Integrating Learning, Research, and Practice to Promote Health

Dan Weberg, PhD, RN, MHI, Senior Director, Innovation and Leadership, Kaiser Permanente National Patient Care Services, joined the College of Nursing Strategic Planning team for a retreat on March 15, 2019. The team included the College’s Executive Council, Faculty Coordinating Council, leadership from the General Staff Organization, members of the Nursing Research Committee, student representation from the Dean’s Student Advisory Council, and leaders from Nebraska Medicine Nursing. Robust discussion ensued about current and projected changes in nursing practice, using mobile technologies to enable what Kaiser Permanente calls “Imagine Care Anywhere”. This is such an engaging topic as it brings together much faculty research on using technology to facilitate self-management, and faculty practice scholarship, and teaching and learning strategies that advance active learning and “interleaved learning” – a form of learning in which topics are repeatedly addressed in small chunks to promote stronger engagement with the concepts. Integration across our mission areas and building a new health care environment were the key themes of the discussions, with technological advancements the lever that promotes new ways of doing our work. The group discussed new ways to foster a better future, including discussing a visionary presentation by Dr. Beth Culross on the future potential of simulation and virtual reality in academic nursing and interprofessional education. Dr. Weberg noted that interprofessional teams themselves are changing and now include patients and families, informatics, and computer science and information technology.

College of Nursing faculty, staff, and students are making great progress in these areas. Dr.’s Stacey Werner (Kearney campus) and Katie Bravo (Omaha campus) just returned from the Stanford University Design Bootcamp along with Dr. Jennifer Kallio, DDS, from the College of Dentistry. They are interested in using design thinking to enable innovation in teaching and learning. Dr. Sue Schuelke (Lincoln campus) has applied to the AACN Apple Digital Innovations Bootcamp to design new ways to harness technology to foster deep learning. And, Lisa Muschall and I recently met with Dr. Steve Cooper, Director of the Raikes School of Design at UNL to discuss ways to collaborate across nursing and design studies right here in Nebraska. Most importantly, faculty are trying new ideas daily and always searching for the best ways to enrich student learning.

The final iWall will be installed at the Norfolk campus this summer, completing our plan for students and faculty to have access to iWalls on each of our five campuses to foster case-based sharing and both critical thinking and clinical reasoning. Scottsbluff faculty including Tiann Colwell, Dr. Susan Wilhelm, Wendy Wells, Dr. Trina Aguirre, Melissa Snyder, Dana Samson, Dr. Kim Rodehorst, Barb Nickel; graduate assistant, Stephen Schlickbernd; and LRC Technologist, Jerry Schledewitz, are pioneering exciting uses of the iWall for engaged learning. Dr. Culross is leading reviews of additional technologies as they become available to determine what might add value to teaching and learning.

On the research front, College of Nursing faculty scientists have long been leaders in using technologies of various types to foster health and self-management of chronic conditions. The photo (left) shows Jessica Miller, PhD student (Norfolk campus) and Jonas Scholar (2018-20), with her research poster at the Midwest Nursing Research Society. Her faculty advisor is Dr. Bunny Pozehl. Another recent example is Dr. Robin Lally’s study of the Caring Guidance™ program she developed for women newly diagnosed with breast cancer. This study, funded by the American Cancer Society, uses computers or mobile devices to provide supportive advice to women at this early stage of treatment for breast cancer.
College faculty scientists integrate pressing needs from clinical practice into their research. Just last month, Dr. Joyce Black received the extremely prestigious Kosiak Award for excellence in pressure injury prevention and treatment at the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) Conference held in St. Louis on March 1, 2019. As President of the NPUAP, Dr. Cuddigan noted in her presentation of the award that Dr. Black’s work “changed the direction of research [in this area] on an international basis” (3/1/19). Many congratulations to Joyce for the discoveries and advances she has led in pressure injury prevention and treatment!

College of Nursing faculty clinicians now have a new opportunity to integrate clinical practice with scholarship. Dr. Kate Fiandt, Associate Dean for Transformational Practice and Partnerships, launched a Faculty Practice Scholars program for up to two scholars annually. This program, funded at this time by the College of Nursing Innovation Fund, will help practicing faculty develop programs of clinical scholarship that build on their clinical expertise and advance understanding of what works in clinical practice.

I have highlighted only a small fraction of the work faculty, staff, and student pathbreakers are doing to harness the advances made possible by research and new evidence to move us into a future of greater health for all, and more partnership between students, faculty, clinicians, patients, and members of the public and interprofessional colleagues. Dr. Weberg challenged all of us at the Strategic Planning Retreat to think about collaborating in new ways and to reimagine the clinical world for which we are educating students and in which nurses will practice in the future. You are each vital to this work and I congratulate and thank you for the amazing work you do on a daily basis!

Julie Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Photos from Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference March 2019

(L to R) Patricia Hageman, PhD, PT, FAPTA, UNMC Allied Health; Aaron Yoder, PhD, UNMC College of Public Health; Christine Eisenhauer, PhD, APRN-CNS, PHCNS-BC, CNE and Carol Pullen, EdD, RN, UNMC College of Nursing

Breanna Hetland, PhD, RN, CCRN-K (L) & Courtney Camenzind, BSN Student (R)

Alyson Hanish, PhD, MSN, RN

Kathleen Hannah, PhD, RN
Award Recipient

Joyce Black, PhD, RN, FAAN, was recently presented the NPUAP Kosiak Award. This award is presented once every two years to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the prevention and/or treatment of pressure injuries through their leadership in the fields of research, education and/or patient care. Dr. Black has been successful in securing research grants and industry sponsored contracts to enhance our body of knowledge in preventing and treating pressure injuries. Her research in the area of pressure injuries spans almost 40 years with the publication of over 80 research and scholarly papers addressing prevention and treatment of pressure injuries and related nursing care topics. She has written over 40 book chapters and was a key contributor to the 2009 International Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcer Clinical Practice Guideline. Patient care is the driving force behind Dr. Black’s many contributions to research and education. One of her most significant contributions in this regard was the national and international spotlight she put on deep tissue pressure injury as the Chair of the 2007 NPUAP Task Force on Staging. Her efforts have changed the direction of research on an international basis, informed the evidence driving national public policy decisions, and ultimately changed how we practice. She lobbied the Centers for Disease Control to include deep tissue pressure injury in the ICD-10 code; and was instrumental in work with CMS to recognize that there is a delay in time for the first visible change of deep tissue pressure injury to appear. Congratulations Joyce.

Grant Recipients

Christine Eisenhauer, PhD, APRN-CNS, PHCNS-BC, CNE, Northern Division, received a “Just in Time Accelerator” grant from CENTRIC for a subaward for her R-15. Dr. Eisenhauer was recognized at a ceremony on March 5th in the Durham Research Center. Congratulations Christine.

CENTRIC extended the deadline for pilot funding in the amount of $50,000. Letters of Intent are due April 8, 2019 and applications are due in June.

Poster Presentations

Faculty Practice at UNMC CON is thriving under the leadership of Kathryn Fiandt, PhD, APRN-NP, PAANP, FAAN, Associate Dean for Transformational Practice & Partnerships along with the Morehead Center of Nursing Practice and Faculty Practice Committee working synergistically on mentoring, optimization, and evaluation of faculty practice. Kelly Gonzales, PhD, FNP-C (left) and LeAnn Holmes, DNP, APRN-NP, FAANP, (right), presented posters at the AACN Pre-Conference on Faculty Practice in January. Other authors on the posters included Kate Fiandt, Amelia Stoltman, and Carli Zegers.

Podium Presentations

Lisa Firestine, MSN, RN, recently had two proposals accepted for presentation at regional conferences. “Enhancing Student Engagement using RAFT Activities” was accepted for a podium presentation in April 2019 at the 20th Annual Midwest Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and learning (SoTL) in South Bend, Indiana. This is a one-day conference sponsored by the Midwest Regional SoTL Consortium that focuses on the sharing of innovative teaching ideas. "Teaching Perspective: The Use of RAFT Strategies" was accepted for a podium presentation at the May 2019 Annual SoTL Conference in Findlay, Ohio. This is a two-day conference sponsored by the University of Findlay that focuses on teaching and learning strategies with an emphasis on student and instructor metacognition.

MIDWEST NURSING RESEARCH SOCIETY (MNRS) CONFERENCE 2019

Windy Alonso, PhD, RN, has been awarded the 2019 MNRS Seed Grant: Characterizing the Symptom Experience of Rural Individuals with Heart Failure and Multiple Chronic Conditions.

Dr. Alonso did a podium presentation at this year’s MNRS conference. Title: Heart Failure Does Not Occur in Isolation: Exploring Patient-Reported Symptoms in Heart Failure Complicated by Multiple Chronic Conditions.
Podium Presentations—FACULTY

Beth Burbach, PhD, MSN, BSN, RN, CNE, Northern Division
Title: Impact of Simulation Facilitation Method on Learning, Retention and Performance

Alyson Hanish, PhD, MSN, RN
Title: Desperate for Sleep: Exploring Parental Perceptions of Melatonin Use Among Adolescents with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

Tiffany Moore, PhD, RN
Title: Prenatal Weight and Diabetes Status Affects Newborn Physiologic Dysregulation

Elizabeth Mollard, PhD, APRN-NP, IBCLC
Title: Patient Perceived Barriers to Using a Smartphone App for the Self-Management of Chronic Illness

Poster Presentations—FACULTY

Ann Berger, PhD, APRN, AOCNS, FAAN
Title: Comparison of Design, Measurement, Statistical Analysis, and Reporting of Symptom Clusters the First Year After Initiating Adjuvant Breast Cancer Chemotherapy

Therese Mathews, PhD, RN
Title: Systematic Review: Feasibility of Attachment and Bonding Screening Tools for Clinical Use

Breanna Hetland, PhD, RN, CCRN-K
Title: An Exploration of Psychological Factors that Influence Family Caregivers’ Willingness to Participate in Patient Care in the Intensive Care Unit

Sue Barnason, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, CEN, CCRN, FAHA, FAAN
Sue Schuelke, PhD, RN
Title: The Gap in Cardiac Rehabilitation: Weight Management

Tiffany Moore, PhD, RN
Title: Prevalence of GI Distress in Infants of Midwest Region

Lynne Buchanan, PhD, RN, APRN-NP
Title: Primary Care Rural Workforce Crisis and Solutions

Christine Eisenhauer, PhD, APRN-CNS, PHCNS-BC, CNE
Title: Community-Informed Outreach Produces Engagement of Overweight and Obese Rural Midlife Men in a Clinical Trial

Kathleen Hanna, PhD, RN
Title: Transitions among Emerging Adults with Type1 Diabetes: Perceptions of Disrupted and Non-disrupted Diabetes Care Habits and Contextual Triggers
**Presentations—PhD STUDENTS**

**Jed Hansen**  
Adviser: Dr. Kathleen Hanna  
Podium Presentation—Facilitators and Inhibitors of Appointment Behavior among Emerging Adults with Type 1 Diabetes

**Jessica Miller**  
Adviser: Dr. Bunny Pozehl  
Poster Presentation—An Integrative Review: Components of Interventions Targeting Self-Management in Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions

**Zeinab Alazri**  
Adviser: Dr. Kathleen Hanna  
Poster Presentation—An Integrative Review: Factors Associated with Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect by School Personnel

**Jana Zwilling**  
Adviser: Dr. Kate Fiandt  
Poster Presentation—Where are we now? Review of the Evidence on Practice-Level Utilization of Nurse Practitioners in Comparison with State-Level Regulations

**Delia Djalilova**  
Adviser: Dr. Paula Schulz  
Poster Presentation—Policy Analysis of Access and Reimbursement to Non-Pharmacologic Treatments for Cancer-Related Fatigue

**Denise Waterfield**  
Adviser: Dr. Sue Barnason  
Poster Presentation—Pain, Agitation, and Delirium Assessment Tool Use by Nurses in Critical Care: An Integrative Review

**Presentations—DNP STUDENTS**

**Amber Golden**  
Adviser: Dr. Lynne Buchanan  
Poster Presentation—Feasibility of a System Level Change Using Motivational Interviewing: Tailored Discharge Education and Electronic Medical Record Flow Sheet Documentation for Patients with Alcohol Use Disorder

Kaitlin Maasdam; co-investigators: Abigail Simende, Victoria Tran, Travis Thuringer  
Adviser: Dr. Joyce Black  
Poster Presentation—Evaluation of the Pain Assessment Intervention for Nurses (PAIN)

Taylor Feilmeier; co-investigators: Shelby Freudenburg, Jody Harley, Brione Walters  
Advisers: Dr. Liane Connely and Dr. Beth Burbach  
Poster Presentation—Implementation and Effectiveness of a Medication Education Tool in a Rural Acute Care Hospital

**Presentations—BSN STUDENT**

**Courtney Camenzind**  
Adviser: Dr. Breanna Hetland  
Poster Presentation—An Examination of Bedside Patient Care Activities that are Appropriate for Caregivers to Perform in the Intensive Care Unit
Hello everyone—on behalf of your survey champions, Dani Wilson-Baxter, Kristi Brummels, Tom Mason, and LaDonna Tworek, you are encouraged to complete the UNMC Engagement Survey by Friday, April 5, 2019. And...there is a little competition between our divisions. Whichever division reaches a 95% completion rate—will get to wear jeans for a day (that is not a Friday). Here are some results as of April 1st:

College of Nursing as a whole—64%
Kearney Division—68%
Lincoln Division—64%
Northern Division—82%
Omaha Division—60%
West Nebraska Division—53%

Let’s see who can reach 95% first!!! Let Dani, Kristi, Tom or LaDonna know when you have completed your survey and you will receive a sticker. Thanks for your help with this important effort.

**ASSUME NOTHING, OVER-COMMUNICATE EVERYTHING!**
Why should you complete your survey…1) you matter; 2) your comments will be heard; 3) your opinions matter; and 4) your work is valued.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What does the survey consist of?**
The beginning of the survey asks for various demographics, followed by a series of statements that are answered on a 5-point scale—ranging from “Strongly Disagree” to “Strongly Agree” with “Neither Agree nor Disagree” in the middle as a neutral response. At the end of the survey, employees are invited to give written comments to one open-ended question.

**Do I have to complete the online survey in one sitting?**
No. You are able to revisit the survey as long as you have not submitted it. The survey auto-saves your changes. However, once you complete the survey and hit submit, you are no longer able to make changes.

**How will I receive the survey?**
You will receive an email invitation from the survey administrator containing a unique link to access the online survey. Do not forward this email to anyone else. If you cannot find the email that was sent to you, the company handling the survey will send you a new email. Just email support@quantumworkplace.com.

**How long does it take to complete the survey?**
The survey will consist of 55 questions scored on a 5-point Likert scale. It will take around 15-20 minutes to complete.

**Will survey answers be anonymous?**
By feeding back results in a summary form rather than individually, we protect the anonymity of respondents. Demographic data is used to identify patterns of engagement across a department or unit, however this does not compromise anonymity. No information will ever go back to a department that can identify an individual.

**College of Nursing 2019 Champions:**
Kristi Brummels, Norfolk — Tom Mason, Lincoln — LaDonna Tworek, Omaha — Dani Wilson-Baxter, Omaha

**NEW EMPLOYEES (February 1—March 31)**

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<tr>
<th>Photo Not Available</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Debra Bergman</td>
<td>NNRC Administrator</td>
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<td>Olivia Persson</td>
<td>Office Associate Omaha Division</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Matthew Fitzgerald</td>
<td>NNRC Administrative Grants Associate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Courtney Smith</td>
<td>CNE Educational Projects Coordinator</td>
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UPCOMING CONTINUING NURSING EDUCATION PROVIDED BY UNMC CON CNE

All times are CDT (Central Daylight Time) unless otherwise noted.

April 3  Rural Connect: Increasing HPV Vaccination Rates in Rural and Underserved Setting
Course ID: 19CC026  FREE Webinar  Noon—1:00pm  1.0 contact hour
https://ruralconnect.talemhealth.com

April 5  2019 Annual NPQIC Summit
Course ID: 19CC003  Ramada by Wyndam Midtown Grand Island  8:00am—4:30pm
$50 Registration Fee  6.5 contact hours
https://unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinicmed/npqic/index.html

April 5  Pursuit to Excellence: Wound Ostomy and Continence Management
Course ID: 19CE001  Scott Conference Center Omaha  8:00am—4:30pm
$85 Registration Fee  6.0 contact hours
www.unmc.edu/cne/education/wound

April 5  BHECN Project ECHO Webinar: PDMP
Course ID: 18CC100-18  FREE Webinar  Noon—1:15pm  1.0 contact hour
https://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/education/project-echo.html

April 12  Patient and Nurse Perspectives on the Use of PARP Inhibitors for Ovarian Cancer: Strategies for Maximizing Patient Outcomes - Satellite Symposium held at the 2019 ONS Annual Congress
Course ID: 19CE067  FREE  Anaheim, CA  6:00am—7:30am (PT)  1.5 contact hours
https://bioascend.rievent.com/a/KKACQY

April 12  Hidden in Plain Sight: Human Trafficking
Course ID: 19CE030  Truhlsen Eye Institute, Room 3001 and via Livestream Video  8:30am—Noon
$30 Registration Fee  3.0 contact hours
www.unmc.edu/cne/education/trafficking

April 15  BHECN Project ECHO Webinar: Teamwork-Nursing Approach to Treatment
Course ID: 18CC100-19  FREE Webinar  Noon—1:15pm  1.0 contact hour
https://www.unmc.edu/bhecn/education/project-echo.html

May 3  Rural Connect: Guideline-based COPD Management
Course ID: 19CC048  FREE Webinar  Noon—1:00pm  1.0 contact hour
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rural-connecttm-tickets-57562064585

May 14  Olson Center Webinar Series: Dissecting Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing
Course ID 19OL041a  FREE Webinar  Noon—1:00pm  1.0 contact hours
www.unmc.edu/cne/education/genetics

May 17  Leukemia Symposium: Focus on Opportunities to Improve Care
Course ID: 19CC014  Fred and Pamela Buffet Cancer Center Omaha  8:00am—Noon
FREE  1.0 contact hour
https://www.unmc.edu/cce/catalog/clinicmed/leukemia/index.html

For more information on live, online or independent activities, visit: www.unmc.edu/cne
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The Omaha campus hosted five students (pictured left) from Tongji University who visited the Omaha and Lincoln campuses for three weeks from February to March, 2019.

The students attended a “Greet and Meet” (pictured right) with Lincoln Assistant Dean, Dr. Jana Pressler and faculty. There was an interesting, lively discussion comparing health care across our two countries. Dr. Christie Campbell-Grossman hosted the students in her home during their stay in Lincoln.

Through the UNMC International Student Exchange Program, 29 of our College of Nursing students from across all five campuses traveled to five countries from February to March — Norway (University of Agder), Sweden (Kristianstad University), China (Shanghai Jiao Tong, Shanghai Tongji, and Beijing Capitol Medical), Oman (Sultan Qaboos University), and Jordan (Al-Zaytoonah University).

HEROES PROJECT

Exciting things are happening in the HEROES world! Some of you may know that we have been working with the Cross-Campus Education group to formulate plans to deliver Emergency Preparedness and Triage education in Canvas. Lectures will be filmed in sections and uploaded to Canvas for on-demand viewing by students during week 7 of the fall semester. It is exciting to be able to provide hands-on skills labs for students across the state after they have completed the online content. Due to this change, students will have an opportunity to experience more stations going forward. Some of the stations available for selection by instructors are:

- Stop the Bleed/Use of Combat Application Tourniquets (CAT)
- ISOPOD Patient isolator for patients with highly infections diseases
- Med Sled/Blanket carry

and several more. Two new stations are being developed and hope to have completed by fall: a mock patient decontamination exercise and PAPR assembly and use.

The HEROES Project will be making an appearance at the Nebraska Science Festival Expo in April again this year to provide hands-on emergency preparedness experience for 2nd to 5th grade students. Interactive games are being planned to help them understand how weather and germs can create an emergency!

Questions about HEROES? Contact the HEROES Program Coordinator, kim.hayes@unmc.edu or visit the website: www.unmcheroes.org

ANNUAL FACULTY AND STAFF MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 8, 2019
TIME: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Willa Cather Conference Center and College of Nursing Lincoln Division
KEARNEY DIVISION NEWS

The Kearney Division has weathered the winter wonderland and is looking forward to Spring! Faculty, staff, and students have had a busy winter! Faculty and staff participated in iWall training in January. Since then, Kearney faculty have participated in cross-campus iWall active learning experiences with the Scottsbluff Division. Students and faculty have reported positive feedback regarding these learning experiences and are planning more of these experiences to assist learners with synthesis and application of course concepts.

In January, the Kearney Division was delighted to welcome their fourth cohort of accelerated baccalaureate nursing students. The White Coat Ceremony was held late March to commemorate students’ entry into the nursing profession and the delivery of compassionate, patient and family-centered care.

Valentine’s Day was celebrated by faculty and staff creating festive valentine mailboxes, and giving personal notes and chocolate!

The College of Nursing and the College of Allied Health Professions held a blood drive in February to benefit the American Red Cross. Twenty-seven total units of blood were collected.

Kearney’s faculty and students in NRSG 424 Leadership in Professional Practice participated in Nurses Day at the Legislature in Lincoln the end of February. This has always been a favorite activity for faculty and students.

As we leap into Spring, the Kearney Division faculty, staff and students are looking forward to warm weather, spring flowers, and graduation!

LINCOLN DIVISION NEWS

Semester two PCCCI students participated in the UNMC College of Dentistry Children’s Dental Day on February 1. Nursing students performed well-child checks on close to 125 children from various communities in eastern Nebraska. In addition, students had the opportunity to assist the Dental and Dental Hygiene students with oral exams and treatments provided to the children. The Lincoln College of Nursing has been a part of Dental Day for many years. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and faculty from both UNMC colleges to work together in giving back to communities outside of Lincoln.
Clinical activities are in full swing in the new Lincoln simulation labs. Semester IV students have completed simulation days for both OB and PCCCIV content. Semester II students completed a full day of simulation related to PCCCII content in March. This was the first time multiple simulations could be completed at the same time for semester II students in Lincoln. Students utilized the simulation and debriefing rooms assisted by LRC staff, faculty, and graduate assistants. Another simulation day for PCCCII is scheduled in April. Students in Pediatrics for PCCCII this semester are completing simulations as part of this rotation.

We are truly blessed to have such state-of-the-art learning opportunities available for our students.

The Lincoln accelerated nursing students participated in World Oral Health Day (WOHD) in March at the UNMC College of Dentistry. The purpose of WOHD is to provide free dental screenings, dental care referrals, and oral health education to people living in Lincoln and surrounding communities. Nursing students were responsible for the initial health and diabetes screenings. The College of Nursing has joined with the College of Dentistry for many years in providing care at their sharing clinics.

Fifty-one Lincoln Semester IV nursing students attended the 2019 Nebraska Nurses Day at the Legislature “Back to the Future: Advocacy for all Nurses” held at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel on February 28th. The event provided a great opportunity for students to learn more about how state policy affects nursing practice. Speakers reviewed the APRN consensus model, provided an update on Medicaid expansion, and discussed how advocacy equals perseverance. Students also heard from their Nebraska lobbyists about legislation under consideration, and the newly elected NNA President discussed the importance of nurses getting involved and strategies to make an impact. Finally, students had the opportunity to have lunch with their home district state senators/representatives to talk about issues important to them. The annual event is well worth the investment of time. Lincoln faculty highly recommend nursing students from other campuses make the trek to Lincoln next year if possible.

Twelve Lincoln BSN students participated in the International Studies program in the following locations: University of Agder, Norway; Kristianstad University, Sweden; Tongji, Shanghai, China; Capitol Medical, Beijing, China; Sultan Qaboos University, Oman; and Al-Zaytoonah University, Jordan.

Lincoln nursing students, Bianca Lowe and Molly Murphy completed their international studies at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. The oldest independent state in the Arab world, Oman is one of the more traditional countries in the Gulf region. It is strategically placed at the mouth of the Gulf at the southeast corner of the Arabian Peninsula. Before returning to the United States, Bianca and Molly had the opportunity to stop in Thailand to visit an Elephant Sanctuary, which proved to be “an opportunity of a lifetime experience.”

Lincoln faculty and staff celebrated Valentine’s Day with decorated valentine boxes/bags, personal notes and chocolate! Life happens...chocolate helps!
NORTHERN DIVISION

The Northern Division welcomed the inaugural class of accelerated nursing students to the profession during the White Coat Ceremony, held February 11th. Accelerated nursing students Ashley Bode, Kortnie Eckstrom, and Benjamin Sanchez pledged to provide patient-centered, evidence-based nursing care to their future patients by recitation of the Nightingale Pledge.

In Mid-March, flooding caused by a massive late-winter storm prompted about one-third of the city of Norfolk to evacuate after city officials reported the levee system was ‘nearing its top’. Some of our BSN students—Amber Amatys, Lorissa Roepke, Sarah Kettelhut, and Lindsey Nickolite—had to leave their apartments and go to an evacuation shelter. While at the evacuation center, the students took advantage of their situation and practiced their nursing skills. They checked with victims to see if they had brought their medications; passed out and organized supplies such as briefs, blankets, personal hygiene items, etc. The four students took turns during the night assisting dependent/elderly victims to the bathroom. The use of therapeutic communication was used to calm someone down who was very anxious and was having a panic attack. A student wrapped someone’s burned hand; while another wheeled a person to a car for transfer to the hospital. They also checked glucose levels, and worked with physicians such as Family Practice and Pediatricians seeing people with complaints. One student reported that “Above all, I tried to remain calm and help out where I could. It was a stressful experience being evacuated (and moving our test date), but I was glad to help out at the nurses station. It was a very real world experience of what it means to be a nurse. It was cool that we had just learned about FEMA too so I kind of knew what was going on.” To see Amber’s full interview, copy this link and place it in your browser: https://nebraska.tv/news/local/nursing-student-shares-flooding-evacuation-story.

Students, faculty and staff from the Northern Division packaged 1,944 meals at Mercy Meals on February 27th. Mercy Meals is a non-profit organization located in Norfolk whose mission is to fight world hunger and reverse the effects of malnutrition. Volunteers packaged nutritious food to be sent to disaster relief centers, refugee camps, orphanages, and food pantries across the United States and around the world. Each meal consists of rice, soy flakes, dried vegetables, and chicken flavoring.

OMAHA DIVISION NEWS

Congratulations to Mark Darby, RN, APRN, MSN, FNPC! Mark was accepted to the UNMC Executive Fellowship in Addictive Medicine. It is a month-long part-time program in April that will offer training on how to treat addictions in a primary care setting. Mark states: “...This will be an invaluable addition to our ability to teach primary care Nurse Practitioners how to care for addictions. I want to thank Kate Fiandt for her support of this.”

The Omaha Learning Resource Center sponsored Pet Therapy the week before midterms. Two volunteers from the Nebraska Medicine Pet Therapy Program spent time in the LRC on March 11th and 15th visiting with staff and students. The event was a huge success and additional visits are planned for April 30th and May 2nd.
OMAHA DIVISION NEWS continued

Kahla N. Atherton, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor started her faculty practice at UNO Student Health. With the help of the NNRC (a one-man-shop at the time), Dr. Kate Fiandt submitted a HRSA grant titled “Developing a State-Wide Primary Care NP Residency through an Academic-Practice Partnership.”

Omaha Division’s March Wellness Activity: Letting Go, Giving Up, Getting More!
Each person received a slip of paper to write down something that is causing stress or concern and asked to think about how they could let it go, give it up, or ask for help. They proceeded to fold up the paper (or rip it up—whatever made them feel better). A bucket with stress relief items such as candy, stress balls, bubbles, fidget spinners, etc. was passed around to “Pick up Support” and participants were asked to think about how they can get more from letting go of that one thing they wrote down. Buckets with the remaining items were placed in each break room to remind individuals to “release” causes of stress.

Omaha Division faculty and staff really got creative with their Valentine’s Day entries. And the winners are:
Most Colorful: Kirsten Curtis       Most Unexpected: Lisa Muschall       Most Creative: Stacey Powers

WEST NEBRASKA DIVISION NEWS

Proposed Study
Kelly Betts, Ed.D, RN, APRN, PCPNC-BC, CNE, and Lisa Moravec, R.D.H., M.S. (UNMC Dental Hygiene program) submitted a letter of intent to the Dental Trade Alliance (DTA) for a study that will focus on integration of dental health screening into primary care pediatric well-child visits. The grant will include both nursing students and dental hygiene students for an IPE focus. On March 20, Dr. Betts and Ms. Moravec received notification from the DTA to submit a full grant proposal. If awarded, they will receive $25,000 to do the study.

Recruitment Efforts
♦ On March 29th, the WND hosted the health professions club from Box Butte General Hospital on campus. The event focused on sharing information about the UNMC College of Nursing’s BSN and RN-BSN programs. The group was provided a presentation by Karen Schledewitz and Dr. Kelly Betts; followed with a tour that included a simulation and iWall demonstration.
♦ Karen Schledewitz and Dr. Betts attended the Chadron State College Health Professions Club meeting on March 21st. Dr. Betts provided a short presentation on the differences in the roles of an RN versus an APRN. This fall, the WND will have 3 Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) students from Chadron that will enter the traditional BSN program. Karen also met with students who were interested in nursing and provided them with information regarding how to apply for the nursing program, while advising them on what they need to enter the program.
♦ The WND will be partnering with Eastern WY Community College to recruit prospective nursing students who are interested in the BSN and RN-BSN programs. EWCC is very excited to include UNMC in many opportunities to advise students on both the Torrington and Douglas campuses during peak recruitment times. A memorandum of agreement is also in the works from the dean’s office, which will help solidify the partnership between colleges. We are very excited about this opportunity.

WIN Conference
Dr. Trina Aguirre will attend the Western Institute of Nursing Annual Communicating Nursing Research Conference in San Diego from April 10-13. The theme of this year’s conference is Career, Connection, Community. Dr. Aguirre will provide a poster presentation for her food addiction study.

Accelerated Students
WND accelerated students refined their blood pressure taking skills in February. They had the opportunity to take blood pressures during the KNEB Farm and Ranch Expo February 8th and 9th, and before and after services at Mitchell Berean Church, February 9th and 10th.
Nursing Instructor Wendy Wells and her sisters, Tiffany and Hilary, were recently featured in the Star-Herald Community Health Stars special edition for contributions they have made to Scottsbluff and the Panhandle area through their respective careers.

Wendy has been teaching at the WND for 15 years as a community/population health nursing instructor, and she works with the Nebraska Panhandle Area Health Education Center. Previously Wendy worked as the first case manager for the Nebraska AIDS Project in Scottsbluff and was employed with the state as a community health nurse. She traveled the Panhandle visiting immunization clinics, as well as working with WIC, the reproductive health and the sexually transmitted infections program. Wendy is currently pursuing courses toward a doctorate degree.

Tiffany was employed with the Scottsbluff County Attorney’s office as a prosecutor for 12 years before leaving that position to teach at Western Nebraska Community College.

Hilary has worked as the executive director for the DOVES program for almost 18 years. The DOVES program provides services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The sisters continue to impact the Panhandle area in unique ways through a dedication to their career passions! The complete story (written by Star-Herald reporter, Irene North) is available at www.starherald.com or through the following link: https://www.starherald.com/news/stars/health/sisters-work-in-the-panhandle-helped-others/article_5691497b-e264-5402-a15b-057478da621b.html.

NSNA Convention: Ignite your Passion, Lighting the Way for Excellence
Nine WND students will attend the National Student Nurses Association National Convention in Salt Lake City April 2-7. Six students will serve as delegates and alternates in the house and will present a resolution. Other students will man the merchandise booth, and everyone will attend breakout sessions.

WND student Molly Bloodgood is President Elect of the National Resolutions Committee and will serve in that capacity during the convention. She worked as a research assistant for Dr. Trina Aguirre’s food addiction study during her first year in school and will provide a poster presentation on the research at the convention.

SNSNA Community Service Activity
Students chose an ideal community service opportunity last fall when they decided to spend time with residents of a local care facility. Each month the students have been showing up with card games and creative craft activities to share with the residents of Scottsbluff Care and Rehabilitation Center in Scottsbluff. Both residents and students are enjoying their time together!

Activities/Events
♦ First and second year and accelerated students participated in the second Ward Sim on March 1.
♦ First year students have applied for the Summer Externship Program with Regional West Medical Center, Box Butte General Hospital, and Chadron Community Hospital.
♦ The class of 2019 started transition on March 25.
♦ The Accelerated Nightingale White Coat ceremony will be held Friday, April 5, 4pm at the College of Nursing campus.
GSO Reads is a book club sponsored by the General Staff Organization Membership & Engagement Subcommittee. We meet via Zoom from noon to 1:00 pm. GSO Reads is open to all staff and faculty. Please contact Jill Thewke (jthewke@unmc.edu) if you are interested in joining the group.

Books the group has read and discussed:

♦ **VOX** by Christina Dalcher, a dystopian novel set in a United States in which half the population has been silenced

♦ **The Tattooist of Auschwitz** by Heather Morris, a novel based on interviews of a real-life Holocaust survivor and Auschwitz-Birkenau tattooist

♦ **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate, a novel based on the real-life adoption scandal of the Tennessee Children’s Home Society, in which Georgia Tann, Memphis branch director, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families

♦ **Defending Jacob** by William Landay, an American crime-drama of an embattled family in crisis. It tells the story of a father dealing with the accusation that his 14-year-old son is a murderer

**UPCOMING BOOK SELECTIONS**

♦ **A Spark of Light** by Jodi Picoult, a daring and enthralling novel about a hostage situation at a women’s reproductive health services clinic

♦ **The Two-Family House** by Lynda Cohen Loigman, an engrossing family saga set in post-war Brooklyn. It focuses on two families linked by blood, marriage, and a long-held secret

♦ **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens is an exquisite ode to the natural world, a heartbreaking coming-of-age story, and surprising tale of possible murder

The final CON newsletter for the 2018-19 academic year will be after the Annual meeting in May. Please send any newsletter articles to me between now and May 10th to be included in the end-of-the-year news. Thank you.

_**Never lose a chance of saying a kind word!**_
William Makepeace Thackeray