



## From the Program Chair:

Spring is definitely here! Spring semester classes are past the mid-point, and it is time to turn our attention toward summer course offerings, and welcoming the Class of 2014 at May Orientation.

Please review this newsletter carefully for upcoming events, as well as news about student and alumni accomplishments. If we did not list your accomplishments, we didn't know about them! Please remember to send news of your presentations, honors, and publications so that we can congratulate you.

*--Sandra Thomas, Chair, PhD Program*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW ADAA:

Dr. Mary Gunther has been appointed as the new Executive Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Her new office is room 232. Dr. Gunther brings many years of administrative experience from hospital administration as well as academia. She is a PhD graduate from UTK in 2001, which makes us so proud of one of our own!

## Upcoming Events/Important Dates:

**March 31**—Dissertation defense of Cecily Strang at 1pm in room 313.

**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. 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.

**May 20-22** –New students will be welcomed in 3 days of on-campus **Orientation**, to be held in room 313, College of Nursing. At noon on the first day, faculty will join students for a pizza lunch and sharing information about their programs of research. The orientation schedule also includes a Dutch-treat dinner faculty-student dinner on May 21 at Naples Italian restaurant and a student-to-student lunch on May 22 when current students share the “nitty-gritty” of PhD study with new students. A detailed schedule of the daily orientation events will be disseminated later.

**Call for Manuscripts from JAN:**

*Journal of Advanced Nursing* has issued a call for review papers. The journal accepts any type of high quality systematic literature review, with a 5,000 word limit. This is a wonderful opportunity for doctoral students to publish in a journal that offers quick online publication. Author guidelines may be found at <http://bit.ly/14Z0dZW>.

**Call for Book Reviews:**

The book review editor for *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, PhD alumna Kelly Carlson, invites students to contribute book reviews. This is another good opportunity to gain experience in publishing. Please contact Dr. Carlson at [kcarlso3@utk.edu](mailto:kcarlso3@utk.edu) if you would like to review a book. Susan Blaine, a current PhD student, has already done a review for the journal.

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**Essential Information for NEW STUDENTS**

As soon as you have your NetID, you can register for your summer courses. Both the full-time and part-time options are posted on the PhD portion of the College of Nursing website, so you can check to see which courses are in your chosen option for every semester. You can also contact the advisor who was assigned to you in the admission letter, or Dr. Thomas, if you have questions about what courses to take. If you plan to pursue the Nursing Education certificate, summer is an excellent time to take education cognate courses. See details about course offerings elsewhere in this newsletter.

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>.

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**Essential Information for CONTINUING STUDENTS****Have you seen your advisor recently?**

It is important for you to make an appointment with your advisor during one of the on-site sessions each semester. Not only is it important for your advisor to review your portfolio, and assess your progress toward the learning outcomes of the PhD program, but also to serve as a listening ear to concerns you may have and to be a cheerleader for your accomplishments.

**Trying to learn more about Research Methods?**

The UTK library has begun subscribing to SAGE Research Methods Online. According to Lana Dixon, nursing's reference librarian, the database can help students to explore research methods, better understand particular methods, or identify new methods. The link is <http://www.lib.utk.edu/cgi-bin?auth/connect.cgi?primary=990>. Please contact Ms. Dixon if you need assistance ([ldixon@utk.edu](mailto:ldixon@utk.edu)).

**Looking for Instruments?**

Some of you have reached the stage where you are looking for instruments to measure health and psychosocial variables. Do you know about HaPI, the most comprehensive database for measurement

instruments? This is an online database containing descriptions of thousands of instruments. The database is updated quarterly, a true labor of love for Dr. Evelyn Perloff who has been directing HaPI for many years. Initial consultation is **free**. The web site is [www.bmdshapi.com](http://www.bmdshapi.com)

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### Essential Information for ALL STUDENTS:

It is time to apply for **College of Nursing Scholarships**. Most of these are available to you even if you receive employer support for tuition. Most CON scholarships are not large, but will enable you to buy some textbooks or pay travel expenses for the on-site class sessions. Some awards are based on financial need, but others are based on academic promise, and/or criteria such as geographic residence (for example, the Artie Ruth Reilly scholarship is specifically for an Appalachian resident). To apply, go to <https://nursing.utk.edu/students/Pages/financialaid.aspx>.

Click on the tab labeled “graduate students” and follow the instructions. The link to the FAFSA application, which provides need-based funding, is also available through the CON web site. **All applications are due by April 1, 2014.** Please do apply, because the College of Nursing is committed to supporting our PhD students. Also, remember to check out other sources of funding, such as Nurses Educational Funds ([www.n-e-f.org](http://www.n-e-f.org)) and the P.E.O. Sisterhood ([peointernational.org](http://peointernational.org)). Students planning an academic career can apply for the Federal Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) by contacting Dr. Mary Gunther ([mgunther@utk.edu](mailto:mgunther@utk.edu)). Tennessee residents can apply for the State of Tennessee Nurse Faculty Loan, administered through TSAC.

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### Looking ahead to summer course offerings:

- **A new special topics course, “The US Healthcare Delivery System,”** will be taught by Dr. Carole Myers under the Public Health course number 580 (section 001). The course will be useful for students who plan to fulfill requirements for the health policy certificate while pursuing doctoral study. The class will meet on Mondays from 5:05 to 8:20 PM, with some sessions taking place face-to-face and others online. Dr. Myers will be glad to answer any questions ([cmyers9@utk.edu](mailto:cmyers9@utk.edu)).
- **N610, Nursing Science Seminar,** is a course for beginning PhD students which fosters critical analysis and synthesis of literature in a student’s chosen focus area within nursing science. Generally, students enter the course with a fairly broad focus area (e.g., simulation in nursing education, self-care in heart failure, recovery from childhood abuse), and then spend the semester examining what is already known and not yet known about this topic.
- **Qualitative Nursing Research (N607)** will be taught this summer by Dr. Thomas. This course provides an overview of qualitative research methods and hands-on experiences with data analysis in several of the methods. The course is for second-year students who have completed N601 and N603. Please contact Dr. Thomas if you have questions about the course ([sthomas@utk.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mziegler@utk.edu).

- **Educational Psychology 525 (EDPY525), Adult Learning**, will be taught online during the **second** summer session (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:twyatt@utk.edu).
- **Technology in 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](http://www.nursingsociety.org/grants))*

**Report from Southern Nursing Research Society Annual Conference:**

*PhD Candidate Glenda Field offers the following report of the February meeting of the Southern Nursing Research Society:*

“With multiple snowstorms hitting the northeast leaving frigid temperatures reaching into Southern Texas, the February weather presented a challenge for both organizers and attendees of the annual SNRS convention. However, between technology and stand-in speakers the program was carried on to provide wonderful opportunities for sharing/learning more on current topics and challenges in nursing research.



April Bice

Attendees enjoyed the warm-up in San Antonio while unfortunately Drs. Thomas and Gunther (and PhD student Susan Blaine) were unable to attend due to cancelled flights. They were greatly missed. Dr. Phillips and Dr. Swift were able to flee the snow and ice to attend. Although there were concerns, all four posters safely arrived, including two student posters presented by April Bice, one poster jointly authored by Jenny Webb and Melanie Morris, and one jointly authored by Susan Blaine (with Drs.

Thomas and Phillips). Also attending the conference were Suzanne Boswell and Glenda Field.

In the spirit of our school, the Friday night tradition was carried on with the UT group dining alfresco on the riverwalk. The fun evening was topped off by a full moon and for some, a boat ride. What a great ending for Valentine’s Day.

SNRS is a great place to make connections, ignite your ideas, and get tips for publishing your research.



Glenda Field & April Bice

There are many opportunities for students to get involved in SNRS. During the annual business meeting Dr. Thomas was recognized as a newly elected member of the nominating committee. We look forward to being well represented for the upcoming conference in 2015 in Tampa, scheduled for February 25-28.”

*Post-script from Dr. Thomas: Don’t plan to fly through Atlanta!*

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**KUDOS, APPLAUSE, AND HUGS ALL AROUND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ALUMNI FOR THE FOLLOWING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

## **Student Honors and Accomplishments**

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- As noted above, several students made presentations at the Southern Nursing Research Society annual conference in San Antonio. Recent graduate Shelia Swift presented her dissertation research there.
- Stasia Ruskie will be doing a summer preceptorship with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, working with tribal governments and disaster preparedness.
- April Bice was approved for grant funding based on the N606 assignment. She will receive \$2700 from Sigma Theta Tau for her dissertation (which is everything requested!).

## **Alumni News and Accomplishments**

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**Julie Worley**, a 2012 PhD graduate, reports a new publication in *JNP*, *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. In the article, “What Prescribers Can Learn From Doctor Shoppers,” she points out measures that prescribers can take to detect and prevent doctor shoppers from obtaining prescriptions for controlled drugs that will subsequently be abused or sold to other abusers. Julie is assistant professor of community systems and mental health nursing in the College of Nursing at Rush University in Chicago.



PhD alumna **Laurel Cassidy** has been serving with Doctors Without Borders in violence-plagued Southern Sudan, providing mental health services to displaced persons and refugees. 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.

Alumnus **Steve Busby**, who teaches at Vanderbilt, has been asked to contribute to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Dr. Juliet Corbin’s *Basics of Qualitative Research*. Steve has been asked to contribute some lessons he learned while conducting his dissertation research, and a link to his work will be provided.

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**Wishing you a successful completion of spring semester,  
& a productive summer term!**

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