

The Synapse

A Communication Impulse

Connecting the Bethel University Nursing Department with its Alumni

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Interim 2008

On January 1st twenty-four Bethel nursing students and 3 nursing faculty left for interim in Uganda. Twenty-three of the students were seniors taking the Cultural Diversity in Healthcare course. One junior, Karn Brynildson, came with us as a TA because of her past experience of a semester abroad in Uganda. Dave Muhovich and Karen Drake were the faculty for the course. Diane Dahl spent her second January working as a consultant at Uganda Christian University. Her particular project was that of an external examiner to review the courses taught to the first cohort of baccalaureate students and submit a written review.

Students had many wonderful experiences. They were divided into two groups and rotated between the two faculty members. Dave Muhovich was in Mbale on the far eastern side of the country near the Kenyan border where he had previous experience as a missionary. Because of this, students could have rich experiences with his friends and co-workers. Students spent time at CURE Hospital (a mission hospital that features pediatric neurosurgery) where they had the opportunity to give a continuing education talk to the staff on a topic as well as observe in surgery and give care to the children. In addition, students learned about community health from the staff of the Mission Moving Mountains commu-



nity health projects. This included class time and home stays where the results of the projects could be seen. A tour of the regional hospital left significant impression of the challenges that nurses face in an under sourced setting.

Dr. Drake was in Mukono 23 km outside of Kampala at Uganda Christian University (UCU). UCU and Bethel are strengthening our partnership in many wonderful ways. In this setting students had class, clinicals and free time with the students. They had opportunity to work with children with severe orthopedic problems at a center called Cherub. Students also toured Milday, an incredible outpatient facility for AIDS patients. The UCU setting also allowed time for additional classes. At one class Jemimah Mutabaazi, the Director of the Nursing Program, spoke to the students on the history of nursing in Uganda. Dr. Wattiti from Milday came to one of the classes and shared both academically and personally about caring for patients with AIDS in Uganda.

In addition students had some memorable opportunities to visit craft markets and learn the skill of bargaining. Trips to Murchison Falls to view a game, Sipi Falls for repelling and white water rafting on the Nile provided exciting adventures to round out the trip.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Diane Dahl spent the month of January consulting with Uganda Christian University in Africa. She completed an external review of the nursing program as a curriculum consultant. She also worked closely with the program director related to curriculum recommendations for both the degree completion and entry level nursing programs.

Karen Drake is one of 49 scholars chosen for the first year of the Health Technology Scholars (HITS) program offered through nursing schools at Kansas University, University of Colorado, and Indiana University in partnership with the National League of Nursing. Funding for this grant is being provided by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). The grant funds a project that is designed to integrate health technologies into nursing education in a transformative way.

Pam Friesen, Maureen Juarez, and Bernie Missal are writing a monthly column for nursing students in the *Journal of Christian Nursing*. The first column, published in the October/December, 2007 edition, included a devotional by **Kristin Sandau**.

Pam Friesen and **Bernie Missal** presented at the 33rd Annual Conference of The Transcultural Nursing Society at Bournemouth University in England in September. The presentation was on the Effectiveness of Student Cultural Diversity Learning to Provide Transcultural Nursing Care. **Pam** is on a sabbatical spring semester, 2008. She will be studying approaches to facilitate baccalaureate student success, an interest of hers for a number of years.

Maureen Juarez is completing a grant-funded project related to her role as a parish nurse. She is interviewing seniors at First Evangelical Free Church, Minneapolis and facilitating the sharing of these stories with the whole congregation.

Kim Meyer is serving on the Advisory Commission for the Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council which is a mayoral appointment for a two-year term. In the October/December edition of the *Journal of Christian Nursing*, she published an article entitled "Striving for Perfection: Can We Go Too Far?" about enhancement technologies. **Kim** spoke at the October 2007 Women's Expo on the topic of health and psychological/emotional functioning and developed and implemented a series of pre-marriage classes for the Speak the Word Church, International of Golden Valley.

Bernie Missal has been recommended for a Fulbright Lecturing award in Oman for the 2008-2009 academic year by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. This recommendation is the first step in a multi-phased review process.

Sandy Peterson and **Tim Bredow** have just submitted the manuscript for the second edition of *Middle Range Theories: Application to Nursing Research*. The second edition of the book published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins should be in print by mid-year. **Sandy** is serving on several committees for the Minnesota Association of Colleges of Nursing (MACN). She chairs the Awards Committee and is a member of MACN's Legislative Liaison Committee.

Sue Steen has served as a consultant on perinatal loss at Lakewood Health System in Staples, Minnesota.

Kristin Sandau and former adjunct faculty member, **Charlene Boisjolie**, received a Katharine Densford Dreeves Research Grant through the Minnesota Nurses Association Foundation for research on health-related quality of life in elderly with aortic stenosis. **Kristin** contributed to a chapter on the theory of quality of life for the middle range theory text co-edited by Sandy Peterson and Tim Bredow. **Kristin** has also joined **Nancy Olen** in becoming involved with the Inter Cultural Educational Institute of China, an organization that is providing consultation on the development of associate-degree and eventually baccalaureate-degree nursing programs in central China.

Marge Schaffer is under contract to Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) to co-author a book with Linda Norlander. The book is a synthesis of her research from her interviews with Norwegian nurses with a working title of "Golden Moments: A Nurse's Guide to Communication at the End of Life." She is currently Vice-President for the Chi-At-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International and her two-year term as president will begin June, 2008. To prepare for her leadership responsibilities with SSTI, Marge attended the organization's biennial convention in Baltimore in November of 2007. She also was a contributor to the middle range theory text, revising the chapter on social support.

The review panel for grant applications for the Advanced Education Nursing grants (HRSA, Division of Nursing) met February 11-13, 2008, in Rockville, Maryland. **Joann Wessman** continues to serve on the review panel. She and **Nancy Olen** (retired) will be presenting, "Faith –Health Integration in Frail Older Adults" at the Mayo Clinic 17th Annual Nursing Research Conference, March 7, 2008. **Joann** will also be providing a series of workshops on faith community nursing at the Minnesota Assemblies of God Church Ministry Fair in Spring Lake Park, March 14-15, 2008. **Joann Wessman** will be retiring at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year. To honor her contributions to Bethel University, the Board of Trustees has awarded her emeritus status.

The Nursing Department is delighted to welcome three new adjunct faculty members, who will be teaching in the spring semester. **Krista Hoekstra**, alumna of Bethel University, (B.S. in 2001 and MA in 2007) will be teaching a clinical section of *Psychosocial and Spiritual Aspects of Nursing Care of Adults* (NUR308). **Andrea Johnson**, a graduate of Northern Illinois University with a B.S., who will soon be completing the requirements for her MA in Nursing at Bethel University, will be teaching in the CAPS program. She is co-teaching the course, *Baccalaureate Nursing Roles* (NURS406). **Lynn Zdechlik** is a Certified Nurse-Midwife, graduate of the University of Minnesota's Program. She joins the teaching team of *Dimensions of Professional Nursing Practice II* (NUR499), with a clinical group on a high-risk obstetrical unit.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Diane Aho, a graduate of the RN-BSN degree completion program in 2005 and a current student in the master's program was elected president of Greater Twin Cities Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

A number of students in the RN-BSN degree completion program received a scholarship from the Minnesota Nurses Association Foundation. The recipients honored at the October 21, 2007 Awards Banquet were:

Patience Ambe, Linda Johnson, Marcy McCracken, Olalekan Obadiya, and Sherifat Bolanie Otunuga.

Krystal Ide, Laura Nugteren, and Leanne Rogstad, students in the master's program, also received Minnesota Nurses Association Foundation scholarships and were honored at the fall banquet.

Teresa Tungseth, a graduate of the master's program, recently assumed the position of Deputy Nurse Executive at the Veterans Association Medical Center in Minneapolis.

Several students were appointed to the board of the Chi-At-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International as Members-At-Large: graduate students/alumni, **Renee Kumpula** and **Denise Phillippp**; and alumni from the baccalaureate programs, **Bethany Anderson** (CAS) and **Zoraida Krusina** (CAPS).

In January, 2008, **Denise Phillipp** presented the results of her thesis research to the Evidence-Based Committee at Hennepin County Medical Center. She found that the use of a dedicated IV team for central-line care resulted in greater consistency with best practices when compared to care provided by ICU staff nurses.

Janelle Shearer, a graduate of the master's program, will present her thesis research in the graduate poster session at the Mayo Clinic 17th Annual Nursing Research Conference, March 6, 2008.

Nicole Umhoefer, senior nursing student, has been selected as a NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipient. Her nomination is an acknowledgement of her accomplishments as an athlete in the sport of cross country.

Darlene Bjorklund, CAS alumna of 1993, was named a scholar in the American Academy of Nursing's Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity program.

Chi-at-Large Chapter Upcoming Event

The annual chapter meeting for STTI is scheduled for March 13th from 6 to 8pm at the College of St. Catherine, Jeanne d' Arc Auditorium. The speakers for the evening will be scholarship recipients including a Bethel graduate, Renee Kumpula. One CEU will be awarded and there will be free box lunches for attendees. Please RSVP to pmschoon@stkate.edu by March 6th if you are planning on attending this informative evening.

New Baccalaureate Curriculum for Nursing Majors

A motion for approval of a new baccalaureate nursing curriculum was brought to the University Faculty Senate by Dr. Sandra Peterson on December 5, 2007. The current curriculum was developed 25 years ago and needed major revision to address current issues that face nursing majors. The degree will remain the same amount of credits and will be strengthened in areas such as community engagement and cultural diversity. A semester abroad for nursing majors is also being considered. The motion was approved unanimously by the senate.

Recruitment of Community Nurse Leaders into Sigma Theta Tau

There is an incentive for Chi-at-Large Chapter to recruit at least 10 nurse leaders by June 30, 2008. If successful, the chapter will be recognized on the Honor Society's web site and at the Leadership Academy. The chapter will also be entered into a grand prize drawing for one complementary Leadership Academy registration. Please consider this opportunity to become a community member of Chi-at-Large Chapter and the benefits this will bring you. Contact Diane Dahl (diane-dahl@bethel.edu) or Ann Holland (ann-holland@bethel.edu) if you are interested.

MASTER'S STUDENT NEEDS THESIS HELP

Judy Betker is looking for alumni in their first two years post-graduation who have experience working on an ICU to participate on a one-hour interview about a clinical death experience. She can be contacted at judybetker@hotmail.com or 612-247-7354.

Professor Reynhout Retiring

Dr. James Reynhout, Professor of Biology, will be retiring at the end of the 2007-8 school year. He has been a friend to many students and one who is known as a challenging, but caring, faculty person who helped students learn how to think and study. Dr. Reynhout has taught General Biology to nursing students since the program began. Helping to prepare nursing students for practice in the U.S. as well as abroad was a natural extension of both his and his family's involvement in health care and missions. In order to keep alive his commitment to the preparation of health care professionals, a scholarship in his honor for nursing students is being arranged. If you would like to donate to this scholarship, your gifts can be sent to:

Bethel University
Office of Development
3900 Bethel Drive
St. Paul MN 55112

You may also donate online at www.bethel.edu/development/donate/. If you send a check, please indicate on the memo line that your gift is for the Doctor James Reynhout Nursing Scholarship.

Memorial Notice

Emily Grace Rudolph October 27, 1982 - December 31, 2007

Emily was a 2005 graduate of the Bethel Nursing Program. She was a volunteer in the nursing lab on Wednesday evenings for the 2006-2007 academic year. She is remembered for her passion for the Lord and her desire to serve crossculturally. Her most recent mission trip was to India.

Contributors: Diane Dahl, Karen Drake, Beth Peterson, Sandy Peterson

BETHEL UNIVERSITY NURSING DEPARTMENT

Eighth Annual
NURSING RESEARCH & PRACTICE SYMPOSIUM

“Nursing With Underserved Populations”

Thursday, May 1, 2008, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Registration in the Benson Great Hall Lobby beginning at 4:15

Keynote Address:

*“Caring for the least of these:
The story of nursing students and faculty bringing
health care to a winter shelter program”*

-- Connie Brehm, PhD, C.FNP, RN

Dr. Brehm's completed her PhD in Nursing at University of Colorado Health Science Center with emphasis in community health. Dr. Brehm's clinical practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner has been at community health centers in Los Angeles and Pomona. She currently holds a full-time position as an Associate Professor of Nursing at Azusa Pacific University (APU). She has taught both undergraduate and masters level courses with focus on community health and advanced practice nursing. As an extension of her clinical teaching responsibilities, she founded and continues to direct the APU School of Nursing's Outreach Health Services for the Homeless of East San Gabriel Valley.

Program sessions include the keynote address by Dr. Brehm and your choice of *one* of the following concurrent sessions:

Social Justice in Nursing: Continuing to Live our Legacy
Carolyn Garcia PhD, MPH, RN and Bonnie Brueschoff, MSN, RN

A View from Senior Nursing Students: Professional Nursing in Uganda
Senior Nursing Students

Responding to Illness and Injury: A Faith Perspective of Frail Elders' Experiences
Joann Wessman PhD, RN and Nancy Olen EdD, RN

Somali Women's Perceptions of Their Pregnancy and Childbirth Experiences in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area
Dawn Nelson MA, RN, CCM

Bethel Mobile Health Clinic Report
Tim Bredow PhD, RN

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

Other activities include: scholarly posters, vendors from various health care agencies/organizations, and refreshments. No cost to attend.

Detailed program information and maps to Bethel/campus maps available at: nursing.bethel.edu