

PhD Newsletter

January 2014

FROM THE PROGRAM CHAIR:

Spring semester classes have begun, and all of us have hit the ground running! We had a great colloquium on January 13 during the first on-site session, at which 3 of our faculty, Drs. Shelia Swift, Sharon Davis, and Lynn Blackburn, shared their recent dissertation research or DNP capstone projects. Additionally, Dr. Marian Roman shared the innovative project for which she won a prestigious national award at APNA in the fall.

If you missed the colloquium, be sure to mark April 8 on your calendar for the next one. Colloquia provide a great way for faculty and students to interact outside of regular classes. It is also beneficial for PhD and DNP students to interact. Again in April, DNP students will participate. Concepts, theories, research ideas, and other issues of common interest are always explored in colloquia, and refreshments are served. Please review this newsletter carefully for other upcoming events of the spring semester, as well as news about faculty, student, and alumni accomplishments. If we did not list your accomplishments, we didn't know about them! Please remember to send news of presentations and publications so that we can congratulate you.

--Sandra Thomas, Chair, PhD Program

UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES:

February 12-15—Southern Nursing Research Society conference to be held in San Antonio. Please plan to gather for the annual faculty-student group dinner at 6:30 PM at Boudro's on the Riverwalk on Friday night February 14. If family members are going with you to San Antonio, they are welcome at the dinner.

April 8—The second colloquium of the fall semester will be held from 9:00 to 12:00 (room TBA) with presentations by the students in N603 and students in the DNP program. From 1-5, we will have the annual Sigma Theta Tau Research Day at the University Center. Dr. Bill Bass of the Forensic Anthropology Center will be our keynote speaker, which will truly be a delight.

Faculty members Ginger Evans and Sally Helton will make a presentation about forensic nursing, and a variety of research posters will be exhibited. Watch for a call for abstracts later this month or early in February or contact Dr. Lindley, chair of the event, for further details (llindley@utk.edu).

May 10—Graduating doctoral students will be hooded by their chairpersons, to the cheers of the audience of family and friends, at the commencement ceremony at 9 AM at Thompson-Boling Arena.

Announcement from OIT:

Because of the university's agreement with Microsoft, students are able to download and install Microsoft Office ProPlus desktop applications (e.g., Word, Excel, PowerPoint) at no additional cost. This software is available online through your Volmail account and can be installed on up to 5 devices. Instructions for downloading and installing the software, and additional information can be obtained from <http://oit.utk.edu/MSadvantage>. If you have questions, call the OIT Help Desk (865-974-9900) or go to <http://help.utk.edu>.

Looking ahead to summer semester:

- Dr. Phillips is busy planning our annual summer research conference, which will be held during one of our scheduled on-site sessions, which take place June 9-11 and July 21-23. Stay tuned for further details. Nationally prominent speakers always make this conference stimulating!
- Qualitative Nursing Research (N607) will be taught this summer by Dr. Thomas. The two on-site sessions will take place on June 9 and July 21. Please contact Dr. Thomas if you have questions about the course (sthomas@utk.edu).
- Educational Psychology 522 (EDPY 522) will be taught online this summer by Dr. Mary Ziegler. This cognate course, which focuses on Adult Development, has been very popular with previous PhD students. The course involves synchronous meetings on Monday and Wednesday evenings during the **first** summer session (first 4 weeks). For further information, you can reach Dr. Ziegler at mziegler@utk.edu.
- Educational Psychology 525 (EDPY525), Adult Learning, will be taught online during the **second** summer session (2nd 4 weeks) by Dr. Ralph Brockett. Our students often take this course as one of their education cognates, and find it especially beneficial if they are planning on a career as nurse educators. For further information, you can reach Dr. Brockett at brockett@utk.edu.
- Educational Principles and Strategies (N566) is the first course required for the Nursing Education Certificate, which many of you are pursuing. If you have not yet taken the course, you should make sure to take it this summer. Dr. Tami Wyatt will offer the course, provided there is sufficient enrollment. Please contact Dr. Wyatt if you have questions at twyatt@utk.edu.
- Technology on Health Professions Education (N578) will be taught by Dr. Tami Wyatt, provided there is sufficient enrollment. This course explores and analyzes instructional technology and health information systems that enhance learning of college students, healthcare staff, and/or patients. Dr. Wyatt is nationally and internationally known for her expertise in instructional technology and health information systems.
- N614 (preceptorship) is offered during the summer semester. Preceptorship is an excellent opportunity to work with a mentor at another institution and/or have an intensive immersion experience that enriches your program of study. Students in the past have chosen to do some pretty exciting things, such as going to foreign countries (e.g., Japan, Botswana, England), attending an institute (e.g., ethics institute, health policy institute), working with a dean or research director, or having an intensive experience with a renowned theorist or researcher (e.g., learning grounded theory methodology). Please make an appointment with your advisor to talk about the possibilities. While a preceptorship is not mandatory, except for the students in Health Policy or Global Disaster Nursing, it remains a very attractive component of doctoral education and we encourage you to experience it--if at all possible.

Upcoming Grant Application Deadlines:

April 1—Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation End-of-Life Nursing Care Research Grant

May 1—American Nurses' Foundation Grant; Global Nursing Research Grant

July 1---ATI Educational Assessment Nursing Research Grant; Hill-Rom Environment of Elder Care Research Grant

(information about all of these may be found on the website of Sigma Theta Tau International, www.nursingsociety.org/grants)

Kudos, applause, and hugs all around to the following students:

Clifton Kenon received the 2012 Indian Health Service Luana Reyes Leadership Award at a November 18 ceremony at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC. In the photograph, Clifton is pictured with Dr. Yvette Roubidoux, the Director of the Indian Health Service. Clifton received this award because of his leadership in improving the health of women and children who are served by the Indian Health Service. He is the youngest person, and first nurse, to receive this award. Among his accomplishments, in his role as Director of Maternal Child Health in the Aberdeen Area of the Indian Health Service, are vigorous promotion of breastfeeding, expanded access to contraception, and training OB nurses for work in rural settings. Clifton is in the process of moving to Washington this semester, and consequently he is taking a one-semester leave of absence from the PhD program.



Mary Lou Fornehed reports a 2013 publication in *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, coauthored with Dr. Lisa Lindley and Dr. Sandra Mixer. The title of the paper is “A Comparison of the Nurse Work Environment between Perinatal and Non-Perinatal Hospice Providers.”

April Bice achieved a grade of “high pass” on her comprehensive examination and will be proceeding to conduct her dissertation research. She is teaching part-time for King College.

Stephanie Lewis successfully defended her dissertation and graduated in December. The title of her dissertation is “Exploring Neonatal Intensive Care Nurses’ Affective Responses to Providing End-of-Life Care.” She will continue living in Switzerland until her husband’s commitment there comes to an end.

Shelia Swift also successfully defended her dissertation and graduated in December. She received the Martha E. Rogers Award for sustained academic excellence throughout the PhD program (as evidenced by her perfect 4.0 GPA). The title of her dissertation is “It’s a Little Scar”: A Phenomenological Study of Nurses’ Responses Following Direct Involvement in a Nursing Error.” We are pleased that Shelia has joined our faculty.

If you have read the latest issue of *Tennessee Nurse*, you undoubtedly noticed an article by Marcia Spurgeon, “Changing the Face of Health-Care-Givers.” And I am sure you could not miss Jenny Webb’s article, which was on the front page. Jenny’s article was titled “Are You Aware of the Fight?” (The title should compel you to read it). Another of our PhD students was pictured under Member News: Suzanne Boswell was appointed to the ANA Code of Ethics Revision Professional Issues Panel Advisory Committee. Congratulations to all of you!

Deb Jones has passed her comprehensive examination and will be moving ahead to schedule a proposal meeting and initiate her research on children in military families who experience distress because of parental absence. For those who may not know Deb, she is on active duty in the Air Force, stationed in Minot, North Dakota.

Alumni Accomplishments:

Two of our alumni have been providing leadership in health care and humanitarian assistance in violence-plagued Southern Sudan. Kathleen Walker spent 6 months there serving under the auspices of the United Nations. Laurel Cassidy is still there, serving with Doctors Without Borders, providing mental health services to

displaced persons and refugees. Laurel has also worked both in Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea with Doctors Without Borders. Laurel will be visiting the college and reporting on her experiences on March 26. All of you are invited to attend. The presentation will take place from 3-7 PM in room 240.

Deborah Weatherspoon reports a podium presentation at the biennial Sigma Theta Tau International conference, entitled “Enhancing Critical Thinking Disposition and Clinical Judgment Skills in Senior BSN Students via Electronic Interactive Simulation.” She also presented a poster about her research at the Tennessee Nurses Association convention.

Alumna Jessica Naber reports a recent publication with Dr. Wyatt in *Nurse Education Today*. The paper title is “The Effect of Reflective Writing Interventions on Critical Thinking Skills and Dispositions of Baccalaureate Nursing Students.” She made research presentations recently in Prague, Czech Republic; Brisbane, Australia; Las Vegas, Kansas City, and four sites in Kentucky.



Maria Overstreet has joined the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia as director of its center for clinical simulation. Maria is a nationally prominent expert in simulation. Recently, she supervised a high-fidelity simulation for graduate students in anesthesia and midwifery, in collaboration with another of our graduates, Julia Phillippi, a faculty member at Vanderbilt. During Maria’s career she has taught at King College, Belmont University, and Vanderbilt. She will continue teaching at Vanderbilt as well as MTSA, and operating her own simulation consulting business.

Julia Phillippi reports a publication with Dr. Myers, “I Don’t Want to Put Everything Out There,” in *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*. The paper is based on her dissertation research about Appalachian women who decline CenteringPregnancy.

Faculty Accomplishments and Honors:

Drs. Hall and Hutson have been interviewed on radio and television (Dr. Hutson by ABC) about their federally funded research on end-of-life experiences of Appalachian adults who are HIV+. They made a presentation, coauthored with Dr. Phillips and collaborator Dr. Susan Gaskins, about the research project at the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, in November in Atlanta.

In addition to her work on the above-mentioned project, Dr. Hutson reports a poster presentation with several collaborators at the National Human Genome Research Institute/Social and Behavioral Research Branch Scientific Symposium in Bethesda, MD, on January 13. She has a forthcoming publication in *Journal of Appalachian Studies* about women cancer survivors.

Dr. Hall is a coauthor with alumna Jessica Naber on a forthcoming paper in *Journal of Nursing Education* and is developing a book chapter on the topic of theory into practice. She has an upcoming presentation on racial microaggressions at the Society for Behavioral Medicine and an ongoing study, with a faculty member in Social Work, regarding microaggressions experienced by individuals who are of lower socioeconomic status and non-high-school-graduates, ages 18 to 34.

Dr. Thomas is coauthor with Karen Franklin of an upcoming poster presentation at the 2014 Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy. The title of the poster is “Applying Insights from Merleau-Ponty and van Manen to Pedagogy in Higher Education.” Dr. Thomas is also coauthor of a podium presentation at the conference, “A

Transformational Twist on Learner-Centered Teaching: Experience and Existential Phenomenology.” The multidisciplinary team of presenters hails from education and psychology as well as nursing.

Dr. Lisa Lindley is first author of the above-mentioned article which PhD student Mary Lou Fornehed coauthored, as well as first author of three other 2013 journal articles, and second author of a recent article with Dr. Bonnie Callen (first author) and Dean Niederhauser (third author). Dr. Lindley is again leading a journal club this semester (contact her at llindley@utk.edu if you are interested in participating).

Drs. Linda Mefford, Bonnie Callen, and Sandra Thomas, with coauthor Dr. Maureen Groer of the University of South Florida, have a forthcoming article “Religiousness/Spirituality and Anger Management Style in Community-Dwelling Older Persons.” The article will appear in a special issue on spirituality and mental health, guest-edited by Dr. Inez Tuck, in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*.

Dr. Carole Myers reports presentations at national meetings in Texas and Kentucky, as well as presentations at the Tennessee Nurses Association Annual Convention on full practice authority and the Tennessee Action Coalition (to learn more about TAC, go to <https://tac.tennessee.edu>.)

Her poster presentation at the Tennessee Public Health Association Annual Conference (“Why Women Miss Appointments in a Women’s Health Clinic”), coauthored with public health practitioners and academicians, won the second place award. Carole has made numerous community presentations about the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. Susan Speraw has announced plans to retire, effective August 2014. The College is making arrangements to ensure that all students in the Global Disaster Nursing program will be able to finish their GDN courses, but no new students will be admitted.

HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!
