculty Publications

Biobehavioral Oncology and Quality of Life Across the Lifespan

Austin-Ketch, T. L., & Paplham, P. (2014). Cancer survivorship and primary care —What primary care NPs need to know. *The Journal of the Nurse Practitioner Association of New York*, 3(4), 21-26.

Chen, G., **Paplham, P.**, & McCarthy, P. L. (2014). Remestemcel-L for acute graft-versus-host disease therapy. *Expert Opinion on Biologic Therapy*, 14(2), 261-269. doi:10.1517/14712598.2014.873027

Connors, L. M., Voian, N., **Lally, R. M.**, Shi, Y., & Edge, S. B. (2014). Decision making after BRCA genetic testing. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*, 18(3), E58-E63. doi:10.1188/14.CJON.E58-E63

Dickerson, S. S., Abu Sabbah, E., Gothard, S., Zeigler, P., Chen, H., Steinbrenner, L., & **Dean, G.** (2014). Experiences of patients with advanced lung cancer: Being resigned to sleep-wake disturbances while maintaining hope for optimal treatment. *Cancer Nursing*. Advance online publication. doi:10.1097/NCC.0000000000000206

Dickerson, S. S., Connors, L., Fayad, A., & **Dean, G.** (2014). Sleep-wake disturbances in cancer patients: Narrative review of literature focusing on improving quality of life. *Nature and Science of Sleep*, 6, 85-100. doi:10.2147/NSS.S34846

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McMullen, S. L., **Wu, Y-W.**, **Austin-Ketch, T. L.**, & Carey, M. G. (2014). Transitioning the premature infant from nonsupine to supine position prior to hospital discharge: Exploring current practice and examining clinical outcomes. *Neonatal Network*, 33(4), 194-198. doi:10.1891/0730-0832.33.4.194

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Castner, J., & Dean-Baar, S. (2014). Measuring nursing error: Psychometrics of MISSCARE and practice and professional issues items. *Journal of Nursing Measurement*, 22(3), 421-437. doi:10.1891/1061-3749.22.3.421

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Castner, J., Wu, Y-W., & Dean-Baar, S. (2014). Multi-level model of missed nursing care in the context of hospital merger. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 37(4), 441-461. doi:10.1177/0193945914535670

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Hewner, S. J., Seo, J. Y., Gothard, S. E., & Johnson, B. J. (2014). Aligning population-specific care management with chronic disease complexity. *Nursing Outlook*, 62, 250-258. doi:10.1016/j.outlook.2014.03.003

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P.U.L.S.E. Healthy Weight Research Team

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Sutter, M., Perrin, P. B., **Chang, Y-P.**, Hoyos, G. R., Buraye, J. A., & Arango-Lasprilla, J. C. (2014). Linking family dynamics and the mental health of Colombian dementia caregivers. *The American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias, 29*(1), 67-75. doi:10.1177/1533317513505128

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Promoting Health and Reducing Risk in Psychiatric Mental Health and Addictions

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I'm thankful.



Undergraduate nursing student **Kelly McLean** needed just two things to become a registered nurse, but for her, both were tall orders. She needed courage and she needed money. She got the latter from a private scholarship established by a UB nursing alum. That support helped Kelly, who held an associate's degree in nursing, find the courage to begin studies to earn a bachelor's degree in her field. "Receiving a scholarship means they think you're worth it," says Kelly. "Now I see not just an ending, but a new beginning. Now I can see a story."

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