A Leading View

Welcome to the third issue of the Nursing LEADS publication.

This academic year has been a time of excitement, challenge, and change. We experienced “several firsts this year”. In August, the College of Nursing began implementing its reorganization with new and returning faculty and staff talent. The College of Nursing hosted its first fall 2010 convocation and pinning ceremony for the first graduates from our summer 2009 admission cohort. These students were first of our three times per year admission educational delivery model. We admit basic BSN students three times per year with summer, fall and spring admission cycles. The successful event was held at Nitschke Auditorium at the Engineering Complex on UT’s Main Campus and celebrated the accomplishments of our AASN, Basic BSN, RN to BSN, MSN, and Graduate Certificate students. In May, we hosted our spring 2011 convocation at Savage Arena. For many guests, this was the first time to visit this extraordinary facility on UT’s Main Campus. Another first occurred as we recognized the first DNP graduates from the UT and Wright State University DNP Consortium Program. The College of Nursing also acknowledged the wonderful history and contributions of our AASN program which graduated its last students this May.

Select faculty accomplishments include Dr. Diane Salvador’s appointment to the Ohio Nurse’s Association Health Policy Committee; Dr. Linda Pierce being selected as a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing; and one of our new DNP graduates, Dr. Cheryl Gies, won the Grand Prize Award for her DNP research study entitled “Developing Gender Specific Web-Based Educational Modules for Caregivers of Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease”. The college was pleased to have several new faculty join us last Fall 2010 as a result of a very successful recruitment year. You will be hearing of their accomplishments in future issues.

New research and scholarship are on the move in the college. Select faculty include Dr. Kristina Reuille whose research focus is on cancer treatment related fatigue; Dr. Eileen Walsh is pursuing study on interventions for patients with peripheral artery and circulatory challenges; Dr. Carrie Lee is continuing her study of oral histories from former faculty members in the college; Dr. Kathy Sink is launching a new line of inquiry on childhood obesity; and Dr. Tracy Szirony continues her study on end-of-life care. These and many other faculty are contributing to knowledge development and the evidence based clinical education within the college.

As the College of Nursing moves forward, it is our collective goal to build and strengthen partnerships with alumni, healthcare leaders, and our community. Together we can advance our commitment to innovation, evidenced based clinical education, nursing scholarship and the delivery of University quality care in our state and beyond. Thereby, improving the human condition – our University mission. I encourage you to read this publication to catch the ongoing energy and vision for the College of Nursing. Nursing LEADS will be posted on our Web site at utoledo.edu/nursing for you to share with colleagues.

We continue to go “green”. Please send any updates for email addresses to Amanda Schwarz, assistant director of alumni relations, at amanda.schwartz@utoledo.edu and indicate that you are an alumnus(a). Always know that we want to hear from you and welcome a call at (419) 383-5858, E-mail (tim.gaspar@utoledo.edu) or letter.

With appreciation for all you do for the College of Nursing!

Timothy M. Gaspar, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor
The University of Toledo College of Nursing
DEBRA BUCHMAN RESEARCH FUND

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dr. Deb Buchman served the College of Nursing from 1981-2009. During that time, she worked with hundreds of students to help them reach their potential. Dr. Buchman’s goal was to encourage and support students to reach their highest level of success while demonstrating academic excellence to her students through her own work. As an accomplished researcher, Deb worked collaboratively with her colleagues to contribute to many areas of nursing practice. Some of her work included research in medication errors, preoperative hypothermia, and extensive work on video game effects in children. Deb was active in many professional development associations and published numerous journal articles. Yet, those that knew Deb will tell you that her focus remained on her students.

College of Nursing Assistant Professor, Cheryl Gies, DNP, RN, CNP, held a particularly strong connection to Dr. Buchman. In the following statement, Cheryl reveals how profoundly Dr. Buchman impacted her as one of the many students Deb worked with in the College of Nursing:

Deb was well-respected among faculty and students. In my personal experience as her student, she was more than my statistics professor and thesis advisor, she was my role model. She stimulated my interest in nursing research and recognized my potential and strengths before I did. I would not be a CON faculty member graduating in May with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree if Deb had not been in my life. She challenged and guided me while supporting me to accomplish my goals. During times of frustration, she would cheerfully remind me of what we could accomplish and then would comfort and encourage me to finish. She gave me the confidence to endure and succeed in ways I didn’t know were possible.

We submitted my thesis work as a poster to MNRS in 2005. Under her guidance that poster won first place at the Master Level for the first time in our CON history. Deb constantly reminded me that it was my hard work, but in reality I could not have done what I did without her. After receiving the award and without skipping a beat, she said to me, “Now, we publish!” Publishing my study was the last work we were able to complete together. I received an email last November informing me that our publication “Effect of an Inpatient Nurse-Directed Smoking Cessation Program” in the Western Journal of Nursing Research was one of the top ten downloaded articles in 2009! The full paper was downloaded 1,073 times. Unfortunately, I never got to share that bit of news with Deb but if I had, she would have been happy for me and downplayed her role…that was just how she was, a humble brilliant friend. I am so fortunate to have been her student but am forever blessed that we became the best of friends.

Even after Deb became very sick, she continued to teach, advise, coach, mentor and contribute to the work of the College of Nursing. As a patient in the hospital, she was a constant advocate to the clinical staff, encouraging many of them to pursue graduate education. She saw potential and goodness in everyone she met. Her passion for teaching and contributing to the art and science of nursing was evident as she continued to teach in the DNP program until December of 2009...less than one month before she died. One of her final messages to me was to “Walk in the world as a teacher for me.” That is a tall order because she is irreplaceable. I am who I am because of who she was so I will do my best. She will be forever missed because she truly was the wind beneath my wings.

Clearly, Dr. Deb Buchman had a passion for the development of undergraduate and graduate nursing students who demonstrated promise as new nurse scholars and researchers. She unselfishly devoted time and energy to fostering and supporting nursing faculty’s research endeavors particularly faculty who were just beginning their academic career. That is why Deb requested that a scholarship be established for students after her death. Her husband, Chip Buchman, made sure to honor her wishes and has established an endowed fund in her memory.

The Debra Buchman Research Fund is held in The University of Toledo Foundation and will allow the College of Nursing to award funding to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students in good academic standing for research/scholarly study. Awardees will be chosen through a Dean-appointed committee and will be required to submit a final report to summarize the outcomes and impact of their research/scholarly activity to the College.

If you would like to make a gift to continue the legacy of Dr. Deb Buchman's work, we encourage you to visit the UT Foundation giving site at www.give2ut.utoledo.edu and specify your gift designation to the Debra Buchman Research Fund. You can also send in your gift using the enclosed envelope in this newsletter. We thank you for your support!

Dr. Debra Buchman on vacation, March 2009

IMPORTANT CORRECTION:

Our apologies to alumna Kimberly Hampton. Kimberly's name was inadvertently omitted in the article about HB 314 (see Summer 2010 Nursing LEADS issue, page 3). Kimberly was one of the MSN graduate students who was actively involved with this bill and had approached Dr. Jeri Milstead about a project in Health Policy.
GRADUATE OF FIRST UT DNP PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

BY SARAH RITENOUR

Among the first graduates of The University of Toledo's Doctor of Nursing Practice Program is an award-winning student whose work gained recognition at the 35th annual Research Conference of the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Cheryl Gies, who graduated Sunday, May 8, with two other members of the first class of doctor of nursing practice students, received first place with her evidence-based practice project poster titled "Developing Gender Specific Web-Based Educational Modules for Caregivers of Persons With Alzheimer’s Disease”.

"Alzheimer’s is a long-term care-giving experience. Caregivers, who are typically family members, often need answers to problems they may encounter; however, they have little time and energy to seek out the answers. This is where the modules come in,” Gies said. "The modules can offer caregivers convenient, efficient and cost-effective support.”

After researching the literature on this subject, Gies learned that gender affects how one approaches caregiving and how the caregivers are affected by the experience. Using this data, Gies created educational modules that were geared toward each gender: For women, the modules created were communication and time for self; for men, the modules were finances, and burden and strain.

Both groups of evaluators that participated in the study agreed that the modules were well-designed with clear, credible, informative content.

"Health-care providers and the Internet are the top two places caregivers look for information and answers; however, the Internet can lead you to bad resources,” Gies said. "We tried to eliminate some of the clutter; with one or two clicks, the site takes you right where you need to be for a credible answer.”

"Three posters were submitted by our doctor of nursing practice students, each of which were strong and would represent the College of Nursing well,” Dr. Donna Algase said. "I, however, thought Cheryl’s set the standard high for the University and would raise the bar for the competition overall.”

Gies said she looks forward to publishing the modules and taking a more in-depth look at gender theory to add more modules.

"There are 18 major problems identified by caregivers; I only touched four of them. I would love to add modules and include a home introductory page for a website,” she said.

Gies worked with a committee of three professors from The University of Toledo and one from Wright State University. The universities have collaborated to create the Wright State University-The University of Toledo Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, which was designed to meet the current and future needs of the profession of nursing.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing recommends that the entry level of nurse practitioners should be a doctorate by the year 2015. The WSU-UT Doctor of Nursing Practice Program was created to meet these recommendations.

Admitted in February 2008, Gies is among the first graduates of the joint doctorate program.

Dr. Cheryl Gies with awards from the MNRS Conference

MEET A FEW OF THE "FIRSTS" IN OUR DNP PROGRAM!

Dr. Cheryl Gies, Dr. Marge Mcfadden, Kristi Bowser, DNP(c), Dr. Christine Utley, Dr. Patricia Carter; not pictured, Kimberly Cole, DNP(c)
NURSING ALUMNI AFFILIATE NEWS

The fourth annual College of Nursing Alumni Reception and Fundraiser was held at the Hilton Garden Inn on March 3. Attendees were treated to an evening of piano music, food and networking to raise money for student scholarships, student and faculty support, and community outreach. Carolyn Lee, PhD, RN, 2010 College of Nursing Outstanding Alumna, shared highlights and memories of her nursing career.

For more about the Nursing Alumni Affiliate, visit toledoalumni.org.

Carolyn Lee, PhD, RN, with her husband Willie and Tim Gaspar, PhD, RN, Dean, at the UT Alumni Recognition Dinner.