Service

LTC Nancy Steele, Advancing Research While Serving Her Country

Fighting AIDS With Nutrition

Walking With Children in Honduras

KCON's Connection to Haiti
From The Dean

Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen is the author of “My Grandfather’s Blessings,” a book about how we can recognize and receive blessings in our own lives and bless the life in others. Dr. Remen reflects on the nature of service and how, through service, we can discover our own wholeness. It is about taking life personally and letting the lives around us touch us.

We can only truly serve those we are willing to touch, not only with our hands, but with our hearts and even our souls. Professionalism seems, at times, to have embedded in service a sense of indifference and distancing. But on the deepest level service is an experience of belonging, of connection to others and the world around us. It is this connection that gives us the power to bless the life in others. In helping, we may find a sense of satisfaction; in serving, we have an experience of gratitude. It is renewing.

This edition of KCON Magazine focuses on service. It is filled with stories of individuals who are or have been connected to the Kirkhof College of Nursing as students or faculty. You will read about one who is serving our country in the military, others helping victims with AIDS in Africa and Honduras, and two faculty members helping to educate nursing students in Haiti. Our current students, faculty and staff have served our own community in many ways, including H1N1 immunization clinics and care for the homeless.

I am proud of KCON’s ability to nurture the innate capacity and desire within individuals to serve and connect to others. Nursing is a service profession, so another focus on service may seem ordinary. But it is the exceptional nurses – like the ones featured in this magazine – who define service as Dr. Remen has described it, with the power to bless the life in others. In true service, there is no ordinary. It is the feeling in our hearts and souls that we are making a difference!

I hope you enjoy these stories, and may each of you realize a renewed desire to find a unique way to serve.
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Advancing Research While Serving Her Country

An Interview with LTC Nancy Steele

Q: You are assigned to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, tasked with the responsibility to stand up the first military nurse research cell outside the U.S. What does this mean in practical terms?

“There have been established Nursing Research Service Centers at major military medical centers in the U.S. for years, but there has never been a center outside the country. I am establishing the first international center for nursing science and clinical inquiry for all of Europe, which includes Iraq and Afghanistan. Aside from conducting my own research studies, which are mostly related to deployed military women’s health issues, I am responsible for facilitating the work of other nursing personnel as they develop and conduct research.

“I work directly with the consultant to the surgeon general for research and collaborate with both internal and external military personnel: nurses and physicians, unit directors, clinical investigators, quality managers, and military nursing research interest groups from all over Europe, the United States, Iraq and Afghanistan. I work with nurses from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

“The majority of our nursing research focuses on the clinical care of wounded warriors, deployment issues, nurse retention, the nurse practice environment, compassion fatigue and PTSD. My ultimate responsibility is to promote an environment conducive to nursing science and clinical inquiry while ensuring compliance with the military’s research assurances and the Human Research Protection Program. Since all wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan are evacuated here first before being transferred to another medical center or sent back to duty, the signs of trauma and war are all around us. It offers a unique environment for research.”
Q: What does this mean for clinical practice as it relates to frontline troops?

“My position provides an opportunity to be involved in research that ultimately makes a difference in the way we provide care in the war zone and in medical centers outside this zone. The environment at Landstuhl requires nurses to have unique knowledge, training, critical thinking and clinical skills due to the type of injuries and the related psychosocial needs of our patients. In addition to the troops themselves, this hospital is responsible for all military personnel and their dependents stationed throughout Europe. So finding increasingly efficient methods for getting patients transferred in, stabilized, cared for and transferred out is a must.

“Many of the nursing personnel, whether civilian or military, have not been exposed to this type of environment, so there is an extensive nurse transition program in place. The Nurse Research Service Center works in collaboration with Landstuhl’s Division of Staff Education to identify the specialized needs of this nurse practice environment and how that relates to our troops in both deployed and non-deployed settings.”

Q: How did your education at KCON prepare you for this and influence your career?

“KCON gave me the break in my career that changed my life forever. Although I had bachelor’s degrees in other disciplines, I did not have a BSN. I was unable to progress in my clinical nurse position to the level I desired, so I gave up on nursing. My real dream was to one day teach nurses, but it seemed so far away. Well, long story short, I decided to stop at the Eberhard building to inquire about a master’s degree in education. As fate would have it, I got off on the wrong floor and ran into Dr. Patricia Underwood. One thing led to another and before long we were discussing my MSN aspirations. Before I knew it I became part of an MSN pilot program, where I could obtain my MSN without a BSN.

“After my first semester with KCON I was hooked. I loved the thesis requirement, which alerted me to how much I wanted to be a nurse research scientist one day. The faculty at KCON mentored me in a way that I had never experienced, and I was able to graduate with honors just 18 months later. I became a visiting professor directly after graduation and conducted a research project with other faculty members. KCON’s mentoring continued while I acquired my doctoral degree. Then I returned as an assistant professor, until I was overwhelmed with the passion to serve my country.

“I left GVSU, but my heart remains there. If I had not walked in the wrong door and received such a welcoming opportunity from KCON, I would definitely not be where I am. KCON built my educational foundation for success, and now every day I try to do the same for other nurses.”

Q: How does nursing relate to service to others in a military context?

“Service in the military is a never-ending process for nurses. Our positions do not end when we walk out the door from work. The expectation is that we not only be nurses but soldiers too. So we must be physically fit and military ready, which includes maintaining weapon qualifications, survival training, chemical and disaster relief training, and force protection training.

“We take on various assigned leadership roles throughout our careers. Leadership is not an option, it is an expectation. And part of this leadership is assisting others to thrive. Military nurses are expected to move every two or three years, and most of us have to leave our families and friends. So we are all quite dependent on each other at work, at home and in the community. We are told that we belong to the military 24 hours a day, but what this really means is that we belong to each other and must be ready to serve 24/7, no matter who, what, when or where.”
Q: How does service relate to nursing as a career overall, not just in the military?

“Nursing goes far beyond what we do inside a building. When we leave at the end of a workday we still look at everything through the eyes of a nurse. This has to do with the nursing process that we learn. We are always assessing, problem solving, evaluating and implementing solutions to help others. We may not even realize we are doing this because it feels almost instinctive. It is as though a sixth sense for service gets hardwired into our brains as part of nursing training, and then we build on it as we go through our careers. It does not seem to matter what the setting is, I think we build on that foundation and service just becomes second nature to us wherever we are.”

Profile: LTC Nancy Steele

LTC Nancy Steele, (’94, ’95), is currently serving as Chief of Nursing Research Service for the Europe Regional Medical Command (ERMC) in the Department of Nursing Research Service of the Army Nurse Corps. She has been assigned to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany since November 2008, where she will remain until November 2011. Steele was stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, from 2003-2008. During her last year there, she was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, after being selected to take on the role of Human Protections Administrator for Iraq and Deputy Director of the Deployed Combat Casualty Research Team.

With a PhD in nursing from the University of Michigan and a graduate degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, LTC Steele also holds an impressive array of academic credentials from GVSU: BA in Group Social Sciences, BS in Applied Psychology, MSN, and post-graduate certifications as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner and a Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist. She served on KCON’s faculty as well, as a visiting professor from 1994-1998 and as an assistant professor from 1998-2003.
Frank Julian: Fighting AIDS With Nutrition

Frank Julian, BSN (’77), has had a nursing career that has given him a home in Michigan while leaving part of his heart in Africa.

Julian began in 1977 with an interest in tertiary care and improving the quality of life for individuals living with chronic illnesses. Along the way he also became an ordained minister and married his wife, Peggy Eskro, BSN (’78). At their church, Frank Julian currently serves as a home care nurse and as the pastor in charge of missions; Peggy leads the parish nursing services.

A turning point in Frank Julian’s career occurred on a mission journey to Botswana in 2001. On a road trip that led past a cemetery, he noticed many new graves. Later, during a meeting, he was introduced to an official’s wife who was a visiting nurse. During their conversation he learned about the number of deaths due to AIDS. He asked a simple question, “How can we help?” and it changed the course of his life. He learned that there were many unnecessary deaths among AIDS patients; they were receiving medications, but still died due to malnutrition. He learned that the real need was for something as simple as liquid nutrition supplementation.

When he returned to Michigan, Julian intended to send a single case of liquid nutrition supplements to Botswana. That has blossomed into a partnership with World Medical Relief, resulting in more than 50 tons of liquid nutrition being shipped to Africa.

Julian now heads up a nonprofit organization in Allen Park called Fighting AIDS with Nutrition (FAWN). His son, a pharmacist, has joined the project, conducting research on the scientific rationale for the value of nutritional supplements. This evidence, along with stories gathered during subsequent mission trips, provides powerful evidence of success as Julian seeks partnerships and donations for FAWN.

“KCON prepared me for things I didn’t know I would need,” Julian stated. “I am grateful for a program that didn’t focus entirely on acute care, but prepared me for the world of nursing outside the walls of hospitals. In part because of what I learned at Grand Valley, I believe that FAWN is truly a nursing mission. With the support of an interdisciplinary team, we have had a measure of success in turning a deadly illness into a chronic illness.”

More information about the FAWN project is available at www.fightingaids.org/
Chris Frederick: Walking With Children in Honduras

When Chris Frederick, MSN ('98), completed her master’s degree she had her career all planned. She was going to work in adult critical care, or at least with adult clients. She was at Saint Mary’s McAuley Health Center working with HIV/AIDS clients when a friend invited her on a mission trip to Honduras to provide medical care to victims of Hurricane Mitch.

After Frederick returned home, she felt called to go back to Honduras. With the help of friends she raised enough money – $12,000 – for her to live on frugally for the next two years. She teamed up with an interdisciplinary group, and opened a home and hospice for children living with HIV/AIDS. Between April 1999 and January 2005, she developed and managed a home that provided direct care for 30 HIV-positive children.

In 2005 Frederick started a nonprofit organization – Walking With Children – this time with the goal of keeping children healthy and in their own homes. Using her nursing case management skills, and with the support of an interdisciplinary team of 15, this organization provides home-based care. Located in the capital city of Tegucigalpa, it has developed a guardianship plan that avoids the institutionalization of these children despite limited treatment options and a high death rate. Funding for a six-year pilot project has been secured from the Global Fund through a grant, written in Spanish, that Frederick spearheaded.

“I’m amazed at how much Erickson, Tomlin and Swain’s nursing theory, ‘Modeling and Role Modeling,’ has informed my practice,” said Frederick. “Despite my early skepticism, I can’t think of one instance when this theory hasn’t been used to guide the work that I’m doing.” Frederick added that knowledge she gained during the course of her master’s studies at KCON has been central to her work in program development, grant writing, planning care and even reading balance sheets.

After 10 years in Honduras, Frederick is passionately committed to the work that still needs doing. Her immediate plans include completing the application to make her foundation an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization and to continue refining the system of care made possible by the Global Fund grant.

More information about Walking with Children is available at www.walkingwithchildren.org/wwc.html
FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have had the honor of representing our alumni chapter as president for the last five years. Our chapter was just getting started back then, and we had high hopes for finding creative ways for alums to stay connected. Only a few of us remain from that original board of directors, but since then dozens of alumni have stepped up and participated in either university or KCON events.

As alumni volunteers, the current board has been especially active planning activities like our annual SNA Roundtable event. This opportunity brings nursing students and seasoned nursing alums to an evening where experiences and knowledge are shared. Representing our alumni nursing chapter at the Homecoming tailgater always is exciting to volunteers as they meet and greet other GVSU alums coming back to campus.

I would like to personally thank all of you who have participated as volunteers as part of our nursing alumni chapter. We recognize your service and it is truly appreciated!

Elaine Leigh, MSN (’02)

ALUMNI UPDATE

Alumni in the News

Mary Harrison, BSN, RN-NIC (’96), was profiled in the September/October 2009 issue of Spectrum Health’s “Focus on Nursing.” Harrison, a neonatal services staff nurse, was cited for her leadership as chair of the Central Shared Leadership Council. In addition, she is an active participant on the Spectrum Health Executive Patient and Family Advisory Council as well as the Vermont Oxford Network to expand neonatal quality improvement efforts.

Stephanie Painter, MSN (98), the director of Spectrum Health School Health Programs, was given the 2009 YWCA Tribute! Award in sports, fitness and wellness. This is one of six Tribute! categories of professional achievement and advocacy recognized by the YWCA each year. In her acceptance, Painter attributed much of her success to people who are visionaries – principals, teachers and parents who have made a commitment to follow through with their vision for the health of all children.
Teri Crumb, BSN (’93), is working as a clinical research nurse in the Spectrum Health Research Department, where she is involved with both administrative duties and direct patient care. Crumb, a member of Association of Clinical Research Professionals (ACRP), has been an invited speaker at national research meetings. She also was the primary author of two abstracts accepted for presentation at the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference, both of which were published in the “Pediatric Pulmonology” journal.

Ashley DesRocher, MSN (’02), and Marie VanderKooi, MSN (’90), presented a poster, “Examination of Critical Care Nurses’ Satisfaction with Bar Code Medication Administration,” at the April 2009 Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large Spring Research Event.

Lynn Gras, MSN (’03), has worked as an advanced practice nurse in many distant places, including remote native villages in Alaska and refugee camps in the Middle East. Most recently, she served as the medical officer with a National Science Foundation deep field project in Antarctica.

Margaret Kucinski (Lohrer), BSN (’78), has been promoted to the newly created position of director of clinical services for Medical Network One, based in Rochester, Mich.

Amy Manderscheid, BSN (’03), MSN (’08), of Spectrum Health, and Mary Harrison, BSN (’96), of Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, gave a podium presentation titled “Unit-based Shared Leadership Councils: Innovative Resources to Elevate Engagement and Empowerment” at the Michigan Nursing Super Summit, Joining Forces for Change, in August 2009.

JoAnn Mooney, CPN (’00), was the recipient of the 2009 Marti McGrail Leadership Award at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.

Maria Painter, BSN (’05), has been admitted to the master’s degree program at Liberty University.

Brenda Pawl, MSN (’03), has been appointed as the assistant to the vice provost for health at GVSU. Her major responsibilities include project development and management, coordination of the West Michigan Interprofessional Education Initiative, grant writing and community work.

Marti Ruble, MSN (’98), and Ann Kilpatrick, BSN (’05), nurse educators at Spectrum Health, gave a podium presentation titled “You Gotta Have PROS – Preceptor Recognition and Ongoing Support” at the National Nursing Staff Development Organization in Philadelphia in July 2009.

Marie VanderKooi, MSN (’90), and Tom Bronken, MD, gave a podium presentation titled “CPOE Facilitating Clinical Transformation: From ED to Enterprise” at the Delaware Valley Nursing Computer Network Conference in Abington, Penn., in June 2009.

Jackie Vigh (Dean), BSN (’83), MSN (’04), was featured in the November 2009 issue of “Southeast Advance” for her work related to diabetes in a local school district as part of the Spectrum Health School Health Advocacy Program (SHAP).

Have news for the next issue of “Alumni Briefs”? Send it to the GVSU Alumni Relations Office. E-mail: www.gvsu.edu/alumni. Phone: 616-331-3590 or 800-558-0541.

All KCON alumni are automatically members of the KCON Alumni Chapter. Please stay in touch and consider joining in on some of our activities.
KCON’s Connection
What leads faculty members to choose a working “alternative” spring break instead of a relaxing holiday on the beach? Nancy Schoofs, PhD, RN, associate professor of nursing, cites a book titled “Don’t Waste Your Life” by John Piper (2007) as a source of inspiration. Or maybe it was a midlife need to assist the younger generation . . .

Regardless of the reason, this was the choice made by Schoofs; her husband, Bob Schoofs, a GVSU librarian; and their colleague, Sharon Etheridge, MSN (’89), who is retired from the KCON faculty. For two years they have engaged in medical missionary work. In 2008 they joined the Global Aid Network to care for 80-100 patients a day in and around Kingston, Jamaica.

This experience served as the impetus for another trip in 2009. At a fundraiser for the Haiti Nursing Foundation, Nancy Schoofs learned that the Faculty of Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti (FSIL) was seeking volunteer faculty members. In March 2009, Schoofs and Etheridge packed their bags again and went to Leogane, Haiti, to teach in the FSIL.

Among the challenges they encountered was language. The students are fluent in French and Creole; English is their third language. But using a translator and written notes helped bridge this gap, and the students quickly grasped the lessons.

“Learning about global health care is just one outcome of a trip like this,” Schoofs said. “We learned a lot about life in a poor, rural country compared to life in the U.S. The risk factors are very different and the average life expectancy is only 51. So, for example, this led us to question the relevance of a lesson in cardiovascular nursing from a Western medicine perspective. It was a challenge to think through questions like how you treat heart failure when there are very few doctors and little health care available.”

Update: Leogane is located only 20 miles west of Port-au-Prince, and the January 2010 earthquake did significant damage to the FSIL. Sharon Etheridge, who has been in contact with the school, learned that the students provided care to the people of Leogane before any outside help was able to get through. She was invited to return to Haiti this spring, and she went back to assist at the school and help get the nursing program up and running again.

More information about the FSIL School of Nursing is available at www.haitinursing.org
Students Fight the Flu

KCON’s SNA members took on both the H1N1 and seasonal flu viruses in the Grand Rapids community and on campus this winter.

In February, SNA members helped administer H1N1 vaccinations to community members at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The event was coordinated by KCON assistant professor Claudia Leiras-Laubauch. A huge success, it gave students practical experience in community outreach and health promotion while helping to fight the spread of the virus.

To help on-campus students avoid the “bugs,” KCON teamed up with GVSU Housing and Residence Life to give five presentations in the Allendale living centers. Nursing students in a senior-level community health course used an evidence-based presentation process that addressed the unique needs of student populations. Marilyn VanderWerf, assistant professor of nursing, and Claudia Leiras-Laubauch coordinated the program with help from five other KCON faculty members.

“College students are at high risk for H1N1 and seasonal flu because they are in close contact with each other in living centers, classrooms and at campus events,” VanderWerf said. “So it was important to give them prevention and treatment information, along with a chance to dispel rumors and fears.”

Fall ’09 Student Awards

Three of KCON’s graduate students were presented with Graduate Deans’ Citations for Academic Excellence at the GVSU Graduate Student Celebration held November 20, 2009. This award was created to recognize outstanding academic achievement by Grand Valley graduate students. It is given to students who have completed their program or are very close to completion. The KCON MSN recipients include:

- Karl Blech - Outstanding Publication
- Amanda Himes - Outstanding Final Project
- Sheryl Mulder - Outstanding Thesis

In addition, Alison Anzell, BSN (’10), was given the Kappa Epsilon Award for Excellence in Student Performance at the Kappa Epsilon November 2009 Induction and Awards Ceremony.
SNA Wins
Big at State Conference

This February, 15 GVSU SNA members attended the Michigan Nursing Student Association (MNSA) conference in East Lansing. At the three-day conference our SNA won many awards and recognitions. Jessica Lerch was the winner of the Outstanding Chapter President Award. Here are some other highlights.

- GVSU SNA won the Chapter Achievement Award as the best overall SNA in Michigan for 2009.

- GVSU SNA had two members run for state board positions. Megan Kaid ran for Breakthrough to Nursing and Julian Dormitzer competed for Second Vice President. Megan won and is now a member of the 2010 Michigan Nursing Student Association board.

- GVSU SNA presented two resolutions in the House of Delegates and one passed, which was then presented at the National Student Nurses Association conference in April.

- GVSU SNA won the “In Support Of...” award for having the best community health project, created in response to the MNSA’s 2009 resolution to reduce the number of hungry and starving people in Michigan. Our SNA also received a certificate of recognition and $100 for this project.

- GVSU SNA created the winning poster for the meeting’s poster competition. Titled “Navigating Rough Waters,” it illustrated the effect teamwork has in nursing programs.

GVSU SNA has been well represented at the national level also. In November 2009, 12 SNA students went to the Mid-Year National Student Nurses Association conference in Phoenix, Ariz. They attended workshops and seminars that included topics such as ending nurse-to-nurse hostility, resume/interviewing tips and “Pharmacology Made Easy.” They also had the opportunity to introduce themselves to prospective employers and graduate programs in the conference’s exhibit hall.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
2009-2010

Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients at KCON

Butterworth Scholarship
Annalyn Hawkes
Tami Kool

Flentje Nursing Scholarship
Audrey Laarman

Haebich Nursing Scholarship
Rachel Tissue

Lynn Kraemer Memorial Scholarship
Ashley Bayer
Sarah Loveland
Amber Osborne
Kaylee Yonker

Esther R. Padnos Scholarship
Danielle Dykehouse

Sobong Nursing Scholarship
Feven Measho
LaKeysha Parker
Naomi Rayford

Esther Rehm Stotz Nursing Scholarship
Beth Fuller
Annalyn Hawkes
Amber Osborne
Abby Phillips
Taylor Westers

Volkhardt Nursing Scholarship
Rhianne Bandstra
Elien Bruno
Mary Nagy

Florence Cowan Ward Scholarship for Nursing
Therese Boggiano
Aimee Bottlin
Chenoah Dickinson-Hendershot
Sarah Muckey
Katherine Warner

Westerman Foundation Scholarship for Nursing
Tracey Lewis
LaKeysha Parker
Michelle Spring
Sandra VanDyke
FACULTY/STAFF UPDATE

Staff Profile: Susan Kraus

Since 2002, Susan Kraus has been our behind-the-scenes “money person.” As KCON’s accounting assistant, she keeps track of the financial status of the college.

During the past eight years she has had her hands full as KCON’s operational complexity has grown. With the development of new programs, and an increase in the number of program and research grants, Susan has to keep up to speed on program management trends. To do this, she participates in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Leadership Network: Business Officers of Nursing Schools (BONUS) – a group of business officers, fiscal managers, and personnel involved in the operational management of nursing programs.

While Susan has been working part time at KCON, she has found time to complete a master’s degree in education with a focus on school counseling. She recently graduated with honors, but currently there are limited job openings in her field. So will she be leaving KCON soon? That question remains a mystery for the moment. In the meantime spring is here, and when she isn’t at her desk you will likely find Susan hanging out at her daughter’s high school softball games.

Martin Scholarship Created

Jean Martin, PhD, RN, CPNP, associate professor of nursing, has been instrumental in developing KCON’s new DNP program. Recently, she added to the strength of that program by creating a scholarship for doctoral candidates who are interested in child and adolescent health issues. The new Martin Scholarship provides financial support during the DNP program’s rigorous course of study.

Jaclynn Lubbers, MSN, is the first recipient of the Martin Scholarship. Lubbers met Martin through a clinical rotation and was inspired to switch her focus to pediatric nursing, earning her MSN from GVSU in 2000. She continued her relationship with KCON as an adjunct faculty member and this ultimately led to her decision to become a doctoral student.

Martin joined the KCON faculty in 1995. Noted for her expertise in pediatric nursing, she was named Pediatric Nurse Practitioner of the year in 2002 by the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. She currently serves as president-elect for the Executive Board of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

VanderWerf Receives Scholar Award

Marilyn VanderWerf, MSN (’99), RN, was one of nine GVSU faculty members honored as Presidential Service Learning Scholars during a reception on November 11, 2009. Faculty members are nominated by their department chairs for this honor and are chosen for incorporating service learning into their curricula. This program is sponsored by the Community Service Learning Center, the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center, the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, and the Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership.
Faculty & Staff Receive Awards

Ruthann Brintnall, PhD, AOCN, CHPN, APRN-BC, is the 2009-2010 recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for Grand Valley. This well-deserved honor is awarded from a committee of her peers, and was based on the many contributions Ruthann has made to GVSU, the West Michigan community and the nation.

Norine Cunningham, MSN, RN, a KCON affiliate faculty member, is the 2009-2010 recipient of the Pew Teaching Excellence Award for Part-Time Faculty. An important member of the teaching team for mental health nursing, students have noted her ability to give them confidence in this area of nursing practice.

Susan Kraus, MEd, KCON’s accounting assistant, received the Fall 2009 Graduate Deans’ Citation for Academic Excellence in her major. This honor is given by GVSU to graduate students who have been nominated by their faculty for outstanding academic performance.

Kappa Epsilon Faculty Awards

The following faculty members were honored at the Kappa Epsilon November 2009 Induction and Awards Ceremony:

- **Cynthia Covia**, PhD, RN, CNE - Excellence in Nursing Education
- **Rebecca Davis**, PhD, RN - Excellence in Research
- **Jean Martin**, PhD, RN, CPNP - Excellence in Nursing Practice
- **Patricia Schafer**, PhD, RN - Excellence in Nursing Leadership

2009-2010 GVSU Service Awards

The following faculty and staff were recently honored for their years of service to GVSU:

- **Donna Larson**, PhD, RN (retired) - 35 years
- **Gayla Jewell**, PhD, RNC, NP (retired) - 25 years
- **Andrea Bostrom**, PhD, PMHCNS-BC - 20 years
- **Agnes Britton**, MS, RN - 20 years
- **Cheryl Borgman** - 10 years
- **Susan Jensen**, PhD, RN, CCM - 10 years
- **Monica Lyons**, MS, RN, FNP-C - 10 years
Beel-Bates Named GSA Fellow

Cynthia Beel-Bates, PhD, RN, FGSA, has been selected as a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Her nomination and selection as a Fellow recognizes the significant contributions Beel-Bates has made in the field of gerontology, and is an acknowledgment of professional excellence by her colleagues.

Her award was presented at the annual scientific meeting of the GSA in November 2009. The GSA promotes collaborations among scholarly disciplines and professionals to inform and enhance research, educational programs and public policy related to gerontology.

Nutrition Research Results Reported

Suzan Couzens, MSN, RN, a KCON affiliate faculty member, reported on a nutrition study in the October 19, 2009, issue of GVSU “Forum.” In addition to Couzens, the research team included two other GVSU faculty members and five GVSU students.

Their investigation of meals served at three soup kitchens in the Heartside District of Grand Rapids revealed that foods were high in fat and sodium, and low in calcium. The study results have motivated at least one service agency to provide healthier meals. In addition, specific recommendations have been made to the Kent County Essentials Needs Task Force Food Subcommittee.

Electronic Health Record Implemented

After extensive planning and preparation, KCON implemented a state-of-the-art electronic health record system at the GVSU Family Health Center in October 2009. The new system allows providers, faculty members and nursing students to electronically chart patient data and also ensures a more efficient billing process. Dean Cynthia McCurren said, “Having an electronic system will significantly improve the quality of service that the Family Health Center’s providers can deliver to their patients. We are delighted to have this sophisticated technology available to support their efforts.”

Welcome New Faculty & Staff

Cynthia Butcher, MSN, FNP-BC, is a new KCON clinical faculty member. She is in clinical practice and is facilitating clinical education for nursing students at the GVSU Family Health Center.

Renee Mielke, MSN, BSN, is a new KCON affiliate faculty member. She holds a BSN from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree in nursing education from Michigan State University. Mielke has previous adjunct teaching experience with Kalamazoo Valley Community College and KCON. Her areas of practice have focused on cardiology, PACU, radiology and service in correctional facilities.

Thomas Sanchez, MSN (’06), BSN, is a new KCON affiliate faculty member. His BSN is from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and he has a certificate in tropical community medicine and health from the University of Liverpool. Sanchez spent 13 years engaged in health care efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He currently works at a local asthma and allergy clinic, in urgent care and at the GVSU Family Health Center.

Heidi Mull is our new secretary for the Office of Student Services (OSS). She comes to KCON with a long history of working as an administrative support person, including a recent position with Allstate Insurance.
KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING
POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Seeking faculty eager to promote distinction in teaching, research service, and practice.

• Tenure-track faculty positions are available in undergraduate and graduate programs, including a DNP degree program. Qualifications include demonstrated area of expertise and program of scholarship; minimum of one year teaching experience at undergraduate or graduate level; an earned doctorate (preferred master’s in nursing - DNP or PhD); master’s degree in nursing required.

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Dean, Kirkhof College of Nursing  
Dr. Cynthia McCurren