Technology and Education

Michelle Troseth, Intentional Automation: The 21st Century Stethoscope

National League for Nursing Chooses Technology Scholars

GVSU Simulation Center for Interprofessional Education

KCON Launches New DNP Program
Welcome to the Fall 2008 edition of KCON Magazine. I am delighted to share with you this update about our recent innovations, including our brand new DNP program (see page 8) and the creation of four Centers of Distinction.

The Kirkhof College of Nursing possesses many qualities and strengths, not the least of which is the expertise that exists among the faculty who represent a wide variety of nursing knowledge. KCON is uniquely positioned to participate in interdisciplinary collaboration, with eight additional allied health degrees offered through other GVSU entities. We also continue to maintain strong relationships with our hospital and community practice partners.

The KCON faculty have created a new framework to enhance ongoing growth in our areas of expertise and to promote collaboration across disciplines and with our practice partners. Driving our vision for the future are two reports released by the Institute of Medicine during the last seven years: Crossing the Quality Chasm (IOM, 2001) and Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality (IOM, 2003).

We have identified four Centers of Distinction to bridge the quality chasm through scholarship related to research, teaching, service and practice:

- **The Aging Population: Best Practices**
  Improvement in the continuum of care and quality of life for older adults through research, teaching, service and clinical care initiatives
- **Human Response in Health and Illness**
  Prevention and treatment of disease, improving quality of life, self-management, symptom management, palliative care and caregiving needs
- **Reforming Health Care Delivery and Education**
  Outcomes in health care and health policy, and educational initiatives that impact health care reform
- **Vulnerable Populations: Best Practices**
  Health disparities and the impact of race/ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status, disability and culture on health care access and outcomes.

These centers bring together individuals with like interests. The goals are to:

- Provide an environment for developing and/or expanding the knowledge base
- Promote integration of the interest area in research, teaching, service and practice
- Promote the translation and application of research-based knowledge
- Mentor new scholars in skills for research, teaching, service and practice
- Enhance collaborations with practice partners
- Provide a forum for interdisciplinary scholarship

Future editions of KCON Magazine will share outcomes from these Centers of Distinction. Keep watching to see how we are making a difference!
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INTENTIONAL AUTOMATION

MICHELLE TROSETH
INTENTIONAL AUTOMATION:
THE 21st CENTURY STETHOSCOPE
MICHELLE TROSETH, MSN, BSN

With the loving forbearance of her family, and not-often-enough forays onto the golf course and the family boat, KCON alumna Michelle Troseth travels the U.S. and the world trying to bridge informatics and clinical care. For a nurse who speaks “geek-lite,” she is clearly focused not on the hardware and software, but on the tools that will support best practices and patient outcomes.

Troseth is the executive vice president and chief professional practice officer for Clinical Practice Model Resource Center (CPMRC) in Grand Rapids, a business unit of Elsevier. She serves as a key clinical thought leader within Elsevier as it develops e-clinical strategies to support evidence-based content within clinicians’ workflow. Troseth is passionate about health care transformation and creating environments that “live” the high-tech/high-touch philosophy.

“CPMRC is a practice organization committed to transforming health care at the point of care,” Troseth explains. “IT and automation solutions are critical to what we do, but it’s much more than that. We have developed a professional practice framework that gives clinicians the tools they need for evidence-based practice as they’re caring for patients. This is married to critical thinking, partnerships and relationships in the health care setting. CPMRC creates and builds evidence-based content, and then we embed it in the workflow so the computer can be used to provide clinical decision support and practice at the highest level.

“Our mission is to create the best places to give and receive health care. To do this, all clinicians need tools that will help them be patient-centered, have the latest information at their fingertips, and stop variances in care across disciplines.”

Troseth notes that nursing documentation has historically been driven by pen, paper and checklists. Automation and technology have changed that process. “What I do is to prevent us from making the same mistakes in the computer that we made previously on paper,” she says. “We have to change the way we think and the way we interact with our colleagues in health care. Today’s automated tools help us practice in a truly interdisciplinary way – a way we never could in a paper-based world. But if we aren’t clear about what we need, automation can actually set us back.”

Troseth earned both her BSN (’83) and her MSN (’97) at KCON. Following an interest in nurse-physician relationships, her research thesis was “Nurse-Physician Collaboration and Nurse Satisfaction.” She was awarded a Sigma Theta Tau Kappa-Epsilon Chapter grant for her research efforts and received the Best Nursing Research Award from the Grand Rapids Area Medical Education Collaborative.

Troseth worked in many clinical environments before she joined CPMRC, practicing as a critical care nurse, staff development instructor, clinical coordinator and CNS. Among her many accomplishments, Troseth was elected to the National Academies of Practice (NAP) as a distinguished practitioner-member in 2007, and she co-authored “Partnership Council Fieldbook: Strategies and Tools for Co-Creating a Healthy Workplace.”

Troseth became involved with nursing informatics and technology while she was at KCON. “My journey began when I met a KCON faculty member, Bonnie Wesorick,” Troseth says. “I was in her last class. She left the faculty to focus on the clinical practice model, developing what nurses need most at the point of care – including evidence-based documentation tools – and methods for actively bridging the gap between education and practice. Bonnie is currently chair emeritus of CPMRC. Another Grand Valley grad, Diane Hanson, and I are now the leaders of the company and we are blessed to have several outstanding KCON graduates on our team.”
Of all the challenges facing nursing today, the correct use of information technology has perhaps the greatest potential to affect patient outcomes. Numerous governmental and research reports indicate that errors, coordination of care, evidence-based practices and patient safety outcomes all depend on access to information at the point of care. To practice effectively, students must be given the knowledge, skills and attitudes to use these technologies.

KCON assistant professor, Deborah Bambini, and associate professor, Elaine Van Doren, have taken on this educational challenge. They have been chosen as Health Information Technology Scholars under the sponsorship of the National League for Nursing (NLN) and its academic partners – the University of Kansas, Indiana University and the University of Colorado. The inaugural program began in January 2008. Its purpose is to help faculty integrate information technology into nursing education, with each team of scholars developing a project which supports that goal.

“Our project is a virtual clinical experience involving nursing students at the beginning and end of their clinical courses,” explains Bambini. “We envision a longitudinal educational experience that starts with a client in the prenatal period, extends through medical-surgical, pediatrics and mental health nursing, and culminates in a community experience. For the NLN Scholars program, we are putting in place the prenatal and community components.”

Students will complete a variety of assignments that require them to go to various Web sites and utilize other resources to meet course objectives in an interactive fashion. “Using this methodology has allowed us to expand student access to various client situations that are not always available in real time,” Van Doren says. “Our virtual neighborhood, KAYCON, will reflect various challenges that clients face. In completing the learning unit, students will explore community resources available in western Michigan.”

An additional goal for their project is to support the use of health information technology throughout the KCON curriculum. Van Doren and Bambini will be sharing their successes and challenges regularly with other faculty, supporting their colleagues as they add aspects of information technology to their courses.
GVSU SIMULATION CENTER FOR INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

SIX LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Since 2003, using clinical simulation as an educational method at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences (CHS) has become “business as usual” for students in KCON and the College of Health Professions (CHP).

Simulation is an experiential strategy designed to place the participant in a replication of a real-life situation. Most people are familiar with one type of simulation through experiences with computer games such as Playstation and X-Box, which offer interactivity with events happening on a screen. Drivers’ training these days is often a combination of lecture, simulation and practice opportunities. In medicine, we’ve come a long way from exclusively using rubber body parts for basic skills training in IV insertion and catheterization. The world of high-fidelity technology has arrived.

The GVSU Simulation Center for Interprofessional Education (SCIE) covers 6,409 square feet in the CHS. There are nine exam rooms, one critical care room, three learning labs with 21 bays and a conference/classroom. Evideon recording equipment has been installed for immediate debriefing and feedback. These learning labs are used for student interactions with “standard model” patients. Also, high-fidelity manikins can be programmed to supply specific physiological responses appropriate to planned scenarios.

The dedicated SIM team is working hard on a GVSU Web page linked to the Office of the Vice Provost for Health. This link will describe the SCIE, providing information about equipment, faculty reservation forms for high-fidelity manikins or model patients and an activities calendar. The SIM Web page will have an interprofessional (IPE) link to KCON, CHP and the Grand Rapids Medical Education and Research Center.

Simulation is increasingly important because it offers student-centered learning with a customized experience. Traditionally, students in the classroom learn a single concept via linear thinking. Incorporating simulation is another teaching strategy that is a valuable part of the learning continuum. When combined with an IPE model, the learning outcomes allow for risk-free practice; development of critical thinking and decision-making skills; and improved communication, conflict resolution and team building capabilities. The potential benefits to society? Lower costs, increased safety, improved overall satisfaction and a seamless delivery system. And ultimately, this is the goal of the GVSU Simulation Center for Interprofessional Education, a key part of today’s learning technology.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall term is always an exciting time of year. Program changes and new technologies emerge to be interfaced with the “old ways.” This is especially true for nursing education programs. Many of us remember the days of doing IV rounds to calculate drip rates and counting heart rates by using the second hand on our watches.

Today’s technology exceeds anything we could have imagined years ago. Students can enhance their skills in simulation labs and use computers for everything from evidence-based research to bedside clinical documentation and the NCLEX. But with all of this wonderful technology, we must never underestimate the benefits of compassionate care, the personal touch and connecting with our patients – the essence of nursing.

Elaine Leigh, MSN (’02)

ALUMNI UPDATE

KCON ALUMNI RECOGNIZED AS EXPERTS

During the second quarter of 2008, three KCON alumni were featured in stories in the regional MiBiz business tabloid supplement, West Michigan Business Women 2008. Extended articles in the supplement included interviews with:

• Kim Maguire, BSN (’93), CNO and vice president of patient care at Mercy Health Partners in Muskegon
• Tamra Strong, BSN (’03), director of process improvement at North Ottawa Community Health System in Grand Haven
• Patti Van Dort, MSN (’02), vice president of nursing and CNO at Holland Hospital in Holland

SMITH APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF NURSING OPERATIONS

Colleen K. Smith, RN, MSN, CMSRN, NE-BC, has been appointed director of nursing operations at Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids. Her responsibilities will include oversight of special projects such as Nurses Week and the Annual Nursing Report.

Smith received her MSN from KCON in 1993. She joined Spectrum Health in late 2007. With a nursing career spanning more than 30 years, her experience includes bedside care as well as administration. She has a strong commitment to supporting professional nursing throughout the organization, particularly at the bedside.

ALUMNI BRIEFS

2008-2009 officers for Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large (Sigma Theta Tau International) include: Jeanne Roode, MSN, CAN, CNRN (’95), president; Julie Coon, EdD, MSN, RN (’75), vice president; Sharon Etheridge, PhD, RN (’89), secretary; Debra Veilkamp, MSN, RN (’97), nominations committee; Catherine Clarey-Sanford, MSN, CWOCN (’00), community leader liaison; and Marlene Holstine, BSN (’01), and Marilyn DeVries, BSN (’04), awards committee.

Frank Julian, BSN (’77), works as a home health care nurse and a pastor. He is also the head of Fighting Aids with Nutrition (FAWN), a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives by shipping liquid nutritional supplements from Detroit to AIDS patients in Africa (www.fightingaids.org).

Diane N. Reed, BSN (’87), has published a book, Three Women, One Dream: Narratives of Perseverance. Reed holds an MBA and PhD in organization and management. She currently owns a private consulting practice that focuses on professional athletes and life after sports.

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 LAUNCHES NEW DNP PROGRAM
By Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN

Our most recent good news is a significant event in the life of KCON. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program has been approved, and we are beginning to enroll students for classes that start in Fall 2009. While there is a great deal of excitement, pride and support for the new DNP, there are also many questions. What is the DNP? Why was it developed?

Why a DNP Program?

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) is a program designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice. Unlike the PhD in Nursing, which is for those seeking a research-intensive doctoral degree, the DNP prepares nurses for a wide variety of advanced practice nursing roles.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) has stated that the level of preparation necessary for these advanced roles will move from the master’s to the doctoral level by the year 2015. This decision was based on a number of societal, systems and professional developments.

In 1999, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a comprehensive report on medical errors. It noted that as many as 98,000 Americans die each year as a result of errors in health care, with associated costs in the billions of dollars. The fragmented nature of the health care delivery system and the context in which health care is delivered were cited as factors contributing to this inexcusable compromise of patient safety. This led to an extensive evaluation and appeal for radical transformation of the health care system and its related policies. It was stressed that reform around the margins would be inadequate to address systemic problems.

Recommendations included addressing issues related to management practices, workforce capabilities, work design and organizational safety, as well as pressing public policy questions related to nurse staffing levels, work hours and mandatory overtime. Lack of access to primary care, long-term care, mental health care and chronic disease management were emphasized. An integrated approach to meet individual and population needs at the community level was stressed, with an overall focus on health promotion and disease prevention.
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The IOM, the Joint Commission and other authorities have called for a reconceptualization of health professions education to meet the needs of the health care delivery system. Specifically, the IOM charged that “all health professionals should be educated to deliver patient-centered care as members of an interdisciplinary team, emphasizing evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and informatics.” Transforming health care delivery requires clinicians who can design, evaluate and continuously improve the context within which care is delivered. Thus, this call has been a major force in the decision to move advanced practice nursing education from the master’s to the doctoral level.

Other factors contributing to the change in nursing education at the graduate level include rapid expansion of underlying practice knowledge; increased complexity of patient care; shortages of nursing personnel; shortages of appropriately prepared nursing faculty, practice leaders, systems leaders and nurse researchers; and increasing educational expectations for other health professionals (e.g., DPT, PharmD). The development of the DNP is supported by the National Academy of Sciences, which has called for the nursing profession to develop a “non-research practice doctorate” to prepare expert practitioners who can also serve as clinical faculty.

“After I took my first leadership position, I discovered it was an extremely rewarding path for me. I found that I could impact patient care delivery by creating cultures and work environments that allow nurses to flourish. However, to continue my quest, I felt like I needed more education beyond my MSN. The question I had to answer was do I pursue a PhD or DNP?

“I chose to enroll in a DNP program because I wanted to be an ‘implementer’ of research. There is a vast body of nursing research that has never reached the bedside. I want to translate that research into practice. Being this translator will give the nurses working with me more tools and resources.

“As a KCON alumna, I am excited that GVSU is introducing the DNP program. We need to develop translators and implementers of research to ensure the growth of our profession and contribute to patient care delivery transformation.”

Lori Wightman, MSN (’93)
Southwest Surgical Center
Byron Center, MI

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KCON STUDENT ROCKS WITH THE ICICLES

If you watch television ads at all, you’d probably recognize a song or two by the Grand Rapids-based indie band, The Icicles. They’ve been heard far beyond Michigan with their cheery retro pop playing under commercials for Target and the Motorola Krzr phone.

You may not know that one of KCON’s own is a member of the band, along with several other GVSU alums. Emily Krueger, a current student in KCON’s accelerated nursing program, plays bass. GVSU alum (’97) Gretchen DeVault is the band’s lead singer and primary songwriter. Joleen Rumsey (’96) is on keyboards, and Rebecca Rodriguez (’00) plays lead guitar. Drummer Greg Krupp is the only non-Laker in the band.

During the last year, the Icicles got a huge push from a couple of national TV ad campaigns. The band’s song “Sugar Sweet” from the album A Hundred Patterns was featured in an international commercial for Motorola’s Krzr mobile phone. Then the song “La Ti Da” from their Arrivals and Departures record was pitched to Target, which used the song at the center of its “Long Live Happy” ad campaign.

In the not-too-distant past, using a song in a major commercial would have killed an indie band’s credibility. But when the offers came, the Icicles never even talked about whether it was a good move. “It’s so different now,” explains Krueger. “The way bands get their music out is through TV and through advertising because commercial radio is horrendous and doesn’t play bands. The exposure we’ve gotten from Target? We would never get that from commercial radio.”

The money from their commercial success so far has allowed Krueger to put a new roof on her house, but no one in the band has quit their day jobs. They do finally have a real budget to work with, however.

The Icicles are excited about their growing fame, but clearly understand their musical purpose. “You’d never do this if you didn’t want success,” Krueger says. “But at the same time, we would have given up a long time ago if that was the only reason we were doing it.”

(Original, extended version of this story was written by Brian J. Bowe and published by GVSU News and Information Services in Grand Valley Magazine, Spring 2008.)
ABOUT THE AWARDS

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence
The Banta-Perkins award is a peer award for graduates of the BSN program. Students are asked to select a classmate who typifies the best in nursing practice and exemplifies caring – someone to whom they would entrust themselves or their families. The final candidate is chosen through a selection and voting process.

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
This award recognizes a clinician who has served as a preceptor for KCON students. The recipient is a clinical expert who uses effective teaching methods to enhance students’ application of nursing knowledge.

Holland Hospital Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
This award is given to an outstanding registered nurse who is completing the BSN program. Criteria for the award include leadership in nursing and the classroom, analytical and critical thinking abilities, and excellence in nursing practice.

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award
Mary Horan was KCON’s first dean. This award recognizes the significant contributions she has made to nursing and nursing education. Given to a BSN graduate, the award recognizes both outstanding academic achievement and potential for leadership and excellence in practice, particularly in family health promotion.

Phyllis Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award
This award is named in honor of Phyllis Gendler, gerontological scholar and former dean of KCON. It recognizes outstanding performance in nursing care for older adults by a BSN student.

KCON AWARD RECIPIENTS

2007-2008

FALL 2007 AWARD RECIPIENTS
Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence:
Patrice Wade, BSN
Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award:
Tamra Feutz, BSN
Phyllis Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award:
Ashley Kennedy, BSN

WINTER 2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS
Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence:
Heather L. Pitsch, BSN, & Thea-Margaret P. Walsh, BSN
Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award:
Cherie M. Blondin, BSN, RN
Phyllis Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award:
Kristen E. Courteau, BSN
Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership:
Betty Clendenin, BSN, RN
Holland Hospital Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership:
Sherri L. Fannon, BSN, RN

SPRING 2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS
Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence:
Mary Ellen Reed, BSN
Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award:
Lynne Marie Jacobs, BSN
Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership:
Jaclynn L. Lubbers, MSN, CPNP
SCOTT NAMED AAN FELLOW

Linda D. Scott, PhD, RN, professor and director of KCON’s BSN programs, is being inducted this fall as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). Invitation to become a Fellow recognizes significant accomplishments within the nursing profession. Scott will join 1,500 other AAN Fellows who are leaders in nursing education, management, practice and research.

Scott’s distinguished career includes academic, clinical and administrative practice. She has built a sustainable research program that has directly influenced policies and practices related to safety for patients, nurses and the public, as well as the overall nursing work environment. Her seminal research on staff nurse work hours and errors has alerted nurses, other health care providers and policy makers to the adverse consequences current nurse work schedules have on patient safety.

STAFF PROFILE:
RUTH ANN STONE

In 1973, GVSU and KCON were very different organizations. That is when Ruth Ann Stone was hired – for a whopping $108 per week – by the founding director of the baccalaureate program in nursing, Vera Brand. The nursing program, which was housed in the School of Health Sciences, admitted fewer than 30 students annually and Stone was the only secretary.

Since then, as administrative assistant to KCON, she has seen three GVSU reorganizations, seven deans/directors, and the expansion of the BSN program to include year-round offerings with three admission cycles and more than 400 active students. She has been a key support person as KCON has expanded to include the accelerated BSN, the MSN and now the DNP program.

So, want to know how it was... and is? Just ask Ruth Ann!

COVIAK RECEIVES NIEMEYER AWARD

Cynthia Coviak, PhD, RN, has been named as the 2008 recipient of the Glenn A. Niemeyer Award. Faculty selected for the Niemeyer award are honored for their excellence, enthusiasm and loyalty to teaching, scholarship and service.

Coviak has made significant contributions to KCON and the university during her years at GVSU. She first joined the KCON faculty in 1985 as an adjunct instructor. Currently, in addition to her duties as a faculty member, she is the director for research and faculty development.
FACULTY & STAFF TRANSITIONS

The following faculty were recently promoted: Ruthann Brintnall, PhD, AOCN, HPCN, APRN-BC, to associate professor and Cynthia Covik, PhD, CNE, to professor.

Marilyn VanderWerf, MSN, RN, was granted tenure.

The following KCON team members have retired: Sharon Etheridge, PhD, RN, visiting assistant professor and Marilyn Rapport, secretarial support team.

The following KCON team members have resigned: Kelly Ackerson, PhD, RNC, WHNP, visiting instructor; Jeannine Alt, MSN, RN, student services; Jessica Bastion, secretarial support team; and Chris Wood, OP, RN, PhD, GNP, assistant professor.

Welcome to Corrine Pelton, the newest member of KCON’s secretarial support team.

FACULTY BRIEFS

Research by Linda Scott, PhD, RN, on nurses and sleep was mentioned in a UPI article, Many Nurses Struggle to Stay Awake (2007).

Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large officers (2008-2009) include Cynthia Beel-Bates, PhD, RN, vice president; Sue Mylnarcz, PhD, RN, research committee; and Linda (Nicki) Grinstead, PhD, RN, CNE, and Joy Washburn, EdD, RNC, WHNP, faculty counselors.

RECENT FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Here are just a few of the presentations KCON faculty made during 2007-2008 academic year:


Bambini. (2007, September). Using WebQuest to increase students’ information literacy. Undergraduate Program Advisory Committee for the Kirkhof College of Nursing, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI.

Bambini. (2007, October). Using the “Wiki” tool on Blackboard to create WebQuest assignments to increase student information literacy. Faculty Information Technology Brownbag Session, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.


Gendler. (2007, September). Update on nursing. Student Senate at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI.

Gendler. (2008, February). Health care work force. Panel member at Alliance for Health First Friday Forum, Grand Rapids, MI.


**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


**RECENT GRANTS**

Bambini, D. (2008). Pew Faculty Teaching & Learning Center, Grand Valley State University, Teaching Development Grant. To support attendance at an international simulation conference; $3,000.


INTENTIONAL AUTOMATION

Among many initiatives that command her attention, Troseth is particularly interested in two. One is called the Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform Initiative. (See “The TIGER Initiative.”) She is serving as co-leader with Nancy Staggers, PhD, from the University of Utah in a TIGER collaborative workgroup called “Usability and Clinical Application Design.” They expect to have a summary report ready for publication later this fall and will have a chapter in the second edition of the book, “Where Caring and Technology Meet.”

She is also turning her attention to nursing education. “I’ve been focusing on hospitals for the last 15 years,” Troseth says. “You can walk into more than 30 hospitals in the country today, and CPMRC’s model is being used in their computers by every discipline. More than 100 hospitals are in the implementation process. Now it’s time to focus on preparing students as well. We have to quit teaching nurses how to write nursing care plans and give them evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and other tools that are much better suited to providing 21st century patient care. Johns Hopkins School of Nursing has been one of the first academic settings to lead this effort with us and our partners.

“As we create and implement informatics systems,” Troseth concludes, “it can’t just be about nursing. We practice within interdisciplinary partnerships, and we need to consciously design technologies that help nurses be valuable team members. It’s about thinking in new ways and designing entirely new systems for care – not just taking what we’ve always done in the past and putting it into a computer.”

THE TIGER INITIATIVE

Michelle Troseth is a founding leader of the Technology Informatics Guiding Educational Reform (TIGER) Initiative and served as the program chair for the TIGER Summit, held in November 2006.

TIGER is committed to using the best in informatics and similar technologies to transform the nursing profession. Since the initial summit, nursing informatics leaders from across the profession have been working to identify information/knowledge management best practices and effective technology capabilities for nurses. Their goal is to create and disseminate action plans that can be duplicated within nursing and other multidisciplinary health care training and workplace settings.

TIGER comes at a time when the U.S. is working toward widespread adoption of electronic health records for its citizens. Because nurses comprise 55% of the health care workforce, they must become more involved in this effort at every level – practice, administration, education and research – or the informatics/technology revolution will pass them by. TIGER is working to ensure that all nurses are educated in the use of informatics, empowering them to deliver safer, higher-quality patient care.

TIGER’s Vision

- Allow informatics tools, principles, theories and practices to be used by nurses to make healthcare safer, effective, efficient, patient-centered, timely and equitable.
- Interweave enabling technologies transparently into nursing practice and education, making information technology the stethoscope for the 21st century.

TIGER's Expected Outcomes

- Publish a Summit report, including Summit findings and exemplars of excellence. (Available at www.tigersummit.com.)
- Establish guidelines for organizations to follow as they integrate informatics knowledge, skills, and abilities into academic and practice settings.
- Set an agenda whereby the nursing organizations specify what they plan to do to bridge the quality chasm via information technology strategies.
KCON’s DNP Program

Front-line clinical nurses graduating from KCON’s DNP program will have an exceptional blend of clinical, organizational, economic and leadership skills. They will be prepared to seek practice leadership roles in a variety of settings – managing quality initiatives, serving as executives in health care organizations or as directors of clinical programs, leading primary care initiatives, and/or serving as nursing faculty.

There are 62 DNP programs now enrolling students nationwide, and more than 60 additional practice doctorates are under development at U.S. nursing schools. In Michigan, Oakland University has initiated a DNP degree program; Wayne State University and the University of Michigan-Flint are preparing to do so.

GVSU is well positioned to offer the DNP. West Michigan is poised to become a prominent setting for health services and research, and the need for nursing’s distinctive knowledge and skills has never been greater. The environment in Grand Rapids and the West Michigan region is unique in its need for rapidly increased sophistication in addressing many complex health care issues. Area nursing leaders have voiced their support and are eager to have the expertise of DNP graduates in the provider system. KCON’s faculty represent the diversity of knowledge, skills and abilities needed to create and sustain a successful DNP degree program, with a blend of experienced practitioners, seasoned educators, researchers and health care systems/organization experts.

The areas of emphasis in our DNP program will be the child/adolescent health and adult/older adult health APN specialties, as well as nursing administration and health care systems. Integrated into the APN specialties will be critical mental health content, addressing the increased need for management of mental health issues by primary care providers.

Nursing students with either bachelor’s (BSN) or master’s (MSN) degrees in nursing are eligible to enroll. The BSN to DNP program will involve approximately 90 credit hours and 1,000 additional clinical hours. The MSN to DNP program will require about 40 additional credit hours and 400 more clinical hours.

Offering the DNP allows KCON to remain a leader in comprehensive, quality nursing education for West Michigan and to contribute to the health care needs of our community. We are eager to recruit qualified applicants and work with our practice partners. I invite all interested individuals to be part of this exciting opportunity. Together we will make a difference!

The AACN created two task forces – the DNP Essentials and the DNP Roadmap – to define the essential curricular elements of nursing practice doctorates and to address key operational and transition concerns. The results of these two task forces are on the Web at www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/pdf/Essentials.pdf and www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/pdf/DNProadmapreport.pdf.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?
Classes begin Fall 2009!

Information about the new DNP program will be available soon on KCON’s Web site, www.gvsu.edu/kcon. We are also planning some information sessions.

If you’re interested in learning more about the program, please contact our admissions coordinator, Cassonya Carter, at 616-331-5782 or at carterc@gvsu.edu. We’ll add you to our contact list and keep you updated.
Welcome to Our New Faculty

Amy Hoffman, PhD, MSN, is a KCON alumna, having earned both her BSN and MSN at GVSU. She also holds a PhD from Michigan State University. Dr. Hoffman has 23 years of nursing experience in various roles as a clinician, educator and administrator.

With research funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Nursing Research, and the Behavioral Cooperative Oncology Group, Walther Cancer Institute, she is a research fellow whose focus is on symptom management for persons with lung cancer. Dr. Hoffman’s most recent publication, titled “A Study on the Relationship between Pain, Fatigue, Insomnia, and Gender in Persons with Lung Cancer,” was published in Oncology Nursing Forum.

Claudia Leiras-Laubach, MS, BS, earned a BS in biochemistry from the College of Mount Saint Vincent, followed by an MS in natural sciences from Roswell Park Cancer Institute - Graduate Division of the University at Buffalo (SUNY). She is completing her doctorate in epidemiology, with a focus on genetics and cancer epidemiology, at the University of Pittsburgh - Graduate School of Public Health.

Leiras-Laubach’s dissertation research is an examination of the association between breast density and prolactin. Her primary research focus has been on the identification of markers of early cancer susceptibility. With several years of experience as a study coordinator, project manager and data manager, Leiras-Laubach also is interested in health disparities research, including the development of strategies to enhance minority participation in studies.

Gretchen Schumacher, PhD, CRNP, NP-C, earned her BSN in 1995 and MSN-FNP in 1998 from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. She has maintained a clinical practice in rural primary care while teaching both undergraduate and graduate nursing for more than a decade. Schumacher completed her PhD in nursing in 2006 at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and expanded her practice to rural geriatrics. She also holds a GNP degree from the University of Texas Houston.

Dr. Schumacher’s research and practice focuses on improving outcomes for long-term care residents. In addition to geriatrics, she has published in areas related to distance learning technology, international nursing and advanced practice education.

Tenure Track Faculty Positions Open at GVSU-KCON

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

We are looking for new faculty who will contribute to the professional development of our students and KCON in one of four centers of distinction.

KCON Centers of Distinction:
- The Aging Population: Best Practices
- Human Response in Health and Illness
- Reforming Health Care Delivery and Education
- Vulnerable Populations: Best Practices

Candidate Qualifications:
- Earned master’s degree in nursing
- Earned doctorate (PhD in Nursing or DNP preferred)
- Able to meet criteria for appointment as assistant, associate or full professor
- Demonstrated area of expertise and program of scholarship
- Minimum one year teaching experience at undergraduate and/or graduate level

Responsibilities: Teaching, scholarship and service, with opportunities for professional practice as desired

Salary and Rank: Commensurate with experience

For More Information: Contact the Dean, Dr. Cynthia McCurren, at 616-331-5726.

To Apply: Visit us online at www.gvsujobs.org. (If you need assistance with the online system, call GVSU Human Resources at 616-331-2215.)

For an overview of GVSU, visit www.gvsu.edu
For an overview of KCON, visit www.gvsu.edu/kcon

Grand Valley State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution
THE KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING CURRENTLY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- BSN Degree Completion for RNs
- BSN Second Degree
- Accelerated BSN Second Degree
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Classes begin Fall 2009
- Continuing Education Courses & Workshops

“We are creating exceptional learning opportunities for our nursing students. In just five years we have doubled the number of students in our undergraduate nursing programs, helping to respond to the critical nationwide shortage of nurses. Many of our graduates choose to live and work in this area, greatly expanding health care services. Our commitment is to continue this dynamic connection between Grand Valley and the community.”

Dean, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Dr. Cynthia McCurren