

# PhD Newsletter

COLLEGE OF NURSING | UTK  
OCTOBER 2014

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## From the Program Chair:

I hope everyone is having a great fall semester. Several exciting events are coming up. Read on for details of upcoming dissertation defenses and other important items to mark on your calendars.

Please review this newsletter carefully for news about accomplishments of the doctoral faculty, PhD alumni, and currently enrolled students. 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

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## Dissertation Defenses:

On **November 3** at 9:30, in room 313, Glenda Field will defend her dissertation, titled "Living with Hypertension: Experiences of Black Men Related to Their Perceptions of the Clinical Encounter at Diagnosis." Glenda's chairperson is Dr. Joanne Hall.

On **November 7** at 9:00, in room 313, Suzanne Boswell will defend her dissertation, titled "I Saved the Iguana:" A Mixed Methods Study Examining Responder Mental Health after Major Disasters and Humanitarian Relief Events." Suzanne's chairperson is Dr. Susan Speraw.

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## Lecture by Dr. Kathy Dracup:

On **November 12**, during the second on-site session of the fall semester, Dr. Kathy Dracup will present the annual Mary T. Boynton Lecture from 2:30 to 5:00, followed by a reception. This event will take place at the Foundry on the World's Fair Site, which is very close to campus. We are honored to have Dr. Dracup, Dean Emerita at UCSF, as our guest speaker. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear an internationally prominent researcher and leader.

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## Research Camp:

On **November 13**, Dr. Dracup will keynote the 8<sup>th</sup> annual College of Nursing Research Camp, which will be held from 8-4 at the UT Conference Center. Dr. Dracup will also be speaking on "Team Science: NIH Funding" in a morning session on **November 14** at the library. Please



attend these sessions if you possibly can. Contact Janet Benson ([jbenson@utk.edu](mailto:jbenson@utk.edu)) to register for either of both of these sessions and to obtain further information.

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### **Other Upcoming Events/Important Dates--**

- The College of Nursing's convocation ceremony will take place on **December 12** at 1PM in the Auditorium of the University Center. PhD graduates will be hooded by their dissertation chairs.
  - CCNE's accreditation visit to the College of Nursing will take place **March 30-31**. CCNE evaluates the bachelor's, master's, and DNP programs. Simultaneously, the PhD program will be reviewed by the university, as part of its academic review process. It is possible that reviewers will want to meet with some doctoral students. Additional information will be forwarded to you, once it is available.
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### **Spring Semester PhD Class Schedule (first on-site is January 12-14, second is March 30-31 and April 1):**

N603 meets Mondays 8-12 with Dr. Hall (for first-year students).

Colloquium will be Monday afternoons 1-4 during both on-site sessions, unless the CCNE accreditation visit necessitates a schedule change during the 2<sup>nd</sup> on-site session.

Note: N608, Quantitative Nursing Research, will not be offered this spring, as we do not have a sufficient number of students ready for it (both semesters of statistics must be completed).

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### **On-Site Schedule through Fall Semester 2015:**

Some people have emailed asking about the schedule for future semesters. This is always posted on the PhD portion of the College of Nursing web site, in the same section as the PhD Handbook, past PhD newsletters, and other items. After you log on to the site, click on "Resources" to view any of these information items.

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### **Curriculum Changes in Process:**

Based on curriculum review by faculty, benchmarking against other PhD programs, and student input, the quantitative research course sequence will be strengthened by addition of another course (pending approval by the Graduate School). This change will be effective with the cohort of students entering in the Fall of 2015.

To accommodate the new advanced quantitative research course, slight changes in scheduling have been made in the showcase curriculum. Currently enrolled students should not be disadvantaged by these schedule changes, but you are encouraged to meet with your advisor as you plan for completing the remainder of your courses.

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### **Research with Minors Policy:**

All faculty and students who conduct research with minors will need to undergo newly mandated additional training. The new Research with Minors Policy can be accessed at <http://www.utk.edu/policycentral/minors>.

The training, which can be completed online, can be accessed by going to [http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/eod/child\\_protection.html](http://humanresources.tennessee.edu/eod/child_protection.html).

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### **Invitation to Apply for 2015 NINR Graduate Partnerships Program (GPP):**

Applications are due December 1 for this prestigious fellowship program at NIH. To be eligible, applicants must complete doctoral coursework no later than August 2015. If chosen to participate as a Fellow in the GPP, dissertation research is conducted with mentorship of an NIH scientist, in collaboration with the dissertation committee of the home institution. For more information, go to [www.ninr.nih.gov/GPP](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/GPP).

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### **StatsWhisperer's Newsletter Available:**

William Bannon, who calls himself the "Stats Whisperer," announces a new issue of his free statistical newsletter. This issue is devoted to the topic of effect size, which Dr. Bannon believes is under-emphasized in comparison to the over-emphasis on statistical significance ( $p < .05$ ).

To access this free newsletter, go to <https://www.statswhisperer.com/newsletter/>

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### **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@gmail.com](mailto:kcarlso3@gmail.com).

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**Kudos, Applause, and Hugs All Around to Faculty, Students, and Alumni for the Following Accomplishments:**



- **Student Accomplishments:**

Carla Neale, Julie Hubbard, Sarah Covington, Jean Sconza, Kendrea Todt, and Anna Cartwright, along with 4 DNP students, made presentations at the Fall Colloquium on August 25.

Linda Cabage attended a spirituality and health research workshop at Duke this summer, after receiving a scholarship to do so.

Deb Jones attended a summer research workshop given by the Air Force. Deb is on active duty with the Air Force in Minot, North Dakota.

Congratulations to Jenny Webb and Lisa Kirkland, who have successfully defended their dissertation proposals.

Stasia Ruskie has just returned from Australia, where she conducted interviews with AusMAT nurses on their disaster nursing experiences as a pilot study for her dissertation. She will write up her research for presentation at the 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Disaster and Emergency Medicine in April, 2015, in Cape Town, South Africa. You might ask Stasia for access to her fascinating blog about the Australia visit; it is filled with photos of the unique animals and birds of Australia as well as details of her data collection and other activities. Stasia did a summer preceptorship with the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, working with tribal governments and disaster preparedness.

Susan Blaine and Lisa Kirkland presented posters at the recent Tennessee Nurses Association annual conference.

PhD students who received College of Nursing scholarships at the August banquet were April Bice, Stasia Ruskie, Kendrea Todt, and Lisa Kirkland. This year's recipients of the Chancellor's scholarship award are Julie Hubbard and Jean Sconza. Continuing with their previously awarded 4-year scholarships from the Chancellor are Erin Arcipowski and Susan Blaine. Our other Chancellor's Scholar, Beth Shieh, is taking a leave of absence because she is expecting a baby.

Jenny Webb and Melanie Morris, along with faculty members Sandra Thomas and Terri Combs-Orme from Social Work, have a paper "in press" at *MCN, the American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing*. Congratulations are also in order to Jenny for being selected to join Gamma Beta Phi.

- **Faculty Accomplishments:**

Dr. Ken Phillips was named as one of 60 East Tennessee State University alumni who were honored at their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala.

Dr. Tami Wyatt reports a publication on simulation in nurse practitioner education in the September issue of *The Journal of Nurse Practitioners*. She has a book chapter “in press” on health information technology in clinical settings, coauthored with PhD alumna Tese Stephens. She also has a chapter on mobile technology forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of Nursing Education*. Dr. Wyatt is an RWJF Executive Nurse Fellow, and also a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.



New faculty member Dr. Kathy Newnam presented research at CANS and has several forthcoming publications. Kathy is a recent graduate from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she conducted a dissertation on skin breakdown in extremely low birthweight neonates receiving CPAP via different nasal interfaces. Many of you heard Dr. Newnam present her dissertation research during the July colloquium.

Dr. Joanne Hall has a newly published book chapter on narrative theories directing practice and two recent journal articles. She is serving as President of the Faculty Senate this year, a very high honor. She is only the second nursing professor to ever serve as President of the Faculty Senate. Congratulations are in order for her Award for Excellence in Reviewing by *Nursing Outlook*.

Congratulations are also in order for Dr. Sadie Hutson, who received a \$1500 award given by the Alan Solomon MD Faculty Oncology Fund.

Dr. Marian Roman made a presentation at the American Psychiatric Nurses Association on the federally funded RIDE program being delivered here at UTK along with Dr. Lora Beebe. This is an interprofessional education project that brings together graduate students in psychiatric-mental health nursing, pharmacy, exercise science, and nutrition science, with the purpose of learning to collaborate in promotion of wellness in persons with mental health problems. Dr. Roman has a provocative editorial forthcoming in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*.

Dr. Reba Umberger has papers “in press” at *Journal of Neonatal Nursing* and *Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing*.

- **Alumni Accomplishments:**

Alumna Kaye Bultemeier is currently teaching in Uganda.

Julie Worley, who now lives in Chicago and teaches at Rush, is a coinvestigator on a \$1 million SBIRT grant, the first interdisciplinary grant ever obtained at Rush with both nurse and physician investigators. She is also involved in a Graduate Nurse Education grant obtained through the Affordable Care Act, in which a training site will be set up for nurse practitioners at a 400 bed recovery center for patients with psychiatric and/or addiction disorders. She has a recent publication on management of prescription drug abuse in pregnancy, published in *Journal of Perinatal Neonatal Nursing*.

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**A Note of Sympathy:**

Our sincere condolences to Dr. Ken Phillips in the recent death of his daughter. We also express our sympathy to Dr. Carole Myers in the loss of several significant others.

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**Wishing you a successful completion of fall semester, and a productive spring term!**

