

The Synapse

A Communication Impulse

Connecting the Bethel University Nursing Department with its Alumni

Spring 2010 Vol. 14, No. 1

10TH ANNUAL BETHEL UNIVERSITY NURSING RESEARCH & PRACTICE SYMPOSIUM

“Multicultural World of Health Care: What Nurses Need to Know”

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Registration in the Benson Great Hall Lobby beginning at 4:30

Keynote Address:

“A Faith-Based Approach to Cultural Competence in Nursing Care”

- Josepha Campinha-Bacote, Ph.D.

Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International

Four concurrent sessions include focus on cultural issues in nursing education and local and international practice settings.

2 Contact hours will be awarded to RN attendees who attend both program sessions and complete the evaluation.

Marjorie Schaffer's Selection as University Professor



The Provost, Dr. David Clark, announced the selection of Marge Schaffer as a University Professor on March 2, 2010, to the Bethel University community in an email message, the body of which is included here.

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Marjorie Shaffer's Selection as University Professor (continued)

While teaching nursing courses at Bethel's College of Arts & Sciences and Graduate School, Marge has also produced many examples of scholarship. She authored a book entitled *Being Present: A Nurse's Resource for End-of-Life Communication*. Additionally, she has written multiple articles, editorials, and several book chapters, and she has presented papers at national and international professional conferences.

Marge has received various awards due to the quality of her scholarly work. Currently, she is the recipient of a Fulbright Specialist Award for consultation with Diakonova University College, Norway, where she is assisting Diakonova as they develop a master's degree for public health nurses. In the past, she was a Fulbright Senior Scholar for Research and Lecturing in Norway, and received an End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium Award for her curriculum development work. Bethel has honored her with the Bethel University Faculty Excellence Award in Scholarship and two Edgren Scholar Awards.

Regarding her work in Norway, Kari Galvin, associate professor at Diakonova University College, states, "I feel privileged to know and have the opportunity to collaborate and work with Marge. The faculty at Diakonova University College have had the pleasure to learn from Professor Schaffer's expertise in Public Health Intervention, and we have established a relationship with the public health nursing faculty. Much of Professor Schaffer's written work is used in the syllabus for the public health nursing students."

Since 2005, Marge worked as liaison between the Bethel University Nursing Department and the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) in the development of projects to advance evidence-based nursing practices. She has also established collaborations between graduate students and HCMC staff that enhance nursing practice through research studies and system change initiatives. Marge is also well-known within the public health community for her work with the Public Health Nursing Intervention Wheel. After publication, educational programs and public health nursing agencies throughout the world subsequently adopted this model.

Beth Kaiser Schafer, professional development specialist at Hennepin County Medical Center, describes Marge this way: "As an advisor, Marge has shared with us her deep knowledge of Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and nursing research. As an educator, Marge has helped members learn and apply the essential elements of EBP. Marge has presented multiple learning modules on a variety of topics, including the critical appraisal of literature, the use of EBP models, grant writing, writing for publication, and curriculum development related to EBP. Her teaching style has been creative and very appreciated. Marge effortlessly alters her approach as she works to meet individual learning needs."

In recognition of this sustained influence, and in appreciation for her widely acclaimed scholarship, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Marjorie Schaffer as Bethel's third University Professor.



Community Service Award

Chi-at-Large chapter is the 2009 recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau's (STTI) Silver Star Service Award. The award recognized the several service projects that the chapter is involved in each year. The chapter has donated 1000 pairs of gloves/mittens and 1000 thermometers to local homeless shelters and clinics. This particular project began in October and continued throughout the winter. STTI also recognized the chapter's partnership with Uganda Christian University. The chapter supports this partnership by collecting nursing textbooks, assisting master's students from Uganda Christian University with their research, providing resources for the purchase of technology, and offering their homes so that students who traveled from Uganda could experience a weekend home stay experience.



UCU Partnership – Pioneer Masters Nursing Students study at Bethel

In the midst of frigid temperatures and snow flurries, seven masters of nursing students arrived from Uganda, demonstrating the active partnership between Bethel and Uganda Christian University Department of Nursing. The students spent 2 1/2 months experiencing culture, both personally and professionally, through involvement in health care settings. The director of the Nursing Program at UCU, Jemimah Mutabaazi, joined her nursing students for the last two weeks of their time at Bethel.

Students were fortunate to stay in homes close to Bethel. Students experienced Minnesota culture by attending several different churches, visiting the state capital, shopping at Target and the Mall of America, participating in weekend home stays, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing by Lake Superior.

The UCU students joined Bethel's masters students over the January term in the Global Health and Human Diversity course. They also completed master's course work and spent intentional time working on their research thesis paired with Bethel nursing faculty and a graduate student for guidance. Students spent time shadowing nursing faculty in the classroom, lab, and clinical settings, attending faculty meetings, observing simulation, and presenting to nursing students in their areas of expertise.

Reflecting on their experience, students believed they gained much. They talked about learning new teaching strategies, the incorporation of Christianity into nursing, mentorship, and student process techniques. In addition, they learned they could adapt to a climate of cold and snow, enjoy the outdoors, and experience Minnesota as a culturally diverse state.

This experience would not have been possible without the perseverance of Dr. Karen Drake who challenged these students to make the dream of this trip a reality. She worked tirelessly to assist with the many details of bringing a group, challenged with resources, to the states. Bethel students, faculty, and staff are grateful for the opportunity to both assist, but more importantly to be blessed with new friendships with our Ugandan nursing partners.

Faculty Activities

Connie Clark is involved in two presentations this spring. At the April annual Health Educators Conference, organized by the Associate Degree Nursing Program directors of Minnesota, she will be presenting, “A Mixed-Method Study on the Socialization Process in Clinical Nursing Faculty.” This study was supported through funds provided by the Zeta Chi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau. Later in April, she will be the keynote speaker at the 5th Annual Research Conference at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme of the conference is qualitative research, and Connie Clark will provide an overview of qualitative research and focus on its relevance in healthcare settings, with an emphasis on educational settings.

Diane Dahl is now to be addressed as *Dr. Diane Dahl*. On February 24, 2010, she successfully defended her dissertation, “Faculty Beliefs Related to Admitting and Educating Nursing Students with Disabilities.” Her PhD is out of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

In May, *Beth Guernsey* will present a creative solutions poster at the Washington DC, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses – National Teaching Institute. Her poster is entitled, “Implementing the AACN Preceptor Challenge E Learn for a Nurse Preceptor Workshop.”

Marge Shaffer's scholarly activities include several publications and presentations. Her published journal articles are:

Wattman, J. E., Schaffer, M. A., Juarez, M. J., Rogstad, L. L., Bredow, T., & Traylor, S. E. (2009). Community partner perceptions about community engagement experiences for nursing students. *Journal of Community Engagement Experiences for Nursing Students*. 1(1). Accessed at <http://discovery.indstate.edu/ojs/index.php/joce/issue/current>

Schaffer, M. A. (2009). A virtue ethics guide to best practices for community-based participatory research. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 3(1), 83-90. http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/progress_in_community_health_partnerships/

The Wattman et al. article was co-authored by faculty members, Maureen Juarez and Tim Bredow.

Her fall presentations include:

“Creating Golden Moments in Communication at the End of Life.” Speaker for Kappa Phi-at-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, St. Cloud, MN, November 5, 2009.

“The Public Health Intervention Wheel” (workshop). International Conference on Public Health Nursing, Diakonova University College, Oslo, Norway.

Ethical Problems in End-of-Life Decisions for Elderly Norwegians. International Conference on Public Health Nursing, Diakonova University College, Oslo, Norway.

Student Activities

Seven students in either the RN-BSN degree completion or masters programs were awarded scholarships from the Minnesota Nurses Association Foundation (MNAF). *Wendy Tempel* and *Lisa Winters* were recipients of a MNAF Baccalaureate Degree Scholarship and *Lori Ballantyne* was a recipient of a MNAF Graduate Degree Scholarship. A Sarah Colvin Social Justice Award was given to *Patricial Amajuoyi* and Karen Fettig, Robin Huneke, and Ekua Taylor Kregel received the Rose Dheim Award. These recipients were acknowledged at the MNA Annual Convention fall, 2009.

Mel Bors (MA student) poster, “Cognitive Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis” was submitted to the poster competition at the Mayo Clinic’s Nursing Research Day, March 3, 2010. She has been accepted into the PhD Program at the University of Minnesota and will start her PHD in Nursing, fall 2010.

Jill Branovsky (MA student) is the recipient of two awards from HealthEast Care System, a Certificate in HealthEast Management Practices and a Certificate in HealthEast Team Leadership.

Bethany Anderson Gerdin (BS-07) received a competitive Graduate Student Fellowship to support her work as a PhD student at the University of Minnesota.

Ann Gihl (MA-2008) is a recently published author. Gihl, A. (2010), Health-related quality of life in pulmonary arterial hypertension, *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension*, 8(4), 215-222. Retrieved from <http://www.phaonlineuniv.org/Journal/Vol8No4Winter10/QualityOfLife>. The article was based on the critical appraisal of the literature that she completed as her capstone master’s project. Her advisor was *Kristin Sandau*.

In 2008 *Nicole Polanco Larson* (MA student), was co-presenter of her research on float pools at the Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses Conference in Nashville. She is the recent recipient of the Dee and Gordon Sprenger Scholarship, an award through Abbott-Northwestern Hospitals to support graduate education.

Nursing Alum Serve in Haiti

Three of our nursing graduates – Hannah Carlson ’08, Angela Mooney ’07, and Diana Engebretson ’07 joined a team from Iglesia Bautista de la Gloria church (IBG) in Santiago Dominican Republic to do medical relief work in Haiti. Here are a few excerpts they recounted from their trip –

We joined up with a team from Iglesia Bautista de la Gloria church (IBG) in Santiago, Dominican Republic. (IBG is the church that we worked with in the Dominican Republic that has the vision to raise up Haitian pastors to lead their communities and rebuild on solid foundations, the country of Haiti). What a special time of worship we had that first Sunday as we joined with our team from places across the US and the people of the church.

We first worked at a clinic called Good Shepherd, run by Pastor Jude’s wife, Yanick. The first day we arrived, six nurses and three paramedics. “Nurses are doctors here,” Yanick said. It was way beyond our comfort zones. Here we were expected to diagnose, to treat, and to prescribe. I had never even seen scabies... good thing we had Diana, our little missionary nurse. One of the paramedics stayed on his blackberry the whole time looking up treatments for fungal rashes, measles, scabies, and correct dosages of antibiotics and other medications. I got to pray with each of my patients. I got to hold a lot of babies, and hear a lot of stories of what it was like living on the streets, under tarps and sheets. I listened to what it was like that day, the day of the “event” as they call it, and cried with people as they talked about the loved ones they had lost. A lot of kids are getting pneumonia, a lot of people are getting sick, the rainy season is coming, and people are still sleeping on the ground.

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Nursing Alum Serve in Haiti (continued)

We spent most of our time at a hospital called CDTI, Sacred Heart. The hospital was unsafe for inpatient care, so the patients were under 10 tents outside. We used the hospital building for our OR, dressing changes, X-rays (when it was working), a lab, a pharmacy, and a supply room. This is why it was so hard for us to leave—these patients stole my heart. Their stories brought me to tears. Many of them professed the name of Jesus as their Rock, their Savior, in whom they would trust. We stood around the tents often singing, in English and Creole. They would sing hymns and songs that we learned in Sunday school like, “I may never fight in the infantry... but I’m in the Lord’s army,” with all their heart! How good and humbling it is to see people who have lost everything: family members, friends, legs and arms, and some still will die; yet they cling to Jesus. And they say, “God is good. He is faithful. I will trust in Jesus, no matter the cost.” This rocked my faith. This shook me to a deeper understanding of God and suffering and the cost of following Christ. This is what real faith looks like... joy in Christ no matter the circumstance, no matter the pain and suffering, no matter the loss, no matter the cost, even when we don’t understand, even when it is difficult to see God’s faithfulness; we trust that His mercies are new every morning. The steadfast love of the Lord *is* better than life! We’ve tasted a bit of that steadfast love, and it’s true.

Pieces of our hearts have been left in Haiti. We ask God now, “Lord what’s next? Will you bring us back? Will you use us again?” May we always remember what a privilege it is to serve our great God and to be used by Him. For their complete story, please go to our website at nursing.bethel.edu.



Contributors: Diane Dahl, Pam Friesen, Rita Haglund, Beth Peterson, Sandra Peterson, Marge Schaffer

