Service Learning

Kelly Becker
The Lure of Primary Care

Service Learning: Combining Education with Community Service

Our Academic Nurse-Managed Center

The Role of Academic Nurse-Managed Centers
From The Dean

Welcome to the Fall 2011 edition of KCON Magazine. We believe we have prepared an exceptionally interesting update for our alumni and friends of the college regarding important initiatives that blend teaching, learning and service for our region and the local community. With a focus on service learning, this issue brings attention to how our college helps Grand Valley State University achieve its overall mission: “Educating students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies.”

Service learning is a form of experiential education that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enhance the learning experience. With service learning there is mutual benefit to all parties involved. Here are four of its critical features:

• There is a balance between service and learning objectives. In service learning partners negotiate outcomes to ensure needs and expectations are met on both sides.

• There is an integral involvement with community partners.

• There is an emphasis on reciprocal learning. In service learning traditional definitions of “faculty,” “teacher” and “learner” are intentionally blurred so all learn from each other.

• There is an emphasis on reflective practice, facilitating the connection between practice and theory and fostering critical thinking.

I believe we have successfully embraced service learning at KCON as one part of our many initiatives — from our academic nurse-managed center (the GVSU Family Health Center) to our innovative community partnership with the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department. With great enthusiasm, we share these latest stories that reflect our continuing efforts to truly make a difference!
KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING

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

KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING

The Nursing Profession: A Male Point Of View

GVSU's Family Health Center: Supporting a Diverse Community

KCON's Commitment to Diversity

KCON and Community Health

Reflecting on Our Past, Looking Toward Our Future

In the Beginning: The Class of '74

And Then Came the MSN Program

KCON Magazine Wins International Recognition

We have been notified that KCON Magazine recently won an APEX 2011 Award of Excellence in the Magazines & Journals-Print category for the Fall 2010 issue. The theme of that issue was diversity.

APEX (Awards for Publication Excellence) is an annual international competition now in its 23rd year. It recognizes outstanding publications ranging from newsletters and magazines to annual reports, brochures and web sites.

Cynthia McCurren, KCON’s dean, said, “A big thank you goes to our advisory group, and special congratulations and appreciation go out to Jan Andersen, Brad Hineline and Linda Bond. These individuals are the ‘magic’ behind our publication.”
The Lure of Primary Care
Kelly Becker, MSN, RN

If she is able to follow her heart’s true desire, Kelly Becker is eventually going to make a major change in her nursing career. One of KCON’s newest MSN alums, she graduated this August with functional preparation as a family nurse practitioner. This is almost on another planet compared to her current role.

Becker works as the critical care outcomes specialist with four critical care units at Borgess Health in Kalamazoo. “I’m responsible for measuring, reporting and driving change at the bedside based on outcomes measures,” she explains. “I monitor hospital-acquired infections, such as ventilator-associated pneumonia and bloodstream infections. I work with the APACHE [Acute Physiology, Age and Chronic Health Evaluation] system to look at our actual outcomes in critical care compared to what’s predicted for our types of patients. And I lead performance improvement with interdisciplinary teams. So my job has a lot to do with systems analysis and organizational change.”
Becker came to critical care through experience with a family loss. She was 22 and had a year left in nursing school at Western Michigan University when her father passed away at age 43 after a week in a critical care unit. “I knew enough to be scared,” she says, “but not enough to know what to do or how to help him. That event in my life drove me to critical care because I was impressed with what I saw and the care he received.”

After she graduated from nursing school in 2001, Becker worked for four years at the bedside in a cardiac surgical unit recovering open heart patients. Then she moved to the bedside in a cardio-pulmonary ICU until she took her current position in 2007.

From January through mid-July this year, Becker was given the opportunity to work at the GVSU Family Health Center to gain exposure to working with children. That’s when the light bulb went off for her professionally.

“I was humble enough to know that I would have a lot to learn at GVSU’s health center,” she says. “But I was astonished and impressed with how well the providers met the patients’ needs. This was a whole different way of thinking for me. When providers do it well, they can make a really big difference in the primary care setting instead of waiting to make a difference when a patient is facing a major medical crisis. So now, after 10 years in critical care, I really want to work on the preventive and care management end. I want to be involved in early discussions with patients and be part of their care before a disease advances to a critical stage.”

Becker has been fortunate. Early in her career she has had the opportunity to experience two significantly different aspects of the nursing profession. What does she see as the differences and similarities?

“There were so many things I hadn’t been exposed to before I worked at the Family Health Center,” she explains. “Basic things like spirometry and removing small skin lesions, you don’t see those in the critical care world. I was very challenged to get up to speed on the primary care model in general. But then to also learn how to make that work with whatever resources were available to populations who are under-insured or uninsured ... in critical care bedside nursing, I was used to doing and ordering everything we could up until the point patients requested a different kind of care. But in delivering primary care, you have to think about things like what tests a patient can or can’t afford and how to work around those realities.

“Of course, there are some similarities,” she continues. “For example, they’re both health care systems and after I had spent some time at the Family Health Center, I saw how I could contribute through my role as a change agent in systems organizational change. Those were interesting conversations I was very comfortable having with other staff members.”

So what is the lure of primary care for Becker?

“I think my experience at GVSU’s health center was a bit of serendipity in my life,” she states. “I’ve been seeing more people in critical care who haven’t had good primary care, and they’re in tertiary care because a chronic disease hasn’t been managed well. This is a difficult place to be and it’s a heavy burden on the patient and family. So it was exciting to see and participate in primary care in action — to see what can be done on the prevention and management side.”

Becker remarks that she was inspired by the relationships she saw patients and their providers build over time. She had the opportunity to learn about individuals and their families and have personal conversations earlier in the disease process. And she saw how appreciative the patients were for the services they received.
“After working in an academic nurse-managed center,” Becker says, “I want to see in health care reform a lot of support for these types of centers, especially those that serve the under-insured and uninsured. Having been an outsider looking in, I see the difference they can make in people’s lives. I think we have a real opportunity to change the paradigm of our health care system.

“Working there made me very proud to be an advanced practice nurse,” she concludes. “It made me proud of what nurse practitioners do and how they collaborate with patients and families. I owe Cynthia Butcher and the other providers at the GVSU Family Health Center so much. They’re the ones who showed me how effective primary care can be and how much I want to eventually be part of that world.”

The GVSU Family Health Center (FHC) is one of approximately 250 academic nurse-managed centers (ANMCs) in the United States. These centers play a unique role in the health care system, offering family practice primary care services within a nursing-based philosophy while emphasizing health promotion and preventive care. The FHC began as a basic nurse screening clinic in the Heartside district of downtown Grand Rapids in the mid-1990s and has morphed over the years into a full-fledged ANMC.

Today, the FHC employs nine regular staff members. Approximately 100 students in KCON’s various nursing programs work at the center each year, gaining practical experience in primary care. In addition, it is a practice and research site for KCON’s faculty.

The FHC serves more than 2,500 patients annually — primarily the medically underserved population in the Heartside district. In addition to collaborating with physicians and other health care professionals, services include:

•  Annual physicals and health maintenance
•  Diagnosis and treatment of acute health problems
•  Diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases
•  Well-child visits
•  Pre-participation sport, camp, employment & CDL physicals
•  Ordering, performing & interpreting diagnostic studies
•  Prescribing medications, physical therapy & occupational therapy
•  Referrals to medical social workers and/or certified adult mental health counselors
•  Community resource referrals
•  Patient education & self-care skills training
•  Travel immunizations
•  Allergy shots

Larry Boekeloo, MA, came to the FHC in April this year as its newest practice manager. “We provide coordinated care for health promotion and disease prevention, as well as directed medical management of common acute and chronic disorders,” he explains. “We offer care to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay for services.”

Boekeloo and his team are planning for the FHC’s future while continuing to care for patients every day. “Within the next six months, the FHC plans to add an additional nurse practitioner to compensate for the high demand of health care services needed in the area,” he says. “By adding this provider, patients will gain quicker access to the center for their chronic and acute illnesses.

“In addition, we’ll be expanding our Travel Clinic,” he notes, “offering a full-service travel center that includes immunizations and trip awareness packets. This travel service will be open to the general public and the faculty, staff and students of GVSU and other area colleges. It’s a time of growth — an exciting time to be part of the FHC team.”
Service Learning: Combining Education With Community Service

GVSU has a strong commitment to service learning. In fact, it is embedded in the university’s 2010-15 strategic plan: “... Faculty and staff are encouraged to contribute their expertise and service to the university, their disciplines’ professional organizations, and the community.”

But what, exactly, is it? According to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, service learning is “a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

GVSU’s commitment to this strategy has created a positive environment for its various academic programs to integrate service learning into their curricula. KCON has completely embraced this philosophy, as evidenced by the number of hours each semester it classifies as service learning. In the 2009-2010 academic year, in addition to more than 10,000 clinical experience hours per semester, students active in the Student Nurses Association contributed another 1,500 volunteer hours each semester in a variety of community service projects.

Two examples of how service learning has been integrated into the curriculum come from the final semester clinical nursing course. In one example, students have been working in partnership with the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department on CATCH (Coordinated Approach to Child Health Curriculum) with the Project FIT initiative. This primary and secondary prevention program focuses on nutritional education and physical activity for K-5th grade students and their families. It has been so successful that plans are underway to expand this offering to other Grand Rapids recreation sites.

In a second example, Accelerated Second-Degree (ASD) Program students recently used a course requirement to implement a quality improvement project to participate in a trial immersion project. Held at Spectrum Health, the project was designed to investigate a new model of clinical nursing education and expand the students’ ability to integrate their nursing role within the health care system. Focusing on cardiovascular disease, students worked to discover the gap between levels of service and prevention and levels of care (primary, secondary and tertiary). In evaluations of their pre- and post-clinical experiences, the students indicated a significant change in their understanding of the gaps in levels of service and prevention within the health system and how it relates to their professional nursing role.

Service learning projects like these clearly help students gain both knowledge and confidence in their patient care skills while serving community organizations, creating a winning combination for everyone.
The FHC offers seasonal flu vaccination clinics on GVSU’s campuses each fall. In three hours at one site recently, the staff administered 391 injections.

Our Academic Nurse-Managed Center

At GVSU's Family Health Center (FHC) you’ll see grateful patients, many from other countries, who call the FHC their health care home. Located in the Heartside neighborhood of Grand Rapids, this academic nurse-managed center is a critical link for health and wellness in the lives of the surrounding community’s residents, GVSU students and staff, and the region.

Here are a few stories that provide a glimpse into the special care provided at the FHC.

- A single mother, unable to speak English, could not access health care. A recent immigrant from an African country, she learned about the FHC through a local church. Coincidentally, one of the FHC’s nurse practitioners had served as a missionary near the woman’s home village. Able to speak in her native language, he mentioned a common landmark and an immediate connection was made between the new patient, her provider and their shared experience of her homeland. She continues to use the FHC.

- Several of the center’s patients are residents of the Ferguson Apartments, where the FHC is located. One long-term patient, challenged with diabetes, had declining function associated with the progression of his disease when he came to the center.

While his diabetes was undergoing evaluation, the clinic provided an RN for individual education and insulin administration as needed until he was able to learn the correct injection technique. He remains a loyal patient and a favorite at the clinic — and he is now doing well.

- A 13-year-old girl came to the FHC with complaints of pain with urination and abdominal pain. She didn’t trust health providers in general and had difficulty finding someone when she realized she needed help. Her work-up revealed three sexually transmitted diseases in addition to a urinary tract infection. One of the FHC’s nurse practitioners was able to connect with the young woman, treat her, and provide counseling for safe sexual practices. The patient liked the way she was treated so much that her family members are now FHC patients also.

- A GVSU faculty member and her husband have received their primary care at the FHC since it was founded. “We like the personalized care, the time we are given at each visit, and their holistic approach,” she says. “We have confidence in the providers; they are responsive and they know us. We also enjoy being in an academic setting where students often participate in providing care.”
The Role of Academic Nurse-Managed Centers
By Cynthia McCurren, PhD, RN

Academic nurse-managed centers (ANMCs) play an important role in the health services delivery system by offering individuals a unique approach to primary care that emphasizes health promotion, disease prevention, and management of acute and chronic disease — all within a context of family and community. ANMCs frequently serve at-risk populations in both urban and rural areas that might otherwise be underserved or not served at all, including the homeless, older adults, minority individuals and people with low incomes.

In addition to this important contribution to the health care system, ANMCs are a valuable asset to the academic mission. They offer opportunities for faculty practice and research, clinical placements for nursing and interprofessional students, and critical experiences with diverse populations while fulfilling a university’s commitment to service learning and community service.

ANMCs are gaining increased attention at this critical point in American history. In the near future health care reform legislation will allow the more than 45 million U.S. citizens who are currently uninsured to have health insurance, creating even greater demand for primary care. Nurse practitioners will likely be the backbone for serving this previously uninsured population, especially those working in academic nurse-managed centers. ANMCs offering primary care services meet the Institute of Medicine’s definition of safety-net provider by providing care regardless of the patients’ ability to pay. A recent study funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reported that more than 45 percent of the payer mix for ANMCs is uninsured, and 37 percent of the patients served are Medicaid recipients.

The GVSU Family Health Center (FHC) is an ANMC located in downtown Grand Rapids, managed under the direction of KCON. Since its inception the clinic has served a population in transition. The earliest days of the clinic date back to the mid-1990s, when it began as a one-room health referral resource in the Heartside neighborhood. At that time the clinic partnered with community leaders, who saw it as a means to garner health and nursing services for area residents while engaging GVSU students in service to their community.

Later that decade, the clinic became part of the Michigan Academic Consortium (MAC), which included the schools and colleges of nursing of Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Grand Valley State University. The MAC received funding from a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant in 1999 ($4.4 million over four years) to support its various nurse-managed centers, with the primary goal of establishing accessible, quality health care for underserved persons in the communities served by each of the universities. With resources to support growth, the FHC soon outgrew its one-room site. To increase services, the FHC moved to its present location at 72 Sheldon, SE, in a renovated building in a renaissance area of the Heartside neighborhood.

Today, the FHC provides coordinated care for health promotion and disease prevention, as well as directed medical management for common acute and chronic disorders. It is the health care home for more than 2,500 patients, handling more than 4,500 clinic visits annually. Care is offered to all without regard to age, race, gender, ethnicity or ability to pay for services. Referrals to medical specialists are available when patients’ needs exceed the scope of advanced practice nursing.

The FHC serves as a clinical education site for primary care students pursuing the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, undergraduate nursing students and students from related health professions. One hundred undergraduate and graduate nursing students from KCON had clinical experiences at the FHC in the last year, providing more than 3,000 hours of clinical service to patients. In addition, GVSU’s physical therapy students, along with faculty members, provided pro bono services at the FHC one day a week. GVSU students from the business and health care administration, marketing, exercise science, and recreational therapy departments have also contributed to the clinical care and learning experiences found at the FHC.

At KCON, we believe we make a significant difference in individuals’ lives through the service learning made possible at the GVSU Family Health Center. We believe that any university located in a community has an obligation to give back to that community, meet community needs, and blend the students’ educational experiences with the delivery of needed services. With the FHC as an exemplary model, there is no greater way to translate knowledge into practice, create and evaluate replicable models of care that other communities can use, foster a reputation for GVSU, and retain loyalty to GVSU within our immediate community based on the quality services we provide.
GVSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NAMES BULSON PRESIDENT

Julie Bulson, MPA ('07), BSN ('99), RN, was recently named president of the GVSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. In a message to KCON after her appointment, she said:

"Each academic year begins with unlimited potential to grow, to achieve and to serve. I will share these opportunities with KCON’s students, alumni, faculty and staff — in fact, with the entire GVSU community — as I begin my tenure as president of the GVSU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"I welcome the chance to find ways to enhance the mentoring relationship between KCON’s alumni and students, and to expand the relationship between KCON’s alumni and the entire GVSU Alumni Association. I will strive to improve personally and as a formal representative of KCON. If the students, alumni, faculty and staff help me set meaningful goals for alumni participation, we will achieve those goals. And if we grow together, we strengthen GVSU.

"I invite each of you to drop me a note, send an e-mail, or introduce yourself to me at KCON events, a football game or any other time you might see me on campus. I wish everyone a productive, meaningful and enjoyable year."

ALUMNI UPDATE

Steele Recognized as Distinguished Alumnus

Nancy Steele, PhD, MSN ('94), BA ('92), BSAP ('85), was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the GVSU Alumni Association at the Spring 2011 commencement ceremonies. She spent several years as a visiting and assistant professor with KCON before entering the U.S. Army, where she is now a lieutenant colonel.

As chief of nursing research services for the Europe Regional Medical Command, Steele has had the unique task of establishing the first military nursing research center outside of the United States. Stationed in Landstuhl, Germany, she is responsible for daily operations at the center, which supports all of Europe, Iraq and Afghanistan. The majority of her team’s nursing research focuses on the care of wounded warriors who serve on the front lines. They also study the effects on soldiers of fatigue, PTSD and other clinical issues.

Steele has received more than 20 military awards, including the U.S. Military Combat Action Badge, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the United States Meritorious Service Medal. She was nominated for the Bronze Star in 2008, credited with assisting in medical research efforts in Iraq that helped to improve health care for more than 162,000 military and coalition personnel. As of November 2011, Steele will serve as the regional chief of military nurse research at Womak Military Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C.

(A feature story about Steele was published in the Spring 2010 issue of KCON Magazine.)

KCON Shines Again in NCLEX

KCON’s graduates continue to shine when it comes to NCLEX-RN exam scores. The 60 students who took the NCLEX between April 1 and June 30, 2011, had a 98.3% pass rate. For the same quarter, the Michigan BSN program pass rate was 92.6% and the associate degree rate was 92.4%. The national pass rate was 91%. Congratulations, everyone!
Sarah Erickson Adcock, BSN (‘06), is working in surgery/endoscopy at Children’s Hospital Central California in Madera, Calif.

Lindsay Aleccia, BSN (‘08), OCN, is working at Hematology Oncology Associates of Illinois in Chicago as an infusion center nurse.

Sarah Erickson Adcock, BSN (‘05), served for five years in the Hematology Oncology Associates of Illinois in Chicago, BSN (‘06), is working in med-surg floor at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek.

Jennie Campbell, BSN (‘08), is working on the infant critical care staff nurse at Spectrum Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids. She is also an adjunct nursing instructor at Grand Valley State University.

Pam Dykstra, BSN (‘88), is a pediatric hematolgy-oncology/surgical nurse at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Phyllis Boone, MSN to BSN (‘02), NP/CNS, is a critical care staff nurse at Spectrum Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids. She is also an adjunct nursing instructor at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek.

Jen Fox, MSN, BSN (‘04), is working as a travel nurse.

Kristen Warnsholz, BSN (‘08), is working in the ICU at Spectrum Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Lori Houghton-Rohrig, PhD, MS (‘01), BSN (‘81), is completing requirements for the PhD and will graduate from Michigan State University in December 2011. She will return to GVSU to teach and conduct research in January 2012.

Megan Keller, BSN (‘08), is working on an inpatient oncology floor at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Phyllis Gendler, Kay Getter Kline and Jean Martin well in their retirement. KCON’s Alumni Board hosted the fall open house and reception, which brought together alumni, faculty, staff and guests to thank the retirees and meet seven new faculty appointees. We were delighted to see some of our most recent graduates and alumni representing many previous undergraduate and graduate classes. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who sent their personal good wishes to our faculty members!

Rachel Elaine Diedering, BSN (‘08), is working as a nurse navigator in the lymphoma service at Holy Cross Hospital on the south side of Chicago.


Ann Arbor.

Wendy Muma Gould, MSN, BSN (‘93), is working as a CRNA at Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Alan Pietrowski, BSN (‘01), is manager of the neurology/spine ICU at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Karin Sekelsky, BSN (‘06), is working in surgical services at Spectrum Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Mark Shank, BSN (‘01), graduated from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) in Bradenton, Fla., in 2009 and is currently in the third year of an emergency medicine residency in Detroit.

Kristen Warnsholz, BSN (‘08), is working in the ICU at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Robert Yeomans, BSN (‘01), is working in the emergency department at Mercy Hospital Muskegon.

Have news for the next issue of “Alumni Briefs”? Please stay in touch and consider joining in on some of our activities.
SNA Helps Drive National Agenda

GVSU’s SNA is making its presence felt nationally, helping to drive the agenda of the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA). At the national convention in Utah in April, members passed a resolution penned by KCON’s chapter related to increasing awareness of nursing students’ role in advocating for the homeless.

According to former chapter president Julian Dormitzer, who graduated in April, the local chapter held a health fair at the Guiding Light Mission in March, working with its clients on blood pressure screenings and vision tests. “We enjoyed that event and were able to discuss it with others in Utah at the national level,” she says.

KCON’s SNA members target their volunteer hours toward organizations that assist with homelessness and hunger. Other local service learning projects have included volunteering at Mel Trotter Ministries and assisting the YMCA with its health fair.

“Now that the resolution has passed at the national level,” Dormitzer notes, “it could result in more policies and initiatives being established surrounding advocacy for the homeless by student nurses. It brings awareness to the topic on a much larger scale.”

Four Win Graduate Student Awards

Four KCON graduate students were recently presented with Graduate Deans’ Citations for Academic Excellence for 2011. This award was created to recognize outstanding academic achievement by GVSU graduate students. Deans’ Citations are given to students who have completed their program or are very close to completion. The KCON MSN recipients included:

- Phyllis Boone - Outstanding Master’s Thesis
- Pamela Bryant - Excellence in Community and Professional Service
- Jennifer Dankers - Outstanding Master’s Project
- Linda Theuerkorn - Academic Excellence in the Major

KCON at 2011 Student Scholarship Day

GVSU’s Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship hosted the 16th Annual Student Scholars Day (SSD) on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. SSD is held each year to celebrate faculty-mentored scholarship and creative work accomplished by GVSU students.

This year’s event, which included oral presentations, discussion and panel sessions, fine arts exhibits and performances, and poster presentations, showcased more than 400 presentations by 600+ student presenters. KCON participants included:

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December 2010 Award Recipients

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence
Becca C. Sample, BSN

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
Gustavo A. Moretta, MSN, RN

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award
Jaclyn K. Herzog, BSN

Phyllis E. Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award
Lindsey M. Pierzynski, BSN

April 2011 Award Recipients

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence
Jennifer L. Sommers, BSN
Karlene S. Wood, BSN

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
Deborah L. St. Pierre, BSN, RN, PCCN

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award
Kellie L. Noble-Anys, BSN

Phyllis E. Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award
Lisa J. Walker, BSN

August 2011 Award Recipients

Banta-Perkins Award for Nursing Excellence
Bridget F. Deming, BSN

Clinical Preceptor Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership
Janet Butler, MSN, WHNP, CNM
Victoria A. Wenger, BSN, RN
Margaret Wolter, MSN, FNP

Dorothy E. Freeman Award for Outstanding Effort in Global Care
Amanda L. Mujais, BSN

Graduate Student Award for Nursing Excellence
Jennifer K. Dankers, MSN, RN

Mary Horan Nursing Scholar Award
Megan L. Hodges, BSN

Phyllis E. Gendler Gerontological Nursing Scholar Award
Cheryl A. Bouwkamp, BSN

Dennis Bertch, (DNP Program), received the 2011 Borgess Lamplighter award at the Friends of Borgess Nursing Endowment dinner in May.

Steve Carpenter, (Accelerated BSN Program), has been named GVSU’s Outstanding Adult Learner for 2011. After working as an attorney for many years, Carpenter closed his practice. He has compiled an outstanding academic record at KCON while working as a nursing technician at Metro Health Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Kathryn Childs, (BSN Program, Honors College), was selected to receive the Honors Council Outstanding Honors Senior Project Award at the GVSU Honors College recognition ceremony in April. Her project was titled “Promoting Quality Patient Care by Reducing Death Anxiety in the Student Nurse Population.” In addition, Childs gave poster presentations at the Spring Research Celebration sponsored by the Kappa Epsilon Chapter-at-Large, Sigma Theta Tau, in March and at GVSU’s Student Scholarship Day in April.

Theresa Dawson, (DNP Program), recently received the Volunteer for Health Care Award sponsored by HandsOn Battle Creek for her volunteer work. She was nominated by Community Health Care Connections, a local free nursing clinic.

Jenna Mitchell, BSN (’11), was recently named recipient of the Future Florence Scholarship. Mitchell hopes to work in women’s health and wants to return to school to pursue a DNP degree.

Carol Robinson, (DNP Program), Ruthann Brintnall and Kelly Tomaszewski, (GVSU Simulation Team), presented a poster in June at the 10th Annual Conference of the Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE) in Nashville, Tenn. Their poster was titled “End of Life Simulation: Therapeutic Communication and Care Using Standard Patients and SimMan®.”
Washburn Selected for Army Training Observation

Joy Washburn, EdD, RNC, WHNP, was selected as a nurse educator attendee for the Leadership Development & Assessment Course (LDAC), held from July 17-21 at Fort Lewis near Seattle, Wash. Usually, only faculty and administrators at ROTC campuses are nominated for this program. However, the commanders of the ROTC program at Western Michigan University became aware of the Nurses in World War II project in NUR 315 that Washburn initiated. They were intrigued by the integration of nursing history into the course and nominated her for the program.

The LDAC program allows educators to observe and participate in all phases of the cadet training cycle. In addition, nurse faculty spend an extra day at the Army’s health care facilities at Madigan Army Hospital & Simulation Center, where they learn about the Army’s health care system and its orientation to practice program for RN cadets.

Staff Profile: Cynthia Kruizenga

Cynthia Kruizenga has been the “front door” person at the GVSU Family Health Center (FHC) almost since its creation. Bringing previous work experience in health care, Cindy joined the FHC team in 2000.

Cindy loves her job as office coordinator. “I find working with students, whether they’re clients or student workers, adds richness to my everyday work experience,” she says. “I enjoy being able to be a part of their journey.”

In one case, a student came to the FHC for the routine health examination required of nursing students. Satisfied with the service he received during that initial encounter, and firsthand knowledge gained through a primary care clinical rotation, that student chose the FHC for his ongoing primary care services. He returned to the FHC when time came for the health screening required of graduate nursing students. This is only one story of many that Cindy has amassed during the past 11 years.

Cindy braves the commute each winter from her home in Allendale to the FHC, which is located in the Heartside neighborhood of Grand Rapids. But her commitment to the clinic has always helped to make that commute a bit easier. “This work in a culturally diverse environment is just another reason to love this job,” she explains. Cindy cites her colleague and friend Mary Jo Miedema, RN, as being among the other team members with ties to the beginning of the FHC who share this same passion.
KCON welcomes seven faculty members for the 2011-2012 academic year, one of the largest “classes” of new faculty we’ve had in many years.

Karen Burritt  
PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, FNP-BC  
Assistant Professor  
BSN ‘83, Michigan State University  
MSN ‘03, Michigan State University  
PhD ‘11, Michigan State University  
Dissertation: “Perceived physical functioning, perceived pain interference and health seeking behaviors in lumbar degenerative spine conditions”  
Experience: Five years on faculty at University of Detroit Mercy in Grand Rapids. Clinical experience in various leadership roles at Saint Mary’s Health Care, most recently as a CNS in orthopedics and neurosciences.

Karyn G. Butler  
PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, CNM-BC  
Assistant Professor  
BFA ‘87, Cleveland Institute of Art  
BSN ‘94, Wayne State University  
MS ‘03, University of Michigan  
PhD ‘11, Wayne State University  
Dissertation: “Circadian rhythms of cortisol and estradiol in healthy women”  
Experience: 11 years of clinical experience and 2 years of experience in nursing education.

Paulette A. Chaponniere  
PhD, BSN, MPH, RN  
Assistant Professor  
BA ’69, Wheaton College  
BSN ’71, Columbia University  
MPH ’77, The Johns Hopkins University  
PhD ‘09, Trident University International  
Dissertation: “Acculturation, pregnancy-related stress and birth outcomes in Mexican immigrants and Mexican American women”  
Experience: 11 years of experience in nursing education; speaks four languages. Has been an international consultant with more than 50 assignments worldwide, including work in health care in Zaire, Senegal and Niger.

Dianne M. Conrad  
DNP, MSN, BSN, FNP-BC, CDE, BC-ADM  
Assistant Professor  
BSN/MS ‘83, Northern Illinois University  
Post-Master’s Certificate ’96, Michigan State University  
DNP ‘11, Madonna University  
Dissertation: “Identifying the barriers to the use of standardized nursing language in the electronic health record by the ambulatory care nurse practitioner”  
Experience: Certified in advanced diabetes management, with 10 years of experience as a lecturer, clinical teacher and preceptor. FNP with expertise in management of chronic disease and standardization of nursing language for electronic health records.

Melodee Vanden Bosch  
PhD(c), MSN, BSN, RN  
Assistant Professor  
BSN ’79, Grand Valley State University  
MSN ’03, Grand Valley State University  
PhD(c), Michigan State University  
Dissertation: “Factors associated with moderate to vigorous physical activity in middle-aged women with and without diabetes”  
Experience: 13 years of undergraduate teaching and professional nursing experience in primary care, coronary care and cardiac rehabilitation.

Lori Houghton-Rahrig  
PhD(c), MSN, BSN, RN, FNP-BC  
Assistant Professor  
BSN ’81, Grand Valley State University  
MSN ’01, Grand Valley State University  
PhD(c), Michigan State University  
Dissertation: “Symptoms, genetics and health-related quality of life in persons with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease”  
Experience: 12 years of undergraduate teaching and certified as an FNP. Expertise in genetics, with research training at the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research Summer Genetics Institute.

Heather Wallace-Renter  
PhD(c), MPH, BA  
Assistant Professor  
BA ’99, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
MPH/PhD(c), University of Kentucky  
Dissertation: “Community based public health and aging research: a past, present, and future perspective”  
Experience: Taught collaboratively with nursing faculty in epidemiology, public health and community health education. Professional experience in health care positions and research/data management.
FA C U L T Y  S C H O L A R S H I P

R E C E N T  P U B L I C A T I O N S


Van Doren, E. (2010). Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. Nursing Workforce Diversity; $773,837 (over 3 years).

F A C U L T Y  T R A N S I T I O N S

Jean Barry, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, was granted tenure.

Susan Mlynarczyk, PhD, RN, PNP, was granted tenure.

Sylvia Mupepi, PhD, RN, was granted tenure.

Elaine Van Doren, PhD, RN, was granted tenure.

Joy Washburn, EdD, RNC, WHNP, was interviewed recently by WOOD TV8 about the topic of human trafficking/prostitution. She has focused on this area of social justice advocacy personally and is also integrating it into the classroom.
Here are just a few of the presentations KCON faculty made during the 2010-2011 academic year:


Farewell, Have a Great Life and Thank You!

It is with a sense of both pride and loss that we bid farewell to five senior faculty members who are stepping down from their professional lives at KCON. Together, these talented individuals have contributed well over a century of service to GVSU, and they were pioneers in the founding and development of our outstanding nursing program.

As they leave for the adventures of retirement, we thank them for everything they have accomplished over the years. Their dedication and creativity have been central to the KCON we know today, including the MSN program, the DNP program, a streamlined and user-friendly RN/BSN program, the strong gerontology thread in the BSN program, and countless scholarly works that have informed the larger nursing community.

*KCON Magazine* asked each retiring faculty member to cite one or two of their personally most rewarding accomplishments. We wanted to share these with you.

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**Emily Droste-Bielak**  
PhD, RN, Associate Professor  
(1977-2012)  
“I enjoyed becoming project director for a federal grant to begin a master’s degree program that offered students choices in both clinical emphasis and functional role. Also, it meant a great deal to me to receive one of the first Pew Teaching Excellence Awards at GVSU.”

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**Phyllis Gendler**  
PhD, RN, Professor (1973-2011)  
“After many years of trying to include more gerontology in the curriculum, I had a wonderful opportunity to write a grant with Sue Basald, Becky Davis, Beth Weitor and a student in the BSN program. It was wonderful to have the grant funded and be able to hire Cindy Beel-Bates. These faculty members grew professionally during the grant years, and KCON won an award from AACN for integrating special clinical experiences in gerontology into the curriculum.”

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**Agnes Britton**  
MSN, RN, Assistant Professor  
(1989-2011)  
“Working with Kay Kline and Linda Scott on clinical research related to the home care of patients with heart failure was a highlight for me. This was the first funded clinical research at KCON with a sizable grant. Also, during the 15 years I taught in the RN/BSN completion program, I learned so much from the RN students and from working with Kay Reick.”

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**Emily Droste-Bielak**  
PhD, RN, Associate Professor  
(1977-2012)  
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MSN, RN, Assistant Professor  
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**Kay Setter Kline**  
PhD, RN, Professor (1987-2011)  
“As a faculty member, I had outstanding support from my KCON colleagues, which made it worth the 100+ mile daily commute. I was given so many opportunities to share my love for the nursing profession by teaching both undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom continued their education to advanced levels. As a researcher, I received a $100,000 AHA grant that supported heart failure research and served as the basis for 18 theses. And as undergraduate program director, I was involved in the curriculum revision and expansion of the BSN program.”

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**Jean Martin**  
PhD, RN, CPNP, Professor  
(1995-2011)  
“One thing that stands out in my mind as a landmark is the final approval of the DNP program after several years of dedication and hard work — interspersed with some fun — by a great team of faculty colleagues. The most rewarding part of my faculty role that I will always remember was the mentoring of the pediatric nurse practitioner students, watching their professional development and contributions as they advanced in their careers.”
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For more information, please contact the Dean, Dr. Cynthia McCurren, (616) 331-5726. Apply online at www.gvsujobs.org for assistance call Human Resources at 616-331-2215. For more information about Grand Valley, see our website at www.gvsu.edu

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

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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.