Diversity

Gene Olsen & Ron Perkins
The Nursing Profession: A Male Point Of View

Sylvia Mupepi’s International Perspective

GVSU’s Family Health Center: Supporting a Diverse Community

KCON’s Commitment to Diversity
We choose a theme for each issue of KCON Magazine, and for the Fall 2010 edition it is diversity. The simple dictionary definition of diversity is “the inclusion of people of different races or cultures in a group or organization.” The reality is there is not a simple definition of diversity because diversity is each of us and all of us.

Broadly defined, diversity brings our focus to inclusiveness and respect for the variety of characteristics that make individuals different from or similar to one another. Diversity is found in what we can see and what we cannot see in each of us. It is reflected in many ways through our appearance, thoughts, behaviors, attitudes and reactions.

Diversity in its broadest sense includes, but is not limited to, culture, gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, nationality, geographical location, lifestyle, education, income, health/disability and language, as well as our personality, beliefs, faith, dreams, aspirations, skills, perceptions and experiences. When diversity is considered in this broader context, it enables an organization to be open and receptive to the distinct needs of individuals and to the full potential of each person’s unique talents, skills, perceptions and abilities.

Within KCON we strive to infuse this view of diversity among our faculty, staff and students – and to capitalize on the strength of our diversity to make a difference within our college and beyond. We hope that those who share time with KCON will use the strength of diversity to positively influence not only our academic community, but the broader spectrum of humanity and the environments we share. This hope has already become reality in significant ways, and this issue highlights some stories and examples for your reflection.

I am proud of our endeavors and commitment to embrace diversity, while recognizing that it is an ongoing quest to remain conscious and sensitive to the challenges and opportunities that diversity affords.

Enjoy the magazine and the fall season that is upon us. And as we move into the holiday season, I wish for all of you many blessings.
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The Nursing Profession: A Male Point Of View

GENE OLSEN
In the India of 250 B.C., where, historians say, the world’s first nursing school was founded, only men were considered “pure” enough to become nurses. After a winding path of historical events and circumstances, nursing has become a predominantly female profession. For example, according to minoritynurse.com, in the United States there are 2,909,357 licensed RNs. Only 5.8 percent of them (168,181) are males.

But during the last decade an increasing number of men have been going into nursing. KCON’s experience reflects this trend. Of the 573 students who enrolled in Fall 1999 seeking the BSN degree, eight percent (46) were males. By Fall 2008 this had risen to 16.9 percent (225 males out of 1,330 enrolled). The latest data available indicate that 18.8 percent of those enrolled for the BSN in Spring/Summer 2010 were males.

KCON Magazine recently talked with two of KCON’s male alumni, Ron Perkins and Gene Olsen, to discuss this trend and their experiences as male nurses.

Gene Olsen, MSN/MBA (’04), CFRN, EMT-P, is marketing and education coordinator for Aero Med Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids. He serves as an onboard helicopter flight nurse, coordinates Aero Med marketing efforts and is responsible for the continuing education of all Aero Med staff. Olsen has been at Spectrum Health for 20 years, beginning as an ED charge nurse before transferring to work as a full-time flight nurse. He also currently works part time as an ED nurse practitioner at Memorial Medical Center in Ludington.

Ron Perkins, BSN (’90), is assistant director of simulation for GVSU. He works with all of the health professions programs in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, coordinating simulation activities and helping the programs to design and efficiently use the simulation equipment available in the building. Perkins has a background in communicable diseases, surveillance, and STD and HIV testing and counseling. He began his Grand Valley career in 1999 as KCON’s lab coordinator in Henry Hall.
Q: How did you choose nursing as a career?

Perkins: “Originally I was going for an electronic engineering degree in Phoenix. But I quickly realized I needed to work with people. My cousin was in the police academy there. He was taking an EMT course and asked if I wanted to join him. I took that course and medical care just clicked with me. I passed the course with flying colors, at which point I said to myself, ‘Well, I guess this is where I’m supposed to be!’ I was on the fence between physical therapy and nursing because I was really into body building. But the more core courses I took, the more I realized that the versatility of the nursing degree had to be my base. And now here I am, working full time in simulation.”

Olsen: “My family was involved in health care; the helping part of it is kind of a family tradition. My father was a firefighter, my mother worked in public health, my grandmother retired from a hospital, and my aunts worked in hospitals, so it was in my blood I guess. When I was 15, I began working as a nurse’s aide in a nursing home in a small community-based hospital, so I started early. My career has grown from the ground up in the ranks of nursing, from being a health careers student through my advanced degrees. In high school I researched projections for upcoming careers and the first nursing shortage was being projected at that time. So I entered into nursing professionally during the first shortage, even though I knew there weren’t many men in nursing then.”

Q: What practice changes have you seen since you began?

Olsen: “I think the most significant change is that nurses have been elevated to a position of equality on the health care team. It’s no longer the doctor giving orders to be followed. The entire team gives input, so there’s a more holistic, collaborative approach to care. The nurse has a significant role in this – seen as equal but with its own discipline and focus.”

Perkins: “I’ve been in education – not working as a clinician – during the past 10 years, but I’ve noticed there is less that students can do in clinical settings when it comes to hands-on care. With the number of nursing schools popping up all over the place, there is a huge struggle for clinical training sites. So we need to use advanced manikins, standard patients and online education to immerse students in the care they’ll need to provide. Advanced simulation techniques allow us to create situations that they probably wouldn’t ever see in their clinical training. The opportunities for simulation training that we have on site at Cook-DeVos now were ‘someday maybe’ dreams when I started my career.”

Q: How has your experience in nursing compared to that of women over the years?

Perkins: “I’ve observed positives and negatives for both men and women in nursing. I guess, regardless of your sex, there are people everywhere who will lift you up and are happy about you being their colleague, while others seem to have a problem. But the biggest difference I’ve seen relates to patients’ attitudes. I remember when I worked at a health department years ago, I couldn’t get it through patients’ heads that I wasn’t a doctor. They saw a male and automatically thought ‘doctor,’ while female physicians were assumed to be nurses. That stereotype is changing because we’re seeing more male nurses and more female physicians. I don’t know if I’ll live to see the day when nursing is 50/50 women and men, but I’d like to. Sometimes it’s a little stressful being the only male in a setting because you want to talk to dudes for a few minutes, you know!”
Olsen: “I think male nurses back in the ’80s were treated more as equals than women were in terms of their relationships to doctors. We were seen more instantly as professionals and didn’t have to prove our way like the women did. Actually, the most negative reactions I experienced were from older female nurses; it was like they wanted the profession to themselves back then. I would bet if you asked a female physician this same question, they would say they experienced almost the same thing, only in reverse. As for today... patients still assume I’m a physician because I’m a man, even though I introduce myself as a nurse practitioner. So sexism still exists, but it’s slowly equalizing. We’re just not there yet.”

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POV: Josh Martin
MSN, FNP (’10), CEN, FAWIM, WEMT-P I/C

Martin is the director of Northern Cairn (www.northerncairn.com) in Charlevoix, where he is a coordinator and instructor in wilderness medicine and specialized rescue programs.

“When I was young, I never thought I would be a murse (male nurse). Born and raised in northern Michigan, I pursued a degree in criminal justice when I entered college. It seemed perfect because many of my family members were in law enforcement. But after a year I knew I needed a change, and I signed up for Pararescue in the U.S. Air Force.

“During pipeline training I met one of the first nurses I’d ever known. I initially thought it was peculiar that the Air Force felt he would be best equipped to teach us dirt medicine. I found out that doctors are managers and nurses, like Pararescuemen, are operators and doers. The mission for Pararescuemen is to recover downed and injured aircrew members in austere and non-permissive environments. This can mean caring for someone for days or weeks: monitoring, keeping wounds clean, administering medications and intervening when necessary. This is what nurses do, what they are best at.

“I ultimately found out I am a doer. I enjoy the trenches and it’s what I’m good at. Pararescuemen are known as the jack of all trades and master of none. I feel this is also the ideal description of nurse practitioners.

“How I ended up as an NP is still a mystery. I think over the years I was inadvertently molded by circumstances into what I have become. I fell into a job I love, and I’m very proud to be a Murse Practitioner!”

POV: Ryan Gendron
BSN (’10)

Gendron is vice president of KCON’s chapter of the Student Nurses Association and president of the GVSU Roller Hockey Club. He graduates with a BSN in December 2010.

“Nursing has always been part of my life since my mom is a nurse. But when I was young, I saw nursing as a job for women. When I was 14 my mom’s parents, who both had cancer, moved into our house because they needed assistance. I helped out with things every day, ranging from just keeping them company to helping my grandpa prepare my grandma’s IV nutrition. As a result, I decided I wanted to pursue a career in helping people.

“I’ve always been very involved in sports, so originally I wanted to do something sports related like physical therapy or athletic training. But when I was a junior in high school my goals changed when I broke my collarbone playing hockey. After five days of visiting different doctors (and getting five different opinions!), we decided that surgery was the best option.

“I was very nervous going into surgery because my injury was severe enough to possibly affect my ability to continue playing sports. We were waiting in the pre-op area when a male nurse anesthetist came in. He calmed me down, answered our questions, and made sure that I knew he was going to take care of me during the surgery. My encounter with him made me realize that nursing was exactly what I wanted to do in my life. He comforted me at a time of great anxiety and nervousness and played a huge role in my health care. He made me realize that nursing was my true calling.”
Sylvia Mupepi’s International Perspective

Sylvia Mupepi, PhD, RN, brings an international perspective to her role as one of KCON’s associate professors. Born in Zimbabwe, Mupepi completed her early nursing education in London. Although she stayed there after graduation to work as a public health nurse, her heart remained in her homeland.

During her early nursing career, Mupepi became a nurse midwife. When Zimbabwe gained its independence from the United Kingdom in 1980, she returned to work with mothers and children. She focused on empowering women to learn to read, write and take responsibility for family planning. At one point in her career, Mupepi was in charge of nursing services for the entire country, at times putting herself in danger as she championed women’s rights. But her dedication paid off. During its early years of independence, Zimbabwe’s health care delivery system was a World Health Organization (WHO) model.

When the opportunity presented itself, Mupepi and her family moved to Ann Arbor, where she completed her doctoral studies in nursing at the University of Michigan. Her career journey brought her to GVSU in 2005.

Mupepi has discovered that some health issues in Michigan are similar to those she encountered in Zimbabwe. She is very concerned about infant mortality, a serious health problem in the Grand Rapids/Kent County region. She has a passion for community nursing, especially for connecting women and children to appropriate services.

Recently, Mupepi took on a faculty clinical assignment at Cherry Street Health Services. She is excited as she talks about the wonderful opportunities open to KCON students in this setting.

“The variety of services available here to clients from every walk of life is a ‘supermarket’ of primary care,” she explains. “Women who bring themselves and their children to this clinic can access a variety of clinical and educational services in a single visit. These services mirror the best of the WHO model of care – services that are acceptable, affordable and available.”

Students are active participants at Cherry Street Health Services, which often uses interpreters and bilingual nurses. Mupepi sees herself as opening the eyes of students as they participate in this unique primary care experience.

“Health care in the United States is moving toward evidence-based care that includes clients as members of the health team,” she says. “I believe our student nurses will be ahead of their colleagues due to the richness of this community nursing clinical experience, which is in a setting dedicated to improving health statistics and empowering clients to take charge of their own health.”
GVSU’s Family Health Center: Supporting a Diverse Community

In the mid-1990s KCON established a nurse screening clinic at the Herkimer Apartments in the Heartside district of downtown Grand Rapids. Neighborhood residents, mostly retired or disabled and living in a medically underserved area, received services from GVSU students and staff. During its first decade the clinic was converted to a nurse-managed primary health center, thanks to support from part of a $4 million W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant that established the Michigan Academic Consortium. It continued to provide health care primarily to underserved populations while serving as a clinical site for GVSU students and a practice site for faculty.

In April 2002, the health center moved from the Herkimer Apartments to the newly remodeled former Ferguson Hospital building on Sheldon Boulevard. The GVSU Family Health Center joined other health care agencies to provide services to more than 800 clients, including residents needing supportive housing.

Today, the Family Health Center continues to serve a diverse clientele from the inner city, as well as GVSU faculty, staff and students. A full-time practice manager, Laurel Jackson, MHA, MPA, was hired in 2009. An electronic health record system was also implemented after the center was able to secure Health Information Technology assistance under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The GVSU Family Health Center now qualifies for inclusion in the Children’s Healthcare Access Program (CHAP). The staff works with the first steps (CHAP), Priority Health and MI Child (Medicaid) programs, serving as the designated medical home for more than 700 families whose children might not have had access to primary health care services in the past. In early September 2010 the center sponsored free immunization and well-child clinics, providing mandated immunizations, lead testing, sports physicals and other services.

While there is great excitement over these children’s services, the center continues to care for adults from the Ferguson Apartments and individuals from the Heartside neighborhood. Another unique niche for the center is providing immunizations needed by international travelers.

The GVSU Family Health Center projects that it will serve more than 2,200 clients this year. Only about 36 percent will have commercial health insurance, while more than 30 percent will be classified as eligible for Medicaid.

True to its original mission, the health center continues to serve as a clinical site for a wide range of students in the health professions: undergraduate and graduate nursing students, physical therapy and medical assistant students, even health care administration and marketing students – all the members necessary for an efficient, diverse, high-functioning health care team.
FAREWELL TO OUR PRESIDENT

It is with gratitude that the KCON Alumni Chapter bids farewell to our founding president, Elaine Leigh. Her enthusiasm and can-do leadership style helped bring us to this stage in our development. We wish Elaine all the best as she continues on her nursing education journey.

We welcome two new Board members, Jessica Lerch, BSN ('10), and Heidi Koops Bushen, BSN ('10). When you see them, please thank them for their support.

Our first activity of the year was Homecoming, as usual. We hope you made it to campus for all of the festivities related to GVSU’s 50th anniversary celebration and took the opportunity to stop by KCON’s exhibit at the Campus Expo and Open House. We had a great time!

Look for our news on the KCON alumni Web site (www.gvsu.edu/kcon/alumni-128.htm) and please take a moment to fill out the alumni information form. We want to stay in touch!

Elaine Leigh, MSN ('02)

KCON alumni serving in leadership positions on the 2010-2011 Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large (Sigma Theta Tau International) board include:

- Judith Baker, MSN ('98), governance committee
- Marlene Holstine, BSN ('01), awards committee
- Keverne Lehman, MSN ('06), leadership succession/nomination committee
- Amy Lodenstein, MSN ('03), leadership succession/nomination committee
- Jacque Oliai, MSN ('95), leadership succession/nomination committee
- Renae Boss Potts, MSN ('02), faculty counselor, Calvin College
- Sharon Strek, BSN ('89), newsletter chair
- Mary VanderWal, MSN ('02), faculty counselor, Calvin College
- Kathy Wyngarden, MSN, post-master’s certificate ('02), secretary

Spectrum Health nurses Deb Cress, MSN ('96), RN, NE-BC, and Tim Scholten, BSN ('97), RN, NE-BC, made presentations at the 30th Annual Congress of the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses in Seattle, Wash. Cress shared the podium for a presentation titled “Performance Improvement: One Hospital’s Journey,” and Scholten presented a shared poster, “Orthopaedic Cleanliness is Next to Godliness.”

Catherine Earl, DPA, MSN ('90), RN, is now serving as dean of nursing at the Ontario, Calif., campus of West Coast University. She previously was chair of the school of nursing at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

Sara Eckert, BSN ('07), RN, RD, CLC, lactation counselor and breastfeeding education specialist for mother/baby services at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, was featured in the May/June 2010 Spectrum Health publication, Focus On Nursing.

Lori Houghton-Rahrig, BSN ('81), MSN ('01), attended the Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) 2010, sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health.

Jeanette Lochan, MSN ('92), and Laura Moody, MSN ('99), professors in the Grand Rapids Community College Department of Nursing, have been recognized for their role in ensuring the success of prospective students. They recruited nurse mentors from the community to work with students from the Union of Prospective Nurses in a Diverse Community.

Amy Lodenstein, MSN ('03), RN, was a 2010 finalist for the Spectrum Health Steketee Family Award for Nursing Leadership. She is the nurse manager at Blodgett Hospital’s Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence.

Jeanne Roode, MSN ('95), RN, NEBC, CNRN, received recognition for her leadership, support of scholarships and nursing research at the West Michigan Nursing Advisory Council’s 2010 nursing gala.

Frank Snarski, BSN ('88), has been serving as the commandant of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans for the past seven years. Previously, he was the organization’s director of nursing.

Melodee Vandenbosch, BSN ('79), MSN ('03), and Lori Houghton-Rahrig, BSN ('81), MSN ('01), doctoral students at Michigan State University College of Nursing, were inducted into the MSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi in April 2010.

Mary Kay VanDriel, MSN ('03), president of Value Health Partners, has earned fellowship status from the American College of Healthcare Executives.

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 Commitment to Diversity
KCON’s Commitment to Diversity

By Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN

The focus of this issue of KCON Magazine is on diversity. To understand why this is so important for the college, consider these two insights:

1) In 2003, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) warned of “unequal treatment” in health care. Cultural differences, poor access to health care, and high rates of poverty and unemployment contribute to marked ethnic and racial disparities in health status and health outcomes. Research has shown that health professionals who are minority individuals are more likely to serve minority and medically underserved populations. Also, a unique level of patient/health care provider connection is achieved when the provider has an inherent cultural affinity, shared social experiences and perceived trust with a patient. Thus, the IOM recommends that the number of minority health professionals be increased as a key strategy to eliminating health disparities.

2) While nursing as a profession understands the importance of recruiting and retaining diverse students, challenges can be heard from the lived experiences of minorities enrolled in predominantly White nursing programs. They report loneliness and isolation, a lack of acknowledgement of their individuality and uniqueness, peers who lack understanding and knowledge about cultural differences, a lack of faculty support and having to cope with insensitivity (Gardner, 2005).

In this context, it is important to reflect on the infrastructure that influences KCON’s work toward greater diversity. For all educational parameters, KCON is responsive and accountable to two entities: Grand Valley State University (GVSU) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Directives related to diversity, inclusion and equity are required and promoted by both of these institutions.

GVSU’s Inclusion Implementation Plan

The Grand Valley State University Strategic Plan 2010-2015 includes the following statement: “Grand Valley provides a rich, inclusive learning and working environment that attracts, retains, and supports a diverse community.” To that end, an Inclusion and Equity Division was created, and the vice president for this division facilitated the development of a university-wide Inclusion Implementation Plan. The underlying mission is to have a university-wide integrated approach to enhancing diversity awareness and intercultural competency for students, faculty and staff.

Each GVSU unit and college was required to develop its own Inclusion Implementation Plan to foster overall university-wide goals. At KCON we worked diligently to create a plan that improves upon our previous efforts and provides a clearer strategic direction. Our overall goals are to:

- Increase the presence of faculty from underrepresented groups, with an emphasis on men and minority/international individuals.
- Promote a more holistic perspective of criteria for admission to undergraduate and graduate nursing to increase access for underrepresented groups.
- Ensure curricula content related to cultural competency is enhanced for undergraduate and graduate programs, as directed for national accreditation (CCNE).
- Promote the work of KCON’s Center of Distinction-Best Practices for Vulnerable Populations, which focuses on scholarship related to health disparities and health outcomes.
- Participate in GVSU’s Inclusion and Equity Advisory Council, Climate Study and Inclusion/Advocacy Training.

Higher education is uniquely positioned to foster and nurture behaviors that make diversity work. Students learn about the world around them, about society, and about values and differences. Educational experiences give students the opportunity to learn how to work with, learn from and teach others. The uniqueness and value of differences can be explored throughout curricula. This learning is then transferred outside the classroom into the community, workplace and family life. But to make this vision a reality, all members of the university community must be dedicated to the effort.
KCON Students Present at MNRS 2010


Boss Presents at GRMEP Research Day 2010

David Boss, a BSN student at KCON, worked with assistant professor Claudia Leiras-Laubach, PhD, during the summer of 2009 as part of the Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners (GRMEP) Summer Internship Program. At the annual GRMEP Research Day, held on April 21, 2010, he gave an oral presentation about their work titled, “Male Pattern Baldness and Prostate Cancer Risk: Testing for a Significant Relationship.”

DNP Students Go To D.C.

Two KCON DNP students were selected to attend the first American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Student Policy Summit, held March 22 and 23, 2010, in Washington, D.C. Brenda Hoss, MSN, RN, and Jonathan Reed, BSN, RN, had the good fortune to be in the nation’s capital during the final discussions and vote related to health care reform legislation.

Hoss, who is enrolled in a health care policy course, said that she has always been active in politics. “There was an atmosphere of celebration both in our summit meetings and on Capitol Hill,” she said. “I think that even those who would have preferred a different bill recognized the historical importance of the moment.”

The AACN Student Policy Summit is a three-day immersion program that focuses on the importance of nurses’ engagement in the policy process; it coincides with the AACN’s spring annual meeting. The summit is open to students at all levels of baccalaureate and graduate nursing study at AACN member schools.
SNA Helps
Host sHaPe Camp

For two weeks in July, GVSU programs at the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences opened their doors to area seventh and eighth graders for the first sHaPe Camp. sHaPe, which stands for Summer Health Activities and Professions Exploration, is a week-long event giving middle school students who are interested in the health professions the opportunity to gain some hands-on experience.

In the middle of the week it was nursing’s turn. SNA nursing students and KCON faculty members introduced campers to the world of nursing. SNA members covered topics ranging from the history of nursing and career opportunities, to the equipment used and the assessments nurses perform every day. The campers got the chance to see how good they were at washing their hands and preventing infection by using Glo Germ and UV light. They also performed assessments on manikins and each other.

The entire sHaPe Camp was a big success both weeks it was held, and tentative plans are underway for next summer.

KCON Grad
Featured on STT Web Site

New KCON graduate Sally Hoekzema, BSN (‘10), was featured on Sigma Theta Tau International’s Web site in Winter 2010 as part of its fund development efforts. In part, she said:

“I am a nursing student at Grand Valley State University. My academic achievement earned me an invitation to Sigma Theta Tau International. I was honored, but due to the economic downturn and family budget constraints, I did not think joining STTI would be feasible. One of my nursing professors (Susan Mlynarczyk, PhD, RN, PNP) encouraged me to join and assisted me in applying for the Edith Anderson Membership Subsidy. I now am a member and will wear the honor cord at graduation in the spring! . . . I am very grateful to the Foundation for Nursing’s Leadership Permanent Fund . . .”
Grinstead Named Outstanding Educator

Linda N. (Nicki) Grinstead, PhD, KCON professor of nursing, was named GVSU’s Spring 2010 Outstanding Educator. This award is given twice each year by the Alumni Association to the GVSU faculty member who has had the most significant influence on the careers of alumni.

Grinstead has been a member of the GVSU faculty since 1978. She spent more than six years in full-time professional practice prior to her career in academia. She serves as faculty counselor for the Kappa Epsilon At-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. Grinstead is also a member of the National League for Nursing and the Society of Pediatric Nurses. A certified pediatric nurse and nurse educator, she earned GVSU’s Pew Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001.

Grinstead’s former students commend her for encouraging them to be critical thinkers and compassionate caregivers. They describe her as approachable, supportive, knowledgeable and caring, and as someone they try to emulate in their own nursing practice. She is widely recognized for her easy-going nature and enduring concern for the personal and professional development of her students.

Staff Profile:
Cassonya Carter-Pugh

Cassonya Carter-Pugh (CC) has spent her entire career working with students, and she is passionate about making a difference in their lives. CC has a special understanding of what they face because she completed both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at GVSU, preparing for a career in student services. She began in the GVSU Admissions Office and is currently director of KCON’s Office of Student Services.

When CC joined the KCON team in 2005, she was well versed in student advising but felt that she had much to learn about the nursing curriculum. During the past five years she has met this goal with flying colors, and now is particularly proud of the work that she and her team of four academic advisors and a secretary do every day. While the advising services at KCON have developed under her leadership, there has been a movement across campus to establish advising centers in each of GVSU’s colleges. This has led to a larger communication and support network for all staff members engaged in this important work.

Looking ahead, CC sees her team’s work shifting from an emphasis on recruitment to academic and program advising. The student advising role at GVSU continues to grow and take over many of the technical aspects leading to student success. CC views this as a golden opportunity to further support the faculty, freeing them up to serve as true mentors to nursing students in their career development.
2010-2011 officers for Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large (Sigma Theta Tau International) include:

• Joy Washburn, EdD, RNC, WHNP, president
• Luanne Shaw, MSN, RN, CEN, vice president
• Rebecca Davis, PhD, RN, and Susan Mlynarczyk, PhD, RN, PNP, faculty counselors
• Susan Mlynarczyk, Patricia Schafer, PhD, RN, and Linda Scott, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, research committee

Jean Barry, PhD, RN, associate professor, has been appointed as editor of the Cochrane Nursing Care Corner for the Journal of Nursing Administration.

Erin Busscher, BA, MEd, received the 2010 Women’s Commission Maxine Swanson Award for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of women at GVSU.

Norine Cunningham, MSN, RN, affiliate faculty member, was recognized by the GVSU Counseling Center with an Honorary Counselor Award for her extraordinary efforts to advance the mission and services of the center.

Rebecca Davis, PhD, RN, and Susan Mlynarczyk, PhD, RN, PNP, were selected to participate in the Quality and Safety Education in Nursing (QSEN) Education Consortium Institute in April 2010 in Washington, D.C. This national initiative is led by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN, is currently serving as president of the Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing. She is also a member of the Michigan Nursing Education Council, a leadership group that will be the driving force behind the transformation of nursing education in Michigan.

Luanne Shaw, MSN, RN, CEN, affiliate faculty member, served as a judge for the poster and oral presentations at the April 21, 2010, Grand Rapids Medical Education Partners (GRMEP) Research Day.

Here are just a few of the presentations KCON faculty made during the 2009-2010 academic year:


Roberts. (2010, April). Intrapartum care practices related to litigation and second stage labor: Care practices related to perineal & birth outcome. Waterville Maine General Medical Center Maternal Child Health Education Conference, Waterville, ME.

**Recent Publications**


**Recent Grants**


Davis, R. (2010). Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, Grand Valley State University. Wayfinding in Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease Within a Virtual Senior Residence; $8,000.

Schumacher, G. (2010). Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence, Grand Valley State University. The Effect of Structured Group Reminiscence Photo Therapy on Depression Symptoms in Rural Elderly Long-Term Care Residents: A Pilot Study; $2,800.

Scott, L. (2010). Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship; $32,446.

**Faculty & Staff Transitions**

Cindy Beel-Bates, PhD, RN, was granted tenure.

Sharon Leder, DNS, RN, associate professor, has begun phased retirement.

Welcome to our new faculty:

- Kelley Pattison, MSN, RN, visiting professor
- Amy Rohn, MSN, RN, affiliate faculty
- Ann Sheehan, DNP, CPNP, visiting professor
- Jennifer Zoeteman, MSN, RN, affiliate faculty

Farewell and thank you to these faculty members:

- Suzan Couzens, MS, RN, FCN, affiliate faculty
- Joyce Roberts, PhD, CNM, FAAN, visiting faculty
- Gretchen Schumacher, PhD, GNP, FNP, NPC, assistant professor
Q: What do you think is the most important point to communicate about men in nursing today?

Olsen: “For men considering career paths today, I think that nursing during the next 20 years will be completely different from what I’ve experienced. With all the changes to health care practices and policies, nurses will become front-runners in managing the U.S. health care system. You will see the rise of mid-level practitioners – midwives, NPs, PAs, all of those professions. Nurses are going to have to step up to care for populations that have been neglected and especially those without insurance. There will never be enough physicians, and they’re comparatively costly. So what this means is more education is required. Tomorrow’s nurses will need at least a BSN plus certification, or an MSN or even a DNP. It’s nursing’s time to shine in the sun, and I think both men and women are going to step up to the challenge.”

Perkins: “There are so many to discuss. But one of the most important things is for KCON’s male alumni – the men who are out there working as nurses in some form – to come back and talk to our classes. Share your experiences and perspective with current and future students. Help them see how viable and important nursing is as a profession for men and how rewarding it is. If you’re a female KCON alum, continue to support your male nursing colleagues. Welcome new ones to the profession and encourage all of them to continue their professional growth. If we’re looking for quality health care and a well-rounded pool of caregivers, we have to have all walks of life represented in the profession.”

To meet these guidelines, KCON is working intentionally to further revise our undergraduate and graduate curricula to enhance content related to cultural competency. For example, clinical experiences, such as those at the GVSU Family Health Center, are expanding to provide opportunities to work with diverse, underserved populations. Selected faculty members are traveling abroad to expand their understanding of different cultures and participate in nursing education in those locations. And using technology, a nursing student in Ghana recently shared learning experiences synchronously with students in one of our KCON classrooms.

In these and many other ways, KCON continues its journey toward greater understanding of the value and power of diversity – and of the ultimate benefit this offers to all of the patients who need our care.


AACN’s Guidelines

As a profession, nursing’s leaders recognize the strong connection between a culturally diverse, culturally competent nursing workforce and the ability to provide high-quality, culturally competent patient care. To that end, the AACN provides curricular guidelines for undergraduate and graduate nursing education that focus on cultural competency and health disparities.

AACN has identified health disparities among populations that include racial/ethnic minority groups, socioeconomically disadvantaged groups and rural populations. The AACN’s ultimate goal is to ensure access to patient-centered care that identifies, respects and addresses differences in patients’ values, preferences and needs. Social justice and globalization are guiding, foundational concepts for developing key cultural competencies.

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 in nursing – DNP or PhD); master’s degree in nursing required.

• Associate Dean for Practice position requires implementation, coordination and evaluation of academic practice/service models that support the strategic plan of the university and the college of nursing. Responsibilities include establishing new practice initiatives and assuring quality, evidence-based nursing care at practice sites. An earned doctorate (preferred in nursing - DNP or PhD); master’s degree in nursing and advanced nursing practice certification required.

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

For more information about Grand Valley, see our website at www.gvsu.edu.
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)
- 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) program began 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.