Interprofessional Education

Bonnie Wesorick, Wesorick Center for Healthcare Transformation

The Interprofessional World at KCON

Interprofessional Education: Rooted in the Community

Value Health Partners: Sharing to Improve Quality
It is with great excitement that I introduce the 2009 Fall edition of KCON Magazine, as we share our progress in our journey toward increasing excellence in nursing education. This edition is focused specifically on our growth in interprofessional education, practice and research – and important new partnerships that will contribute to the transformation of health care.

First, I want to share recent recognitions received by Grand Valley State University, demonstrating our overall standard of excellence. We congratulate our university community!

• Named one of the best universities in the Midwest by the Princeton Review in a 2009 Web site feature. The nursing program was reported as a standout strength.
• Named one of America’s 100 Best College Buys by Institutional Research and Evaluation, Inc., in 2008 for the 13th year in a row.
• Ranked #1 by U.S. News & World Report in 2009 for Best Colleges: Up-and-Coming Master’s Universities (Midwest).

KCON is working hard to maintain this standard of excellence. Take a look at the features in this edition of our magazine.

A $1 million campaign was launched in February 2009 to establish the Bonnie Wesorick Center for Healthcare Transformation at KCON. The purpose of the center will be to provide scholarly leadership that unites interdisciplinary healers in the research and implementation work essential to transform practice at the point of care. Read about Bonnie Wesorick in our cover story, and learn more about this incredible visionary professional in our community.

Also, we are not just talking about interprofessional education, practice and research, we are doing it. Two feature stories – “Interprofessional Education: Rooted in the Community” and “The Interprofessional World at KCON” – demonstrate the excellence of this work. Also read the story about Value Health Partners and our KCON alumna, Mary Kay Kempker-VanDriel. In an intriguing article, you will learn how her current leadership position involves her in interprofessional practice at the policy and decision-making level, guiding and directing practice among health care professions and organizations.

We hope you enjoy this issue. And we hope you agree we are making a difference!
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In February 2009, as part of its $50 million “Shaping Our Future” campaign, GVSU announced the receipt of a gift from Bonnie Wesorick to help establish the Wesorick Center for Healthcare Transformation at KCON. Through research, teaching, service and practice, the vision of the Wesorick Center is “to provide scholarly leadership that unites interdisciplinary healers in the research and implementation work essential to transform practice at the point of care.”

According to KCON’s Dean, Dr. Cynthia McCurren, the new center will “engage faculty, undergraduate and graduate students from nursing and related disciplines in relevant research and endeavors that can immediately be put to work at the bedside. We expect that the center will be the start of a continuous wave of new knowledge and practice that will expand across West Michigan and beyond.”

The Wesorick Center will help address urgent issues in health care, including the need for patient-centered care, interdisciplinary teamwork, appropriate use of technology, quality, safety, efficiency and equity. It will also offer a point of synergy for KCON’s new DNP program.

Specific projects have not been identified yet, but the new center will enhance research productivity and interdisciplinary collaboration for GVSU faculty and students. It is hoped the center will ultimately become a model for linking relevant research and educational innovations with evidence-based practices that can be implemented at the point of care, immediately influencing patient outcomes.

A total of $1 million is needed to fully establish the Wesorick Center. More than one half of the necessary funds have been raised to date, and all donations are welcome. See www.gvsu.edu/development/
Earlier this year, GVSU announced that a lead gift had been received from Bonnie Wesorick to help establish the Wesorick Center for Healthcare Transformation at KCON. In a recent conversation with Wesorick, she discussed her vision for the new center. Here are some excerpts from that conversation.

Q: How did your vision for the new center evolve?

“Through our work at the CPM Resource Center, it’s been very clear that we’re making a difference in health care. We have seen phenomenal outcomes related to our mission ‘to create the best places to give and receive care.’ It is hard, complicated, purpose-driven work. We’ve been influenced by interactions with thousands of clinicians and the millions of patients and families they care for every day. We continuously explore what really matters, what patients and providers of care need, and how to bring their vision for health care alive.

“The establishment of the CPMRC International Consortium was the precursor to this center. It became clear many years ago that the legacy of our work needed to be rooted in a place committed to advance, deepen and expand every component – using implementation, science, ongoing research and dissemination in a scholarly way. We also needed to bridge the gap between education and practice. All of this called for a focus that only a center could achieve.”

Q: Why did you want to help establish a center for health care transformation at KCON?

“Our community is becoming a health care leader in the state and in our country. It makes sense that a center with a vision to transform the health care system be in a place where the work began. It is a way to honor the people who engaged in a vision to improve practice at the point of care long before anybody else.”
Interprofessional Education: Rooted in the Community

The GVSU Family Health Center (FHC) is an academic nurse-managed primary health care practice located in the Heartside neighborhood of Grand Rapids. Offering the public community-based care, the FHC is also a home for interprofessional education, service and research. On any given day you’ll see KCON students and faculty in the corridors, along with students from other health care specialty programs in the area.

This commitment to interprofessional work goes back several years. Early in the history of the FHC, students in the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) program in GVSU’s College of Health Professions conducted service-learning projects there. For example, one included a safety inspection of the office and health center area, with a report back to the FHC’s staff.

Since then, additional professional health services for clients have enriched the FHC’s clinical practice. Now, the potential for developing more interprofessional education initiatives is gaining momentum. During the past year, students from the GVSU Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program have begun a service-learning initiative at the health center. Under the direction of their faculty advisor, Susan Allaben, and the preceptorship of community professionals, the DPT students are coordinating learning experiences and providing direct health care services to its clients.

In addition, a new practice manager – Laurel Jackson, MHA/MPA – has been appointed at the FHC. This gives health administration students an opportunity to combine real-world experience with theoretical knowledge, and to practice their professional communication and decision-making skills in a primary care environment.

As this issue of KCON Magazine goes to press, a new electronic health information system is being rolled out at the FHC. With the national and regional emphasis on health care informatics, this will give all faculty and students access to explore the educational, research and clinical practice opportunities this technology offers.

The delivery of professional health services in a community-based primary care setting like the Family Health Center is an important part of the region’s commitment to interprofessional education. It gives a wide array of GVSU health care students the chance to work and study together. And because of this, when they graduate they will already understand how to work together to transform front-line patient care and the health care system.
The career path for Mary Kay Kempker-VanDriel, EdD, MM, MSN (’02), RN, has taken her to a leadership position that involves interdisciplinary/interprofessional practice at the policy and decision-making level, guiding and directing practice among health care professions and organizations.

Currently, she is at the helm of Value Health Partners, a collaborative of eight health care organizations that provides services to the residents of 61 of 83 Michigan counties. Her daily work is all about value: in clinical quality, best practices, improved care to populations at risk and advocacy on policy issues. She is immersed in organizational cultures and the business aspects of quality care. To better prepare herself for this role, she recently studied for and passed the certification examination of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE).

Kempker-VanDriel is leading and building the kind of organization that frequently has failed after only a few months. Each of the eight organizations in Value Health Partners is represented by a business leader within the organization (i.e., CFO, CEO). In a job something akin to herding cats, she needs to communicate with each of these leaders while maximizing value and cooperation.

She notes that it has been difficult for the representatives, who are competitors, to share their quality data – successes and failures – as they attempt to learn from each other and collectively raise Michigan’s health care quality. “Improved outcomes demand the cooperation of all disciplines within an organization and among organizations,” she says. “We’ve been able to provide clinical examples that inform their business decisions and enlighten those whose primary focus is on the bottom line.”

When Value Health Partners is not focused on improving the quality of health care, its members are busy working in the political arena to influence policy decisions. This is a critical role at this time, when health care dominates the national agenda. Kempker-VanDriel feels that this partnership, which depends on the cooperation of all the health care disciplines represented, can demonstrate to policy makers the value of preventive care in conserving resources while improving outcomes.
F R O M  T H E  P R E S I D E N T

We are excited to introduce an expanded alumni board. New board members-at-large include:

Ruth Ann Brintnall ('85 & '97)
Stacey McCarron ('97 & '00)
Lee McCormick ('81)
Beth Reid ('02)
Rebecca Sypniewski ('03)

Our alumni chapter is joining with the College to recognize exceptional nursing graduates by establishing the Kirkhof College of Nursing Outstanding Alumni Award. We are asking for your help to nominate alumni who are engaged in nursing in ways that make a difference. If you would like to nominate an alum, review the online nomination form available on KCON's homepage, www.gvsu.edu/kcon/. Nominations will be accepted until December 15, 2009. The recipient of the award will be announced at the 2010 Alumni Open House, to be held in midwinter.

Elaine Leigh, MSN ('02)

K A N N E T  B E I L L, MSN ('99), serves as coordinator for the Oncology Society Special Interest Group-Radiation.

Maggie (Margaret) Carriker, MSN ('96), serves as chapter adviser for Region 08, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), as well as adviser, AACN West Michigan.

Maureen Chrazanowski, MSN (post-master's certificate '97), of Hospitals of West Michigan, received the 2009 State Award for Nurse Practitioner Excellence from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Karen DeLuca, BSN ('94), MSN ('01), gave a presentation, Documentation Strategies for Emergency Department Communication Handoffs and Implementing Bar Coding for Medication Administration in the Emergency Department, at Cerner Great Lakes and Midwest Regional User Groups, Detroit.

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K O N C A L E X A M I N A T O R

Two KCON alumni were named as Top Women in Health Care in the May 21, 2009, issue of Business Review in Western Michigan. Susan Hoppough (BSN '95) serves as the director, research and innovation at Saint Mary’s Health Care in Grand Rapids. She was honored for her community work, including service on the West Michigan Cancer Consortium board of directors, and for the many grants she has secured to create and improve community and culturally based education programs. Joanne Urbanski (BSN '84, MSN '94), president and CEO of South Haven Community Hospital, was honored for her work in starting a community wellness center.

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Fall 2008
Linda R. Allkema
Kristina J. Alt
Bonnie B. Anderson
Hannah D. Andres
Marco A. Balcazar
Alison M. Belmonde
Mary J. Bogner
Meredith R. Buikema
Amy J. Buka
Jennifer J. Childress
Nikki J. Coy
Mandy Sue E. Crane
Sarah L. Daggert
Chandra H. Dease
Jaynna S. DeLeuw
Kathryn D. Dillon
Erika C. Eschbauer
Rita M. Evans
Jeffery S. Fleece
Amanda C. Hakes
Ashley N. Hawke
Courtney J. Helmkold
Emily A. Hoffman
Kimberly A. Kirk
Kris Kitsttiller
Sara J. Klein
Julie M. Koll
Megan L. Koehler
Sara A. Lewis
Elizabeth A. Lewin
Katie Lewis
Sara A. Lewis
Andrea C. Lobtmaner
Sarah E. Marshall
Stefanie S. McCallum
Sarah L. Daggett
Mandy Sue E. Crane
Nikki J. Coy
Jennifer J. Childress
Amy J. Bukala
Meredith R. Buikema
Mary J. Bogner
Alison M. Belmonte
Marco A. Balcazar
Hannah D. Andres
Bonnie B. Anderson
Kristina J. Alt
Linda R. Alkema
Winter 2009
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Lori Orr
Bachelor of Science in Nursing –
Winter 2009
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Christophre Terrence Benson
Christopher Michael Bouma
Colin Edward Bowles
Kirk Clyde Bradley
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Keira Nicole
Samantha Marie Burgess
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Fredrick Comer
Artene Ann DeKam
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Alice Joy Ellerbroek
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Stephanie Marie Gass
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Jennifer Anne Christine Thelen
Kristen Michelle Trindall
Erica Ruth Van Reken
Laura Elizabeth Warren
Betsy Marie Weidemann
Jennifer Kathleen White
Erin Marie Willink
Rachel Jeanne Wilmore
Melissa Joyce Wilson
Leah Faye Wozniak
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Accelerated Second Degree –
Winter 2009
Cassandra A. Aebertosold
Gwendolyn H. Boeve
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Averill A. Crowley
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Rhea E. Cunningham
Elaine M. Delre
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Emily A. Krueger
Renee E. Krueger
Erin M. Lefevre
Kevin P. Mamber
Lori Ann Paalso
Emily B. Shier
Amber R. Spenberg
Tracy M. Uhazier
Danielle J. Wiechertjes
Catherine A. Wondergem
Master of Science in Nursing –
Spring/Summer 2009
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Cindy M. Bigler
Kari Blech
Deborah L. Bohn
Brooke Alice Borgeson-Gray
Natala DeHaan
Amy Jean Delaney
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Ashley DesRocher
Carole Donazazola
Rachel Dykstra
Julie Eriksson
Cory C. Grich
Michelle Herford
Amanda Himes
Erin Hughes
Amy Jo Klein
Elizabeth Learner
Dorothy J. Malcolm
Kimberly Michelson
Susan Owen
Lindsey Ray
Amy Weber
Bachelor of Science in Nursing –
Spring/Summer 2009
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Jacob T. Alberda
Katherine S. Armour
Meagan Elizabeth Brown
Taryn Beth Byly
Corinne Rose Cendrowski
Angela Maria Chimtrzyski
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Rachel Anne Peabolt
Jessica Sue Pettis
Cassie Lynn Plomckmeyer
Lorissa Ann Poelamer
Reenee Lynn Poelander
Katelyn Joy Prots
Rachel Margaret Pullis
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Ashley Joy Quackenbush
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Alicia Lyn Schreur
Michelle L. Sanchez
Alicia Lyn Schreur
Ashley Marie Slater
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Autumn Kathryn Tleen
Kyle K. Thompson
Jessica Sue VanHouten
Julia Sue Vaugens
Allison Ann Wallace
Nateena Darlene Weathers
Anne Elizabeth White
Christina Marie Yancey
Christopher P. Yard
Elissa Michelle Zech
The Interprofessional World at KCON
By Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN

In 2003, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published the report, “Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality.” Providing substantiation that education in the health professions is in need of a major overhaul, a new vision was proposed. Health care educators were charged with ensuring (1) the development of knowledge and skills related to providing patient-centered care, (2) the use of evidence-based practices, (3) attention to quality improvement, and (4) enhanced utilization of informatics. They also were charged with creating interdisciplinary learning environments.

It has been obvious for some time that the student experience must instill in future professionals the importance of “team.” An interdisciplinary team is composed of members from different professions and occupations who have varied and specialized knowledge, skills and interventional approaches. The team members integrate their observations, areas of expertise and contexts for decision-making; they coordinate, collaborate and communicate within the team to optimize care for a patient or groups of patients.

To ensure a seamless continuum of care for patients, interdisciplinary teams are needed to deal with today’s complexity of interventions delivered across care settings. Experience has shown that effective teams develop when students have focused experiences that include the opportunity to learn about other team members’ discipline-specific knowledge and values, strategies for effective team functioning and communication patterns. With this in mind, curricula guidelines from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for all degree levels of nursing education now require content specific to “interprofessional communication and collaboration for improving patient health outcomes.”

The value of interprofessional work has reached into research as well. Led by a “roadmap for medical research,” the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has established a goal to change the academic research culture. Researchers are encouraged to cultivate interdisciplinary efforts and build bridges between the biological sciences and the behavioral and social sciences. The goal is to create a research culture where interdisciplinary approaches and team science are a normal mode of conducting research, and scientists who pursue these approaches are recognized and rewarded.

Launching Interprofessional Education Locally

In January 2008, GVSU’s Interprofessional Education (IPE) Committee, led by Dr. Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for health, began an innovative health care community initiative, now called the West Michigan Model of Interprofessional Education. The major goal of this committee was to develop a structure and process to implement the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding interprofessional education in the health professions.

The committee is a community partnership that includes GVSU, Grand Rapids Medical Education & Research Center (GRMERC), Michigan State University College of Human Medicine (MSU-CHM) and other regional practice partners. They have been working together to develop collaborative, innovative, interprofessional initiatives across disciplines, learning institutions and health care systems.

The major event launching this partnership was a January 2009 invitation-only conference, “Developing a Model for Interprofessional Education.” It featured three nationally known speakers from nursing, medicine and virtual learning. “Champion” groups were formed to focus on the development of various aspects of interprofessional education – to ultimately improve patient care outcomes, provide integrated quality care, lower health care costs, improve patient safety, and enhance patient and provider satisfaction.

To celebrate successes to date, showcase the work of the champion groups, and learn together from national and international experts, the second annual invitational conference will be held on January 15, 2010, in the GVSU Cook-DeVos Center. Titled “Translating Interprofessional Education Principles into Practice,” GVSU, GRMERC, MSU-CHM and regional practice partners will discuss opportunities to increase and strengthen IPE in clinical practice and develop collaborative, innovative initiatives to enhance the IPE practice environment. For more information, visit www.gvsu.edu/vphealth
STUDENT/SNA UPDATE

Student Nurses Give Back

At a time when many charities are lacking support, GVSU’s Student Nurses’ Association (SNA) is happy to lend a hand. During the spring and summer, SNA students had many opportunities to give generously.

Spring Fling Charity Ball

On May 15, SNA hosted its first Spring Fling Charity Ball. Nursing students planned the event, which was held on Grand Valley’s campus. Dressed in their very best, the students and their guests paid admission, raising $800 for a donation to Gilda’s Club Grand Rapids, a cancer support center.

“Soldier Box” Drive

SNA also organized a “soldier box” drive this summer. Students gathered everything from sunscreen to card games to food to send to soldiers serving overseas, along with letters and cards of appreciation and encouragement.

Summer Camp Health Assessments

Throughout June and July, SNA student nurses volunteered at Indian Trails Camp in Standale, assisting with health assessments for registered campers. Indian Trails provides summer camp experiences to children with disabilities. This opportunity gave SNA members valuable community experience while improving their assessment skills.

Blood Drive

SNA sponsored its second blood drive on June 9. That afternoon, students and the public were invited to give blood to help increase the supply at the Michigan Blood Bank. The drive was very successful, collecting 40 pints of blood.

Volunteering at the local level is one of the major commitments of Grand Valley’s SNA. Students are encouraged to volunteer through the awarding of LIC points, which may be counted toward extra credit in theory courses. This also is a tangible way of recognizing the importance of volunteering – for both those who receive care and support and for the student nurses who give it.
About the Graduate Awards

Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce’s Healthcare Professional of the Year Award
This award recognizes an individual who has dedicated his/her life to improving the lives of patients and overall health care in the Allegan community.

Dorothy E. Freeman Award for Outstanding Effort in Global Nursing Care
Dr. Dorothy Freeman directed the GVSU Center for Philanthropy from 1996 to 2000. This award is in her honor, recognizing her repeated generosity in support of programs that integrate global concepts and activities into academic and clinical experiences. The award is given to an individual who is pursuing a professional path in global/international academics, research, clinical practice and/or service-learning.

Glenn A. Niemeyer Outstanding Graduate Student Award
This award, named for the first GVSU provost, honors students who strive for excellence in all aspects of a well-rounded academic experience, including academic success, professional responsibility and community service.

Grand Valley State University Excellence in Service to Community Award
This award is given to a graduate student who provides outstanding service and leadership in the community.

Spirituality Excellence in Action Award - St. Mary’s Health System
This award was created to recognize registered nurses for their achievements in the practice of nursing at Saint Mary’s Health Care. Recipients exemplify excellence in action with behaviors associated with the five pillars of the Saint Mary’s nursing vision: spirituality, advocacy, knowledge, compassionate care and collaboration.

2008-2009

KCON AWARD RECIPIENTS

FALL 2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence
Heidi Michelle Smith, BSN

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
Stefani Raterink, RN

Dorothy E. Freeman Award for Outstanding Effort in Global Nursing Care
Gretchen Schumacher, PhD, GNP, FNP, NP-C

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award
Amy Laura Snooks, BSN

Phyllis Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award
Heidi Michelle Smith, BSN

WINTER 2009 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence
Steve D. Crandall, BSN, & Frederick Comer, BSN

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
Judith Stower, RN

Dorothy E. Freeman Award for Outstanding Effort in Global Nursing Care
Rachel E. Pitney, BSN

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award
Kevin Mombor, BSN

Phyllis Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award
Blair M. Celano, BSN

SPRING/SUMMER 2009 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Allegan Area Chamber of Commerce’s Healthcare Professional of the Year Award
Jennifer Dentler, MSN

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence
Tracy L. Cooper, BSN

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
Sarah R. Karafa, RN

Dorothy E. Freeman Award for Outstanding Effort in Global Nursing Care
Sarah A. Herbeck, BSN

Glenn A. Niemeyer Outstanding Graduate Student Award
Ashley DesRocher, MSN

Grand Valley State University Excellence in Service to Community Award
Susan Owen, MSN

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award
Bethany A. Michowski, BSN

Spirituality Excellence in Action Award - St. Mary’s Health System
Erin Hughs, MSN
FACULTY/STAFF UPDATE

Deborah Bambini, PhD, WHNP, CNE, has been promoted to associate professor.

Phyllis Gendler, PhD, RN, NP, and Jean Martin, PhD, RN, CPNP, have begun phased retirement. They will continue to teach the equivalent of one semester per academic year.

Amy Hoffman, PhD, RN, assistant professor, has resigned.

Affiliate faculty Lori Houghton-Rahrig, MSN, FNP-BC, and Melodee Vanden Bosch, MSN, RN, are on leaves of absence. With the support of an educational grant, they are accelerating the completion of their PhD degrees.

Laurel Jackson, MHA/MPA, is the new practice manager at the GVSU Family Health Center.

Gayla Jewell, PhD, RN, CPNP, has begun phased retirement.

Welcome to our two newest visiting faculty: Joyce Roberts, PhD, CNM, FAAN, and Catherine Weisbeck, PhD, MSW.

Faculty & Staff Transitions

Scott Receives Niemeyer Award

Linda Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, has been named as the 2009 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.

Scott has made many significant contributions to GVSU, KCON, the nursing profession and the community. In addition to her faculty role, she is currently the associate dean for KCON’s graduate programs.

Staff Profile:
Cheryl Borgman

When you visit the KCON office, you’ll likely be greeted with a smile and a cheery hello from Cheryl Borgman. As academic department coordinator, she is our “front door ambassador.” She is assisted in this part of her work by several student employees, whom she supervises.

Cheryl has spent five of her 10 years at GVSU with KCON. The experience she gained while working in GVSU’s Alumni Office prepared her for another aspect of her job: events planner. Three times each year she works with the dean and the administrative team to develop KCON’s recognition ceremony. Celebrations, including the holiday party, are her specialty.

Cheryl and her family have been part of the West Michigan community for more than 20 years. She credits her Pennsylvania beginnings, along with the many moves made by her military family, for the flexibility that is critical to her current job. No matter how busy she is, she’ll drop what she’s doing to take care of the phones or the visitor who just walked in. Cheryl makes a great first impression, and we’re happy she’s KCON’s front door ambassador.
2009-2010 officers for Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large (Sigma Theta Tau International) include: Joy Washburn, EdD, RNC, WHNP, president-elect; Cynthia Beel-Bates, PhD, RN, vice president; and Linda (Nicki) Grinstead, PhD, RN, CNE, and Susan Mlynarczyk, PhD, RN, faculty counselors.


Angela Caruso, MEd, BS, and Erin Busscher, MEd, BA, academic advisors, received professional development grants to attend the National Academic Advising Association’s conference in San Antonio, TX.

Kristi Cooper, MSN, RN, has been selected as a 2009-2010 associate with the GVSU Liberal Education Academy. Associates commit to a year in which they study one of their courses in the context of liberal education, and then develop, carry out and report on a project that derives from the study.

Susan Jensen, PhD, RN, CCM, has been selected as a commissioner for the Commission for Case Management Certification (CCMC). While serving a four-year term, she will have the opportunity for travel, networking and research.

Claudia Leiras-Laubach, PhD, successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. It is titled, “The Association Between Prolactin and Mammographic Breast Density.”

Jean Martin, PhD, RN, CPNP, is the president-elect for the 2009-2010 Executive Board of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP). She is serving in that role from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, and then will assume the presidency for two years.

Cynthia McCurren, PhD, received the 2009 achievement award from the West Michigan Nursing Advisory Council. WMNAC, which recognizes one member per year, honored McCurren for her vision and work for the future of nursing. She also was named as one of the Top Women in Health Care in the May 21, 2009, issue of Business Review in Western Michigan.

Here are just a few of the presentations KCON faculty made during the 2008-2009 academic year:


**Brintnall.** (2009, March). Family perceptions of health care provider communication in the 48 hours before death. Midwest Nursing Research Society Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

**Leder & Grinstead.** (2009, April). Behavior of children raised by grandparents. Sigma Theta Tau International-Kappa Epsilon At-Large Chapter Research Event, Grand Rapids, MI.

**McCurren.** (2009, February). Reforming American healthcare through partnerships: Nursing education and practice. 18th Annual CPM Resource Center International Conference, Orlando, FL.


**Scott.** Hofmeister, Rogness, & Rogers. (2009, March). A fatigue countermeasures program for hospital staff nurses: An interventional approach for nurse and patient safety. Midwest Nursing Research Society, Minneapolis, MN.

**Vander Werf & Van Doren.** (2009, June). Developing nontraditional clinical course sites. Association of Community Nurse Educators Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


**RECENT GRANTS**


Coviak, C., Scott, L., & Van Doren, E. (2009-2010). Pew Faculty Teaching & Learning Center, Grand Valley State University. Revision of the KCON BSN and MSN Programs; $14,800.

Schumacher, G., Ryan, M., Booth, A., Brintnall, R., & Smith, J. (2009). Pew Faculty Teaching & Learning Center, Grand Valley State University. Interprofessional Promotion of Improved Understanding of Primary Care for Diverse Patients and Geriatrics Through Simulation; $3,000.
“For me, it was natural to root this work in our community and at Grand Valley. I have grown up with GVSU. I remember when it didn't have a program in nursing and how one of the first leaders, Colleen Curtin, labored to get the School of Nursing launched. She had a vision for professional nursing at a time when there was no BSN program in the community. As colleagues, we shared a common vision to support the advancement of nursing; her focus was on academia and mine the clinical setting. She was one of my first important partners and supporters.

“The other reason I chose KCON was because I was markedly influenced by GVSU students and the university’s academic excellence. I’ve always felt humbled and fortunate to be a teacher. When I was with the students at GVSU, I tried different approaches to explore some of the fundamental principles of what became known as the Clinical Practice Model framework. In fact, today two of my previous GVSU students, Michelle Troseth and Diane Hanson, are leading the CPMRC into the future. I wanted this center to be in the community where I’ve lived all my life, had my greatest lessons, and worked with my most significant colleagues and mentors. I know the strength of these roots, and they will not only serve our community but communities across the world.”

Q: What is your dream for the center for five years from now?

“My dream is influenced by the times in which we live. The CPMRC is one of the leaders of the technological revolution in health care. We know there is much work to be done in merging the world of technology with the work of healers. We cannot transform health care today without information technology that is intentionally designed to support both those who give and receive care. However that isn’t the reality in today’s world.

“I hope we are creating a place – a home – where we can support and send forth into the world a new professional: the interdisciplinary healer/scientist. We cannot serve humanity unless we have depth of scientific knowledge combined with depth of healing knowledge – all supported by appropriately designed technology used by an integrated interdisciplinary team.

“This center will bridge the gap between research, theory and the realities of clinical practice. You will see students in a lab who have absolutely no fear of technology because they know it exists to serve them so they can better serve their patients and each other. Students and faculty will be involved in making sure the tools they’re using have been designed to support their practice and to speak up when they see that tools or information are interfering with best care.

“In five years, the work of this center – in collaboration with the CPMRC; strong practice education partnerships; and a growing consortium of rural, community and university clinical settings – will generate health care leaders who will commit to carry out the work and implement the tools and infrastructure needed to create healthy, healing cultures and safe, quality care for those who give and receive care.

“Five years from now, I hope there will be no one in health care who doesn’t know about this center. It won’t be a place just for students, but for clinicians and scholars to come and learn. They will know there is a place designed for healer/scientists to learn and grow.”

Profile: Bonnie Wesorick

Bonnie Wesorick is founder and chairman emerita of the Clinical Practice Model Resource Center (CPMRC) in Grand Rapids. She served in various roles on the faculty of the Kirkhof School of Nursing from 1980 to 1985. From 1986 to 1989 she was a research associate professor at GVSU’s School of Health Sciences, where she worked with Johnine Callahan, PhD, in the field of microbiology bridging theory and clinical practice.

Wesorick is a widely published author and an internationally recognized speaker and leader in the arena of evidence-based health care and the use of technology to support excellence in professional practice. She is best known for her pioneering work in the use of a clinical practice model framework that transforms the culture and structure of health care systems to create the best places to give and receive care.

Wesorick has spent most of her life in Grand Rapids. She attended Holy Cross School of Nursing in South Bend, Grand Rapids Community College and Aquinas College, earning her MSN as an adult clinical nurse specialist at Wayne State University.

The CPMRC, which Wesorick founded in 1992, is now a business unit of Elsevier. Based in the Netherlands, it is the world’s largest provider of science and health information. For more information about CPMRC, visit www.cpmrc.com
GVSU and KCON have taken these two charges to create interdisciplinary efforts very seriously. When I arrived as KCON’s Dean in November 2007, I immediately became part of the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Committee, convened by Dr. Jean Nagelkerk. This dynamic committee has quickly moved forward with visionary ideas that have led to a specific strategic plan. As you will see in the brief stories that follow, we are creating an increasing number of opportunities to study and work in - and learn the skills and mindset of – interdisciplinary teams that involve faculty, staff and students.

KCON and PAS
Hold IPE Simulation Exercises

Recently, KCON second-semester BSN students and first-year Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) students cooperated in a primary care simulation experience collecting health histories using standardized patients. KCON faculty member Deborah Bambini and PAS faculty member Andrew Booth reported on this interprofessional experience at a recent conference.

The primary focus of the simulation was to establish effective communication between disciplines and with the patients. More of these simulations are being planned so students can gain practical, hands-on experience with the teamwork needed for patient-centered care and a multifaceted approach to treating patients.

Interdisciplinary Research
in Osteoporosis

Dr. Phyllis Gendler is involved in interdisciplinary healthy bones research, focused on improving care in the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, as well as fall prevention and treatment for fractures. The study group includes researchers in the areas of genetics, medicine, nursing, nutrition, and occupational and physical therapy, along with physician assistants. GVSU students from the health disciplines are also involved. An interdisciplinary intervention is being planned for adults diagnosed with, or at risk for, osteoporosis to promote better health habits in nutrition, exercise and reduction of risk for fractures.

Mock Code:
NUR 451 and PAS

A recent interprofessional education project involved senior nursing and physician assistant students. It focused on identifying communication techniques, collaboration skills and the coordination of patient care services in a critical care situation.

Scenario: Man in an ED… on a gurney… complaining of chest pressure and epigastric distress… moaning and groaning. He was accompanied by his wife, who became “hysterical” when a code was called.

Using the resources of the simulation center, two PAs identified themselves and started to run the code. Senior nursing students volunteered to do chest compressions and administer air by bagging, with another to administer medications (with faculty supervision) and another to record. Faculty stepped in to comfort the hysterical wife. Meanwhile, the remaining cohorts from NUR 451 watched on a live stream in the next room. The students then responded to questions and critiqued the exercise.

With the support of faculty and the GVSU Simulation Center staff, these interprofessional learning opportunities are becoming more common. Expect to see many more in the future!

“Interdisciplinary”
VS.
“Interprofessional”

“A rose by any other name…” Thanks to Mr. Shakespeare, we know that what we call something may be important, but it’s not all-defining. As the language about learning and working together across traditional health care professional boundaries evolves, old terms are mixing with new: interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, interprofessional, etc. While recognizing that there may be subtle distinctions, in this issue of KCON Magazine we’ve used “interprofessional” and “interdisciplinary” interchangeably. For the purists among our readers, we apologize. And, William, we hope we have not offended thee!
AFFILIATE FACULTY

Enhancing Educational Experiences for KCON Students

Our affiliate faculty members are appointed to expand and enhance the instructional capacity of KCON. These faculty members possess expertise in a variety of areas, including primary care, pediatrics, adult/older adult, community care and mental health.

Affiliate faculty positions at GVSU are offered with an extended contract, which is important for the continuity of the curricula and the quality of students’ experiences. The presence of these faculty members is critical, ensuring the high quality of clinical education that is a hallmark of our nursing degree programs.

Erin Baar, MSN, RN, PNP
Mary Bolman, MSN, RN
Debra Brown-Bayus, MSN, RN-BC
Nancy Carlson, MSN, RN
Kristin Cooper, MSN, RN
Suzan Couzens, MS, RN, FCN
Norine Cunningham, MSN, RN
Kelli Damstra, MSN, RN
Margaret Guthaus, MSN, APRN-BC
Barbara Hooper, MSN, RN, CNA-BC
Susan Jarchow, MSN, RN
Elaine Leigh, MSN, APRN-BC, CGRN
Luanne Shaw, MSN, RN, CEN
Sally Stockdale, MSN, RN

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 collaborate 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 in nursing preferred (PhD or DNP)
• 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

Five of our 14 affiliate faculty paused for a quick photo during another busy day at KCON. (Left to right)
Barbara Hooper
Debra Brown-Bayus
Sally Stockdale
Susan Jarchow
Suzan Couzens

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)
  - Traditional Undergraduate Program
  - RN to BSN Program
  - Second Degree Program
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) (Fall 2010)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

“We are creating exceptional learning opportunities for our nursing students. During the last two years, we have developed and implemented the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program. A revised Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) is in the approval process and expected to begin in Fall 2010. Our commitment is to continue to provide nursing education that prepares nurses with the knowledge, skills and insights needed to effectively contribute to health care reform and improved health care delivery.”

Dean, Kirkhof College of Nursing
Dr. Cynthia McCurren

Web Site: www.gvsu.edu/kcon Phone: 616-331-3558 Fax: 616-331-2510 E-mail: Use “Contact Us” page on KCON’s Web site

The Kirkhof College of Nursing is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and recognized for its outstanding teaching, scholarship, service and research.