Welcome to Nursing LEADS, our newsletter publication for The University of Toledo College of Nursing; featuring faculty, students and our very own nursing alumni.

As the academic year comes to an end, we have much to celebrate. Many of our initiatives, exciting events, awards, recognitions, and personal experiences from nursing students and alumni will be shared in this issue. Learn about the increased interest of men in nursing and the importance of increasing diversity within the nursing profession. Students and faculty will elaborate on their research at the Sigma Theta Tau International national conference and you will hear highlights of the 7th Annual College of Nursing Research Day. Paying tribute to military, one current Family Nurse Practitioner nursing student shares her involvement in military nursing and why she chose nursing, as well as the military as a career path. You will learn of a nursing student and faculty member, both who are Jefferson award winners. Read of the newest grant funding in the college supporting the Health Care Access Initiative that impacts quality care to the vulnerable and at risk people via the development of health homes, the offering of behavioral and physical health services for the chronic and persistent mentally ill, and the evolution of interprofessional care delivery. Hear about the exciting news of the UT/BGSU Student Nurses Association receiving the Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development Grant. Lastly, we want to highlight some of the great faculty and student achievements and inform you of our faculty retirements and offer our best wishes.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Nursing LEADS and ask that you continue to stay connected in learning more about the successes gained from the College of Nursing, faculty, staff, students and alumni. We always welcome and enjoy hearing from you, so please browse our new website at http://www.utoledo.edu/nursing, contact us at admitnurse@utoledo.edu or like us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/UTCON.

Wishing you the best for an enjoyable summer and appreciation for all that you do for our College of Nursing!

Timothy M. Gaspar, Ph.D., RN
Dean and Professor
The University of Toledo College of Nursing
Nursing in the Military

As a military nurse, not only will you serve your country, but you will play an important role in providing high-quality nursing care for soldiers and their families.

Military nurses do everything a typical nurse would do; check vital signs and assess patients, administer medications, treat wounds, manage/set up trages, promote health and prevention of illness and care for ill patients. However, one of the more interesting things about being a Military Nurse is that your nursing career could take you all over the world. From small ambulatory clinics, to warzone triages, to large medical centers, to medical missions, you will work in some of the most dynamic and fast-paced environments.

Career opportunities for Military Nurses are endless and you can focus on several practice areas, many that include; Critical Care, Education, Emergency Trauma, Maternal/Infant, Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric, Medical/Surgical, Neonatal Intensive Care, Public Health, Research, Training Management, Nurse Midwife, Pediatrics, and Perioperative.

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The MEDTAPP Healthcare Access Initiative, a state $28 million dollar, 18 month funding opportunity, solicited proposals from Ohio’s colleges and universities to support the development and implementation of additional healthcare practitioners with skills and competencies to serve the Medicaid population using emerging healthcare delivery models and evidence-based practices, such as health homes and integrated behavioral and physical health service delivery. This initiative requested proposals for opportunities to align with established, successful programs; leverage existing resources; and partner with academic and community partners. The initiative’s initial focus included but was not limited to the following Medicaid Professional Needs Areas: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Community Psychiatry, Geriatric and/or Integrated Behavioral Health/Primary Care Focus, Pediatrics, Family Practice, Advanced Practice Nursing, and Dentistry.

The University of Toledo was successful in receiving this grant with Advanced Practice Nursing, Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology and Captain Matuszek explains “The benefits of being a military nurse are vast. I’ve had great experiences; I’ve cross trained as a nurse to OR and expanded my nursing skills, knowledge and leadership capabilities. There are numerous opportunities to expand knowledge and skills by taking nursing, medical, and military educational courses, working in a variety of settings, and several leadership opportunities.”

Based on the military branch of interest, you can easily start or advance your nursing career in the military by receiving financial assistance, continuing education, scholarships, loan repayments, financial incentives and retirement plan options. Sign on bonuses may also be an option based on eligibility.

Captain Matuszek decided on a military nursing career when she did 4 years of Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) while in high school. “That is what initiated my passion for the military and my country. There is always a need for military nurses and when I joined in 2007, there was a nursing shortage in the Army and they were in dire need.” Training, education, and experience can lead to a military nursing profession that will offer a high-demand and rewarding career, offering opportunities in continuing education, career advancement, and professional growth with rewarding benefits, all while serving our country, our soldiers and their families.

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Men in Nursing

The profession of nursing remains predominantly female, but an increasing number of men are entering this challenging and rewarding profession. A variety of work settings, high demand career opportunities, job security, flexible work hours, competitive salaries, and excellent advancement opportunities are some of the motivating benefits that make the nursing field so enticing and worthwhile.

David Lymanstall, MEd, MSN, RN, and Graduate Advisor for The University of Toledo College of Nursing, decided on a career in nursing because he really enjoyed caring for and helping people. Lymanstall explained, “While reading the paper I found an article about men in the nursing profession and it really caught my interest. I thought that men are able to be care givers too and with my personality and interest in caring for others, nursing would be a great fit for me.”

David is a 2008 graduate of the MSN graduate entry program and before working as a graduate advisor, he taught pediatrics and nursing orientation for 4 years at UT and worked as a pediatric float in the pediatrics and newborn ICU at St. Vincent’s for three years. Lymanstall explains, “It is so important to have male nurses, especially in my past role in the newborn ICU. Male nurses are good role models, many of the parents felt more comfortable knowing there were other men around and they would approach me for advice, ask questions like how to hold a newborn properly and how to perform certain tasks for their newborn when it’s time to return home.”

At The University of Toledo College of Nursing, the nursing program has experienced a strong interest from men. For Fall 2012, the enrolled undergraduate students included 17% males and enrolled graduate program students included 10% males. As the nursing field grows, more males are expressing interest in the nursing program, recognizing the importance of nursing, as well as the importance of diversity in nursing staff for patients.

Current Bachelor of Science in nursing student Charles Hillman explains “I’m really enjoying the nursing program at UT and I like that the program is on the Health Science Campus. I have plenty of resources available and being right next to the hospital makes it so convenient for clinical and cooperative opportunities. I chose nursing opportunity to have close interaction with patients, and be able to care for and teach patients how to change their lives for the better.”

Ashanté O’Dell, current Bachelor of Science in Nursing student and Breakthrough to Nursing director for the UT/BGSU Student Nurses Association plans to do just that. One of her roles as Breakthrough to Nursing director will be aimed towards reaching out to underrepresented populations, such as males, to educate them on the importance of nursing, the benefits of nursing, and why men are needed as nurses. Ashanté explains, “Nursing should be viewed as a very important and appealing profession to both men and women. A nursing career provides job security, financial stability and educational opportunities to further your career in nursing.”

Ashanté plans to target men by visiting all male high schools, community outreach programs and would even like to start educating early by visiting elementary and middle schools to talk to children on what a nursing career provides. As she makes these visits, she plans to bring a male nursing student or male nurse so that students can hear first-hand from a male nurse and why they chose nursing as a profession. Ashanté explains, “It is going to take male nurses and nursing students to change the perception that nursing is a women’s career. I think if the kids can hear from males themselves, it could help them understand more about nursing and break the stereotype that nurses have. Male nurses provide diversity in the workforce and it strengthens the occupation, but the desire to help others to make a difference has provided great satisfaction in becoming a nurse.”

A hospital and work towards my master’s degree. Eventually, I would like to become a nurse practitioner and work with pediatrics because I love children. At the end of my nursing career I hope to become a public speaker, professor, or advocate for men in nursing, and speak of the benefits of becoming a nurse.”

The University of Toledo Medical Center also has a growing number of male nurses employed in the hospital. According to UTMC Human Resources, male nurses account for 12% of all nurses employed.

Joshua Conklin and Leslie Puchala teamed up together to propel Josh to national office at the recent National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Leslie served as Josh’s campaign manager and worked to get him elected to the Nomination and Election Committee (NEC) at position. Josh first entertained the thought of running for a national office after attending the NSNA mid-year conference in San Diego in November, 2012. He received information about various positions and become excited about running for office.

Josh Conklin Elected to NSNA Nominating and Elections Committee

Josh wanted to become more involved and develop his skills as a leader. Currently, he serves as vice president for the Ohio Nursing Students Association. Additionally, he wanted to be an advocate for nursing as a profession, and to learn how to conduct himself more professionally. Josh approached Leslie to serve as his campaign manager in part because of her outgoing personality. Denise Oancea, one of the SNA faculty advisors, reported that “the two brought out each other's strengths. They complimented each other very well.”

Over 600 delegates attended the national convention. During the ‘meet the candidates’, Conklin and Puchala attended state caucus meetings to introduce Josh and talk about his platform. Conklin stated, “It was stressful. I’m not a public speaker and I wasn’t prepared to be grilled by the delegates on how I planned to carry out my platform. Leslie and I met and discussed how I would respond to this question. I also had to give a big speech in front of all of the delegates. It was still an amazing experience,” Josh goes on to say, “My role as a NEC member is to find the best candidates for NSNA positions. NSNA teaches students how to advocate for their profession.” Conklin encourages other students to consider getting involved and running for national office, “Jump in and do it. I’m able to keep up with my school work, my VP position on the OSNA board and work.”

International Nursing Visitor Program

The University of Toledo College of Nursing will be hosting the first International Nursing Visitor Program on June 30 through July 10 for twenty guests from Tianjin University, Tianjin, the people’s republic of China. The purpose of this program is to provide nurses with a global view to understand culture and health care delivery systems in the United States. Dr. Huey Shi Chen, department chair and DNP program director, is responsible for visiting the hospital and will be translating for the group of 18 nursing students and 2 faculty. There will be several opportunities for faculty and students to interact and the program is encouraged to participate. Program brochures will be available and posted to the College of Nursing website at http://utoledo.edu/nursing.
Nursing Students and Faculty Present Research at National Conference

By: Karen Hoblet

Amanda Seabolt-Martín, Wendall (Buck) Link, Kelly Diuli (Clinical Nurse Leader Students) and Karen Hoblet, PhD(c), MSN, RN, CNL (Principal Investigator) presented research that resulted from a Capstone Field Experience that they completed during their nursing program at The University of Toledo (UT), College of Nursing (CON). The students and Assistant Professor Hoblet were one of 37 studies that were accepted for poster presentation during the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) conference creating Healthy Work Environments in April, 2013. A Co-Investigator on the study, Mary Sexton, PhD(c), MSN, RN, CNS, was unable to attend. The conference was a “three-day event designed to help leaders in academic and clinical settings develop, implement, and maintain strategies that will improve their organization’s work environment” (STTI, Creating Healthy Work Environments, 2013, p. 2).

The impetus for the study came from the three students experience and desire to create a vehicle for a representative student voice in the UT CON. Although literature strongly supports the implementation of student governance models in colleges and schools as a way to develop student leaders who are able to advocate for themselves and their peers, there is limited data on the use of student governance models specific to colleges and schools of nursing. This study sought to fill the gap in the literature. Amanda Seabolt-Martín stated that “the UT CON is currently the only college on the Health Science Campus that does not have their own student council, and the students in the college are in need of a place to bring their concerns and ideas as well as a place for professional leadership development.”

Timothy Gaspar, PhD, Dean, UT CON was in support of the initiative as presented by the students. Professors Hoblet, Sexton and the CNL students all agreed that modeling leadership in a governance structure within a CON is important for student nurses to begin conceptualizing their own leadership potential.

The poster presentation summarized this research, which utilized a mixed-method design with survey questions that were sent via email. Prior to surveying the college’s schools of nursing, a website review was conducted to determine if the schools and colleges of nursing met the minimum inclusion criteria of having a four-year, baccalaureate nursing program. All schools and colleges included in the study were then contacted via telephone with introduction and query of proper contact person. The e-mail survey was then sent to the designated contact or a phone interview was conducted based on the contact’s preference. Survey data was coded and analyzed using SPSS to determine correlations and variance.

Out of the 14 institutions included in the study, nine had student councils or a governance model that included students and five did not have a formal vehicle for student voice in governance. Of the five colleges and schools of nursing who did not have student councils, only one school indicated that they saw a need and benefit of adding one. The other four schools had barriers to advanced practice nursing, particularly those pertaining to prescriptive and reimbursement issues. In addition, OAAPN initiated a new agenda program, upgraded its newsletter, and moved the annual business conference to a new, larger venue. Our website has been upgraded and we plan to expand our CE offerings online.”

Angie states that there are many issues confronting advanced practice nurses at the state and national level. The major issues include reimbursement with Medicare and Medicaid, delegation limits, pain, and prescriptive restrictions that are placed on nurses and advanced practice nurses can become involved she states, “The most direct way to become involved with OAAPN is to become a member. Join us on Face book to link with preceptors and stay up to date with daily updates on multiple issues. Students can take advantage of networking at local meetings, search the job board, and get accurate, up-to-date information on changes to law impacting practice. Students are welcome to volunteer to serve on various committees and help at the state wide conference.”

The website for OAAPN is http://www.oaapn.org. The only professional organization in Ohio that represents only advanced practice nurses. The mission of OAAPN is to promote advanced practice nursing, support professional development, participate in the implementation and monitoring of legislation, attain fair and equitable reimbursement for advanced practice nurses, foster collegial and collaborative relationships with other health care providers and promote affordable, accessible, quality healthcare for all Ohioans.

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OAAPN is the unified voice of more than 10,000 advanced practice nurses in the state of Ohio. It is the only professional organization in Ohio that represents only advanced practice nurses. The mission of OAAPN is to promote advanced practice nursing, support professional development, participate in the implementation and monitoring of legislation, attain fair and equitable reimbursement for advanced practice nurses, foster collegial and collaborative relationships with other health care providers and promote affordable, accessible, quality healthcare for all Ohioans.

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During the opening ceremony at the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) convention in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 3, the UT/BGSU Student Nurses Association received the Marilyn Bagwell Leadership Development Grant.

The purpose of the grant is to create or enhance involvement of student nurses in NSNA and foster the development of leadership skills. The grant, in the amount of $1,500, is being used by the SNA chapter to focus on the issue of teenage human trafficking. This initiative supports the 2009 NSNA resolution to increase awareness and advocacy for homeless youth in the United States. The resolution highlights the risks that homeless youth are vulnerable to, including becoming a victim of sexual exploitation.

Denise Oancea, faculty advisor and author of the grant, states that the chapter “will organize a campaign at The University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University about the issue. We also plan to collaborate with Second Chance, a social service program which provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic sex trafficking and prostitution, by collecting needed personal hygiene items, clothing, and copy paper for resumes and schoolwork.”

This is the first time that the SNA chapter applied for the grant. By working on this initiative, students will develop their organizational, communication and presentation skills.

Oancea states, “Students will learn how to actively engage in not only an activity but also a cause. Nursing students are close in age to this particular population and can serve as role models. In February we plan to attend ‘Nurses Day at the Statehouse’ to discuss the issue with district representatives. This issue is currently being addressed at the state level and it is important for our students to know that they have a voice. It is also a great opportunity for nursing students to network with professional nurses in the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) who attend Nurses Day at the Statehouse to bring issues related to health care to the attention of our state legislators and get their advice on how to present an issue.”

Finally, the students involved will prepare a poster presentation for next year’s national convention and write an article for Imprint, the official membership magazine of NSNA.