

FALL 2012

# CREIGHTON

SCHOOL OF NURSING PROGRESS REPORT



**Spirit of Creighton  
Rings True for 40 years  
Nursing Care at the Heart  
Ministry Center**

# NEW NAME, SHARED MISSION



Creighton University and Alegent Health formed a long-term strategic affiliation on Sept. 1, 2012. Alegent Creighton Health has become the primary teaching site for Creighton's health sciences schools, enhancing both the academic experience for students and healthcare in the greater Omaha community. As part of the strategic affiliation, Creighton University Medical Center and Creighton University's physician practice, Creighton Medical Associates (CMA), became a part of Alegent Creighton Health.

Nursing leadership from the School of Nursing and Alegent Creighton Health have enjoyed a series of meetings to discuss meaningful opportunities that would be key to improving practice and ultimately improving patient care. Projects being discussed include simulation lab partnerships, dedicated education units, nursing leadership development and transition into practice.

Jane Carmody, DNP, RN, CENP, is vice president and system chief nursing officer for Alegent Creighton Health. "We consider teaching hospitals cutting-edge and first to deploy the best in evidence-based practices and the 'next' best practices. Teaching hospitals raise the bar on all members of the healthcare team and call them to be current in their practice and to better understand and value their role as teachers in preparing new generations of caregivers. We look forward to working closer with the health sciences schools, and especially for nursing to have access to new best practices, education and research." said Carmody.

The new partnership is viewed favorably by the School of Nursing as well. "Throughout the School of Nursing's history, our students have benefitted from clinical learning experiences provided by Creighton

University Medical Center and the Alegent Health system," said nursing dean Eleanor Howell, Ph.D. "Creighton's students will experience even greater opportunities through the extensive network of Alegent Creighton Health's hospitals and clinics and vast array of local and international service activities. In addition, active and on-going relationships among our practitioners, educators and researchers will lead to improvements in care delivery and positive outcomes for the people we serve."

"The nurses at Alegent Creighton recognize the quality of the Creighton nursing graduate and have always valued the practice and skill of the Creighton University Medical Center nurse. The reaction to this partnership is so positive and we look forward to collaboration in our clinical practices, our education, our research and in our nurse leadership development practices," Carmody said. "We envision improved care for our patients and families, improved work environments for our nurses, and improved healthcare team relationships as we collaborate in our work and in the values we share."

### About Alegent Creighton Health

With a commitment to providing high-quality care and an exceptional patient experience, Alegent Creighton Health physicians, nurses and all employees are focused on caring for the body, mind and spirit of every person. Patients find a continuum of care at Alegent Creighton Health, from skilled long-term care. Sponsored by Catholic Health Initiatives and Immanuel, Alegent Creighton Health is a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare provider serving Nebraska and southwest Iowa. CHI is a national, faith-based provider with deep roots in the community. For more information, visit [www.alegent.com](http://www.alegent.com). ■

## DEAN'S REPORT



Inter-professional collaboration is one of the important initiatives for improving health outcomes and the delivery of safe, effective patient care. Multi-disciplinary research teams also are growing in importance as researchers find that comprehensive and innovative solutions to complex issues in health care can best be approached by drawing upon the perspectives, skills and expertise of a team of diverse professionals. Although not new to the School of Nursing, multidisciplinary research teams are receiving greater support through the appointment of a shared research dean and the expansion of our inter-professional and collaborative research and scholarship infrastructure.

In August, Dr. Kimberly Galt, the Assistant Vice President for Multidisciplinary Health Sciences Research, joined the School of Nursing leadership team as the new Associate Dean of Research, a role she also holds in the School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the School of Dentistry. In this position, Dr. Galt provides administrative oversight of and support for research and scholarship in the three schools. She will further the three schools' achievements in inter-professional education, practice, and scholarship through

advancing Creighton University's mission of discovery, translation, dissemination and use of new knowledge in the health sciences.

Dr. Galt has been at Creighton University for 15 years, and is a professor, center director, fellowship director, and member of the Creighton University graduate faculty. She holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology (qualitative, quantitative, psychometric and mixed research methods), and a clinical doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Michigan, and is a Fellow in the National Academies of Practice and the American Society of Health System Pharmacists. Throughout her academic career, she has demonstrated an ability to sustain both individual and collaborative research. We are delighted that she is sharing her talents with the faculty and students in nursing, and for this opportunity to promote multidisciplinary scholarship.

The School of Nursing also is actively promoting opportunities for students and faculty members in the health care professions to practice and learn together. For example, in May, Creighton Health Sciences had one of the 33 teams selected from across the nation to attend IPEC's (Interprofessional Education Collaborative) faculty development program on inter-professional education. Associate Professor Katie O'Keefe, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-PC, and Creighton faculty members from medicine, physical therapy, dentistry, and the health sciences library, joined more than 150 participants to focus on building strong programs in inter-professional team-based learning.

Inter-professional primary care practice opportunities are available for dentists, RNs, NPs, pharmacists, social workers, and students at the Porto Clinic; and health science students have access to required and elective graduate and undergraduate courses in various areas such as patient safety and global/public health. The Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy and Health Professions established the nationally-accredited Health Sciences Continuing Education program to promote a collaborative approach to designing and offering inter-professional continuing education. In October, the continuing education offering on "Caring in a Complex World: Reducing Readmissions Through Collaboration and Communication," included physician colleague Rowan Zetterman, dean of Creighton's School of Medicine, who described for the audience how changes in the health care system and service expectations are influencing the training of future physicians. Today, medical school curricula have an increased emphasis on areas such as collaboration in practice, inter-professional education and preventive care.

I look forward to sharing in future e-newsletters how the collaborations among faculty scholars and shared clinical activities are advancing the public's health and the quality and safety of health care.

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Eleanor Howell, Ph.D., R.N.



## GALT NAMED RESEARCH DEAN

Kimberly A. Galt, Pharm.D., Ph.D., has been named Assistant Vice President for Multidisciplinary Health Sciences Research and Associate Dean for Research for the Schools of Nursing, Dentistry and Pharmacy and Health Professions. Galt is a respected leader with a proven record of accomplishment in federally competitive interdisciplinary research, research program development, and research administration. Her broad experience in both the arts and sciences and health sciences makes her well suited for working with faculty and students within and across disciplines, as well as in collaborative and interdisciplinary

relationships. She is an experienced program evaluator and consultant for state health and human services offices (public health and disease prevention, rural health), private organizations and professional associations in areas related to research, service and professional practice. Her past professional practice experience includes providing clinical services through interdisciplinary ambulatory health care practice in the Veterans Administration and hospital administration at Hermann Hospital in the Texas Medical Center, a private academic health science center.



### ON THE COVER

Nurse practitioner Martha Todd (left) and volunteer Melissa List, BSN '12, seated, provide care to a patient visiting the free urgent care health clinic at the Heart Ministry Center in Omaha.

### ENROLLMENT FACTS October 2012

SCHOOL OF NURSING	OMAHA	HASTINGS	TOTALS
<b>Undergraduate Program</b>			
Traditional	405	19	424
Accelerated	88	8	96
<b>Graduate Program</b>			
Master of Science in Nursing	—	—	100
Doctor of Nursing Practice	—	—	126



The Heart Ministry Health Clinic provides an interdisciplinary approach to healthcare. Nurse practitioner Martha Todd, center right, consults with Creighton pharmacy students and Creighton nursing alumna Melissa List, center left.

## THE NURSE WILL SEE YOU NOW! PROVIDING CARE AT THE HEART MINISTRY CENTER

It is 8:30 a.m. on a Wednesday morning. A line has formed in the parking lot of the Heart Ministry Center, located on the near north side of Omaha. Men, women and children are waiting to see Martha Todd, a nurse practitioner working at the Porto Clinic, a free urgent care health clinic operated through a partnership with Creighton.

For over 30 years, the Heart Ministry Center has provided food, clothing, shelter and financial assistance to the needy. Last year, they served close to 70,000 individuals. What lacked was the ability to provide healthcare services to those who could not afford even a sliding scale fee.

In 2009, a family with strong Creighton connections offered medical equipment and furniture to Creighton. A small, visionary group of people knew just where the equipment should go. School of Nursing dean faculty and staff, saw the tremendous impact a Creighton-run health clinic could have on the neighborhood and recognized the incredible learning opportunities the clinic could offer Creighton students. Todd moved her clinical practice to the Porto Clinic, and led the development of the services.

The clinic is truly interdisciplinary. Along with Todd and the nursing students, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions faculty members and their students consult with patients. A Creighton social work intern meets with clients to find financial assistance or housing for those no longer able to live alone. Medical students are also found in the mix, providing screenings and consultations.

Dental students provide free screenings on a regular basis. In the near future, a new room will be added, outfitted with dental equipment (donated by a Creighton dentist.) needed to provide a range of dental services.

On a typical Wednesday morning, Todd and fellow healthcare professionals from Creighton see as many as 30 patients. Many come with sinus infections or influenza; however, others are suffering from heart disease and diabetes. Todd and her colleagues spend hours beyond those at the clinic seeking a medical home for the chronically ill patients.

John Levy, executive director of the Heart Ministry Center, commented, "Creighton has been a Godsend to us. The University has provided us with caring, committed faculty members and students to care for our clients."

To learn more about the Heart Ministry Center, visit [www.heartministrycenter.org](http://www.heartministrycenter.org). ■

# DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE AN EVOLUTION IN HEALTHCARE



Anne Dey, BSN '03, DNP '11

Anne Dey, BSN '03, DNP '11, credits her doctor in nursing practice degree for giving her the preparation needed for her current position at Alegen Creighton Health. As operations director of nursing practice and interim director of maternal/child services, Dey said she uses the education she received every day.

"In the D.N.P. program, we studied business models and 'best practices' from many different industries—and learned we could borrow and apply these concepts to nursing. For example, physicians have been doing Grand Rounds for years. It made perfect sense that nurses would benefit from the same interaction. So we initiated Nursing Grand Rounds enabling nurses to come together to talk about their patients and how to improve their practice," said Dey.

Dey is one of 19 D.N.P. graduates of Creighton's program since it was established four years ago. There are currently 126 students enrolled in the mostly online doctoral program. Because of the convenient delivery of courses, 47 students reside outside of Nebraska.

"After working at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago, I was ready for the next step. I knew attaining a D.N.P. degree would open doors for me and give me the background and foundation I would need to become a senior level administrator," said Dey.

Mary Parsons, Ph.D., BSN '76, is chair of the D.N.P. program at Creighton. Creighton was the first nursing school in Nebraska to offer the doctor of nursing practice degree. When the

American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) endorsed the practice doctorate as the appropriate level of preparation of nurses in advanced practices and other top clinical roles by 2015, Creighton began building the program immediately.

"Our D.N.P. graduates are equipped to provide leadership, regardless of the setting. They excel in translating research into practice, evaluating evidence and applying research in decision-making and implementing viable innovations to change practice," said Parsons.



Mary Parsons, Ph.D., BSN '76

Creighton faculty invested a great deal of time and research into developing an innovative curriculum that would provide the highest level of preparation for clinical practice. It was important that the University's Catholic, Jesuit mission be woven throughout the program, setting Creighton's D.N.P. apart from most programs across the nation. Teamwork, good communication and resolving conflict were identified as key components to influence change. As a result, a unique aspect of the curriculum includes classes on negotiation and dispute resolution, offered through the Werner Institute in the School of Law.

Unlike many nursing schools, Creighton's program offers a multitude of paths for both its master's and doctoral students. Both post-baccalaureate and post-master's options are available. While the majority of the students are nurse practitioners, the

advanced practice track also is designed for clinical nurse specialists, clinical systems administrators and those interested in advanced public health/global health.

The D.N.P. is a clinically-focused doctorate, while the Ph.D. focuses on research. Lindsay Iverson, DNP '11, an assistant professor on the Creighton nursing faculty and is an acute care nurse practitioner, notes that the D.N.P. reinforces her ability to provide better outcomes for her patients.

With a better understanding of public policy, D.N.P.-prepared nurses will become stronger change agents in a rapidly-evolving health-care industry. Most importantly, their expertise and influence will assure high quality patient outcomes. ■

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Diane Millea's, BSN '77, DNP '11, research focused on the treatment and management of diabetes within populations that are generally underserved and underinsured. She has been able to implement change within the clinic where she works as a nurse practitioner.

Julie Sundermeier, BSN '84, MS '98, DNP '12, is the lead neonatal nurse practitioner at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. When nurse practitioners encountered barriers in prescribing respiratory interventions, she successfully advocated for change at the Nebraska Unicameral.

To learn more about Drs. Millea and Sundermeier and their views on the D.N.P. program at Creighton, please watch the following videos:



Millea  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4xyucKnNnQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4xyucKnNnQ)

Sundermeier

[www.creighton.edu/nursing](http://www.creighton.edu/nursing)



Melissa List, BSN'12, volunteers every Wednesday at the Heart Ministry Center Health Clinic in Omaha, often after working a 12-hour night shift at Children's Hospital & Medical Center.

## MELISSA LIST RECEIVES THE 2012 SPIRIT OF CREIGHTON AWARD

**“Service is not an obligation; it is a joy and honor.”**

School of Nursing graduate Melissa List, BSN'12, of Granville, Iowa, received the prestigious Spirit of Creighton Award at Creighton's May commencement ceremony.

While at Creighton, List was a tireless advocate for the poor and marginalized. List served as a leader with the Creighton Center for Service and Justice and many other volunteer efforts. She taught religious education to children at St. John's parish on weekends, and was part of an interdisciplinary team of students and professionals that traveled to the Dominican Republic through the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) to set up a medical clinic in a farming community.

Her commitment to service continues. List often leaves her 12-hour shift on the hematology/oncology floor of Children's Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha and heads to the Heart Ministry Center's free urgent care clinic operated by Creighton to volunteer her time.

“Creighton provided me the environment to serve others—service was encouraged and applauded,” said List. “I just did what I was called to do. Creighton calls you to care for others.” ■

## SPIRIT OF CREIGHTON LEGACY LIVES ON

### 1973 | Anne Dyer McGuire

As a resident advisor in college, Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73, encountered many issues and worked to ease the way for Creighton students. Most significantly, she is credited with spearheading the first initiative to openly address human sexuality on campus.



1973 Spirit of Creighton recipients: Front, Creighton president Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., BS'73; Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73; Back, Gary Batenhorst, BSBA'73; Mary Higgins, BA'73. The four have remained close friends since their college days 40 years ago.

“It was the early 70s,” McGuire recalled, “a student in my dorm became pregnant, yet had no idea how she became pregnant.”

She realized that many young women didn't have a good understanding of sexuality and protecting themselves from sexual predators. Informational classes were offered, dorm advisors were educated and armed with resources, and students were given a venue to ask questions. This was the beginning of what has evolved and transformed into the Violence Prevention and Intervention Center, now part of the Division of Student Life at Creighton.

After graduation, McGuire moved several times while her husband, Michael, completed his medical degree. At each juncture, she used her nursing education and zeal for service. At Fort Leonardwood, Mo., she volunteered for the Red Cross and started the “first and only” Army hospice. At Washington University in St. Louis she was a clinical researcher in the Memory and Aging Center. In 1989, her service became more personal when she and her husband adopted two children, both needing a great deal of love and attention. McGuire is mother to four children. Her youngest, Katie, attends Creighton.

The Spirit of Creighton Award is given annually to graduates who exemplify the best qualities of the University's founders. Recipients are honored for their initiative, enterprise, academic achievement and outstanding character traits.

### 1983 | Ellen Townley O'Gara

Ellen Townley, BSN'83, received the Spirit of Creighton Award in 1983. She played an integral part in organizing the first service trips for Creighton. With the encouragement of John Lynch, S.J., and support from other Jesuits, students took their first service trip to Appalachia in Kentucky. “For me, it was the first time I truly witnessed poverty,” said Townley. “It changed my life.” What Townley and fellow students initiated in 1982 lives on 30 years later.

### 1985 | Janet Berning Teets

Janet Berning Teets, BSN'85, said the Holy Spirit led her to Creighton. She had not planned on attending Creighton, let alone becoming a nurse. A service trip to Appalachia in 1982 changed her world forever, she said. That experience opened the door to a mission trip to Jackson, Miss., followed by a summer in the Dominican Republic. When Teets graduated, she went to work in a birthing center on the Texas border.

### 1991 | Mary O'Kief Dittrich

What do Mary O'Kief Dittrich, BSN'91, M.D., and her dad, Jerry O'Kief, JD'60, BA'61, have in common? Father and daughter both received the Spirit of Creighton Award. Jerry was a law student in 1961 when he received the award. While at Creighton, Mary volunteered at a homeless shelter, far different than the ranch she grew up on in Valentine, Neb. She recalls the disparity that existed for the homeless and underserved.

### Years Later

Since 1996, McGuire has been a regular fixture on the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) board of directors. She emphasizes the “human” aspect of running a utility company.

“People need electricity, yet so many people are unable to cope with the escalating costs. Our job is to run the company as efficiently

as possible so electricity remains affordable. We incentivize the consumer to live more efficiently to conserve energy,” she stated.

In addition to her work on the OPPD board, McGuire serves on the board of Gesu, a nonprofit organization in Omaha that works with low income families to purchase their own homes. McGuire has stayed true to the “Spirit of Creighton.” And she is an avid fundraiser for the Creighton Bluejays.

While homeschooling six children takes up most of Teets' time, her unwavering commitment to service revolves around her children's activities and participating in the Catholic Church Adult Formation in Iowa City, Iowa.

Today, Townley is a nurse practitioner working for the National Institutes of Health, focusing

making the commitment to making things better, is what drives individuals to serve others,” said Townley.

O'Kief is now Dr. Dittrich, a nephrologist, living and practicing in Boise, Idaho. She is dedicated to advising other physicians on becoming sound business people.

“I bring two perspectives — that of a nurse and a physician. It is critical that all health-care professionals share the responsibility to become strong advocates in the design and delivery of healthcare,” said Dittrich. “My belief is that we all need to know what drives healthcare costs.”

Dittrich is married to a physician and they have three children. She volunteers regularly at a free health clinic affiliated with her



Since 1996, Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN'73, has served on the board of Omaha Public Power District.

on HIV research in the U.S. and Africa. She lives in Chevy Chase, Md., with her daughter. “I want my daughter to be a witness to the injustice in the world and do what she can to influence change. I believe witnessing experiences in other parts of the world, and

church. Twenty-one years later, Dittrich is still called to serve those less fortunate and still displays that incredible “Spirit of Creighton!” ■

# MY CALL TO SERVE CONTINUES

BY AMBER VAN KIRK, BSN'01



Amber Van Kirk, BSN'01, worked tirelessly as a volunteer in the Dominican Republic, receiving the Spirit of Creighton Award in 2001.



Today Van Kirk conducts public health maternal child home visits through a public health program, Project WIN, for the Visiting Nurses Association in Omaha.

**“SOMETIMES I BELIEVE YOU MEET SOMEONE AT THE RIGHT TIME. THE RESOURCES YOU PROVIDE THEM, OR THE ENCOURAGEMENT YOU OFFER, WILL HAVE A VERY STRONG IMPACT ON THEM FOR REST OF THEIR LIFE.”**

My first nursing experience was in a birthing center along the Texas/Mexico border. A typical day included teaching childbirth classes, assisting the midwives with the births, and home visits to provide support with the mothers who had just delivered. The most rewarding aspect was the home visits where I would educate mothers on breastfeeding and care of their newborn. I often found the homes overcrowded, without running water or air conditioning. The home visits truly put a new perspective on the healthcare needs of individuals. My passion for public health grew from these visits.

For the next two years I worked in a rural village in the Dominican Republic. I conducted health programs for water filtration, child nutrition and teaching basic first aid to the local villagers. I was continually amazed at how one small change could positively impact the health of the community at large. It also opened my eyes to the disparities that exist between the developed and undeveloped world.

When I returned from the Dominican Republic, I worked at One World Community Health Center in Omaha. I was proud to work at a community health center. They are the safety net for those who need it.

For the past four years, I have been working for the Visiting Nurses Association as a maternal child public health nurse and a shelter nurse at the Lydia House/Open Door Mission in Omaha and the Micah House in Council Bluffs, Iowa (shelters for single women and families). The clients that I typically see are Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees from Burma. Working in homeless shelters is a very different nursing experience. While I had worked with

underserved populations previously, it was not nearly as complex as the healthcare needs I have encountered in the shelter. Of all my nursing experiences, working in the shelter has been the toughest, but it has taught me the most. ■

## SPIRIT OF CREIGHTON SCHOOL OF NURSING

Creighton University has recorded the Spirit of Creighton Award recipients since 1973. In that time, 12 nursing students have received this esteemed honor.

YEAR	NAME	CURRENT HOMETOWN
2012	Melissa List	Granville, Iowa
2005	Kim Righter	Jamaica Plain, Mass.
2001	Amber Van Kirk	Omaha, Neb.
1993	Jana Braklow Whitton	Olathe, Kan.
1991	Mary O'Keif Dittrich	Boise, Idaho
1989	David McGuire	Rochester, Minn.
1986	Terese O'Neil Selvage	Santa Fe, N.M.
1985	Janet Berning Teets	Iowa City, Iowa
1983	Ellen Townley O'Gara	Chevy Chase, Md.
1982	Mary Jo Hanigan	Omaha, Neb.
1974	Karen Kelly	San Mateo, Calif.
1973	Anne Dyer McGuire	Omaha, Neb.

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF NURSING WITH LEADERSHIP AT THE POINT OF SERVICE



Mentor Rachel Lusvardi, Omaha, (Center) with her mentees Kirsten VanHare, Bellvue, Wash. (left) and Abby Suholaski, Lee Summit, Mo. (right)

## The Leadership Scholars Program

The program began its second year with 30 freshman members and 20 upper level mentors. During the program, student leaders focus on leadership opportunities and service, mentoring, relationship development and self-reflection. Freshmen are encouraged to build relationship networks; as sophomores and juniors, students begin to accept and function in leadership roles; and as seniors they become mentors and role models for the lower division. Students have access to a myriad of community leaders and nurse executives, many of them Creighton nursing alumni, who bring an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience. ■

# CREIGHTON NURSING PROGRAM IS ONE OF 55 TO RECEIVE RWJF GRANT

**FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING WAS AWARDED A GRANT FROM THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION NEW CAREERS IN NURSING (NCIN) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

The NCIN Scholarship Program was launched in 2008 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to address a national nursing shortage, develop a diverse professional nursing workforce, and fuel the pipeline of nurse faculty and leaders.

“Increasing diversity is a top priority for Creighton,” said Dean Eleanor Howell, “We believe a diverse nursing workforce is necessary to provide culturally competent care.”

Creighton received five scholarships and was one of 55 schools nationwide to receive NCIN grants for 400 scholarships for the 2012-13 academic year. RWJF awarded Creighton eight scholarships in 2012. Scholarships are awarded to students traditionally underrepresented in the school’s baccalaureate accelerated nursing program, a track specifically designed for students already holding college degrees in other fields.

Waheeda Siddiqui, BSN'12, had finished her undergraduate degree from Arizona State when she decided to become a nurse. Siddiqui knew that if she wanted to complete a nursing degree in under a year, she would have to leave Arizona and move to another state.



RWJF scholar Waheeda Siddiqui, BSN'12

“Creighton had very favorable online reviews and a high NCLEX pass rate. It was the only school I applied to attend,” Siddiqui said.

Without the NCIN scholarship, she added, she could not have afforded it.

Siddiqui grew up in Afghanistan and Pakistan before coming to the United States. In the Middle East, a bachelor’s degree or university education is not required when training to become a nurse. Nursing is not viewed with as much respect there as it is in the United States, she explained. She knows her degree from Creighton will have value in the United States.

“My mom was a nurse and loved what she did, so I knew that’s what I wanted to do,” said Siddiqui. “Having a higher level of education will open new possibilities for me, and I’ll be more knowledgeable and be able to advocate for myself as a nursing professional.” ■

# HANSEN'S DISEASE

## MY VISITS TO KALAUPAPA

BY JOY ENG, NURSING STUDENT

Between 1865 and 1969, the lack of knowledge of Hansen's Disease (leprosy) resulted with the banishment of over 8,000 people to Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai in Hawaii. Hansen's Disease affects the nerves, skin, upper respiratory tract and eyes. It is not highly contagious, but can be spread through prolonged, direct contact and with disregard to sanitary practice. Left here on the island to die, the people of Kalaupapa



Nursing student Joy Eng with Kalaupapa resident Makia Malo

stood why there were no words to explain the feeling of setting foot on this secluded place. Despite its natural beauty, Kalaupapa holds the scars of sickness and death. The closer I became to the patients, the more I began to realize why they are able to call this place their home.

Growing up in Hawaii I had always been familiar with the history of Kalaupapa, and when my mom became the supervisor of

“REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY WERE FORCED TO FACE, THE PEOPLE OF KALAUPAPA ARE THE MOST GENUINE, LOVING, FORGIVING AND RESILIENT INDIVIDUALS I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.”

— JOY ENG, JUNIOR NURSING STUDENT FROM EWA BEACH, HAWAII

have experienced betrayal, pain and suffering. Many of these people were taken away from their families as children, unable to establish intimate relationships or be a part of the discipline and values taught by their parents. In the settlement, mothers could not even touch their newborns or raise their child as they were immediately sent to relatives. Freedom was not a part of life for those sent to Kalaupapa.

I first met Makia Malo at a Japanese Bon Dance on Oahu, Hawaii. It was evening and he was wearing sunglasses. This large man was in a wheelchair, had a cast on his leg, and showed the signs of Hansen's Disease on his hands and face. The second time I met Malo he was not wearing his sunglasses. As a young high school student, I was unprepared for how comfortable I would feel speaking to a blind man who did not have an eye in one socket, and whose other eye was completely white.

Malo was sent to Kalaupapa just a few days shy of his 13th birthday. He recalls a wonderful life on the settlement where he learned to hunt pigs, wandered in the mountains, and enjoyed going for a root beer, drumstick and a bag of crunchy Cheetos. Malo taught me the valuable lesson that looks do not matter, it is the inside that counts. Although he was blind by the age of 30, Malo went on to earn a teaching certificate at University of Hawaii Manoa and a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian studies. (When the ban was lifted in 1969, Malo was able to leave the settlement and pursue his own dreams. He has travelled the world and is a renowned storyteller, singer and Hawaiian chanter.) Although he currently spends much of his time at Hale Mohalu Hospital on Oahu, Malo always chooses to return to his home in Kalaupapa.

I first visited Kalaupapa in January 2010. I could feel the heavy burden upon my shoulders. Everything was picture perfect just as I had seen in the books, but I finally under-

nursing at Hale Mohalu Hospital on Oahu, the opportunity arose for me to conduct my high school senior project on this special population. I have returned each summer since and intend to continue my visits to offer what help I can provide.

The question that has bothered me the most was why these people chose to remain in the settlement even after the ban was lifted in 1969 and they were allowed to leave? Many chose to stay at Kalaupapa because it is their home. They were treated with equality and respect and were far away from a society that judged and discriminated. Despite the hardship, these people came together as a community and became their own family.

Regardless of the circumstances they faced, the people of Kalaupapa are the most genuine, loving, forgiving and resilient individuals I have ever encountered.

To view a video of Kalaupapa, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLXiqShygn&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLXiqShygn&feature=youtu.be). ■



Joy Eng with her mother, Cheri M. Shimose-Eng, a supervisor of nursing at Hale Mohalu Hospital in Honolulu. Here her mother cares for the patients who need further medical care that is not available at the settlement.

# “TRADITIONAL DISCIPLINE” OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

## PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH WITH A SUDANESE REFUGEE COMMUNITY

Dianne Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., R.N. | Associate Professor, Creighton University

Violet Iluebbey, M.S.W., M.A. | Executive Director, International Daycare Center



Dianne Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., R.N.

Dianne Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., BSN '79, MS '93, provided this background on the groundbreaking research on domestic violence within the Sudanese community that she and Violet Iluebbey had conducted. Their research will be published in January in the *Journal of Cultural Diversity*.

Domestic violence is a family, community, and public health problem, but little is known about contributors to domestic violence in immigrant, refugee families. In fact, legally defined domestic violence in the U.S. may involve culturally sanctioned behaviors in countries of refugee origin.

In this community participatory action research (CPAR), the authors collaborated with Sudanese refugees to address differences in cultural understandings and U.S. legal constraints regarding interactions among adult family members. They used ethnographic methods to explore experiences of resettlement, family adaptation, gender relations and family roles, family and community conflict, and human rights and the U.S. legal system. CPAR is a methodology aligned with advocacy for the community.

Working in partnership with the refugee community, the Omaha Police Department, and the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, four Sudanese men and three women were trained as family and community educators. These men and women taught other refugees in both Omaha and Lincoln about U.S. laws prohibiting violence, they helped identify Sudanese elders to serve as family advisors, and they led two meetings

### “OUR GOAL WAS ACTUALLY A HORIZON — THE ENVISIONED INTERSECTION OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INTEGRITY IN A WORLD WITHOUT DOMESTIC AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE.”

with the larger Omaha community to educate us about the experience of being refugees from Sudan. Finally, in partnership with Creighton University, we produced a video about domestic violence and consequences in the U.S. legal system that has been used locally and nationally. This paper offers a culturally appropriate approach to family violence prevention within a refugee population.

The iterative research process led to a train-the-trainer model with key Sudanese community members educating men and women about domestic violence, Sudanese community and women's group meetings, identification of elders as family advisors, and two meetings to educate the larger Omaha community about the Sudanese refugee experience.

The outcomes of this action research were complex and rich, and provided the following insights:

- Refugees, in this case from Sudan, must be informed of and educated about what is

legally acceptable and expected domestic behavior in the U.S.;

- Preventing intimate partner violence and guarding the integrity of families and community is a universal concern;
- Elders and community members are excellent resources for culturally sensitive and aware problem solving;
- Refugee community leaders may be our best resource for educating the larger metropolitan community about traditional Sudanese family life, culture and goals;
- We must continue to establish new connections and partnerships with others in the metropolitan area.

Additionally, it was discovered that the outcomes were consistent with the goals of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC), the grant-funding agency. Namely, there is a need for understanding other cultures and educating law enforcement, clergy, teachers and other care providers about varying cultural behavior norms.

Sudanese community members actively worked with Travers Gustafson and Iluebbey in designing the research to evaluation. Together they identified needs, recruited participants, analyzed results, and implemented change strategies. In the long run, this engaged community worked to initiate change benefiting family and community integrity. All were stakeholders in the participatory action research.

The article in its entirety will be published in January in the *Journal of Cultural Diversity* (2013), Volume 20, Number 1.

Or, you may read the article in its entirety at [www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/nursing/docs/PR/Trad\\_disc\\_rev\\_110210.pdf](http://www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/nursing/docs/PR/Trad_disc_rev_110210.pdf). ■

## FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

**Cosimano, A.** & Sandhurst, H. (2011). Strategies for successful breastfeeding in the NICU. *The Journal of Neonatal Nursing*, 30(5), 340-343. doi:10.1891/0730-0832.30.5.340

Rafferty, K., Watson, P., **Lappe, J. M.** (2011). The selection and prevalence of natural and fortified calcium food sources in the diets of adolescent girls. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, 43(2), 96-102. doi:10.1016/j.jneb.2010.02.016

Zemel, B. S., Kalkwarf, H. J., Gilsanz, V., **Lappe, J. M.**, Oberfield, S., Shepherd, J.,...Winer, K. (2011). Revised reference curves for bone mineral content and density according to age and sex for black and non-black children: results of the bone mineral density in childhood study. *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*, 96(10), 3160-3169. doi:10.1210/jc.2011-1111

Rafferty, K. A., Heaney, J. B., **Lappe, J. M.** (2011). Dietary calcium intake is a marker for total diet quality in adolescent girls and women across the life cycle. *Nutrition Today*, 46(5), 244-251. doi:10.1097/NT.0b013e318230e5b5

**Lappe J. M.** (2011). The role of vitamin D in human health: A paradigm shift. *Journal of Evidence-Based Complementary & Alternative Medicine* 16(1), 58-72. doi:10.1177/1533210110392952

Adamson, K. A., **Parsons, M. E., Hawkins, K., Manz, J. A., Todd, M., & Hercinger, M.** (2011). Reliability and internal consistency findings from the C-SEI. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 50(10), 583-586. doi:10.3928/01484834-20110715-02

**Rubarth, L. B.** (2011). Fraternal or identical: understanding twin gestation. *Neonatal Network*, 30(3), 196-198.

**Rubarth, L. B.** (2011). Blood types and ABO incompatibility. *Neonatal Network*, 30(1), 50-53.

### NON-RETEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

**Travers Gustafson, D.** (2011). The ordinary magic girls: Midwestern women, faith, and healing. Rodlack, A. & Dilly, B. (Eds.), *Religion, Health, and Healing: An Interdisciplinary Inquiry. Journal of Religion and Society*, S(7), Creighton University. ISSN 1941-8450.

### BOOKS OR BOOK CHAPTERS

**O'Keefe, C.** (2011). Fungal infections. In Reuter-Rice and Bolick (Eds.), *Pediatric acute care: A guide for interprofessional practice* (pp.728-734). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

**O'Keefe, C.** (2011). Opportunistic infections. In Reuter-Rice and Bolick (Eds.), *Pediatric acute care: A guide for interprofessional practice* (pp.734-740). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

**O'Keefe, C.** (2011). Health-care associated infections. In Reuter-Rice and Bolick (Eds.), *Pediatric acute care: A guide for interprofessional practice* (pp. 724-728). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

**O'Keefe, C.** (2011). Tuberculosis. In Reuter-Rice and Bolick (Eds.), *Pediatric acute care: A guide for*

*interprofessional practice* (pp. 802-806). Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

**Wilken, M. K.** (2011). Chapter 6: Implementation. In J. A. Milstead (Ed.), *Health policy and politics: A nurse's guide* (4th ed., pp. 125-136). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

### FUNDED GRANT AWARDS

**Abbott, A. (Mentee), Galt, K. A.** [Principal Investigator], Bramble, J. D. [Project Director], Drincic, A. [Project Director], Crawford, S. [Project Director]; Fujii, K. [Mentee], Clark, B. [Mentee]. Creighton Research Infrastructure Program to Achieve Sustainability Project (R-24 Award Proposal). Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - \$1,478,623 - [2009-2012].

**Abbott, A.** [Co-Investigator], Galt, K. A. [Principal Investigator]. Pharmacists for patient safety. Community Pharmacy Foundation - \$69,659 - [2009-2011].

**Abbott, A.** [Co-Investigator], Paschal, K. A. [Principal Investigator]. Health information technology adoption in physical therapy practice. Creighton Health Futures Foundation - \$20,000 - [2009-2011].

**Abbott, A.** [Co-Investigator], Galt, K. A. [Principal Investigator], Bramble, J. D. [Co-Investigator], Drincic, A. [Co-Investigator], Fujii, K. [Co-Investigator], Clark, B. [Co-Investigator], Siracuse, M. [Co-Investigator]. The role of HIT in enhancing patient safety through medication use process. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - \$712,981 - [2009-2014]

**Lappe, J.** [Investigator], **Travers Gustafson, D.** [Co-Investigator], Heaney, R., Recker, R., and Garland, C. Clinical trial of vitamin D3 to reduce cancer risk in postmenopausal women. National Cancer Institute - \$4,070,059; supplement for \$41,000 obtained in 2010 - [2008-2013].

**Lappe, J. M.** [Investigator]. Clinical trial of vitamin D3 to reduce cancer risk in postmenopausal women. National Institutes of Health - \$1,594,621 - [1 December 2008-30 November 2013].

**Lappe, J.** [Investigator], Zhao, J. Supplement to R01CA129488-01A2. Clinical trial of vitamin D3 to reduce cancer risk in postmenopausal women. National Cancer Institute (a Competing Revision for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds) - \$623,249 - [1 September 2009-31 August 2011].

**Lappe, J.** [Investigator], **Laughlin, A., Desmangles, J., Recker, R., Heaney, R.** Efficacy of optimal levels of dietary dairy on modulation of adolescent weight. National Institutes of Health - \$2,346,289 - [1 April 2008-31 March 2013].

Recker, R., **Lappe, J.** [Investigator], Akhter, M., & Cullen, D. Bone quality and fracture. National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin - [2008-2013].

Zemel, B., Kalkwarf, H., & **Lappe, J.** [Investigator]. Genome wide association study of bone mineral accretion during childhood. The Eunice Kennedy

Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development - \$108,855 for year 1 - [2010-2012].

**Lappe, J. M.** [Investigator]. Genome wide association study of bone mineral accretion during childhood. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia/National Institutes of Health - \$239,423 - [1 December 2009-30 November 2013].

**Norris, J.** [Program Director]. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: New careers in nursing grant - \$80,000 - [30 September 2011-31 August 2012].

**Norris, J.** [Program Director]. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: New careers in nursing grant - \$5,200 - [30 September 2011-31 August 2012].

**Norris, J.** [Program Director]. Advanced education nurse traineeship. Health and Human Services, Division of Nursing - \$22,491 - [1 July 2011-30 June 2012].

**Norris, J.** [Program Director]. Advanced education nursing traineeship. Health and Human Services, Division of Nursing - \$25,481 - [1 July 2010-30 June 2011].

**Rubarth, L.** [Principal Investigator], Sandhurst, H., **Schoening, A., Cosimano, A.** [Co-Investigators]. Use of online support and NICU education to decrease stress for prenatal patients on bedrest: A pilot study. Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Research Grant - \$9,500 - [1 June, 2010-31 May, 2011].

**Rubarth, L.** [Principal Investigator], Sandhurst, H., **Schoening, A., Cosimano, A.** [Co-Investigators]. HFF Faculty Development: Use of online support and NICU education to decrease stress for prenatal patient on bedrest: A pilot study. Health Futures Foundation Faculty Development Grant - \$18,033 - [1 July 2010-30 June 2012].

**Shirley, N. & Huggett, K.** [Co-Principal Investigators]. HFF Faculty Development: Understanding faculty expectations for work-life balance: An exploratory study to improve faculty recruitment and retention in the health sciences - \$20,000 - [1 July 2009-30 June 2011].

**Wilken, M.** [Principal Investigator], **Norris, J.** [Co-Investigator]. Reversing non-adherence in American Indians with Diabetes Mellitus Type Two. A quasi experimental study of culturally appropriate Talking Circles vs. traditional diabetes education in two tribes. U.S. National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Grant # 1 R34DK089473 - \$397,375 - [1 June 2011-31 May 2013].

**Wilken, M.** Health Future Foundation Discretionary Award. Dietician for NIH grant - \$3,000 - [1 July 2011-30 June 2012].

*This listing only includes publications where faculty are primary authors. To review a complete listing of faculty scholarship, please refer to this link:*

[www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/nursing/prpt/2011\\_Annual\\_Scholarship\\_Service\\_Report\\_2011.pdf](http://www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/nursing/prpt/2011_Annual_Scholarship_Service_Report_2011.pdf).

## PAMELA TURNER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP



Pam and Paul Turner with granddaughter Maggie



Pam and Paul Turner

Paul Turner, Ph.D., wanted to honor his wife, Pamela Turner, and her career in nursing by establishing a scholarship in her name. Pamela Turner graduated with honors when she received her master's degree from Creighton's School of Nursing in 1999.

Pam touched and transformed many lives with her clinical skills and caring heart. Pam truly embodied Jesuit values through her longtime community service including her role as chapter president in the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) and with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Pam worked as director of nursing for Quality Living, Inc., an Omaha facility providing post-acute rehabilitation for young adults with brain or spinal cord injuries, for many years before she and her husband moved to Vermont. There, Pamela worked as a nurse practitioner in neurology, specializing in the care of migraines and headaches. Later, the Turners returned to

Omaha, where Paul is the division chief of clinical research and evaluative sciences in Creighton's School of Medicine.

"Everyone loved Pam," said her husband. "And she loved nursing. It was her way of helping people and giving back to society. She enjoyed nursing school, especially her classes to become a nurse practitioner," he added. For that reason, he has asked that the scholarship be given to a Creighton nursing student pursuing a graduate degree.

Pam Turner lost her 10-year battle with cancer on May 3, 2012, surrounded by her family. Her obituary read: "She was a selfless and loving inspiration to all who knew her, celebrating God's gifts in others and making better every life she touched." In addition to her husband, Pam is survived by her five children and her parents.

"Even after fighting cancer for so many years, until the day she died, Pam maintained her nursing license," Turner lamented. ■

## 2012-2013 NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Below is a listing of the scholarships and their recipients.

### Regina Burnett Andolsek Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

*Mallarie Marie Mondt*

### Heather Bernadette and April Lynn Beckman Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Jeanne Corrine and Bernard J. Higgins

*Jill M. Schoenherr*

### Thomas and Mary Ann Belford Scholarship

*Molly A. McKenna*

### Frank Earl Bellinger, M.D. Scholarship

*Miranda A. Barber*

*Tamra L. Donica*

*Demetria K. Panopoulos*

*Nicole C. Papke*

*Brittany B. Pelton*

### Agnes Haller Bertoldi Endowed Scholarship

*Katelyn L. Comer*

### Dr. Sheila Donahue Ciciulla Scholarship

*Rachel M. Bradshaw*

### Norma Link Curley Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

*Shelby E. Klosen*

*Amy E. Smith*

### Elizabeth Fund Scholarship

*Amy L. Crutcher*

### Emalea and Zeta Gaul Scholarship

*Jessica A. Bakhit*

*Colleen M. McKenna*

### Jean H. Jerman Gondringer Endowed Scholarship

*Erika Anne Arkle*

### Anna M. Hannasch and Donald H. Hannasch Endowed Scholarship

*Rasheeda Wanice Lacy*

### Josie Harper Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

*Rachel T. Barnett*

*Taylor K. Bargeon*

*Cathleen M. Evans*

### Jane A. and Susan S. Hedequist Endowed Scholarship

*Lauren Elizabeth Durie*

### Edeth K. Kitchens Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

*Jennifer J. Pearson*

### Barbara A. Lamberto Endowed Scholarship

*Megan D. Kooistra*

### Linda Armstrong Lazure Annual Scholarship for Nursing

*Hannah M. Oreskovich*

### Michael E. and Mary Neppi Leighton Endowed Scholarship

*Chelsea A. Lubischer*

### Diane McCabe Memorial Endowed Scholarship

*Amber C. Blomme*

*Marta J. Nowogrocki*

### J. Barry and Rita McCallan Endowed Scholarship

*Dana Kay Fuelberth*

*Hannah M. Oreskovich*

### Margaret L. (Lucy) McCarthy-Spielman Endowed Scholarship in Nursing

*Lindsey E. Sypherd*

### Roma Nagengast McGahan Scholarship

*Deidre E. Richard*

### Ruth and Bernard Mehmert Endowed Scholarship

*John L. Khong*

### Nursing School Alumni Scholarship

*Megan K. Lane*

### Leonard and Madeline Powers Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

*Megan C. Paustian*

### Thomas C. Quinlan Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

*Janesa J. Bakeberg*

### Mark and Karen Rauenhorst Scholarship

*Sarah E. Brandeau*

*Emily A. Brooker*

*Jessica B. Cooper*

*Marcela Gonzalez Oropeza*

*Jamie L. VanGampleare*

### School of Nursing Scholarship

*Hannah E. Carlson*

*Julia M. McShane*

*Brittany R. Pfeifer*

### Stafford Family Endowed Scholarship

*Michele L. Andrews*

### Lois R. Suzuki Memorial Scholarship

*Maggie M. Bruss*

### H. Margaret Thorough Scholarship

*Laura C. Kyriss*

### Dorothy E. Vossen Endowed Nursing Scholarship

*Erika A. Arkle*

*Hannah E. Carlson*

*Sarah C. Carnes*

*Michelle A. Hammerschmidt*

*Mary Kate Lawler*

*Melanie E. Lynch*

*Tonya L. Peterson*

*Cedric L. Young*

## TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



Julie Manz, M.S., A.P.R.N.  
December 2011



Lesia Grovas, M.N., A.P.R.N.-N.P.  
December 2011



Marilee Aufdenkamp, M.S., A.P.R.N.  
May 2012



Nancy Bredenkamp, M.S., A.P.R.N.  
May 2012



Susan Connelly, M.N., A.P.R.N.-N.P.  
May 2012



Lori Rubarth, Ph.D., R.N., N.N.P.-B.C.  
May 2012



Erin Schechinger, B.S.N., R.N.  
May 2011



Ann Harms, Ed.D. A.P.R.N.-C.S.  
August 2012



Cindy Selig, M.S.N., A.P.R.N., R.N.C.-O.B.  
August 2012

## SCHOOL OF NURSING 2012 ALUMNI MERIT AWARD



Eileen Barr Van Tasell, BSN'68

*Eileen Barr Van Tasell, BSN'68, received the 2012 Alumni Merit Award during Alumni Weekend festivities in September. The following citation was prepared in honor of Van Tasell.*

"Respecting the dignity of each person". It is a central theme in the curriculum of the Creighton University School of Nursing.

Eileen Van Tasell, BSN'68, has held it close to her heart throughout her entire career.

In the early 90s, seeing that many of her patients were not able to stay in their homes after Medicare services were completed, and knowing that institutionalized care was not a viable option, Eileen was inspired to start her own private care nursing company in Kansas City. She successfully navigated barriers to become a Medicare-certified home health agency and private duty company. Eileen built Barr Private Care into a well-respected organization that enables patients to remain in their own homes while receiving the care they need.

Hospice care was a natural next step for Eileen. In 1996, she opened a Medicare-certified hospice organization providing compassionate care for patients in the final stage of life. It allows patients to die with

dignity while families receive much-needed support.

Eileen and husband David, a 1969 graduate of the Creighton University School of Dentistry, have raised three children. Eileen also plays an integral role in many professional and civic organizations. She works to raise funds for charities in the Kansas City community that stabilize, strengthen and enrich the lives of those in need.

Since 2001, she has offered her leadership as a member and president of the School of Nursing Alumni Advisory Board. She helped initiate the Board's endowed scholarship as well as the annual continuing education event for nursing alumni held during Alumni Weekend. ■

## CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN JAYS



A Golden Jay recognized at this year's Alumni Weekend was Jacquenette Wagner Hartman, BSN'62, Fremont, Neb. Hartman was among seven nursing students who enrolled in the "brand new" Four-year baccalaureate program in 1958 and graduated in 1962. Up until that time, nursing students attended a diploma program and only attended Creighton their final year.



President Lannon, S.J., with Golden Jay Jean Bartek, SJN'61, BSN'62.

## NURSING ADVISORY BOARD

**President** Diane Millea (BSN'77, DNP'11), Omaha  
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 Kathy Wolter (BSN'83), Omaha  
 Wendy Worthing (BSN'87), Omaha  
 Bridget Young, (BSN'75), Omaha  
 Ann Zielinski (BSN'64), Canon City, Colo.



Front row: Wendy Worthing, Pat Lenaghan, Millie Sampson, Ann Zielinski, Michael McCabe, Kathy Moragues. Second row: Kathy Wolter, Gary George, Diane Stormberg, Diane Millea, Dede Johnson, Nancy Lakier, Cathy Ravenstahl, Bridget Young, Anne Gard, Teresa Franco, Eleanor Howell and Maureen Turner.



### Diane Millea, President

In addition to serving as president of the advisory board, Diane Millea, BSN'77, DNP'11, is a frequent speaker at nursing school events, including continuing education programs and serving as a panelist for student groups. Last year, she was inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu, the highest honor bestowed on an individual from a Jesuit university based on criteria of service, loyalty and scholarship.

# FIFTH ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE CARING IN A COMPLEX WORLD

## REDUCING READMISSIONS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION.



Alegent Creighton Health vice president and chief nursing officer Jane Carmody, D.N.P., R.N., addressed strategies to improve care and reduce readmissions through transitional care services.



Mary Kunes-Connell, Ph.D., R.N., Creighton's associate dean for academic affairs and professor, provided an overview of the care management model.



Master's program chair Cindy Costanzo, Ph.D., R.N., discussed the clinical nurse leader role and its positive implications on improving quality care.

Over 300 nurses attended the fifth annual continuing education event, "Caring in a Complex World: Reducing Readmissions Through Collaboration and Communication." The conference, sponsored by the School of Nursing, was held in September at Creighton's Harper Center. The event was offered free to Creighton nursing alumni and students. Special invited guests included nurses working at Alegent Creighton Health. All of the speakers were Creighton faculty or alumni or affiliated with Alegent Creighton Health.

The content was very timely. Beginning in October 2012, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid will assess financial penalties on hospitals with excessive rates of readmission for acute myocardial infarction, heart failure and pneumonia.

Attendees learned about clinical interventions designed to reduce re-hospitalizations and improve health outcomes, and initiatives that support care coordination and enhance transitional care. Speakers discussed strategies and approaches under way in service and academic settings to design high-performing healthcare delivery systems that will prepare health professionals to professionals to lead care coordination, integration and improvement.

The day's presentations can be viewed at this link. [www.creighton.edu/nursing/ceeevent/2012ceeevent/index.php](http://www.creighton.edu/nursing/ceeevent/2012ceeevent/index.php) ■



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Another free continuing education event will be offered  
Friday, Sept. 20, 2013, from 8 a.m. to noon  
Tentative Topic "Caring in a Complex World:  
Leading through Technology"

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### ADMISSIONS

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Website [nursing.creighton.edu](http://nursing.creighton.edu)

### The Progress Report for the School of Nursing

The Progress Report for the School of Nursing is published annually. Its purpose is to provide alumni with information on current events within the school as well as insights into future directions. Address inquiries to Joyce Davis Bunger, Assistant Dean and Editor, Creighton University School of Nursing, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178.

Diverse opinions may be expressed. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor nor do they represent official policy of Creighton University.

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"I chose Creighton because of its excellent reputation in nursing. I am encouraged to get involved in service activities, such as working with special needs children. The ability for students to get real experience early on sets Creighton apart. I love Creighton!"

Gabriella Jude, Nursing Major | Maple Lake, Minn. | CU 2015



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