RESEARCH REVIEW:
INTEGRATING
DISCOVERY,
LEARNING, AND
ENGAGEMENT
The School of Nursing is experiencing tremendous and exciting growth in research and evidence-based practice. This issue of Purdue Nurse highlights the work of faculty and students as we seek to find answers to complex healthcare questions and to design new systems for healthcare delivery. Extramural funding has gone from $49,000 in 1999 to over $6 million today.

Nursing faculty and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students have played key roles in the development of homeland security programs at Purdue, specifically in analysis of the preparedness of local health departments to handle natural disasters and assess Avian influenza readiness. Their work has had a great impact within the state of Indiana and the nation, and has generated significant funding.

Other research strengths of our school include child and family health promotion, chronic disease management, gerontology, patient outcomes, patient safety, information technology, and simulation learning.

In addition, generous financial support for oncology, from the McConnaughay Trust, and mental health promotion, from Linda Rohrman, are allowing us to expand curriculum and continuing education opportunities for students, faculty, and nurses in the local to global community.

The School of Nursing will host the first Fuld Summer Institute beginning June 15, 2007. Our 44 Doctor of Nursing Practice students, other Purdue graduate students, and nursing doctoral students from other institutions will come to campus to study and conduct interdisciplinary research in health system design, human factors, simulation modeling, and health product design. This interprofessional education model and broad geographic representation of graduate students will promote dispersion of new ideas to change the face of healthcare, promote patient safety, and solve complex healthcare problems.

As part of our outreach from the Trinity Nursing Clinic for Infant and Child Health, we have initiated the use of the Touchpoints system of child development milestones for child healthcare providers. We began with the training of three faculty members with Dr. T. Berry Brazelton at Harvard, and continued with training for 10 of our faculty and this summer for other interested Purdue faculty and community partners.

In collaboration with the faculty, Beth Lana is implementing our new Capstone curriculum that places senior students into real world nursing practice, adding to the already highly regarded preparation of Purdue Nursing graduates.

We extend a warm welcome to the new Dean of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences, Dr. Craig Svensson, our new faculty, and our new graduate students. We also welcome visits from our alumni, whether they are coming to speak to nursing classes, attend events, or just search the halls for their class picture. Some of our outstanding alumni are profiled in this Purdue Nurse.

I am also excited to announce that the School of Nursing has been selected as the institutional home for the National Nursing Coalition for School Health, a collaborative of seven nursing organizations whose members care for school age children and teens.

In honor of this new partnership, the next issue of Purdue Nurse will feature alumni who have chosen to practice school nursing at any level. Please contact the editor at lholland@purdue.edu to share your story.

Enjoy this Purdue Nurse as we discover new knowledge, translate these findings into practice, and design more effective systems of healthcare delivery.

Warmest regards,

Julie C. Novak, DNSc, RN, MA, CPNP, FAANP
Professor and Head, School of Nursing
Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences

Cover: 93-year-old Robert Fort Cowan of Peoria, Illinois, presents for his annual comprehensive health assessment with his nurse practitioner, Dr. Nancy Edwards. Mr. Cowan, who continues to hunt and fish in Illinois, Canada, and Alaska, takes no daily prescription medications. He does take a variety of supplements including shark cartilage, graviola, and a host of vitamins. He drinks eight glasses of water a day, a daily dose of low-salt V-8 juice, an occasional glass of red wine, minimal meat, and NO white flour. Mr. Cowan is Julie Novak’s father and a supporter of the Trinity Nursing Center for Infant and Child Health.
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Calendar of Events

April 13 Helen R. Johnson Leadership Conference (Purdue Memorial Union, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m)
Nursing Advisory Board Meeting (Purdue Memorial Union, 1 p.m.)

April 14-15 Purdue Spring Fest
(West Lafayette Campus)

April 22 Homeward Bound Walk to Fight Homelessness (Riehle Plaza, noon)

May 13 Commencement (Elliott Hall of Music, 9:30 a.m.)
Recognition Ceremony (PMU Ballrooms, 2:30 p.m.)

June 12-13 National Coalition for School Health Conference
(Mann Hall, Purdue West Lafayette)

Aug. 20 Fall Semester Begins

Sept. 14 Conference on Nursing Ethics, History, Human Rights, and Innovations
(Fowler Hall, 8 a.m.-noon)

Oct. 21 KySS Walk/Run
(Slayter Hill, 1 p.m.)

Oct. 22-23 Oncology Nursing Conference
(Purdue Memorial Union)

Oct. 27 Homecoming Weekend

Find more information on these events at www.nursing.purdue.edu
The past three years have seen an exciting transformation in the research environment in the School of Nursing.

Research efforts are expanding from a small group of established investigators to many faculty who are participating in research as principle investigators, collaborators, or as doctoral students.

A few examples of these research efforts are assessing preparedness for public health emergencies, improving patient care through implementation of technology, and developing screening tools and safety measures to identify patients at risk for poor health outcomes.

Read more about these initiatives on the following pages.
Edwards: Healthy Living for Seniors

Professor Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN, has always been interested in older adults, especially individuals with neuroprogressive diseases such as Alzheimer’s and related dementias, and Parkinson’s disease. Her research trajectory has followed that interest in several different directions.

Combining her passion for animals with her research, she collaborated with Dr. Alan Beck of the Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine to examine the influence of aquariums on nutritional intake in individuals with dementia.

The researchers found that introducing aquariums into dining areas where individuals with dementia take their meals resulted in an increase in food intake and maintenance of body weight. They also noted a decrease in disruptive behaviors and a slight improvement in staff morale.

Robotic Dogs Provide Companionship

Drs. Edwards and Beck also examined the utilization of robotic dogs, specifically the Sony AIBO, as a companion for older adults who live alone in the community.

These “pets” were introduced when human companionship was not available and the presence of a live animal was not feasible due to physical constraints or living situation.

Individuals kept AIBO in their home as a pet for a period of six weeks. These individuals reported a decrease in depressive symptoms and an increase in general life satisfaction. Some individuals also reported an increase in socialization as they took their “pet” out to common areas and to share with other individuals.

Exercise for the Young at Heart

Presently, Dr. Edwards is collaborating with Dr. Laura Sands and exercise physiologists in the development and implementation of an exercise program for individuals with moderate to severe dementia residing in a long-term care setting.

The findings are promising, with the individuals being able to follow a exercise regimen with coaching and visual cueing. Participation resulted in a reduction in anxiety symptoms.

Dr. Edwards is also examining the effect of staff education for individuals caring for residents with dementia in long-term care settings.

She is providing training on the specialized needs of individuals with dementia and is examining the effects of the educational program on staff satisfaction and the incidence of disruptive behaviors exhibited by the residents with dementia.

Dr. Edwards is also active in the community, leading a senior exercise program, Young at Heart, at the local community center. She leads a Parkinson’s disease support group and coordinates the Parkinson’s exercise group. She is also the Coordinator of the Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP) track in the School of Nursing.
Professor Laura Sands, PhD, Director of Research, is interested in identifying factors that prevent optimal functioning in older adults and interventions that can improve functioning and quality of life in frail and demented elders. Her research is focused on analyzing large data sets that provide information about how treatments or programs affect older adults’ functioning.

Since September 2002, she has had 27 articles published or accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals and was/is the principle investigator of $875,870 in research funding.

Examples of her work include a study of Indiana Medicaid recipients with dementia. With colleagues from the Purdue University School of Pharmacy and Wake Forest Medical School, it was determined that the use of a common drug for treating incontinence is associated with faster deterioration in functioning among persons with dementia.

**Determining Risks**

In another study with colleagues from the University of California, San Francisco, it was determined that community-living disabled older adults who do not have the care they need to complete basic activities of daily living such as dressing and bathing are significantly more likely to be hospitalized when they are living without needed help, but not after their needs are met.

Dr. Sands’ other research collaborations include determining risks for older adults experiencing cognitive decline after surgery. Recent publications with colleagues from the University of California show that the use of patient-controlled analgesia devices is associated with increased risk for post-surgical patients experiencing delirium or post-operative cognitive dysfunction in the days that follow surgery.

Other studies evaluated care pathways for dementia patients who are dependent on public assistance for their health care. Dr. Sands has also developed methods for detecting whether individual dementia patients benefit from pharmaceutical therapy designed to enhance cognitive functioning.

**Graduate Student Opportunities**

These projects and others have provided Purdue University graduate students opportunities to participate in the research and publication process and to interact with clinician researchers at Purdue and other universities. Dr. Sands’ work is funded by the National Institute on Aging (AG022090) and the Alzheimer’s Association (IIRG-06-27339). She has also had funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Health Services Research and Development Service, the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering, and the Indiana Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services.

Dr. Sands also contributes to the evaluation of programs for frail and demented elders such as Adult Day Health Care and Alzheimer’s education programs. She is a member of the advisory board for the North Central Indiana chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and is a frequent speaker to community groups about memory loss.

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**Sands: Focus on Optimal Functioning in Older Adults**

Professor Laura Sands discusses research methods with graduate students Terry Ridge and Deanna Staples.
Aaltonen: Bringing Information Technology to Public Health

Professor Pamela Aaltonen, MS, RN, PhD(c), is investigating the vulnerabilities in the public health system’s information systems.

The importance of this was evident during the deadly 1999 West Nile virus outbreak in New York City. Response was slowed because the city’s health department surveillance information system was not linked to the New York State Department of Health or the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A postmortem of the outbreak revealed confusion at all three levels of the public health system—local, state, and national.

The general public, with a heightened awareness of its own vulnerability, clamors for information. Healthcare providers need immediate information on conditions for which they are often ill prepared to respond to.

The Internet, an interactive technology, has rapidly become the CDC’s preferred method of communicating both with the general public and healthcare providers. This works well for those with access to computers, high speed connections, and the tenacity to untangle initially complex messages.

Other issues include the credibility and trustworthiness assigned to sources of information, and questions of providing too much or too little information. An internet-based information system could enhance necessary partnerships and collaborations.

The purpose of Professor Aaltonen’s project is twofold. One is to explore the organizational and innovation characteristics associated with innovative behavior in local health departments as illustrated by their adoption and diffusion of a webpage.

The second purpose is to explore the extent to which local public health departments are using web technology to establish a communication link with its stakeholders within the community and at state and federal levels. Such an assessment would be important in advocating for ongoing technology support and for guiding decisions about how to most effectively use limited public health IT resources.

Adeola: Safety of Neutropenic Patients in the Hospital

Professor Mope Adeola, CNS, RN, is involved in a number of research projects.

“The Safety of Neutropenic Patients in the Hospital” addressed the risk for impaired safety from infection, related to decreased host defense, insufficient patient and staff knowledge about the disease process, and multiple gaps in the healthcare system.

Adeola conducted a hospital staff educational needs survey to identify what the nurses perceived as the areas that they were uncomfortable with, and a routine care survey to identify what the individual staff perceived as the best method to provide care to patients with specific health needs.

The survey showed that there was much variability in the way different nurses provided care to patients with the same health problems or diagnoses.

Adeola developed two interventions with the goal of knowledge equalization, standardization of care, and improvement in the compliance rate of neutropenic protocol.

The first intervention was educational resource sheets, organized in a file folder with content index on the outside. The second intervention was a brochure about the care of the neutropenic patient.

A native of Nigeria, Adeola is also interested in gaining a better understanding of the nursing care delivery system in her home country, including the educational backgrounds of the nurses, what the nurses perceive as their roles, and what they perceive as the challenges that they are facing in nursing practice.

Adeola is also conducting a pilot study to examine the effectiveness of guided imagery in reducing bone cancer pain, with Purdue professors Cleveland Shields, Jackie Nielsen, and Laura Sands, and a survey of student experiences with a student team leading approach to clinical teaching.
Braswell: Evidence-Based Projects
Focus on Peri-Operative Care

Professor Mel Braswell, MS, RN, CNS, CNOR, DNP(c), has conducted several evidence-based projects in the course of her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

The first project examined post-operative complications, length of hospital stay, and economic effects.

She compared patient populations and asked: Is a patient’s American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) classification related post-operative complications? Is ASA classification related to an increased length of stay? What are the economic effects of post-operative complications? What are the economic effects of an increased length of stay?

A retrospective cohort study with 530 surgical patients was conducted, and results confirmed that male patients 80 years or older who have renal disease pre-operatively and have an ASA classification of 3 or 4 were at the most significant risk of developing post-operative complications. This is significant because many surgeries are now performed with pre-determined reimbursements from third party payers that do not consider ASA claims.

Braswell’s second area of research is focused on preventing surgical site infections and deaths from surgical site infections by reliably implementing ideal peri-operative care for all surgical patients.

Ideal peri-operative care has four key components: appropriate use of antibiotics, appropriate hair removal, peri-operative glucose control, and peri-operative normothermia control.

Her first intervention was to improve the timing of antibiotic administration within one hour prior to incision. As a result of the intervention, the percent of patients who received an antibiotic within one hour of surgical incision in a midwestern hospital went from a low of 66% in January to a high of 91% in February.

Ahmed: Effect of Education on Breastfeeding Preterm Infants

Professor Azza Ahmed, DNSc, RN, IBCLC, has developed, implemented, and examined the effect of an educational program on breastfeeding knowledge and practices of Egyptian mothers of preterm infants.

Ahmed studied 60 mothers and their preterm infants who were born before 37 weeks of gestation. She developed a breastfeeding knowledge questionnaire and observational checklist for data collection, and also used a breastfeeding diary, infant’s and mother’s profile and demographic information form.

She implemented a five-session breastfeeding educational program with the intervention group during the infants’ hospitalization and after discharge. Both groups were followed up to three months after discharge.

Ahmed found that the intervention group mothers significantly increased their knowledge and had less problems with breastfeeding compared to the control group: 80% of the intervention group were discharged on exclusive breastfeeding compared to 40% among the control group.

In Egyptian women, for whom cultural norms are changing to primary bottle over breastfeeding, an educational intervention program was highly successful in both promoting breastfeeding and extending breastfeeding duration among mothers of preterm infants.

Results of this study indicated that breastfeeding education, frequent support, and follow up with mothers of preterm infants increased their breastfeeding rate, decreased breastfeeding problems, and contributed to long-term breastfeeding rate compared to the control group. The differences between intervention and control groups suggests that the outcomes are not solely related to developmental or demographic factors.
Chang: Information Technology in Patient Care and Education

Professor Karen Chang, PhD, RN, is interested in using information technology to improve the quality of patient care and nursing education.

She has partnered with Purdue computer technology faculty and developed custom applications which synchronize with hospital information systems to help nurses view up-to-date patient information in the Pocket PC and Tablet PC and take notes about their patients. Notes can be synchronized with a desktop computer and transferred to another Pocket PC and Tablet PC.

She has also collaborated with Greater Lafayette Health Services to examine nurses’ use of Pocket PCs in patient care, using a custom-made form in the Pocket PC for shift reports.

Another IT project supplied nursing students with Pocket PCs loaded with reference material and patient information so the student could quickly access drug and disease information. Chang also developed learning modules, accessible through the Internet, on peri-operative nursing care and heart failure.

Chang is currently doing post-doctoral work at the Veterans Administration Center of Excellence in Implementing Evidence-based Practice, Indianapolis.

She conducted a study to examine the impact of a nurse practitioner-managed diabetes care coordination program with telehealth or telephone-based interventions on glycemic control. She is currently investigating the impact of a subcutaneous insulin decision support system embedded in an electronic medical record system for inpatient glycemic control.

Coyle-Rogers: Solutions to Healthcare Delivery Problems

Professor Patricia Coyle-Rogers, PhD, RN, is a founding member of the Healthcare Technical Assistance Program (H TAP).

She and a team of Purdue faculty including industrial engineers visit hospitals and healthcare facilities to look at everyday processes and procedures.

They examine the steps of the process, glean input from employees, analyze the data collected, interpret, and make recommendations.

Some of the projects Dr. Coyle-Rogers has worked on include an analysis of a new labor-delivery-recovery suite placement within the hospital setting, medication administration procedures, hospital registration methods, and training programs in process improvement and the development of hospital procedures using International Organization for Standardization (ISO) quality standards.

“These projects have allowed me to look at the issues in healthcare from an analytical perspective and ask the question ‘Is this best practice?’” she says.

“Healthcare TAP considers the process of healthcare and how this affects the patient, the hospital, and the system. It is an avenue for Purdue University to make a difference in the health of our state and country.”

Hospital registration, medication administration, and LEAN healthcare principles are some of the major areas the team has looked at, adapting manufacturing processes and quality improvement standards to the delivery of healthcare.

Healthcare TAP is a partnership between the Indiana Hospital & Health Association, the Purdue Technical Assistance Program (TAP), the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering and the School of Nursing.
Criswell: Studying Open Visitation in Intensive Care

Professor Michael Criswell, MSN, RN, CCNS, has focused his evidence-based DNP project on assessing ICU nurses’ attitudes and beliefs regarding open family visitation.

Criswell designed a 17-item survey which 27 ICU nurses completed before and six months after an open family visitation policy was implemented in a 12-bed medical-surgical ICU at a midwestern hospital.

The survey found no significant differences in the attitudes or beliefs of the ICU nurses before or after open visitation. However, a statistically significant result was that ICU nurses felt that the open visiting hours were better for patients, who had more time to spend with their loved ones.

Open family visitation is present in approximately 70% of all critical care units nationwide. The nursing research to date clearly indicates that patients and families benefit from open visitation, and that ICU nurses recognize this benefit. Further study with a larger sample size and different subsets (cardiac, surgical, neuro, and medical) of ICU nurses is needed to fully assess the impact of open visitation on their attitudes and beliefs.

Criswell is also working with Dr. Mark Lawley from Purdue’s Department of Biomedical Engineering on a blueprint for effective patient flow. The purpose of this study is to determine if utilizing modeling for simulating the events that occur throughout a hospital, and then applying data to the model, will allow for determining the disruptions or delays that affect patient through-put.

Criswell’s goal is to model specific nursing care maps in selected cardiovascular/pulmonary/orthopedic disease patients on medical surgical units to determine how and why medical errors occur, with the goal of developing tools to prevent system errors from occurring.

Kirkpatrick: What Makes Computer Based Learning Work?

Professor Jane Kirkpatrick, MSN, RNC, PhD(c) cites shortages of faculty in the face of increased student numbers, the knowledge explosion, and the changing paradigm in nursing and higher education to a learner-centered orientation as reinforcing the need for high quality computer-based learning (CBL) programs.

Nursing schools have been early adopters of technology applications. Many media-comparative studies in nursing, education, and medicine have demonstrated the effectiveness of CBL, but few studies have addressed the specific features of CBL that make these programs effective.

Kirkpatrick is completing an exploratory research study assessing the effects of imbedded motivational features in a multimedia CBL program on measures of learner motivation and learner achievement.

Students enrolled in Purdue’s junior year Nursing of Developing Families course have been recruited for the study. They are assigned a CBL program developed by Kirkpatrick that teaches Gestational Age Assessment.

Actual data collected while students are completing the program will be compared to the motivation scores on the subscales of the two assessment tools.

This research will add to the understanding of what motivational strategies are effective in an asynchronous computer-based multimedia program for undergraduate nursing students. It is unique in that student self-assessment of motivational strategy effectiveness can be matched with the activities in which they actually participated.
Professor Polly Royal MS, RN-BC, and DNP student, has used the health screening database of a large midwestern university to study the relationship between working overtime and risk for cardiovascular disease.

The research study determined whether university employees who work greater than 40 hours per week have higher systolic and diastolic blood pressures and body mass index (BMI) compared to those who work 40 hours or fewer each week.

Data from 2,179 participants in a campus-wide health screening were available for analysis. Employees from the two most common job categories, faculty and clerical, were included in the analytic sample.

Results showed that clerical staff who worked overtime had significantly higher systolic and diastolic blood pressure and BMI than those who did not work overtime. However, this trend was not seen for faculty.

In another project, Royal re-designed clinical post conference from immediately after the clinical experience to a later time in a different location.

She found that doing so allowed students and faculty members the opportunity to exploit the positive characteristics of today’s learner that includes the ability to multi task, the preference for group activities and teamwork, the ability to see the benefits of collaboration, the ability to learn immediately from their mistakes, their preference for experiential activities, and the ability to use technology.

Royal has also served as the nurse clinical interpreter for a research team working on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant for a time and motion study, monitoring how nurses spent their time and how they moved about the hospital. Data analysis is still in progress.

Professor Kit Schafer, MSN, RNC, NP, DNP(c), is investigating disordered eating, eating disorders, and the female athlete triad for her research in Purdue’s DNP program with Drs. Julie Novak, Randy Black, and Laura Sands.

In the U.S., the prevalence of female athlete triad varies from 13-62% depending on sport type and willingness of athletes to report their symptoms.

Timely identification enhances early treatment and prevention of long-term sequelae in young female athletes who have risks associated with eating disorders/disordered eating (ED/DE).

Schafer’s study focuses on early identification of at-risk athletes by utilizing the pre-participation examination (PPE) to screen for behaviors associated with ED/DE.

She identified four independent variables as discriminating for eating disordered behaviors in female athletes: irregular menses, feeling fat, dizziness, and seeking to change weight.

The implication is that by using these four questions as part of a screening tool to include in the PPE, 76% of female athletes with risk behaviors for ED/DE could be identified.

With early identification, interventions could be initiated to prevent progression of the disorder and in turn this would decrease long-term health consequences and costs associated with ED/DE.

Additional research is needed to evaluate health and cost impact of female athlete triad and to understand how it affects families, teams, universities and the healthcare system.
RESEARCH

Schweitzer: Finding Inner Strength in the Face of Heart Failure

Professor Roberta Schweitzer, PhD, RN, has focused her recent research on “Men Living With Heart Failure: Finding Inner Strength.”

The purpose of this pilot study was to learn from men with heart failure how they found inner strength and are living with meaning and purpose in their lives. The participant sample consisted of two men, ages 69 and 74, who describe themselves as coping well.

A modified qualitative focus group methodology was used for this study. Participants were asked to share a brief life review, and discuss facets of the meaning of inner strength in their lives.

The interviews were taped, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed using Colaizzi’s qualitative analysis method.

Resulting themes and subthemes included:

• Living life to the fullest
• The meaning of inner strength - utilizing different centers of strength, anchoring inner strength with a practical, concrete approach; anchoring inner strength with a faith that transcends this world.
• Other resources for living with HF: Information and knowledge; relationships with health care providers; friends and family; diversions.

The implications of the study are that nurses need to develop an understanding of how heart failure affects men’s lives and well being in order to provide holistic nursing care. Resources for improving and maintaining quality of life may vary from those used by women. Findings from this research will contribute to development and testing of interventions.

Dr. Schweitzer is also partnering with Dr. Julie Novak on the implementation of a $190,000 mental health promotion grant.

Smolen: What Success Looks Like in Simulation Education

In her DNP studies, Professor RuthAnn Smolen, MS, RN, is studying the advancement of innovative teaching using high-fidelity simulators in nursing education.

Identifying factors central to successful use of simulation-based learning provides critical strategies to advancing the use of the technology in nursing education across the curriculum.

The literature supports the idea that simulation-based learning in realistic simulated environments is a powerful method for gaining the experience and creating the self-confidence needed to solve real-life healthcare problems. A variety of simulation techniques are being used for education, testing, and research in healthcare.

Simulation education uses computer-integrated life-size mannequins which breathe with life-like lung and heart sounds, have arterial waveforms and pulses, and respond physiologically to treatment, including moans, groans, coughs, talking, cries, and responding to minute-to-minute analysis and reaction to realistic patient scenarios.

The Purdue School of Nursing has a newly designed Simulation Suite with a fully functional four-member simulated family purchased through the Fuld Health Trust grant that supports the DNP program.

The family includes Sim adult (Sam/Samantha), birthing simulator (Nikki), Sim baby (Archie, named after RCHE, the initials for Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering), and the newly-arrived and as yet unnamed Sim child.
Walulu: Women Living and Mothering with HIV Disease

Professor Rosemary Walulu, MSN, RN, PhD(c) hopes through her doctoral research to gain a better understanding about how HIV-positive women manage mothering.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic represents a growing and persistent health threat to women in the United States, especially young women and women of color. Yet better treatments have led to many HIV infected women with dependent children living longer and mothering with HIV/AIDS.

One gap in literature is a lack of a substantive theoretical framework for explaining how mothers with HIV disease manage motherhood. Few studies have been done that have looked at mothering experiences with HIV infection.

This study seeks to add to the current state of knowledge by developing a theory grounded in mothering experiences of mothers living with HIV disease. There are no practice guidelines for HIV-positive mothers or evidenced-based practice to assist practitioners to provide quality care to this group of marginalized women.

Her study uses an inductive and discovery-oriented research design that includes in-depth interviews and grounded theory design to ask the following questions:

- What are the mothering experiences of women with children living with HIV disease?
- What strategies do mothers living with HIV disease use to manage mothering?
- How has HIV infection changed the mothering role and experiences of mothers living with HIV disease with children?

Yehle: Comparing Shared Medical Visit With Standard Care

Professor Karen Yehle, MS, APRN, BC, PhD(c) has conducted her doctoral research comparing a shared medical visit model with standard care in a heart failure population.

She found that follow-up care that includes an individual check-up and an educational session resulted in improved knowledge and self-care among heart failure patients.

The sample in her longitudinal experimental research design consisted of 52 participants diagnosed with heart failure. The outcome variables included knowledge, self-care, and health-related quality of life.

The control group received standard care with the nurse practitioner at their regularly scheduled appointment (every eight weeks). The intervention group saw the nurse practitioner individually during their regularly scheduled visit and received 60 minutes of group education and support from the nurse practitioner and an advanced practice nurse immediately before or after their individual appointment.

Data was collected with each group at baseline, eight weeks, and 16 weeks, using the Heart Failure Knowledge Test (HFKT), Self-Care Heart Failure Index (SCHFI), and Chronic Heart Disease Index Questionnaire Self-Administered Individualized Format (CHQ-SAI).

Findings: scores on the HFKT and the SCHFI maintenance subscale improved significantly more for the intervention group compared to the control group from baseline to eight weeks.

Implications? Shared medical visits may be an important tool for increasing knowledge and compliance among patients diagnosed with heart failure.
INITIATIVES IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The threat of pandemic influenza is real, and making sure Indiana communities are prepared has been a recent focus of nursing faculty and graduate students.

Projects include a pandemic influenza planning gap analysis for 94 local health departments in Indiana, conducted by the School of Nursing in collaboration with Purdue University’s Healthcare Technical Assistance Program, Purdue Homeland Security Institute, and Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering.

Through a contract with the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), nursing and engineering faculty and graduate students worked to identify local health department pandemic planning gaps and how the vulnerabilities can be resolved.

The task force designed an audit tool to assess the pandemic planning gaps that could potentially exist on the local level. Then Professors Pamela Aaltonen and Patty Gunning, along with DNP student Deb Koester and with several team members from other Purdue departments, began visiting and calling each local health department in Indiana to assess their planning progress.

“After completing audits with 94 county public health coordinators, we were able to identify strengths and challenges in planning at the local level,” Koester said. “We then developed reports that reflected efforts at the local level to document the planning process, strengths in planning, and recommendations for improving gaps in the process.”

During this analysis, 11 significant gaps were identified, with six considered to be priority areas, including:

1. Alternate care site planning
2. Volunteer management
3. Mass fatality planning
4. Public education
5. Isolation/quarantine

“The exciting part of this project is working with dedicated, goal-directed local health department personnel committed to improving preparedness throughout the state,” Aaltonen said. “After our meetings, we shared what the local health departments were doing well, what should be improved, and where to add needed resources.”

Another aspect of the gap analysis project was meeting with the district public health coordinators, who serve as liaisons between the ISDH and local health departments. These meetings revealed the potential gaps of communication and collaboration in pandemic planning between state and local officials.

“It is significant for graduate students in the School of Nursing to collaborate on projects such as this gap analysis,” Koester said.
“It is important for graduate students to work in multi-disciplinary approaches and to have the opportunity to network with people from around the state. Serving as a project team member on this gap analysis has allowed me to work with colleagues from other disciplines, including Engineering, Statistics, and the Purdue Homeland Security Institute.”

As a response to these priority areas and as an effort to improve preparedness, ISDH recently awarded $508,000 in grant funding to a partnership between Purdue Homeland Security Institute, the School of Nursing, and the School of Health Sciences. Professor Pamela Aaltonen is co-principal investigator.

Melanie Rosswurm, a Doctor of Nursing Practice student with Adult Nurse Practitioner specialization, assisted with this grant, which was used to facilitate pandemic influenza exercise preparedness throughout the State of Indiana.

Rosswurm aided in the development of drills meant to assess the needs during isolations and quarantines and during medical evaluation before isolation and quarantine orders are issued.

“Professor Pamela Aaltonen unpacks a disaster supply kit.

“Homeland Security Course Addresses Needs

Professor of Nursing Pamela Aaltonen is part of the interdisciplinary faculty team teaching a new senior or graduate level course, Managing Resources and Applications for Homeland Security.

The course, which is supported by the Purdue Homeland Security Institute (PHSI), provides examples and practice in applying and managing resources, including technologies, used in the private and public sectors for Homeland Security programs.

“We use an interdisciplinary approach to address issues including terrorism, corporate security, biosecurity, healthcare preparedness, personal/community preparedness, risk transfer, information security and privacy,” Aaltonen says.

Aaltonen’s nursing-specific content for the course includes bioterrorism, psychology of terrorism, psychosocial impacts of disasters, health issues in the aftermath of disasters, healthcare preparedness for pandemics, and mass fatalities and mortuary resources.

One aspect of this course requires students to put together a disaster supply kit. Student were able to develop their own disaster supplies kit and decide the important items to include.

“I helped develop drills that, in the near future, will be used by local health departments to test their existing isolation and quarantine plans,” Rosswurm said. “These exercises will help local health departments find out where more planning is needed and where additional resources can be used.”

Nursing faculty and students continue to work in the area of pandemic influenza preparedness and have several other projects in mind. One such project is developing a functional tabletop exercise allowing local health departments to test how a school closing would occur if a pandemic were to occur.

“A multi-disciplinary committee of faculty and students are also discussing plans for more work in public education about pandemics and crisis communication,” Aaltonen said.

In another public health project, DNP student Deb Koester and Dr. Julie Novak (PI) recently secured a $600,000 grant from the Indiana State Department of Health entitled “Workforce Capacity Development for Indiana Local Health Departments.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides recommendations for what should be included in an individual disaster supply kit. Suggested items:

• Three-day supply of non-perishable food.
• Three-day supply of water (one gallon of water per person, per day).
• Portable, battery-powered radio or television and extra batteries.
• Flashlight and extra batteries.
• First aid kit and manual.
• Sanitation and hygiene items (moist towelettes and toilet paper).
• Matches in waterproof container.
• Whistle.
• Extra clothing.
• Kitchen accessories and cooking utensils, including a can opener.
• Photocopies of credit and identification cards.
• Cash and coins.
• Special needs items, such as prescription medications, eye glasses, contact lens solutions, and hearing aid batteries.
• Items for infants, such as formula, diapers, bottles, and pacifiers.
• Other items to meet your unique family needs.
Medication errors are the most common medical mistakes made in hospitals across the United States. Each year, more than 7,000 patient deaths in the U.S. can be attributed to medication errors – none of which are caused by a single element or the fault of a single practitioner.

Indiana is no exception, as highlighted by the recent deaths of three newborn infants in a prestigious Indianapolis hospital.

This incident serves as a stark reminder that healthcare is filled with potential danger, even when committed professionals do exceptional work to save lives and restore health and hope. Every step in patient care involves the potential for error and some degree of risk to patient safety.

Regulators, healthcare organizations, patients and academicians have launched significant and vigorous programs to address patient safety issues.

Much of the patient safety work is based on strategies adopted from the aviation industry. In aviation, as in healthcare, catastrophic events are almost always the result of combined effects of latent failures in the system (subtle, hidden weaknesses in organizational structure) paired with an ever-changing, complex environment.

The sobering fact is that with all of the good patient safety work that has been done in recent years, an enormous and daunting amount of work remains.

The paradigm of healthcare delivery, from supplies to payers to healthcare providers, needs fundamental redesign. Although effort is needed from every individual and every organization, patient safety cannot be effectively addressed organization by organization. Research, healthcare providers, and industry must be in concert to design safe healthcare environments.

Kathy Rapala, JD, RN, joined the Purdue School of Nursing in August 2006 to be a part of fundamental healthcare re-engineering. She teaches in the areas of leadership, nursing issues, and nursing informatics. She is also Director of the Second Degree program and a DNP student.

Rapala’s previous position was that of Director of Risk Management and Patient Safety in the Clarian system. Her patient safety journey began when Dr. Karlene Kerfoot, formerly the Chief Nurse Executive of the Clarian system, enlisted her assistance as risk manager to establish a patient safety expert in each patient care area of the hospital.

Rapala is also Interim Director of the Indianapolis Patient Safety Coalition and a member of the 2001 inaugural class of the HRET/National Patient Safety Foundation Patient Safety Leadership class. She was awarded the first Todd Pickett National Patient Safety Award from the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management in 2004.

She created the Safe Passage Program, in which frontline patient care staff are unit patient safety experts. In collaboration with members of the Clarian team, Rapala built the patient safety infrastructure that included simulation, patient safety research, root cause analysis, medication safety and many other initiatives.

She also saw the need for relevant research that was translated quickly into the work environment, and believed that the Purdue Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) was a degree that could help her learn to conduct patient safety translational research.

Rapala sees the Purdue School of Nursing as the foundation of her patient safety work. “Purdue is the best of all worlds. Julie Novak has created an environment that is open to innovation and learning, and transformational research.”
INTEGRATION OF DISCOVERY, LEARNING, AND ENGAGEMENT

Tobacco Cessation Work, Research Moves Ahead on Several Fronts

By Tristan Emery
Coordinator, Tobacco Free Partnership of Tippecanoe County

Indiana currently has the second highest smoking rate in the nation. The Tobacco Free Partnership of Tippecanoe County (TFP) is working to reverse the high smoking rate and effects of secondhand smoke on local citizens.

The TFP focuses on forming community partnerships with individuals and organizations to educate regarding tobacco use prevention, intervention, and cessation.

The Purdue School of Nursing serves as the lead agent for the TFP’s grant funding, which was obtained from the Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency.

“Funded projects increase the accessibility of prevention and cessation resources,” says Julie Novak, head of the School of Nursing and PI of the project.

“The funding increases the educational programs offered to local middle and high school students and the research component helps us determine the most effective cessation methods for Purdue students, faculty, and staff and patients in our clinics.”

Programs Funded by TFP

Current grant funding allows the Trinity Nursing Center for Infant and Child Health, a clinic of the School of Nursing, to provide smoking cessation programs to parents (N. Lottes, J. Sundell and E. Lana, co-PIs).

“This program is invaluable because exposure to cigarette smoke during childhood increases the risk for development of asthma, allergies, chronic ear infection, SIDS, and other chronic and acute respiratory problems,” says Jennifer Sundell, co-coordinator of the clinic. “Helping parents quit and preventing relapse is critical to parental health as well.”

Middle School Programs

Educating children about the harm of tobacco use is the purpose of two programs for sixth and seventh grade youth presented by the Learning for Life organization.

These programs help children learn how to confront peer pressure, understand the social repercussions of tobacco use, and how secondhand smoke affects their friends and family.

Smokefree West Lafayette

A smokefree ordinance affecting workplaces, including restaurants and bars, will go into effect July 1, 2007, in West Lafayette.

The TFP has obtained a $106,000 grant (J. Novak, PI, and T. Emery, co-PI) for the implementation of the West Lafayette smokefree ordinance, which will pay for an educational and informational campaign about the ordinance.

The campaign will include educational packets for businesses, a Smoke-Free West Lafayette website, and a media presence leading up to July 1.

“This campaign will help local residents, Purdue students, and patrons of West Lafayette understand that the ordinance is a major positive move for the community,” Novak says.

Indiana’s Tobacco Quitline

The Indiana Tobacco Quitline is a free telephone-based quit tobacco resource available to all Hoosiers. By calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) from 8 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week, Hoosiers can talk to a trained Quit Coach.

Because pregnant women, Medicaid-insured, and uninsured smokers have been identified as priority populations, these callers are eligible to receive the most comprehensive counseling interventions. However, all callers can talk with a live quit coach and receive cessation information.

The quitline provides support for individuals who want to stop using tobacco; offers information on tobacco dependence for health professionals, families and friends of tobacco users; and provides information on community cessation resources.
Partnership Enhances Oncology Nursing Education

The Purdue University School of Nursing has partnered with the Esther McConnaughay Trust to support and enhance oncology nursing education. The gift will support scholarships, an oncology sub-specialty in graduate nursing education, and a yearly, regional oncology symposium.

Dr. Julie Novak (center) welcomed seven speakers to the 2006 Midwest Oncology Nursing Symposium. They included Professor Jackie Nielsen, RN, MSN, AOCN (above left), presenting “Oncology Emergencies.” Nielsen also coordinated the conference. Other speakers included Purdue nursing alumna Leslie Gibson (AAS’77), RN, BS, a pioneer in the field of humor therapy, presenting “Moving From Grief to Comic Relief,” and Dr. Frances M. Lewis, PhD, RN, FAAN, whose work focuses on helping families with cancer, presenting “Celebrating You: Treating Yourself Like Company” and “Healing the Family with Cancer.” Kathleen Haden, RN, MSN, an ANP at Hematology Oncology Physicians Enterprise in Fishersville, VA, presented “Making Sense of Targeted Therapies” and “What’s New in Cancer Care.”

Aimee Wonderlick Walter, RN, MS, a certified genetic counselor at Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc., presented “Hereditary and Sporadic Familial Cancers.”

Purdue Professor Melanie Braswell, RN, MS, CNS, DNP(c), presented “Evidence Based Oncology Practice.”

Nursing alumna Amy Corey (BS’96), RN, MSN, PCNS, CPON, a Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist at Riley Hospital’s Center of Children’s Cancer and Blood Diseases in Indianapolis, presented “Focus on Pediatric Cancers.”
The Esther McConnaughay Scholarships for Nursing Education helps students pursuing a Purdue masters or doctoral cognate in oncology nursing.

Funds are also designated for conference development for outreach education.

The 2006 Midwest Oncology Nursing Symposium, titled “Enhancing Knowledge, Improving Care,” was held Oct. 19-20 in Lafayette. The 138 participants from five states had an opportunity for networking, and earned 14.4 contact hours for the two-day program.

The Esther McConnaughay Trust gift provides increased opportunities for nurses to gain evidence-based oncology knowledge, increases the opportunity for nurses to pursue graduate-level oncology nursing education, and provides support for a yearly Oncology Nursing Symposium.

“The Esther McConnaughay Oncology Nursing Symposium adds value to our mission of advancing oncology education by providing the opportunity for local nurses and healthcare professionals to attend an educational seminar of national caliber,” says Julie Novak, head of the School of Nursing and co-PI with Jackie Nielsen.

“Through the conference, Purdue’s School of Nursing will also have the opportunity to leverage its many relationships to build a new base of support and expand collaborations in the community and state,” she said.

Next year’s conference will be held Oct. 22-23, 2007 at the Purdue Memorial Union.

McConnaughay Trust Supports Graduate Study

The Esther McConnaughay Scholarships for Nursing Education helps students pursuing a Purdue masters or doctoral cognate in oncology nursing.

Funds are also designated for conference development for outreach education.

Curriculum development and designation of clinical sites will promote in-state oncology nurse retention and advanced practice, according to trustee Dr. George Ramsey.
KySS Walk Promotes Mental Health

The School of Nursing’s emphasis on mental health promotion continued this fall with the third annual KySS Walk/Fun Run and Community Education Fair

The third annual KySS (Keep your Children/Yourself Safe and Secure) Walk/Fun Run, a collaboration with the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) and Indiana NAPNAP, attracted 275 participants in its third year on the Purdue campus.

The purpose of the event is to raise visibility and public awareness of children and teens with mental health concerns, and to raise funds to support NAPNAP’s national KySS Campaign.

Senior Leadership students organized the event with faculty members Julie Novak, Jane Kirkpatrick, Mel Braswell, Polly Royal, and Kathy Rapala, including the site arrangements, registration, publicity, donations, entertainment, safety, and amenities.

Students from the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, led by Graduate Student Association president Chris Novak, collaborated with food and drink at the “KySS Cafe.”

During the event students also organized a community education fair focusing on family functioning, abuse and neglect, violence/bullying, eating disorders, substance abuse, and depression/suicide.

Mental health content has been integrated across the curriculum, and a mental health promotion conference, lecture series, scholarship, and research project are supported by a gift from local philanthropist Linda Rohrman.
Despite unseasonably cold weather, over 275 people participated in the third annual KySS Walk/Fun Run on the Purdue campus.

A Community Education Fair focused on mental health issues including violence prevention, family functioning, abuse and neglect, violence/bullying, eating disorders, substance abuse, and depression/suicide.

At the December 2006 Recognition Ceremony, nursing graduate student Leann Carpenter (center) received the Linda Rohrman Scholarship for Graduate Study as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with Specialization in Mental Health Promotion. An additional gift from Rohrman will support a mental health lecture series and regional conference.

Local political friends joined students and faculty at the walk, including Sen. Joe Micon, with Professor Polly Royal.

Rep. Sheila Klinker receives her KySS Walk t-shirt from Professor RuthAnn Smolen.
Mental Health Screenings Provide Opportunity for Engagement

The partnership to promote and improve community mental health gained strength this year with screenings organized by Professors Cynthia Bozich-Keith and Jane Kinyon and implemented in collaboration with Senior Leadership students. Twice a year, the professors and their students work together to conduct a Mental Health Screening Day at the Mental Health Association in Lafayette. The fall event was scheduled for the day before the KySS Walk. Costs were covered by a Student Grant Program For Community Services/ Service Learning Projects from the Office of the Vice Provost for Engagement.

The Mental Health Association in Tippecanoe County has purchased a program guide from the Mental Health Screening Organization designed to screen for alcoholism, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, and anxiety disorders such as generalized anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The day of the event, students greeted people who attended, helped them with resources, showed videos on depression and alcoholism, and coordinated with psychiatric professionals who interpreted the findings. The Mental Health Association of Tippecanoe County is a recipient of funds raised during the KySS Walk.

The weeks spent preparing for the Mental Health Screening went very quickly. There was a lot to be completed, but the enthusiasm of the Depression/Suicide Initiative group and the collaboration with our faculty advisors and the Mental Health Association allowed for the tasks to be completed in a timely manner.

Everyone worked well together and this enabled us to not only reach our goal of a successful screening, but also enjoy our time together as well.

On the day of the screening I did not know what to expect. So much time, devotion, and energy had been put in to prepare for this day. Everyone worked well together and this enabled us to not only reach our goal of a successful screening, but also enjoy our time together as well.

Participants in the mental health screening include (front row) Professor Jane Kinyon, nursing students Beth Harrod and Erin Hilyard. (Back row) Tippecanoe Mental Health Association Outreach Coordinator Kurt Harker, Professor Cynthia Bozich Keith, and nursing students Theodore Van Cott and Katie Monts.

Nursing students reflect on their participation in mental health screening

Theodore Van Cott

When mentally sound people become physically ill, they are able to know this and communicate their needs to healthcare providers.

But what can people do when they become mentally ill? The command center in charge of initiating calls for help may be non-functional.

So they may spiral down into mental (and often physical) disrepair and neglect. It’s a particularly vicious and insidious form of disrepair, because they often do not fully realize their state and will resist those who want to help.

In spite of this, I doubt that the entire composition of a person can be overcome by mental illness...there’s always some nook or cranny in the person’s soul which maintains integrity and which is in misery during mental illness.

It then requires a wise caregiver—someone who is loving, kind, mature, and persistent—who can recognize this person’s true self and intervene on their behalf, even in the face of rejection of that help and of the one offering the help. It takes someone willing to serve the person they know once existed and will hopefully reappear in the future.

That, to me, is the essence of psychiatric nursing, and I trust that this screening was just a small step in providing services to these individuals.

Beth Harrod

The weeks spent preparing for the Mental Health Screening went very quickly.

There was a lot to be completed, but the enthusiasm of the Depression/Suicide Initiative group and the collaboration with our faculty advisors and the Mental Health Association allowed for the tasks to be completed in a timely manner.

Everyone worked well together and this enabled us to not only reach our goal of a successful screening, but also enjoy our time together as well.

On the day of the screening I did not know what to expect. So much time, devotion, and energy had been put in to prepare for this day.

When the first individual arrived, I had a chill of excitement because we were implementing everything we had envisioned.

I feel we touched the lives of everyone who stopped by in some way.
The death of four-year-old Aiyana Gauvin resulting from child abuse in March 2005 stunned the Greater Lafayette community. It also brought to light the startling number (400) of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in Tippecanoe County, with numbers well above the state average.

In November 2005, the community held its first Child Abuse Summit. Attendees recognized that our area has numerous organizations and programs designed to support families, but that they lacked connection, coordination, and collaboration.

The situation and the summits challenged Dr. Julie Novak and the School of Nursing to several action steps, including the creation of the Trinity Nursing Center for Infant Health and the adoption of the BabyTalk and Touchpoints programs.

The Trinity Nursing Center for Infant Health is a collaboration between Purdue and Trinity United Methodist Church. The center’s primary goal is to support the parent-child relationship, positive parenting, and ultimately decrease child abuse cases.

Baby Talk (Teaching Activities for Learning and Knowledge) is an umbrella system for family services. The Baby Talk model was developed by Claudia Quigg in Decatur, IL and is used by communities in 32 states.

Baby Talk practitioners provide information, encouragement, children’s books and activities in collaboration with hospitals, schools, health clinics, childcare facilities, libraries, and other family agencies.

The first Baby Talk Professional Development Training was held in Lafayette on October 13-14, 2006. Five faculty members from Purdue University SON attended that training.

Baby Talk is affiliated with the Brazelton Touchpoints Center founded by Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, noted pediatrician and child development expert. This training model for professionals emphasizes anticipatory guidance and the development of relationships between parents and providers.

Touchpoints are defined as predictable periods of disorganization in the child’s development that can disrupt family relations. The model focuses on the development of the child in the context of the family and provides strategies for interacting with families at these touchpoints.

Purdue School of Nursing sponsored the creation of a local community training team to bring the Touchpoints model to our area. Julie Novak, Clara Richardson, and Jennifer Sundell attended a five-day intensive training with the Brazelton team in Boston in June 2006. The team has already trained 10 Purdue Nursing faculty. Other Purdue faculty and community members will complete the training in Summer 2007.

In November 2006, the second annual Child Abuse Summit was held in Lafayette. Again, community leaders addressed the growing and alarming problem of child abuse. The children’s breakout group and community agencies (including the Trinity Nursing Center for Infant Health) continue to meet regularly, working to create a more seamless system for children’s services.

What does this mean to the community?
First of all, Purdue nursing students will be exposed to these two outstanding models, and nurse practitioner students will be trained as Touchpoints providers and researchers.

The families who are followed in the School of Nursing clinics will experience true family-centered care.

Ultimately, we will attain our vision of decreasing the number of child abuse and neglect cases in Tippecanoe County. It began with a four-year old whose life meant a great deal to all of us.
Team Reach Out
Honors Gulf Coast Commitment

Eight senior nursing students, accompanied by two public health clinical faculty, returned to the Gulf Coast in Fall 2006, the fourth visit in the continuing three-year Team Reach Out commitment.

The project began in 2005 when Purdue nursing students wanted a way to respond to the damage of Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Julie Novak and senior student Lisa Storozuk (BS’06) initiated the three-year project with collaborators at Alcorn State University School of Nursing in Natchez, MS. in March 2006.

As a service learning component of the Senior Leadership Class, the students developed a partnership with Coastal Family Health Clinics. They assisted regular staff in providing healthcare in ambulatory outpatient services in areas of pediatrics, internal medicine, family health, women’s health, and HIV/AIDS care.

During the first trip to the Gulf Region, the students worked to help rebuild the home of Ray Lynn, who had lost his wife and home to the rising waters. On each subsequent trip, nursing students visited with him, so he knows that he has not been forgotten.

Purdue nursing students also distributed items to a homeless shelter that had been collected by a local West Lafayette high school swim team. One of the nursing students had coordinated the donation of supplies that could be used by those who could not afford basic necessities.

“It was interesting to the students to note that those who needed a donated item did not ‘stock up,’” said Professor Lynn Davis. “If they needed one pair of socks, that was all they took, so that someone else could have a pair. It was not what the students expected.”

“The health clinic staff members who survived the storm are at various stages of recovery, as are the clients they serve,” said Professor Lynn Davis, who along with Professor Elizabeth Richards accompanied the students on the School’s fourth trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

“One of the most important aspects of this trip was to expose the students to people who have experienced disaster first hand,” Richards said. “They were able to witness the rebuilding efforts and engage in stories of life after Katrina, something you can truly appreciate after witnessing the devastation that still exists.”

Davis noted that each time the Purdue students arrive, the local clinic staff recognizes that we have not forgotten the Gulf region or Katrina. “They remark that we are the only school that has consistently returned. One student noted that this may be the most important reason to come,” she said.

Richards and Dr. Novak will make the fifth trip with six senior leadership students in March 2007. Doctor of Nursing Practice students will join the project during Maymester to begin their evidence-based practice projects.

“This project, funded by service learning grants written by students, integrates social justice and global citizenry into the nursing curriculum,” said Dr. Julie Novak, Team Reach Out faculty coordinator.
The School of Nursing is fortunate to have extraordinary alumni, friends, and corporate partners who generously support the school’s mission and goals. This financial support enables us to create opportunities for students and manage the challenges of the tremendous growth we have experienced in the past few years. We recognize and deeply appreciate each gift. Thank you!

This list includes gifts to the School of Nursing from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2006. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information listed here is accurate. Please let us know of any changes or additions.

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Continued on next page
Son Endows Scholarship In Memory of Mother

Tom Vertacnik has endowed a nursing scholarship in memory of his mother, Emma Mary Kos-Vertacnik, who passed away June 24, 2003 at the age of 77.

Mrs. Vertacnik graduated from St. Vincent Hospital School of Nursing in 1946 and worked as a nurse for 35 years at Indiana Bell Telephone Company.

She had saved many historic nursing items and her son shared a few of these things with the Purdue School of Nursing for the Center for Nursing History, Ethics and Human Rights.

Emma and Frank Vertacnik lived on a farm in Avon and had two sons, David and Tom.
DEVELOPMENT

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Robert Le Goy

Continued on next page

* Family Health Clinic of Carroll County
† Family Health Clinic of Monon
‡ Trinity Nursing Center for Infant and Child Health
Stoutenborough Joins Development

Travis R. Stoutenborough has joined the School of Nursing as Director of Development. A 2006 Purdue graduate with a major in Health Education and Physical Education, Stoutenborough is committed to promoting a healthy society.

Stoutenborough developed a passion for fundraising through his work with a student organization, Purdue University Dance Marathon, which raises money for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

During his college career he was honored as the Association of Fundraising Professionals 2006 Outstanding Young Adult, as well as receiving the Department of Health and Kinesiology’s Outstanding Service Award in 2006.
CCNE Grants Accreditation to Purdue Nursing Programs

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) has granted accreditation to the Purdue Nursing baccalaureate degree program for a term of ten years, extending to 2016.

The board also granted accreditation to the master’s degree program for the maximum first term of five years, until 2011.

The CCNE board noted that the programs met all accreditation standards and there were no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is an autonomous accrediting agency contributing to the improvement of the public’s health. CCNE ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate education programs preparing effective nurses and accredits over 80% of nursing baccalaureate and graduate programs.

As a voluntary, self-regulatory process, CCNE accreditation supports and encourages continuing self-assessment by nursing education programs and the continuing growth and improvement of collegiate professional education. CCNE will begin accreditation of DNP programs in 2008.

Capstone Course Enhances Senior Curriculum

Purdue Nursing seniors can now participate in a Senior Capstone Course, a 100-hour clinical practicum focused on synthesizing and refining nursing skills.

“The Capstone allows the senior student to reach competency in patient care management in a setting of their choice,” says Capstone Coordinator Elizabeth A. Lana RN, BSN, MSN(c).

“It gives students some experience, and allows facilities to integrate them into positions in a seamless way as they transition between academia and the bedside reality.”

Preceptors like the Capstone because it is a good way for a unit to “trial” a student to see if they would be a good prospective employee.

“This is also an opportunity for the student to shine and get a great job recommendation,” says preceptor Susan Brumbarger, “and decide if that truly is the type of nursing that they want to do when they graduate. It has also been fun for me as a Purdue graduate to teach a new Purdue nurse. We have laughed about how much things have changed since I have been there.”

Students like the Capstone as well. “Unlike the regular clinical courses when you have one or two patients, during Capstone you are paired with a nurse with a full assignment,” says senior Katy Walton.

“This experience has helped me with my time management and organizational skills. It has also helped me to become more efficient and comfortable with completing assessments. It takes all of the skills I have learned throughout nursing school and applies them in a real work setting.”
Svensson Named New Dean

Craig Svensson has been named dean of the Purdue University College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences. Formerly, he served as a University of Iowa faculty member and administrator and has won awards as an educator and scientist.

His research, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, has focused on understanding the mechanism of adverse drug reactions, with an emphasis on reactions in the skin. He has examined the role of altered metabolism, particularly in AIDS patients, as a factor for these reactions.

Dr. Svensson says he is honored to have the opportunity to serve the College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences.

“The School of Nursing is well recognized for its innovative programs—for example, when it recently became one of only 10 schools to initiate a doctor of nursing practice degree, and when it established a landmark partnership with the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering. I am excited about the opportunity to work with faculty and staff to bring the programs of the college to the next level of preeminence.”

Jischke Leaving Presidency

After taking Purdue University to the “next level,” Dr. Martin C. Jischke will step down as the university’s president on June 30, 2007.

Dr. Jischke developed a dynamic strategic plan to take the university to “the next level.” The plan’s goals included adding 300 new faculty positions, upgrading the campus infrastructure with more than $700 million in new construction and facilities improvements, increasing sponsored research, increasing student financial aid and expanding diversity at all levels. Funding for the strategic plan came from a variety of sources, including the highly successful $1.5 billion Campaign for Purdue.

First Lady Patty Jischke serves on the Advisory Board of the PSON Trinity Nursing Center for Infant and Child Health.
APPOINTMENTS/ PROMOTIONS

Dr. Karlene Kerfoot, PhD, RN, CNAAN, FAAN, has joined the School of Nursing faculty as a Visiting Professor.

Kerfoot has an accomplished background in health leadership. She has held a variety of positions in nursing, patient care and hospital administration including Chief Nurse and Patient Care Officer at the corporate/system level consultant.

Some of her accomplishments include innovative work implementing the American Association of Critical Care Synergy Model in practice, developing the Safe Passage model for patient safety, healing sanctuaries for staff, strategic planning for patient care, shared governance, innovative quality programs and achieving Magnet designation as a system.

She has published over 250 articles in the areas of leadership, patient safety, and work force issues and speaks nationally and internationally on these topics.

Clara Richardson, MSN, RN, BC, was appointed Director of the Center for Nursing History, Ethics, Human Rights, and Innovations. She will continue in her role as a professor Pediatric Nursing.

Dr. Mary Ilu Altman, PhD, has been appointed to the tenure track. She will continue in her role as Director of Student Services and Diversity Enhancement, as well as teach Culture and Health on the graduate level, and Spanish for Health Professionals at the undergraduate level.

Cindy Modlin-Adams, MSN, RN, ANP-BC (AAS’80, BS’85) Visiting Associate Professor, coordinates the Nursing Center for Family Health and teaches in the Role Transition course. She will also work with the Advanced Health Assessment and ANP teaching team and pursue the DNP.

Elizabeth Richards, MSN(c), RN, was promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor. She will continue in her work with Public Health Nursing and as one of the faculty advisors for Team Reach Out on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Jacqueline Nielsen, PhD(c), RN, MSN, AOCN, CNS, was promoted to Clinical Assistant Professor. She will continue to in her role of teaching Adult Nursing, Introduction to Pathophysiology and as Chair of the Midwest Oncology Symposium.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Azza Ahmed was certified as an Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultant.

Cynthia L. Bozich Keith was recertified by American Nurses Credentialing Center as an Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist through 2011.

Delta Omicron Chapter received an award from Sigma Theta Tau International for Regional Excellence for the chapter’s contribution to Region 9 for initiatives including the Fitness for Research Walk, the KySS walk, the Katrina Live Aid Concert, and the Delta Omicron/ISNA conference, “Nursing Innovations, Initiatives, and Research.”

Nancy Edwards was elected as the School of Nursing representative to the Purdue University Senate for 2007-2009. She was also awarded the Nurse Competence in Aging award by the Academy of Medical Surgical Nursing, along with Carol Baird, for her article “Interpreting Lab Values in the Older Adult” in the Medical Surgical Journal of Nursing.

Patricia Gunning and Jacqueline Nielsen received School of Nursing Faculty Enhancement Awards, January 2007.

Donna Moore and Elizabeth Richards were elected faculty advisors for Student Council.

RuthAnn Smolen is listed in Manchester Who’s Who Executives and Professionals.

GRANTS


Kinyon, J. and Bozich Keith, C. (2006) Mental Health Association Mental Health Screening. Purdue University Student Grant for Community Service/Service Learning Projects. $1,000.


Sundell, J. and Lana, E., (2006) Smoking Cessation Project for Parents at Trinity Clinic, Tobacco Free Partnership of Tippecanoe County, $5,000.


Eva Machaty, the friendly voice you hear when you call the School of Nursing reception line, is also an artist who has painted murals in Johnson Hall and Trinity Nursing Center for Infant and Child Health (pictured here).

Machaty, a junior high math and music teacher in her native Hungary, came to the United States with her husband (a professor in Animal Sciences) and two daughters in 1993.

She taught herself to speak English and to paint when her children were small. She has sold her glass painting in gift shops, and has also created murals for residential and corporate clients.

PUBLICATIONS


REVIEWS


ENGAGEMENT


Mary Ilu Altman was a panelist and Breakout Session Leader at the Purdue Women in Leadership Conference, Hillenbrand Hall, March 24, 2007.

Cynthia L. Bozich Keith and Jane Kinyon, along with Nursing Senior Leadership students, conducted a Mental Health Screening/Information Day at the Mental Health Association of Tippecanoe County, Oct. 21, 2006.

Cynthia L. Bozich-Keith hosted the 11th annual Christmas Party at Logansport State Hospital Admission Unit in collaboration with Zeta Rho Chapter of Tri Kappa and community volunteers, December 2006. She is also a Quality Assurance Reviewer and member of the Utilization Review Committee for Family Services, Inc.

Jane Kinyon is on the Nominating Committee for the National Alliance on Mental Illness and a member of the Mental Health Players; a volunteer reviewer of chart documentation for Family Services, Inc.; a trainer for law enforcement officers in Crisis Intervention Training; a consultant to the Mental Health Association; the faculty advisor to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Purdue chapter.

Julie Novak serves as chair of the Tobacco Free Partnership of Tippecanoe County, on the Board of Trustees of the Mental Health Association of Tippecanoe County, the Community Advisory Board of the IU School of Medicine-Lafayette, the St. Francis Hospital Design Team, the Indianapolis Patient Safety Coalition, the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering Executive Team, and a faculty advisor for Senior Leadership Service Projects including Team Reach Out in Biloxi and the Trinity Nursing Center for Infant and Child Health. She was also appointed to the ISDH Access to Care Roundtable by Commissioner Monroe.

Elizabeth Richards is a member of the Public Policy Committee of the Indiana Public Health Association, the Tippecanoe County Representative to the Indiana Action for Healthy Kids, and has been invited to serve on the NCSBN NCLEX examination item development panel. She is also a board member for the Indiana League for Nursing, leading the Bylaws and Strategic Planning Committee and a faculty advisor for Team Reach Out Biloxi.

Robert S. Schweitzer is a member of the Faith Community Nursing (FCN) Credentialing Committee, sponsored by the American Nurses Credentialing Center and Health Ministries Association. She has also been appointed Educational Coordinator for the Greater Lafayette Parish Nurse Development Center, Lafayette, IN.

Kay Webster is a member of the Lafayette Area Head Start Health Advisory Committee, the Summit for Child Abuse Health Subcommittee, and the Coalition for Living Well after 50.

Karen Yehle serves as invited sentinel reader for Evidenced-Based Nursing and manuscript reviewer for the Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences. Her University Service includes Chair, Academic Progress and Records Committee; Health Sciences Search and Screen Committee Member; College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences Grade Appeal Committee; and served as a member of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences Dean Search Committee. She serves as chair of the School of Nursing Curriculum Committee and on the Nomination Committee, Sigma Theta Tau International, Delta Omicron Chapter.

PRESENTATIONS


Chang, K., Davis, R., Birt, J., Woodbridge, P., & Marrero, D., “The Efficacy of Nurse Practitioners in Managing Veterans with Diabetes at Home,” Regenstrief Institute board meeting at Indianapolis University Purdue University at Indianapolis, IN, April 17, 2006.


Chang, K., Davis, R., Birt, J., Woodbridge, P., & Marrero, D., “The Efficacy of Nurse Practitioners in Managing Veterans with Diabetes at Home with Telephone or Tele-
health Interventions,” the Sixteenth National Nursing Research Conference at Dallas, TX, Sept. 15, 2006.

Kerfoot, K., and Rapala, K., “From Bedside to Boardroom—Best Practice; the Clar- ian Safe Passage Program,” AIG/National Patient Safety Foundation Lecture, July 2006, Charlotte, NC.

Kerfoot, K., and Rapala, K., “From Bedside to Boardroom—Best Practice; the Clar- ian Safe Passage Program,” AIG/National Patient Safety Foundation Lecture, August 2006, Honolulu, HI.

Kinyon, J. Mental health screening at the Minority Health Fair, Purdue University, Nov. 8, 2006.


Novak, J. “Reengineering Healthcare through the Doctor of Nursing Practice,” Drexel University DNP Conference, March 2007, Annapolis, MD.


Rapala, K. “The Safe Passage Program—Operationalizing Patient Safety at the Bedside,” VHA Central, September 2006, Indianapolis, IN.


Sands, L., Xu H, Weiner, M, Rosenmann, M, Craig, B, Thomas, J. Home and community based services as alternatives to nursing-home care for Medicaid recipients with dementia. Accepted for presentation at the 59th annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Dallas, Texas. The Gerontologist, 46(1), 2006.


Schafer, K. Female Athlete Triad Coalition, October 2006, Indianapolis, IN.


Schafer, K. Poster presentation: Female Athlete Triad, an EBP approach, Oncology Conference, Lafayette, IN, October 2006.


Smolen, RA. “Simulation Technology Pre- sentation,” Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering, Purdue University, 2006.

Smolen, RA. “Center for Nursing Education and Simulation Learning Demonstration,” FULD Grant Visit Presentation, Purdue University, 2006.


One of the best sales tools a healthcare organization has is a satisfied nursing staff. Six Purdue nursing graduates returned to campus this fall for the annual School of Nursing Career Fair to recruit Purdue nurses into their programs.

Adriane A. Zavesky (BS’06) (above left) works in Orthopedics at St. Vincent’s Hospital, and has recently become engaged to be married in May 2007.

“My Purdue education gave me excellent assessment skills,” she says.

“I feel very confident going into each of my patient’s rooms and knowing I will be taking the best care of them.” <azavesky@gmail.com>

Danielle Sexton (BS’05) (above right) has been an RN at St. Vincent’s Hospital, 5 South Medical/Surgical, for the year since she graduated.

“I am so proud to be a Purdue nursing school graduate. It was extremely hard work due to the tough curriculum, but I feel that I was very prepared to enter the nursing field with a solid knowledge base and set of clinical skills,” she says. <dlsexton@gmail.com>

Tamara J. Skwarcan (ASN’81) (center) also earned a BS in Management at Purdue (’82) and a BSN (’87) from Indiana University – IUPUI. She has been a nurse recruiter at St. Vincent Indianapolis and Carmel hospitals for six years. She is past president of the Indiana Association of Health Care Recruiters.

“I am proud to tell others that I am a Purdue nursing graduate,” she says. “The high-quality education and professionalism taught and modeled by Purdue’s nursing faculty is, and always has been, outstanding.

“I have been recruiting nurses within the greater Indianapolis area for the past 14 years and have networked with many other nurse recruiters. It’s common knowledge that Purdue nursing graduates seem to stand out from other graduates during the interview process; they are more confident in themselves, better prepared and goal-oriented.” <tskwarca@stvincent.org>

Sara Bard (BS’05) has been working at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit since her graduation.

“My Purdue education has meant a lot to me as I’ve graduated and been out in the real world to see what a wonderful reputation Purdue nursing has at my hospital. My plans for the future include continuing my education in the DNP program at Purdue.” <sarabard@hotmail.com>

Leslie Anne Boehrer (BS’01), has been a public health nurse with the Marion County Health Department for 18 months. “I am so proud to have received my education from Purdue,” she says. “The tools that I was given at Purdue have helped me to become the nurse I am today. I am also thankful for the professors who were there for me both during school and even after I graduated who provided me with guidance and support.” <lboehrer@msn.com>
Purdue Nursing graduates from every decade returned to campus for “Nurses Day at Ross Ade,” a special event to honor nurses. The School welcomed alumni with breakfast before the Purdue vs. Penn State football game. Sports fans watching the Jumbotron saw the first screening of a special feature on the school, now available for viewing on the School of Nursing website (www.nursing.purdue.edu).

Colleen L. Schultz (AD’71) went on to earn her BSN from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1974. She is currently Office Operations Associate for the State of Wisconsin and Communications Specialist for the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She served as Bureau Chief for the Monroe Times and as a news correspondent for the Milwaukee-Journal-Sentinel for several years.

She has won numerous Wisconsin Newspaper Association awards for journalism excellence. She and her husband, Don, have two children, Mary, who lives in Whitewater, WI, and Katie, a senior at Creighton University, in Omaha, NE.

“Purdue’s nursing program has opened doors for me professionally, and although I changed careers to communications, Purdue’s high standard of academic excellence has been helpful in advancing my career,” she says. The Schultzes joined School of Nursing and Pharmacy alumni for an Alaskan cruise in 2005. <oakvale@mhtc.net>

Kathy M. Wortman (AASNT’73) retired from OR nursing after “too many years to count,” she says. While practicing, she held CNOR and ONC certifications. In addition to Kathy and her son, her husband, two brothers and one sister are also Purdue grads.

“I have always felt that Purdue did a great job preparing me for the real world of nursing,” she says. “After having visited the lab and seeing all your SIM people it is apparent that you are keeping up with all the new technology to get the modern day nursing student well prepared.” <Kwortmanrn@aol.com>

Rachel Renee (Powell) Holcomb (BS’04) is a Registered Nurse at Indiana University Med Center, Indianapolis. She is also studying at the University of Indianapolis Graduate School of Nursing in the Family Nurse Practitioner track.

While at Purdue, she was on the School of Nursing Student Council from 2002-2004 (President: 2003-2004) and the Purdue Student Nurses’ Association from 2000-2004 (Publicity Officer: 2002-2003). She married Ryan Holcomb, (BCM ’03) on May 14, 2005 and they live in Greenwood, IN.

“I cherish my times at Purdue and the education that I received from the School of Nursing,” she says. “The education and training, both clinical and leadership, has allowed me to easily transition into the professional role of a RN.” <rholcomb@clarian.org>

Send Us Your News!

There’s a reply form on page 43, or you can e-mail us from the website at www.nursing.purdue.edu or at lholland@purdue.edu.

In addition to our regular Alumni News section, the next issue of Purdue Nurse will feature alumni who have chosen to practice nursing in school health settings.

Please contact the editor to share your story.
Emily Hohenberger (BS’02) began her nursing career at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota. She worked for over two years on a cardiac interventional unit. Since then, she has worked in the Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit. Most recently she began orientation to pediatric and congenital heart surgery patients. She received her CCRN last spring and is pursuing graduate study at the University of Minnesota. In addition, she is planning a wedding for May 19, 2007. <emilyhohenberger@hotmail.com>

Claire Hohenberger Anderson (BSN’00) went on to earn her MSN from Northern Illinois University in 2006. She currently works for Fox Valley Cardiovascular Consultants in Aurora, IL, treating both cardiology and vascular patients. Prior to working for FVCC, she worked for Rush Copley Medical Center in Aurora in the Intensive Care Unit.

She obtained her CCRN (certification in critical care) and CAPS (Clinical Advancement in Practice Synergy) and was awarded Nurse of the Month as well. She has been married to Brad Anderson for four years and they are currently in the planning stages of building a home in Leland, IL, which will bring them both back to where they grew up. “We will be building a replica 1880’s farmhouse to stand where my Grandpa’s house stood,” she says.

“Many times, patients ask where I went to school and I say, Purdue with pride. I am so proud to be a Purdue alumnus. The best thing about the Purdue School of Nursing is the family attitude. I remember while touring Purdue my senior year in high school, we were sneaking around the nursing building on a football Saturday. I was trying to show my Mom the cool nursing lab, with our noses against the glass, and Ruth Wukasch found us! I was immediately embraced into the Purdue family. I never once forgot that personal touch that so many professors displayed from the home-cooked meals to talking about the girls basketball team! My Purdue nursing education was more than #2 pencils and starched white uniforms. It was a pathway to enjoy and achieve lifelong dreams. I am very grateful.” <bcanderson02@hotmail.com>

Barbara Mayse MacDougall (AD’72), (BS’74) worked as a surgical nurse for seven years after graduation, then left practice to raise her children. She has volunteered as a nurse at a homeless shelter clinic (12 years) and in a high school health center (6 years). She has been married for 26 years to her husband, John (a retired surgeon). Her daughter Katie (24) is a preschool music teacher; son Jamie (22) is a senior at Purdue and member of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club.

“I loved my time at Purdue and have loved living close enough to return over the years,” she says. “The education I received at Purdue was outstanding, and has always been a foundation of professional confidence. The School of Nursing has never been in better shape, with exceptional leadership, talented faculty, and terrific students. I am -- and have always been -- proud to be a Purdue nurse.”

She also serves on the School of Nursing Advisory Board. She and her husband, John, also established a $250,000 charitable remainder unitrust naming the School of Nursing as one of the beneficiaries.<DRAKEMAC@aol.com>
Monica Gayle (Zahn) Niccum (BS’88) (left) works for Avera Health-Spirit Lake Medical Center, in Spirit Lake, Iowa, in the Procedures Clinic. She is married to Mark Niccum (BS’88, School of Technology). For the last four years they have lived in Spirit Lake, Iowa with their daughters.

“I am very proud of my Purdue nursing degree,” she says. “The respect that it receives amazes me especially in all the different areas of the country I have lived.

“I am also extremely proud that my daughter (Amanda, center) has chosen nursing as her career path and would like to pursue that goal at Purdue. She would be a fourth generation Boilermaker, as her great grandfather, grandfather, and parents are Purdue graduates!” <m.niccum@mchsi.com>

Richard Lee Henson (BS’81) has been a leader at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, GA for 19 years. He spent 17 years in the emergency room and the last two years in Outpatient Infusion as a staff nurse with relief charge duties. He is BCLS, ACLS, and ONS Chemotherapy Provider. “I use my nursing knowledge obtained at Purdue on a daily basis and believe my education has prepared me very well,” he says. <gapurdue@comcast.net>

Joan Rattay Bratton went on to earn a BS in Psychology (’72), a MS in Community Mental Health (’78), and an EdD (’87) in Leadership and Educational Policy Studies from Northern Illinois University. She has been an Instructional Designer for OfficeMax, Inc. since July 2006. Previously, she was at Ace Hardware Corp. and Advocate Healthcare, and has spoken several times internationally on alcohol and addictions intervention in the business world. She is married with two sons, two grandsons, and a granddaughter.

“My Purdue nursing education was a perfect foundation for the future careers in marriage and family therapy, consulting on performance improvement and organizational development and designing effective learning resources for corporations,” she says. <joan@bratton.com>

Lola Jean Mitchell Kozak (AD’67) went on to earn a BS in Sociology from Michigan State University (1973), an MS (1976) and PhD in Sociology (1991) from the University of Chicago. She has been a health statistician for the last 27 years for the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In 1994, she was honored with the Elijah White Memorial Award “For Outstanding Achievement and Dedication in Research and Analysis of Data from the National Center for Health Statistics.” She has published more than 50 government reports and journal articles, including an article on gastric bypass surgery in the December 2005 issue of Obesity Research and an upcoming article on trends in cardiac surgery in the January/February 2007 issue Health Affairs. After being a widow for 32 years, she remarried in 2003. She had been living in Maryland since 1979 but is planning to retire to her family’s southern Indiana farm in 2008.

“I was able to support my disabled husband and eventually get my BS by working as a psychiatric nurse,” she says. “My nursing background was very valuable in my graduate studies on medical sociology and my work with national health statistics. I’ve always been grateful to the Purdue nursing program for the firm foundation I received there.” <Ljkozak@aol.com>
Patricia (Holland) Kearby (AD’75), (BS’81, FNP, Purdue Calumet) has been employed for the past 17 years as a staff nurse in the Emergency Department of Porter Hospital in Valparaiso, IN. She is chairman of the Performance Improvement Council for Shared Governance as the hospital journeys to Magnet Status. She is also responsible for nursing quality improvement in the emergency department.

“I cannot say enough good things about Purdue’s Nursing program,” she says. I really feel I learned all of the foundations needed when I started as a new grad and the BS program expanded so wonderfully on that foundation. I can say without hesitation and with much pride that the Purdue students are the best prepared and the most eager to learn. There is such a difference in the preparation level between schools. Whenever I am asked about nursing schools I confidently and without hesitation will say Purdue!” <pkearby@aol.com>

Kelly Lynn (Howells) May (BS’90), has worked at Duke University, Loyola University (Chicago), Sherman Hospital (Elgin, IL), Morristown (NJ) and CORVAS Cardiac Rehabilitation Clinic (NJ), all in a critical care/cardiac setting.

Currently she is not working in nursing, but instead is pursuing her hobbies of baking, quilting and triathloning. She has lived in San Luis Potosi, Mexico for four years (seven years total in Mexico) and her two children, Alejandra (7) and Thalia (6) were also born there.

“Although I am not currently being paid for my Purdue Nursing education, I use it everyday as a mom, athlete, and good neighbor,” she says. <sbrkelley@hotmail.com>

Margaret Rosswurm Halley graduated from Purdue Fort Wayne in May 1990 with her AD in nursing, when her fifth child was six years old. She worked at Parkview Hospital from 1989 through 2001. She acquired her certification as a Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator and is currently employed by the Community Health Network, Indianapolis, IN where she works at International Truck and Engine as an occupational health nurse. Two nieces, Melanie Rosswurm and Molly Sliger, are currently in the nursing program here at Purdue.

“My nursing degree has given me the versatility to go from floor nurse to research nurse to occupational health nurse,” Halley says. “These changes have been necessary to accommodate the changes that life brought but all the while I have continued to live out my mission in life to serve my community.” <halleyhm@sbcglobal.net>
Alumni Share Expertise

Each semester, Purdue Nursing alumni return to campus to talk to nursing classes about their areas of specialty

Kimberly Lynn Belec Radant, (AD’78, BS’80) spoke to senior nursing students on Leadership and the Role of the Chief Nursing Officer.

Radant earned her master’s from the University of Arizona in 1985. Since 1997, she has been Associate Medical Center Director, Patient Care Services at Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis.

“Since beginning my career with VA 25 years ago as a staff nurse in Medicine, I have served in progressively more responsible nursing administration positions in VA Medical Centers in Tucson, AZ; Prescott, AZ; Asheville, NC; Biloxi MS, and now back home here in Indiana,” she says.

She was named the 1994 Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Mississippi Nurses Association, served as a Direct Commissioned Officer in the Naval Reserve Nurse Corps, served as Adjunct Associate Professor for the Indiana University School of Nursing in the Department of Environments for Health, and received the 2005 Nurse Executive Excellence in Nursing Award for the VA Area Network, which spans three states.

Widowed eight years ago (after a 17-year marriage), last fall she married Michael Husek, a widower with two children.

At the recent Purdue senior leadership class, Radant spoke of the various roles that nurses play in large healthcare systems, focusing particularly on role progression and the skills required by new graduates as they advance through their careers to senior leaders.

“My nursing knowledge, skills, and passion for the profession are rooted in the time I spent being educated at Purdue,” she says. “I was honored by the opportunity to return and meet these future nursing leaders. From discussions with students and faculty, it is clear that Purdue University has not lost its dedication to educating nurses and instilling in them a desire to serve the public and represent the profession well.” <Kimberly.Radant@va.gov>

Becky (Tunink) Navarro (BS’98) went on after her Purdue graduation to earn her MSN (2004) from IUPUI as a clinical nurse specialist. She is board certified as a SANE-A by the Forensic Nursing Certification Board since 2003 and as a CEN by the Board of Certification of Emergency Nurses since 2007.

She began her career at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis and for four years was a staff nurse in the Emergency Department. In 2002, she became a Forensic Nurse Examiner and coordinator of the Center of Hope.

The Center of Hope is dedicated to caring for victims of sexual assault and family violence. The center was created by Wishard in collaboration with the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office, and works closely with local law enforcement and victim assistance agencies to provide comprehensive care to victims of sexual assault and family violence.

The Center of Hope provides medical care, forensic evidence collection, injury documentation, and crisis intervention services to pediatric, adolescent, and adult victims of sexual assault and family violence immediately following an assault, and provides follow-up medical care and counseling services.

Navarro is also an instructor for the Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course through the Emergency Nursing Association, and the co-coordinator for the Marion County Forensic Nurse Examiner Class.

She has been awarded the Salute to Nurses certificate of recognition from the Indianapolis Star in 2005 and 2006, and in 2004 was named Outstanding Medical Professional of the Year from the Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

“My Purdue education has been invaluable to me,” she says. “It has given me an excellent foundation on which to build my nursing career.

“I truly enjoy coming back to campus each semester to talk to the nursing classes. It gives me the opportunity to share my passion about providing excellent patient care to this very special patient population. The students also challenge me with new questions each time I lecture.” <Rebecca.Navarro@wishard.edu>
1970s

Pamela Miya (AD’73, BS’75) is Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing. She has been appointed by the American Nurses Association’s Board of Directors as Chairperson of the Center for Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board, 2006-2008. She has served as a member of the Board from 2004-2006. <pmiya@cox.net>

Rebecca Moore Turner (BS’76) was an older single mom student and graduated at age 30. She was awarded the psych nursing student silver cup in 1976, and now specializes in reproductive health. She works for Johnson Nichols Health Clinic at two locations, the home office in Greencastle, and also the satellite office in Spencer.

1980s

Jennifer Poyner Bennett (BS’82) is an RN in the OR at Advocate Christ Medical Center, in Oak Lawn, IL.<jenbennett3@aol.com>

Lynn Tomlison Ammon (BS’89) and her husband welcomed a son, Sean Robert, born March 7, 2006.<dopamineq@aol.com>

1990s

Gweneith Pardue Pyle (BS’92) and her husband have retired and moved back to their hometown (108 Vista Court, Stanford, KY 40484. <jandgpyle@bellsouth.net>

Leanne Price Heern (BS’93) married Dana Heern (ME’95) in 2003. She is currently at home full time with two sons, Christopher, 3, and Matthew, 1, and has begun study at Ball State for her MSN as a Family Nurse Practitioner. <leanneprice8270@yahoo.com>

Jenni Jones Kinnaird (BS’93) worked at Lafayette Home Hospital in cardiology, pulmonology, and oncology during her final year at Purdue and for four years after graduation. After moving to Columbus IN, she worked in a pre-op testing unit and took call time in PACU. Until the spring of 2006, she was a Certified Birth Educator, and currently is a school nurse at Columbus East High School. She also has three children. <e.kinnaird@comcast.net>

Lenora Jean Young (BS’94) earned her master’s from the University of Washington in Neuroscience Specialty. She is currently serving at Naval Hospital Bremerton, WA, and will soon transfer to Naval Hospital Okinawa to work as the hospital’s Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nursing Standards Committee Chair. She will be stationed in Okinawa for 26 months then will retire from U.S. Navy and rejoin her family in Washington, where she plans to work with brain and spinal injured children using equine therapy. She is married to Lee Mabry and has a stepson, Benjamin. <jeanandthunder@aol.com>

Jennifer Wimmer Gustafson (BS’95) is currently working part-time in the post-op area of the Indiana Surgery Center on the Community Hospital North Campus. In September 2005 she opened an on-site CPR and First Aid Training service called CPR & More. “My Purdue education was invaluable to starting my own business, mostly from management, research, and community health classes,” she says. “Training keeps me busy only part-time along with my surgery center job, but my family keeps me busy full-time right now. My husband and I have a daughter who is six years old and twin boys who are four years old.” <j.gustafson@insightbb.com>

Cindy Lee Cox Hufford (BS’96) has been at Lafayette’s Home Hospital for 10 years, five of them on the cardiac/oncology/pulmonary floor and five in the recovery room (PACU). <cindyleern@yahoo.com>

Christine Overmyer McMinn (BS’96) is an ER nurse at Howard Regional Health Systems in Kokomo, IN. She has been married to Scott McMinn for 12 years and they have two children, Allison, 8, and Austin, 6.

Sara Elaine Cheaney Shaffer (BS’97) works at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, FL, as a Certified Nurse Midwife. She is married to David Shaffer, and has two young girls, Catherine and Carolyn, ages 2 and 4. <sarachean@hotmail.com>

Anne Miller Bingham (BS’98) welcomed her third child, Bridget Rose, on May 23, 2006. She joins Zach, 4, and Ruthie, 2. Anne is employed part-time at Columbus (IN) Surgery Center working in the OR. <annbingham76@yahoo.com>

Mary Lurie Harlow (BS’01) graduated in September 2006 with an MSN from Rush University in Nurse Anesthesia. She will be working as a CRNA at St. Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, IN.<marsies14@hotmail.com>

Elizabeth (Beth) Keller (BS’01) is working in the liver transplant ICU at the UCLA Medical Center. She is also working on a graduate degree at UCLA with graduation as an Adult Care Nurse Practitioner slated for June 2007. <kellerbeth@hotmail.com>

Elaine Estrada Makarowski (BS’01) graduated in May 2007 with her MSN from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She will be practicing as an adult nurse practitioner. <emestrada@wisc.edu>

Elizabeth Sanders Sabau (BS’01) is a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy stationed in Hawaii. She and her husband, Scott, welcomed a daughter, Audrey Marilynn, on Aug. 1, 2006 at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. <egsabau@gmail.com>
Julie White Albert (BS’02) married Cory Albert on Oct. 21, 2006 and they reside in Indianapolis. She is currently employed at Northwest OB Gyn Associates as the perinatal nurse educator. She will graduate with a master’s degree from IUPUI’s Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner program and with a undergraduate teaching certificate in May 2008. <juliealbert@fastmail.us>

Tricia Meegan Grabinski (BS’02) and her husband, Jim Grabinski (BSEE’01), welcomed their first child, Emma Katherine, on Oct. 26, 2006. <tricia@grabinski.net>

Sarah Jusco Cunningham (BS’03) is an RN at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI. She is married to Christopher Cunningham, a Purdue graduate from 2002 in liberal arts/communications advertising. <sejusco@hotmail.com>

Carrie Hendrix (BS’05) is a registered nurse with the United States Navy stationed in San Diego, CA. <hendrix.carrie@gmail.com>

Kristin Hittle (BS’03) is employed at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. She is also a student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in the Pediatric Critical Care Nurse Practitioner Program. <hittlekm@juno.com>

Katie Peters Jahn (BS’04) and her husband, Luke Jahn (CE/LS’05), welcomed a son, Nolan Michael, on Dec. 18, 2006. <lkjahn@comcast.net>

Amy Fox Lichterman (BS’04) practices in the NICU at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She married Kevin Lichterman (SLA’03) on Nov. 18, 2006. <AmyFox@hotmail.com>

Stacie Najdek (BS’05) is employed at Clarian Health Partners, Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis. She will marry Steve James, 2005 graduate from the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza School of Business, on June 23, 2007. <snajdek@hotmail.com>

Camille Leaman (BS’06) spent two months in Costa Rica after graduation, then accepted a position at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and is planning to start graduate school. <camille.leanam@gmail.com>

Lisa Storozuk (BS’06) is employed at Duke University Hospital on the Cardiothoracic Surgical Step-Down Unit. She cares for a variety of patients ranging from pre-op lung and heart transplant work-ups to post-op transplants. She also takes care of Ventricular Assist Device patients. She has achieved her Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification and is working on her Progressive Critical Care Nurse certification. She plans to begin graduate school soon. <lstorozu@purdue.edu>

As an adult student, Jean Lewis (BS’93) was determined to get the most out of her schooling.

Her junior year, she was president of the Purdue Student Nurse Association and the Adult Student Association. Her senior year she was selected as the first nursing student member of Mortar Board, a national honor society recognizing leadership, scholarship, and service.

However, she says one of her proudest accomplishments at the School of Nursing was spearheading the drive to get rid of the yellow aprons nursing students wore for clinicals until 1993.

“At first the faculty resisted,” she remembers. “They changed their minds when we asked them, ‘You teach us to be professionals, but what does an apron symbolize?’”

The clinical uniform was changed to a white uniform with the black and gold patch that is still in use. The graduating class of May 1993 signed a yellow apron and gave it to then-head Jo Brooks. Brooks and Bones, wearing the apron, made it to the cover of the Purdue Alumnus magazine of October 1993 (below).

Since graduation, Lewis has practiced in a wide variety of clinical settings: emergency, geriatric psychiatry, oncology, long-term acute care, post-surgery, administration, and most recently, dialysis.

“I love the variety and the challenge of moving and learning new things,” she says. “I’ve never been afraid to go to a new position because Purdue School of Nursing prepared me well and gave me the base of knowledge I needed.” <glewis7770@aol.com>
Reconnect With Purdue Through the Nursing Alumni Association

If you’re a Purdue Nursing alum, you’re an important part of the Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization (PNAO)!

PNAO provides a channel of communication between the university, the alumni and the school.

PNAO promotes nursing as a profession, provides the means for public recognition of professional achievement by alumni and students, and provides a forum for continuing education.

And last but not least, PNAO encourages connection and social interaction for its members.

We need your support! When you become a member of Purdue Alumni Association (PAA) you receive discounts on auto, books, lodging, retail, rental cars, restaurants, and more. Get the whole list at http://www.purduealum.org.

You also automatically become a member of the nursing alumni group, and part of your dues go to support PNAO and alumni activities.

The PNAO board is currently working to establish a mentor/peer network. You can volunteer to be a contact/information source for other nurses.

Mentors make themselves available to answer questions about nursing practice in their area -- both geographic area, and area of practice. To join, fill out the form at http://www.nursing.purdue.edu/alumni/mentors.

We also welcome volunteers and new board members--and we’d love to hear what you are doing. Please take a minute to fill out the form below and we’ll put your news in the next issue of Purdue Nurse.

Go Boilers!

Roxanne Martin has expanded her administrative responsibilities in the School of Nursing to include Alumni Relations and Event Planning. She is here to serve you—give her a call (765-494-4003) or email martinrj@purdue.edu and get reconnected with Purdue friends!

WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

We love to reconnect with alumni! Send us a note about yourself-- position, promotion, professional activities, publications, honors, marriage, babies, change of address. We will use your news in the ALUMNI ALMANAC section of the next issue of Purdue Nurse.

We can also use photos! We wish you the very best in your future endeavors. Please continue spreading that Boilermaker pride!

Name __________________________ (Maiden name) __________________________
Year of graduation/Degree __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State _________ Zip ______________
E-mail __________________________

☐ Check here if this is a change of address

Mail to: Lynn Holland, Purdue Nurse, Johnson Hall School of Nursing, 502 N. University St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2069 or email lholland@purdue.edu
Calling All School Nurses

The School of Nursing is proud to have been selected as the institutional home for the National Nursing Coalition for School Health, a collaborative of seven nursing organizations whose members care for more than 200,000 school age children and teens.

In honor of this new partnership, the next issue of Purdue Nurse will feature alumni who have chosen to practice nursing in school health settings. Please contact the editor at lholland@purdue.edu to share your story.

Prior to her recruitment to Purdue, Dr. Julie Novak served as a professor at the University of Virginia and the School Health Coordinator for 23 schools in Albemarle County, VA. Over the past seven years, she has been the ANA representative to the National Nursing Coalition for School Health based at the American Nurses Foundation.

In its new home, the coalition will partner with Purdue Homeland Security and the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering. “As first responders and experts in disaster preparedness and response, school nurses are positioned to design more effective healthcare delivery systems for their communities,” Dr. Novak says.

First Fuld Summer Institute
Scheduled for June 2007

Purdue School of Nursing will host the first Fuld Summer Institute beginning June 15, 2007.

Our 44 Doctor of Nursing Practice students, other Purdue graduate students, and nursing doctoral students from other institutions will come to campus to study and conduct interdisciplinary research in health system design, human factors, simulation modeling, and health product design.

This interprofessional education model and broad geographic representation of graduate students will promote dispersion of new ideas to change the face of healthcare, promote patient safety, and solve complex healthcare problems.

For more information on the institute, contact Graduate Program secretary Jennifer Franklin at jfranklin@purdue.edu or (765) 494-9248.