

THE  
**pulse**  
MAGAZINE

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

ADVANCING THE FUTURE OF CARE  
BREAKING GROUND: OU'S NEW HUMAN HEALTH BUILDING  
ASD STUDENTS PROBLEM SOLVE FOR BETTER HEALTH

**SPECIAL FEATURE**

**The Future of Nursing**

*preparing to meet tomorrow's  
health care needs today*





## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

The future of nursing is an exciting one. As advancing patient care techniques and new medical technologies make our day to day work as health care professionals more fulfilling and innovative than ever thought possible, important changes are occurring simultaneously in our learning environment here at the School of Nursing.

The School of Nursing continues to seek funding as construction begins on the new Human Health Building. Along with allowing for additional classroom space, the building will support the expansion of nursing research facilities, propelling Oakland University forward as a leading research institution in the state.

Maintaining the strength of the health care industry in Michigan is more important than ever. Health care remains Michigan's largest single employer, providing 10 out of every 100 jobs available in Michigan. In the spirit of change, it is safe to say that this number will continue to grow. That is why now, more than ever, gaining practical, real-world nursing experience is crucial to nursing students' success. Change is all around us, defining not only what we teach, but more importantly, how we teach. I am confident that current and future students alike will benefit tremendously from the hands-on clinical experience now available to them within the new Human Health Building operated by the Schools of Nursing and Health Sciences.

As new opportunities for advancement become available in the nursing profession — from the development of the Clinical Nurse Leader role to the growing need for bachelor degree-holding nurses — the School of Nursing will continue graduating qualified, enthusiastic, passionate nursing professionals to take on these challenging opportunities.

Some things never change.

Best wishes for a new semester,

Diane M. Norris  
Interim Dean of the School of Nursing



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# Online RN to BSN program available to all



OU's online RN to BSN program provides RNs the opportunity to earn a BSN through an affordable, convenient program. The program offers all required completion sequence, non-nursing and general

education degree courses for RNs online at in-state tuition rates.

This degree completion course sequence recognizes the RN's prior education and experience. Courses add value to this base and promote continued advancement in the profession. Because RNs are licensed and practicing in their field, the nursing course sequence includes only one non-traditional clinical course.

All required nursing courses are offered online each fall and winter term, while one course is offered each summer term. Non-nursing and general education required courses are offered online throughout the academic year.

Since students can set their own pace, the time to complete the program varies. However, the minimum time needed is two years, excluding summer. There is no mandatory time limit for degree completion.



For more information about admission requirements and transfer credits, review the RN/BSN degree completion sequence booklet available on the OU SON website at [oakland.edu/nursing](http://oakland.edu/nursing) and click on Academic Programs.



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# Consider a gift that gives back

**T**he United States needs nurses. An estimated 125,000 nursing positions are open nationwide. That number is projected to rise to one million in the next decade. OU's School of Nursing is taking steps to address this need, and you can help. In partnership with local health care organizations, we actively recruit faculty and students for our programs. Applications and admissions have risen by 40 percent, but much more can be done to ease the current and future nursing shortage. The development of scholarships and distinctive campus, online and satellite programs will serve as an important catalyst for future growth. This also will provide important incentives in attracting, retaining and graduating students into the ranks of professional nursing.

Please consider a gift to the School of Nursing. For more information about gift opportunities to the School of Nursing, please contact Colette O'Connor at (248) 370-4070 or oconnor@oakland.edu.





*As the skills needed for success in the field of health care evolve, OU's SON provides state-of-the-art training in the latest technology.*

## Advancing the future of care

School of Nursing shapes tomorrow's leaders by providing critical knowledge and skills

*By Amy Lynn Smith*



Nurses have always been leaders in the delivery of care directly to patients. And as the field of health care evolves, their skill sets must evolve as well, to prepare them for the leadership roles nurses are expected to play moving forward.



Barbara R. Medvec

"They're going to need to be the critical thinkers in leading what's happening in health care organizations, because they touch all aspects of the patient's care," says Barbara R. Medvec, RN, MSA, MSN, senior vice president, Oakwood Healthcare, Inc., and chief nursing officer, Oakwood Healthcare System in Dearborn, Mich. "We're going to need highly educated and prepared nurses who

are knowledge workers, so they know where to find the information and they know how to interpret the evidence and create the right intervention for a patient."

The transformations taking place in health care today — such as those related to technology, patient care and patient populations — are actually a continuum of change, says Darlene Schott-Baer, Ph.D., RN, professor and director of undergraduate and MSN programs at OU's School of Nursing (SON). SON has been adjusting its curriculum to prepare nurses as future leaders, and continues to do so.

In addition to Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) programs such as the Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Certified Nurse Anesthesia degree programs, OU was the first university in Michigan to introduce a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program several years ago.

"The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree is going to become the entry level for advanced practice roles down the road," Dr. Schott-Baer says.

Medvec adds that many in the industry feel strongly that DNPs will be central to the future of health care. "The DNP is going to be an essential leadership role in driving not only how patient care is delivered and the quality of patient care, but also how health care itself is delivered," she explains.

In addition to the program for master's-level nurses who want to earn their DNP, OU is developing a curriculum that allows students to transition from a Bachelor of Science in Nursing to a DNP. "We're ahead of the curve on that," Dr. Schott-Baer says.

In winter 2010, OU is also implementing a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) master's-level program. The CNL is a new role developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

Being able to master and adapt to ever-changing technology is an essential skill for nurses now and in the future. But technology can't and shouldn't replace the very human connection nurses have with patients.

"The ability to touch patients and families emotionally has always been the role of a nurse, but it's even more critical in an era when we talk to Facebook more than we talk to our neighbors," Medvec says. "The role of the nurse as a direct care provider is always going to be predominant."

Dr. Schott-Baer says this will continue to be vitally important given that the acuity level of patients is much higher than it used to be. Nurses need the skills to treat patients with chronic and often complicated illnesses, in every setting where they might work.

"It's not just treating patients in the hospital, but it's working with patients to help them manage or even prevent chronic diseases like diabetes," Dr. Schott-Baer says.

As health care organizations and educational institutions look toward the future of nursing, SON encourages every student to think about his or her career, she adds.

"We try to look at the undergraduate curriculum as being a foundation for the graduate programs," Dr. Schott-Baer explains. "And we urge students to think ahead about their desired area of specialty so we can provide them with the skill sets they need." ■

*Amy Lynn Smith is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.*





# Breaking ground for the future

New academic home will transform health care research, training and treatment

*By Susan Thwing-McHale*



**H**uman patient simulation laboratories ... an interactive media center ... distance-learning classrooms ... and a public health clinic for pre-symptom treatments. It's all part of the Oakland University Human Health Building — the future home of the School of Nursing (SON) and the School of Health Sciences (SHS).

Beginning fall 2012, these two schools will relocate to the new 160,000 square-foot Human Health Building where they will operate under one roof for the first time in university history. The collaborative learning environment will provide real-world training and education for tomorrow's leading health care providers, impacting community members in the local area, region, state and beyond. It's one part of the big picture of Oakland University's commitment to addressing and meeting the needs of the future of health care.

"The Oakland University Human Health Building is a part of OU's larger effort to address the looming shortages in the health care industry and widen Oakland's economic impact in the region," says Gary D. Russi, president of Oakland. "This facility will help strengthen OU's reputation as one of the leading public universities in the state and foster efforts to position the region as a premier destination for health education."

By offering the best training, OU will keep talented students in Michigan and attract others to the state. Currently, more than 85 percent of SON and SHS graduates remain in Michigan after graduation, contributing to the state's economy and stemming the flow of talent out of the region. The state of Michigan has shown its support for the endeavor by providing \$40 million toward the \$62 million cost of the Human Health Building, the result of a capital outlay bill passed by the Michigan legislature in 2009 and part of an initiative to address funding for state university campuses.



*Oakland University broke ground on the new Human Health Building in April 2010.*

#### **WHAT MAKES THE NEW HOME TO OU'S SON AND SHS SO DIFFERENT?**

The Human Health Building will not only enhance Oakland's 'hands-on' approach to the teaching and learning of patient care methodology, but it will enable the university to expand research initiatives and educational partnerships with hospitals and other health care organizations throughout the region," explains Diane Norris, interim dean of the School of Nursing. "Our students will benefit from SON's strong partnerships and clinical connections that will allow them to learn under the guidance of professors with real-world experience. Through these partnerships students also will be able to complete their clinical training with one of more than 30 top hospitals, clinics and providers in metro Detroit."

The expanded space will also allow faculty and student researchers at SON and SHS the opportunity to expand their studies. Current priorities include childhood obesity, cancer treatment, and geriatric and palliative care.

#### **THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT**

"Oakland University is definitely making a name for itself in the health care industry," explains Norris. "The construction of the Human Health Building will further cement Oakland University's status as the educational anchor of Oakland County's Medical Main Street Initiative, part of a regional effort to transform southeastern Michigan into a destination for medical training, research and care."

She adds that the new building is the first of a number of projects, including the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, that underscore OU's increasing, prominent role in health care education and training in Michigan and beyond. ■

*Susan Thwing-McHale is an Oakland University staff writer.*

**The new facility will include:****Simulation labs**

Designed to give students experience in realistic medical environments, the labs will allow nurses-in-training to become familiar with the procedures, technologies and equipment they will encounter on the job. Human patient simulators will provide risk-free experience in planned medical scenarios and faculty can evaluate student competencies and give immediate feedback. This method of teaching results in increased patient safety when students move into actual clinical settings.

Four specific simulation labs will be available — neonatal care, obstetrics birthing, pediatric intensive care and general intensive care — preparing students to react, adapt and problem solve before they ever leave the classroom.

**Hands-on training labs**

Hands-on laboratories dedicated to fire safety, robotics, machine safety and industrial hygiene will put students involved in occupational safety as well as injury prevention in controlled but realistic learning environments. Students will study first-hand the potential dangers of fire, equipment malfunctions and industrial contaminants without risk to themselves or others.

**Physical therapy suites**

The Human Health Building's new physical therapy suites will give undergraduate and graduate students hands-on opportunities to help people of all ages regain mobility, independence and peace of mind. Each suite is dedicated to specific types of therapy including therapeutic exercise, neurological rehabilitation and musculoskeletal treatments, allowing students to focus and gain precise, specialized skills.

**Health Center and Clinic**

The Health Center and Clinic will serve as a local community health hub offering convenient and accessible primary care. In its exam rooms, children will get their back-to-school vaccinations while older patients may get their blood pressure checked or learn new approaches to diet and exercise. Managed by nurse practitioners and SON students, the clinic will serve families throughout the area, offering basic care and educational seminars while providing valuable experience for nursing and health sciences students.



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# Stemming the tide

OU's School of Nursing faces the projected nursing shortage head-on

By Amy Lynn Smith

A perfect storm is brewing in the health care field. By the year 2030, 71 million American baby boomers will be over the age of 65, up from 36 million today, says the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). But by the year 2025, the U.S. nursing shortage will grow to 260,000 registered nurses, predicts workforce analyst Peter Buerhaus, Ph.D., RN, and his research colleagues.

With older Americans representing an overwhelming portion of the burden on the health care system, attracting and educating nurses to care for them is critical.

OU's School of Nursing (SON) is already doing its part to reverse the nursing shortage trend. Recruitment isn't an issue — SON currently has more applicants than it can accommodate, with undergraduate admissions backed up into 2014, says Diane Norris, Ph.D., RN, interim dean of SON.

In addition to its undergraduate program, SON offers an Accelerated Second Degree BSN program that enables students who already have a degree in another field to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in just 12 months instead of three years.

"It puts people in the marketplace a lot more quickly," Dr. Norris says. "But we just interviewed 139 students for the 35 available places in our summer 2011 class."

## A GROWING WORKFORCE

Workforce analysts with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projected that more than 581,500 new RN positions will be created through 2018, which would increase the size of the RN workforce by 22 percent. Employment of RNs is expected to grow much faster than the average when compared to all other professions.

## A RECESSION-PROOF FIELD

The health care sector of the economy is continuing to grow, despite significant job losses in nearly all major industries. Hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other ambulatory care settings added 21,000 new jobs in November 2009, a month when 85,000 jobs were eliminated across the country. The BLS confirmed that 613,000 jobs have been added in the health care sector since the recession began.

## WHEN NURSES RETIRE

With the average age of RNs projected to 44.5 years by 2012, nurses in their 50s are expected to become the largest segment of the nursing workforce, accounting for almost one quarter of the RN population.

In recent years, SON has increased its undergraduate and graduate programs, course offerings and faculty to train as many new nurses as possible. According to Dr. Norris, there's currently a shortage of qualified faculty, an issue SON is addressing, too.

One innovative example is the Elluminate system, which SON is using to host joint classes with a university in Connecticut, via the Internet.

"We hold our classes so they can see me and I can see all of them, and we have a joint discussion," says Ann Whall, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, FGSA, Allesee Endowed Chair in Gerontological Nursing at SON. "By using faculty with wonderful backgrounds across the country or around the world, we can do more with less. That same trend is emerging in health care practice, too."

Using technology to expand educational resources is among the recommendations from the AACN that SON is following to help mitigate the expected nursing shortage. SON also continues developing its faculty expertise, enhancing gerontology in its curriculum, and cultivating community and clinical partnerships.

What's more, Dr. Norris says, SON is adding more content related to nursing informatics as well as disaster and emergency preparedness planning, among other topics

recommended by the AACN to address future trends. SON is also working with a consultant who is examining the school's curriculum and making recommendations.

"We're listening to the experts and continuing to add new subjects to the curriculum as appropriate," Dr. Norris says.

This includes SON's graduate programs, which are growing — and garnering increased interest from students.

"We've had more students getting their Family Nurse Practitioner and Gerontology Nurse Practitioner degrees, and then moving right on to their Doctor of Nursing Practice degree," Dr. Norris explains. "They'll be able to provide services to the baby boomers and future generations who need health care in this country." ■

*Amy Lynn Smith is a freelance writer from Birmingham, Mich.*

### **A HISTORICAL SHORTAGE**

The U.S. nursing shortage is projected to grow to 260,000 registered nurses by 2025. A shortage of this magnitude would be twice as large as any nursing shortage experienced in this country since the mid-1960s.

### **AN AGING POPULATION**

Between 2010 and 2030, the number of Americans age 65 or older is projected to increase by 30 million. The number of Americans age 85 or older — those most in need of health care — is projected to increase by 4 million. Meanwhile, the ratio of potential caregivers to the elderly is projected to decrease by 40 percent.

### **WHO WILL TEACH?**

U.S. nursing schools turned away 54,991 qualified applicants from baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs in 2009 due to an insufficient number of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints. Almost two-thirds of the nursing schools responding to the survey pointed to faculty shortages as a reason for not accepting all qualified applicants into entry-level baccalaureate programs.

# Enhancing research

Meeting tomorrow's needs through today's research

By Rene Wisely

**N**ew research initiatives at OU's School of Nursing (SON) are helping transform the nation's health care system.

"The changing climate in health care will ask for more emphasis in community-based and evidence-based nursing practice," says Virinder Moudgil, provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs. "There will be a greater focus on prevention of disease to keep people healthier for a longer duration. Chronic diseases also will need more attention from nursing and other health care professionals."

OU has been focused on these trends and is well-positioned to lead the way in everything from disease prevention and gerontology to nursing instruction and patient care, he says.

With 35 million Americans age 65 and over, gerontology has long been a research priority at the SON, and it will continue to be so. Ann L. Whall, Ph.D., RN., the SON's Allesee Endowed Chair in Gerontological Nursing, has a program of research that has been consistently funded through NIH, that addresses the more humane treatment of persons with dementia who exhibit aggressive behavior in the late stages of the disease. Her most recent research seeks to improve this care by providing a more accurate targeting of behavioral treatments, that in turn are more acceptable to these persons, their families and the staff of nursing homes.

Dr. Whall's colleagues have similar gerontological agendas:

- Associate Professor Barbara Harrison and assistant professor Marisa Ferrari are putting a microscope on older adults who fall while hospitalized.
- Associate Professor Karen S. Dunn is studying holistic self-care practices, aging and spirituality, end-of-life care, and pain management among community-dwelling older adults.
- Associate Professor Cheryl Riley-Doucet is looking at how using technology can help delay cognitive degeneration, as well as manage agitation, in dementia patients.

The SON is also researching what makes a successful nursing student, explains Diane Norris, interim dean and professor. The study identifies which teaching techniques best prepare students for gratifying careers. (See related article, page 5.)

OU's research partners are also looking ahead. Crittenton Hospital, the teaching hospital of SON, is helping OU study relationship-based care. The multi-faceted study places the patient at the center of care with an emphasis on their psychosocial and spiritual care. Seemingly simple in design, relationship-based care offers a deeper and more intensive approach by working with patients as well as working as a team with fellow hospital staff. The approach builds on the three relationships the nurse has: with patient and family, with colleagues and with one's self. They are discovering that the patients heal faster with this comprehensive interaction.

"This is much deeper than just teaching them bedside manner," Norris explains.

Norris is also looking forward to reading the future research of new faculty, whose areas of expertise include reducing health care disparities, an oft talked about problem in the Obama administration. Another new faculty member is expected to research sickle cell anemia in children.

No matter what the specialty, all of SON's research will get a boost from both the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine's presence and the new Human Health Building (opening in 2012, see page 7.), Dr. Whall predicts. Both encourage multiple departments and skill sets to come together to work as a team and share resources. "This is going to be a new age," she says.

Norris agrees. "Gone is the time of one person conducting isolated research," she says. "The modern thinking is taking a multidisciplinary approach to research where many different brains can work together. It's going to make quite a difference." ■

*Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Mich.*





*Ann Whall, Ph.D., the SON's Allesee Endowed Chair in Gerontological Nursing, and Virinder Moudgil, Ph.D., senior vice president of Academic Affairs and provost, work together to support research in the SON.*



# A building for the future

SON's future home is green inside and out

*By Rene Wisely*

**O**akland University students got a peek into the future as they returned to campus this fall and promptly saw green.

The green was the beginnings of the 160,000-square-foot Human Health Building that will house both the School of Nursing (SON) and the School of Health Sciences (SHS). When it opens in 2012, it will be the first "green," or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified building on OU's campus.

LEED is an internationally recognized building certification system, providing verification that a building was built using energy savings, water efficiency, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Not only will it help OU reduce its carbon footprint, but it will make for a cleaner, healthier environment for the students.

"It's poetic justice that the healthiest building on campus is for the human health and health care students," says Jim Leidel, energy manager at OU.

One of Leidel's favorite features is its geothermal heat pump, partially funded by a \$2.7-million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. It uses the ground's constant and mild temperature to temper water that circulates within the building's heating and air conditioning system to provide both heating during the winter and cooling during the summer.

Another innovation is a large solar hot water system that assists the heat pumps by dehumidifying the moist summer air. A desiccant-based dehumidification system dries out the humid air entering the building to make the already efficient geothermal heat pumps even more efficient. Experts believe it may be the largest solar thermal energy system in the Midwest.





"This building helps put Oakland University on the map for its extensive use of green technology," Leidel points out.

The new \$62-million facility also gives a nod to the nursing program's reputation, believes Colette O'Connor, Director of Development for SON. "The nursing program has grown exponentially over the years and has taken on a prominence on campus," she says. "This new building now will reflect the stature of the program."

She also believes it will act as a magnet, attracting even more top-notch faculty and nursing students, not only because it's environmentally friendly and offers an abundance of high-tech training labs, an auditorium and updated technology throughout, but because it's an ideal environment to teach, research and practice nursing.



*The 160,000-square-foot Human Health Building will house the School of Nursing and the School of Health Sciences. Artist's rendering includes reclaimed wetlands and natural fauna.*

Designers focused not only on a good educational environment, but also the students' well-being, says Terry Stollsteimer, associate vice president of Facilities Management. "We have seating areas on every

floor with lots of daylight flooding in because of atriums and 'clerestory' windows, which are like skylights."

To encourage biking to the building, it includes shower facilities and lockers. Or for those who need a quick stress buster, "healing gardens," ponds and grassy berms outside the building encourage people to take walks and connect with nature.

"This building is a major step for OU," Stollsteimer says. ■

*Rene Wisely is a freelance writer from West Bloomfield, Mich.*





*Assistant Professor of Nursing Marissa Ferrari helped launch the SON's new Clinical Nurse Leader program.*

# Clinical Nurse Leader programs sets OU apart

Online course makes CNL certification accessible across the state

By Ann Marie Aliotta

Oakland University's School of Nursing continues to be on the cutting edge of the profession with the creation of a new program leading to certification as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) that will begin in January 2011.

Two paths will be available to pursue the certification: the Master of Science in Nursing, Clinical Nurse Leadership track, and the Post-MSN Certificate in Clinical Nurse Leadership.

The Clinical Nurse Leader is an important, emerging nursing role that will "improve the quality of patient care and better prepare nurses to thrive in the health care system," says Assistant Professor of Nursing Marisa Ferrari.

The curriculum focuses on patient outcomes, patient safety, assessment of risks and supervision/leadership. In practice, Ferrari explains, the CNL oversees the care coordination of a distinct group of patients and actively provides direct patient care in complex situations. "This master's degree-prepared clinician puts evidence-based practice into action to ensure that patients benefit from the latest innovations in care delivery," she said.

"It is a new approach, a new way of looking at things," Ferrari adds, and it may become a nursing standard. In fact, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Centers will require all VA nurses to have this certification by 2016.

"They feel the focus on quality, safety and patient outcome is the wave of the future, and it is what we should be doing," Ferrari said.

"I'm really excited about the program because it's trying to reduce the number of errors and the number of adverse outcomes that patients can have," she said. "With this, we are covering the whole scope of the patient and looking at, 'Are we practicing the best level of care? Are we administering to the patient the best product that we can?'"

This new program should help set Oakland University apart as the top school for nurse education in the state. Although

two other schools currently offer CNL programs, only Oakland's can be completed totally online, making it especially attractive to nurses in practice. "Our program offers tremendous flexibility and convenience, which is very important since most of our students work fulltime," she said. For practicing nurses with irregular and varied work shifts, the online format is an excellent option over the traditional classroom, she added.

Additionally, an online program can attract students from outside the metro

Detroit area. "We are hoping to have students throughout the United States," says Ferrari, adding that OU is currently partnering with the VA hospital in Washington, D.C. ■

*Ann Marie Aliotta is a freelance writer from Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.*



*Post-MSN students recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to test for CNL certification. From left to right are: Ruby Wesley Shadow, Ph.D., RN, Associate Chief of Nursing Education and Research, and CNL students Alma Holley, Cheryl Landry, Leslie Rowen and Leslie Rodriguez.*

# ASD students problem solve for better health

By Ann Marie Aliotta

This year, approximately 50 students enrolled in the School of Nursing's Accelerated Second-Degree (ASD) BSN Program took part in a ground-breaking research project. Through "Problem Solving for Better Health," a project created by the Dreyfus Health Foundation, the students research a health question, then implement small-scale health programs for the community, according to Claudia Grobbel, special instructor of nursing and project facilitator.

This Dreyfus model has been used in a variety of health care environments for a number of years, Grobbel said. "It is an international program that has proven success in a multitude of areas that are in improving health," she says. "This is the first time it is being used in a nursing educational setting, and Oakland is one of only three universities taking part. We are on the cutting edge with this."

The project crosses over all three semesters of the ASD program. During the first semester, the students were introduced during orientation and formed groups. In the second semester research class, they set up the project details, including what Dreyfus calls the "Good Question." They also participated in the International Review Board (IRB) approval process for their projects. In the third summer semester, they implemented their research in the community at the different sites.

Going through the standard research to receive this approval "raises the level of the research standards," according to Grobbel. "It's not just that they did a class assignment. They had to make sure the project was sound from a research perspective."



Chanta Stanley, an ASD student who was part of the group studying "How Coaching Effects Health in Older Adults," demonstrates the proper way to take blood pressure to seniors at a senior living community.



This 90-year-old nursing facility resident was excited for the opportunity to hug therapy dog Quincy. He also enjoyed talking about his own dogs from his past.

There are seven different groups (see sidebar below, opposite) with topics ranging from "Physical Activity and Self-Esteem" to "Healthy Cooking for the Soul," and the subjects range in age from elementary school children to senior citizens.

One of the projects, "Canines in the Care Plan," focuses on animal assisted therapy (AAT) in a nursing home facility in Detroit. "The students measured the heart rates of residents (and that of a control

group) for three sessions to see if a visit from a therapy dog made a difference," says Amy Johnson, group facilitator.

"The current AAT research shows that elderly residents in nursing homes often feel a sense of loneliness, isolation, depression or sadness, and that has an impact on both their physical and emotional health," Johnson says. "The visits (from the therapy dog) often help them to feel less lonely and give them something to look forward to," she added, and this can actually help improve their conditions.

At the end of the program, Grobbel intends to have the students submit their research to journals for publication. "So they will be researchers and authors," she says.

All of the projects are being done in the Riverview area, where the Riverview Institute of Oakland University campus will be the permanent home of the second degree program. Working in this area will hopefully develop some long-term relationships with the community and help serve the underserved population there. At the end of the program, students are able to submit their research for publication.

"Overall, it will help our students learn how to be good citizens, good nurses and good researchers." ■

Ann Marie Aliotta is a freelance writer from Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.





ASD student Priyanka Ghelani shares a laugh with one of the residents of the senior facility prior to a therapy dog visit.

#### **PROBLEM SOLVING FOR BETTER HEALTH GROUPS**

##### **Group 1: Canines in the Care Plan**

Will a visit from a therapy dog twice a week significantly lower blood pressure and heart rates in 10 nursing home residents compared to those who did not receive the visit?

##### **Group 2: Childhood Obesity; Breaking the cycle**

Will an educational program for 5th grade students increase the students' awareness of health food choices and activities?

##### **Group 3: Physical Activity and Self-Esteem**

Will students who participate in a dance video demonstrate an increase in self-esteem?

##### **Group 4: Nutrition education for 6th graders**

Will an educational program regarding healthier food choices increase awareness of healthy options in the school lunch program?

##### **Group 5: Exercise & Mobility: Improved health in senior citizens**

Will seniors who participate in an exercise program demonstrate improvements in mobility?

##### **Group 6: Effects of Health Coaching in relation to lowering blood pressure in older adults**

The purpose of this study is to see if a coaching program will improve seniors' compliance to managing their blood pressure

##### **Group 7: Health Cooking for the Soul**

Will a demonstration of healthier soul food cooking improve awareness of healthier cooking options?

# The first step

OU, Focus: HOPE partnership prepares Riverview students for success

*By Susan Thwing-McHale*





*Carmen Johnson, director of the Nursing Assistant and Patient Care Technician programs, says the Oakland University-Focus: HOPE partnership gives people the opportunity to enter health care and affords them some financial independence while they pursue a new career.*

Success is in the details. For health care professionals, those details include solid math skills, computer literacy and a professional demeanor. A partnership between Oakland University's Riverview Institute and Focus: HOPE is ensuring students in Riverview's health care training programs have those details in place.

The Riverview Institute, located in Detroit, offers certified instruction and training for four high-demand health care careers: certified nurse assistant, patient care attendant, certified medical administrative assistant and licensed practical nurse (LPN). Participants benefit from valuable on-the-job clinical training in area hospitals and long-term care facilities. The Institute, located in the former St. John Riverview Hospital, also offers an accelerated second degree (ASD) program. The ASD program allows students who already have a bachelor's degree and are looking for a career change into the health care field to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in 12 months.

However, many participants in the Institute's work force development programs need a refresher on the basics prior to setting foot in the door at Riverview.

That's where Focus: HOPE comes in. Focus: HOPE has been helping unemployed and underemployed people maximize their strengths and talents since 1968. The non-profit's Patient Care Technician training program provides a foundation of training to students wishing to expand their skills or those who would like to start a career in health care.



*Tim Duperron, Focus: HOPE Chief Operating Officer*

"We are helping folks get ready to succeed," says Focus: HOPE Chief Operating Officer Tim Duperron. "We are not the educators, but we get them ready to learn. Success isn't just about the academic learning. They also need to have professional skills such as how to be a good employee and appropriate dress for the interview and workplace."

Duperron adds that Focus: HOPE is available to students on the most basic level. "We meet

them where they are and help them overcome the obstacles. Whether they need new glasses or a new suit, we help them get what they need. Students can't succeed in class if they are hungry. We help them get what they need to be successful."

Academically, Focus: HOPE offers computer, contextual math and reading instruction and courses on anatomy and physiology built to prepare them for the clinical work at

Riverview. They also provide CPR and first aid training and assistance with preparation for certification exams. Once they have completed the training at Focus: HOPE, the students begin the health care program of their choice at Riverview.

"This learning foundation helps students put information into a nursing context," says Duperron. "And it continues to remove barriers to education and employment. Focus: HOPE's involvement will help Riverview graduates be better prepared to keep the jobs they get."

So far, the program has graduated 30 students, all of whom have gone on to health care employment.

"This partnership is excellent and it serves a population of students who would not have this opportunity normally," explains Barbara Penprase, Ph.D., RN, executive director of Riverview and an associate professor at Oakland's School of Nursing. "More importantly, the students completing the programs are from Detroit and stay in Detroit once they receive their training."

Oakland is currently developing a similar program adding Marygrove College in Detroit to the partnership.

"We are working on a large grant with Focus: HOPE, Marygrove and Oakland," explains Penprase. "It would include Focus: HOPE screening and doing the upfront preparation for further education. The students then would complete Oakland's LPN program. Marygrove would accept approximately 26-30 credits from the LPN program as transferred credits, and these students could continue with Marygrove's associate degree in Allied Health."

Students successfully completing the program would be eligible for further degrees in nursing at Oakland, or other degrees either at Oakland or Marygrove, she says.

The need for expanded opportunities in health care career training is great. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that 10 of the 20 fastest growing occupations are health care-related. It also estimates that health care will generate 3.2 million new wage and salary jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry.

In addition to training, Riverview offers community programming such as healthy cooking, proper exercise and healthy eating. Public seminars and workshops on topics such as aging well, health and nutrition also are offered.

The Oakland School of Nursing Riverview Center is located at 7733 E. Jefferson Ave. Call (248) 370-2799 for more information. ■

*Susan Thwing-McHale is an Oakland University staff writer.*





# Pride, hard work and dedication

Award-winning assistant director guides Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia

*By Michele Jasukaitis*

**A**lthough Anne Marie Hranchook, CRNA, MSN (SON '93), has had many career high points, there's one that stands out from all the rest. On May 2, 2009, she received the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists Guiding Light Award, having been nominated by the 2008 graduating class of the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia. Hranchook accepted the honor at the state association meeting.

"It was like receiving the Hope Diamond. It means so much to me," says Hranchook.

As the assistant director of the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia, Hranchook oversees curriculum development and also instructs classes four days a week at Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak (Mich.) OU's program is one of five in Michigan and is currently ranked 11th out of 109 programs in the nation in the *U.S. News and World Report's* special edition of America's Best Graduate Schools.

*"Throughout my career, I have always been very excited to learn and share my knowledge, and now I enjoy it when I see students who are completely engaged. They are so fresh that it keeps me inspired."*

Anne Marie Hranchook

Students who graduate from this program earn a MSN and are eligible to take the national certification exam to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). They are prepared to serve in a variety of settings, from traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms to dental offices to the health care facilities in all branches of the military.

"Leadership is one area that we promote throughout the program. We offer multiple leadership tracks for students to follow, including research, professional advocacy, management and education," says Hranchook. "We focus on graduating leaders who are well-rounded, caring people with skills and abilities to lead."

Hranchook launched her nursing career 30 years ago as a registered nurse in the orthopedic unit at Bon Secours Hospital in Grosse Pointe, Mich. "I knew after high school that I wanted to pursue nursing. I found this field to be perfect for me. I enjoy caring for people," says Hranchook.

Over the years, she advanced to positions of increasing responsibility including critical care nurse educator. Soon she realized she wanted to become a certified nurse anesthetist, an interest that evolved from observing the CRNAs in the hospitals where she worked. In 1991, Hranchook earned her MSN in nursing anesthesia at OU, and by 1993 she was a staff certified registered nurse anesthetist at Beaumont. From there, Hranchook not only found herself in the operating room but in the classrooms as well, instructing students in the practice of anesthesia.



Anne Marie Hranchook

More than 1,400 interested nurses have applied for the 28-month long program that is 55 credit hours and exceeds minimum accreditation standards set forth by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs. So far, nearly 300 students have graduated. The program's human patient simulation technology appeals to students who get the opportunity to rehearse critical thinking, decision-making skills and simulate real patient experiences in two mock operating rooms.

In addition to classroom instruction, Hranchook works closely with the clinical faculty at Beaumont and writes articles for national anesthesia and nursing journals. Her most recent piece was a chapter called "Generational Dynamics in Nurse Anesthesia" in the book titled *Education: A Resource for Nurse Anesthesia Educators*.

"When I write for publication it is a labor of love that is really satisfying," says Hranchook. "I strongly encourage my students toward writing and getting published in peer-reviewed journals because it's important to our profession."

Recently, Hranchook returned to her studies, tackling online courses in the OU Doctorate in Nursing Practice program. It will take her three years to earn this degree, but that doesn't faze her. To her, it's just another step to becoming the best possible nurse and educator that she can be.

With such demonstrated dedication to nursing, anyone who knows Hranchook would likely agree that she possesses the same priceless qualities as the Hope Diamond. ■

*Michele Jasukaitis is an Oakland University staff writer.*





## Alumni Committee membership growing

Nursing alumni collaborate to mentor fellow graduates, students

*By Claire Goscicki*

**T**he School of Nursing Alumni Committee — a tight knit group of former Oakland University students and a few staff members — may have already left the university with their degrees in hand, but they still remain close to campus today.

The group's members, about a dozen thus far, are eager to give back to the school that nurtured their growth as health care professionals. Their goal is to develop relationships with recent graduates and current students while providing guidance through mentoring programs and community outreach initiatives.

Ashlee Barnes, a member of the committee since February 2010 and current mentor to three students, said she and fellow alumni help to prepare current nursing students for challenges they may face in their classes.

Other responsibilities of the group include networking, facilitating community service events, fundraising for student scholarships, and organizing future reunions.

Three separate reunions for the classes of 1985, 1995 and 2005 will be hosted this October. The alumni committee hopes to create a positive setting in which fellow alumni can reflect, reminisce and reestablish their bond with their former learning environment.

Still in its developmental phase, the committee plans to increase its visibility on campus by participating in the OU Welcome Back Reception. The group also anticipates becoming more involved in various nursing-related charity events throughout the semester.

"Positivity and optimism are key when you are at the beginning stages of developing a group," said Barnes.

Fellow alumni and soon-to-be graduates are encouraged to join the committee. For more information, contact Amy Johnson at [johnson2@oakland.edu](mailto:johnson2@oakland.edu). ■

*Claire Goscicki is an Oakland University School of Nursing intern.*

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# in brief ...

## Oakland University researchers investigating early warning system to prevent falls

Nurse researchers Marisa Ferrari, DNP, and Barbara Harrison, Ph.D., from the Oakland University School of Nursing, Osamah Rawashdeh, Ph.D., and Guangzhi Qu, Ph.D., from Oakland's Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering, and Dr. Michael Maddens and Robert Hammond, Ph.D., of Beaumont Research Institute-Royal Oak have recently begun a research study regarding fall-related movements in the elderly in an effort to reduce the number of falls that occur in health care settings. Data collected will assist in developing an "early warning system" that determines the movements a patient may make prior to falling or getting out of a bed or chair, supporting development of a motion monitoring system for detecting movements in hospitalized older adults.

The study, titled "Clinical Feasibility Trials for the Detection, Characterization, and Monitoring of Impulsive Activity in Older Adult Patients," began with the observation of five healthy older volunteers at OU SON lab performing common movements, like standing, sitting and getting out of bed. At present, some hospitals employ a video monitoring system to observe patient movements and reduce falls. Researchers at OU hope to redesign this method of patient observation by reducing costs and increasing patient privacy through the placement of motion monitoring sensors on the bodies of the patients. The volunteers in this study were equipped with five sensors, one on each arm and leg and the chest. The sensors are designed to detect changes in body position, particularly small movement in a lying or seated position.

According to research compiled by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, more than one third of adults 65 years and older fall each year in the United States. Falls occurring in hospitals may cause serious injury or even death and often, institutions are held accountable for these accidents. Researchers at OU hope to decrease fall rates — and prevent falls — among the elderly by developing this new "early warning system."

The project is funded by the Oakland University School of Nursing and Oakland University School of Engineering and Computer Science. ■



# SON presents 22nd annual Nightingale Awards

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nightingale Awards for Nursing®

Oakland University's School of Nursing hosted the 22nd Annual Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence on May 6, 2010, at the San Marino Club in Troy. Given in honor of Florence Nightingale,

the Briton who in the mid-1800s created the nursing profession, the ceremony honors nursing professionals and their contributions while raising funds for student scholarships and equipment to train 21st-century nurses.

All nominated nurses receive a certificate of honor. The nine award winners receive a bronze statue of Florence Nightingale, a Nightingale pin and \$1,000. Each runner-up receives a plaque and Nightingale pin.

The Nightingale Awards for Nursing® coincide with National Nurses Week and Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12, 1820. The 2010 recipients of the Nightingale Award were:



Nadia Boulos



Karen Brewer



Patricia Clark



Melody Ann Jolly



Linda Jordan



Kristen Pelshaw



Catherine Wenz



Barbara Williams



Kori Woodruff

### 2010 NIGHTINGALE AWARDS FOR NURSING® HONORED THE FOLLOWING NURSES:

#### NURSING ADMINISTRATION

**Winner** Nadia Boulos, Ph.D., RN, Oakland Community College

**Runner-up** Christine Bowen, MSN, RN, CCRN, Detroit Medical Center, Harper University Hospital

#### ADVANCED NURSE PRACTICE

**Winner** Patricia Clark, DNP, MSN, RN, Huron Valley Sinai Hospital

**Runner-up** Donna Bednarski, MSN, RN, ANP-BC, CNN, Detroit Medical Center, Harper University Hospital

#### EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

**Winner** Kristen Pelshaw, RN, MSN, CPNP-PC, Beaumont Hospitals-Troy

**Runner-up** Barbara Putrycus, MSN, RN, Oakwood Healthcare System

#### LONG TERM CARE/REHABILITATION

**Winner** Kori Woodruff, MSN, RN, NP-C, Crittenton Hospital Medical Center

**Runner-up** Hawah Tuon, BSN, RN, Redford Geriatric Village

#### NURSING IN THE COMMUNITY

**Winner** Barbara Williams, MS, MA, RN, BSN, Henry Ford Home Health Care/Henry Ford Extended Care

**Runner-up** Jackie Duncan, RN, PMHNP-BC, Adult Well-Being Services

#### OAKLAND UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

**Winner** Catherine Wenz, MSN, FNP, BC, Newton Health Center, Beaumont Hospitals

**Runner-up** Carol Ann Frey, MSN, RN, Detroit Medical Center, Harper University Hospital, Hutzel Women's Hospital

#### STAFF NURSE PRACTICE

**Winner** Karen Brewer, RN, Providence Park Hospital

**Winner** Melody Ann Jolly, RN, BC, Karmanos Cancer Center

**Runner-up** Carrie K. Peraino, MSN, RN, BSN, CMSRN, Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital

**Runner-up** Shelly Thomas-Katta, MN, RN, Beaumont Hospitals-Troy

#### PEOPLE'S CHOICE

**Winner** Linda Jordan, RN, BSN, Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital, St. John's Providence Park (Novi and Southfield), U.S. Army

**Runner-up** Elizabeth Voyles, RN, CNP, Children's Hospital of Michigan



Nominations will be accepted beginning October 1, 2010, for the 23rd Annual Nightingale Awards. Nomination forms are available at [oakland.edu/nightingale](http://oakland.edu/nightingale), by contacting Alison Wagner at (248) 370-3799 or via e-mail at [wagner2@oakland.edu](mailto:wagner2@oakland.edu)



## OU's REACH committee takes next step forward

In April 2009, the REACH (Research, Education and Advocacy for Children's Health) Institute was launched by the School of Nursing with a visit from Baroness Caroline Cox, honorary REACH board member. Much of REACH's philosophy stems from Lady Cox's global humanitarian efforts to benefit the world's children. Committee members are focusing on REACH's primary mission.

"The mission of the REACH Institute is to benefit the youth, child welfare workers and foster parents in the foster care system in Michigan through Research, Advocacy and Education," says Amy Johnson, administrative project coordinator at SON. "Members of the nursing profession are poised to benefit the foster care system because of its tripartite approach to health and well-being. Nursing covers more than just physical health; converging physical, emotional and mental health to provide overall welfare."

Johnson says health care and mental health professionals, educators, child welfare promoters, criminal justice and law enforcement need to work together closely to best help those in the foster care system. Through partnerships, research, advocacy and education, the REACH Institute is prepared to reshape and influence the foster care environment.

REACH committee members have recently met to establish initial goals for the institute. Those include:

- Research best practices for the mental, physical and emotional health of youth in foster care
- Research best practices for ensuring foster care parents get the training, support and resources required to remain viable foster parents
- Research best practices for child welfare workers to conduct the best work possible for both the children and foster parents
- Provide educational venues for foster parents to train in child development expectations and parenting skills
- Research best care practices for providing individualized health care for children in foster care
- Work with cross-disciplinary personnel to develop advocacy and educational plans
- Disseminate best practice information through conferences, seminars and workshops
- Inform teachers about strategies to support foster children and foster parents



The committee consists of a broad spectrum of interests. Johnson says they would like to add representatives from the areas of law, foster care, criminal justice and a child/adolescent specialist. Current members of the REACH committee are:

**Liz Iida, SESS Study (Annie E. Casey / SAMSHA)**  
San Francisco, CA

**Kathryn George**  
Macomb County Family Court Judge

**Shannan McNair**  
OU faculty, Education  
Foster parent (21 youth)

**Sandra Alber**  
OU faculty, Education

**Marilyn Mouradjian**  
OU faculty, psychiatric nurse

**Robert Schumann, Sound Counseling / Macomb County Juvenile Justice Center**  
Therapist, MCJJC  
Created Next Step program

**Bob Kachadourian (Lady Cox representative)**  
Armenian Community Liaison

For more information about REACH or to support the institute, contact Amy Johnson at [johnson2@oakland.edu](mailto:johnson2@oakland.edu). ■

## Envision Conference hosted by SON

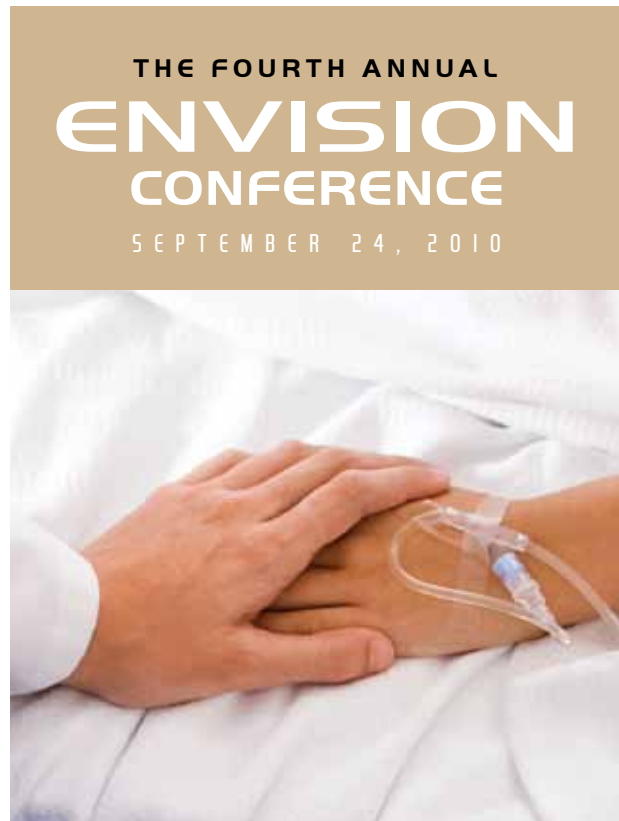
Oakland University's School of Nursing hosted the 2010 Envision Conference in September with the theme "Nursing: The Art and Science of Caring," with more than 250 attending. The annual conference brings together nurse executives, nurses and entrepreneurs to discuss the latest trends in health care.

Keynote speaker was Jean Watson, who presented an overview of caring and its importance in health and healing. The author or co-author of more than 12 books on caring, including *Nursing: The Philosophy and Science of Caring*, she is founder of the Center for Human Caring in Colorado and a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

JoEllen Koerner, founder of NurseMetrix, a web-based predictive analytics company committed to enhancing nurse competency and values-based professional development, presented "The Need for Caring in Practice: A Call for Action." Koerner is the author of *Healing Presence*.

Also speaking were author Ruth Hansten and consultant Colleen Person, who spoke about caring in clinical practice and partnered with two SON Board of Visitors members, Nancy Susick and Kathleen Van Wagoner, to relay stories from the field.

Closing remarks on caring and leadership were presented by Kristen Swanson, Dean and Distinguished Professor at the University of NC-Chapel Hill and a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow. Conference participants, including nurses and OU doctoral nursing students, also displayed nursing-related poster abstracts during the event, and five presenters were pre-selected by applications. ■



**Look for more information on the 2011 Envision Conference soon.**



Jean Watson



JoEllen Koerner



Colleen Person



Kristen Swanson



## SON faculty highlights and accomplishments

### ◆ RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITY

The staff and students in the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia not only appreciate the value of professional development, but they were willing to fly across the country to learn from the best in the industry. Attending national association events provides opportunities to learn about the work of others, to present original bodies of research and, most important, to gain access to the most current information in the discipline, ultimately making for better practitioners.

Nearly 15 Oakland University-Beaumont CRNA staff and 40 students attended the 77th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) in Seattle along with 2,000 other CRNAs and 1,000 students. The AANA, the only association for nurse anesthetists, was created to update and expand knowledge for practitioners in the areas of anesthesia, nursing and sociopsychological sciences that are related to nurse anesthesia.

Featured at the conference was CRNA student **Howard Drews**, who was one of eight presenters selected from a pool of 40 abstract submissions to share his work during the AANA Foundation's prestigious "State of the Science" oral poster presentations. Drews' research project, which was led by faculty member Barbara Harrison, Ph.D., was titled "Perioperative Hypoglycemia Development in Patients with Diabetes: Comparing Risk of Patients Presenting with Low Normal Fasting Preoperative Blood Glucose to Those with High Fasting Preoperative Blood Glucose Treated with Correctional Insulin." Co-authors of the presentation were **Suzanne Brentin, Catherine Ersig, Amy Trent, Tamra Dukatz, Anne Hranchook** and **Lisa Mileto**, all from the Oakland University Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia, and **Dr. Solomon Rosenblatt, Dr. Fatema Omran** and **Dr. Richard Han** from Beaumont Hospital.

Additionally, Drews went on to be selected to participate on one of the six teams of six students at the Anesthesia College Bowl, taking the championship. This quiz bowl is held each year at the annual meeting with 36 schools represented. Nearly 1,000 students and hundreds of CRNAs attend, with four program directors and members of the education committee serving as judges.

Sponsored by the U.S. Army, each year's moderator is an Army CRNA. The moderator asks anesthesia-related questions that were pre-submitted by program directors. Each team must be the first to hit the buzzer and reply the correct answer. The other team can "steal" the point if they get it wrong. The final winning team then plays an all-CRNA team for fun.

"The students love when they get a chance to beat the CRNAs!" said Lisa Mileto, Director of the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia. "Howard Drews was our OU student on the winning College Bowl team this year. We have had a student on the team every year, but this is our first year winning."

### ◆ COMMUNITY OUTREACH

After months of anticipation, the Student Nurses Association of Oakland University (SNAOU) fulfilled the wish of a Waterford boy to attend Disney World.

In a ceremony held on August 26, 2010, School of Nursing faculty and students joined the boy and his family at the Rainbow Connection House in Rochester Hills where he was presented with a certificate representing the tickets he and his family will receive to Disney World. The ceremony was sponsored by the Rainbow Connection, a Michigan-based organization dedicated to granting the wishes of children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Austin, who is currently receiving treatment for rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of cancer, hopes to go on his trip this fall.

To Kelly Williamson, president of SNAOU and coordinator of the event, the evening was truly a celebration of 10-year old Austin's life.

"I wanted to not only hand some money over to Rainbow Connection, but (also) be a part of this brave boy's journey," she said.

SNAOU's commitment to helping Austin began last year when a former student directed SNAOU's community service efforts toward raising money for Austin. Through a series of fundraising initiatives, including a can drive, bd's Mongolian BBQ restaurant benefit, and the selling of Rainbow Connection bracelets, SNAOU was able to raise the \$4,500 necessary to provide Austin and his family a 6-night, 7-day stay at a Disney World resort.

According to Williamson, participating in community service reminds her and many fellow nursing students of why they want to work in the health care field.

"The reasons why many of us want to become nurses are the same reasons why we want to give back to people. In that respect, I have never felt more on my way to becoming a nurse," she explained.

For information about joining SNAOU, visit the School of Nursing website or contact Kelly Williamson at [kwillia2@oakland.edu](mailto:kwillia2@oakland.edu).

To learn more about the Rainbow Connection, visit [www.rainbowwishconnection.org](http://www.rainbowwishconnection.org).

### ◆ AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The first graduates of the School of Nursing's Clinical Nurse Leader program were also recipients of the Veteran Health Administration's Nursing Excellence in Patient-Centered Care Award for Nursing Services Innovation. The award is based on recipients demonstrating the components of: Caring, Collaboration, Customer Focus, Interdisciplinary Teamwork and Innovation.

SON student **Jaime Serra** has been elected to serve as President of the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthesia Students (MANAS). This will be the first time that an Oakland University student has been elected president.

# Attention SON Alumni

## We want to hear from you

Please let us know where you are working, what you are doing, awards you have earned or changes you are making. We know nurses tend to be modest; this is your chance to share your or your colleagues' accomplishments in future issues of *The Pulse*, on the School of Nursing website and in other publications. We also want to know what you want to read in future issues of *The Pulse*!

## Graduates: get involved ...

The School of Nursing Alumni Committee is looking for graduates who would like to be involved! The committee has expressed interest in creating mentorships, offering regular continuing education seminars, networking and sharing their experience with others.

To submit your accomplishments, sign up to help set the direction of the Nursing Alumni Committee or share great ideas of your own, please contact Amy Johnson at [johnson2@oakland.edu](mailto:johnson2@oakland.edu).



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Memberships are renewable annually, and all contributions are applied toward membership in the Oakland University cumulative gift societies. For more information regarding benefits visit [oakland.edu/nursing](http://oakland.edu/nursing).

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## Benvenuto Italia! SON goes abroad

For the fourth consecutive year, Gary Moore, associate professor of Nursing, accompanied nursing research students as they experienced international health care in Italy. Held in collaboration with the University of Padua, the students visited Italy May 15-28. The purpose of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the process of research.

While in Italy, students reviewed and used research findings from nursing and other disciplines that can be applied in their clinical practice. They also had an opportunity to visit local health care facilities and get in some sightseeing.

SON offers students the opportunity to travel and experience the diversity of global health care practices they have read about in text books by sending students to study abroad in countries like Italy, Ireland and Korea. Through this experience, students will gain a broader understanding of global health care, and how culture and politics affect patient care around the world. ■



(From left) Natalie Terterian, Shannon Shefferly, unknown gondolier, Melissa White and Michelle Durmisevich.



Steve Gibson and Katie Schmid outside the main hospital in Padova, Italy.



(From left) Sara Doelle and Lauren Hanson at the Colosseum in Rome.



(From left) Piera Poletti (Italian host), Stacey Rabinski, Gary Moore and Lauren Houlihan at final gala dinner in Padova, Italy.



Final gala dinner in Padova, Italy with Venetian Carnival masks.



The Oakland University 2010 Italy Trip group outside CEREF headquarters (host foundation) in Padova, Italy.



Group of Oakland Students preparing to depart on Vespa tour of the Tuscan Hills outside of Florence, Italy.

*Are you ready for the next step in your nursing career?*

*Are you ready to become a leader in your profession?*



## Become a Leader A Clinical Nurse Leader

*Beginning winter 2011*

Graduates of OU's new Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program will be educated to:

- *evaluate patient outcomes*
- *conduct risk assessments*
- *plan and implement changes to care delivery*

By applying assessment, critical thinking, clinical research, problem-solving skills and quality initiatives to their nursing practices, CNLs will be prepared to assume dynamic leadership roles in a range of health care settings.

Eligible candidates for the program must have completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from an accredited four-year university. Students will acquire an MSN degree after completion of clinical and online work totaling 44 credit hours. Certification as a CNL is offered by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

For more information about the CNL program, contact Marisa Ferrari, DNP, RN at (248) 370-4489.





### School of Nursing

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