Spirit of Creighton Rings True for 40 years
Nursing Care at the Heart Ministry Center
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 for Alegent Creighton Health. “We consider teaching to be working closer with the health sciences schools, and especially those within Creighton University and the Alegent Health system,” said Carmody.

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 Creighton University Office of Research.

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.

Interprofessional collaboration is one of the important initiatives for improving health outcomes and the delivery of safe, effective patient care. Multidisciplinary 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 interprofessional 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 Creighton University Office of Research. Dr. Galt provides administrative oversight of and collaboration in practice, inter-professional continuing education and 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’Keeffe, DNP, APRN-BC, CNP, ACRNP, 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.

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 and health sciences makes her well suited for this unique role.

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 and health sciences makes her well suited for this unique role.

Interprofessional 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.
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 a sliding scale fee.

The Heart Ministry Grand Rounds enables 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.

**DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE AN EVOLUTION IN HEALTHCARE**

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.

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

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

Julie Sundermeier, BSN ’94, MS’98, DNP’12, is the fetal 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. Miller and Sundermeier and their views on the D.N.P. program at Creighton, please watch the following video:

**Amber Dey, BSN’03, DNP’11**

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 doctoral, while the Ph.D. focuses on research. Lindsay Bosson, DNP’11, an assistant professor on the Creighton nursing faculty and 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. ■
Melissa List, BSN’12, volunteers every Wednesday at the Heart Ministry Center, a place where she has volunteered for the past 15 years. “It was the early 70s,” Melissa recalled, “a student in my dorm became pregnant, yet no one knew 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 become our current values of inclusivity and respect.

After graduation, Melissa 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 hospital. 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.

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 Gono, 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. Since 1986, Anne Dyer McGuire, BSN’73, has served on the board of Omaha Public Power District.
"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 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.

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 underdeveloped world.

When I returned from the Dominican Republic, I worked at One World 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

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.

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. Freshman 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.

Waheda 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.

“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, she explained. She knows her degree from Creighton will have value in the United States.

“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."

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF NURSING WITH LEADERSHIP AT THE POINT OF SERVICE
Between 1865 and 1969, the lack of knowledge of Hansen’s Disease (leprosy) resulted in 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 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.

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.)

Growing up in Hawaii I had always been familiar with the history of Kalaupapa, and when my mom became the supervisor of 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=GLXiqShygns&feature=youtu.be.

“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, HAWAI'I
PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH WITH A SUDANESE REFUGEE COMMUNITY

Dianne Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., R.N. | Associate Professor, Creighton University
Violet Iluebey, M.S.W., M.A. | Executive Director, International Daycare Center

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.”

by 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 for Sudanese families and a video about 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 actively educating men and women about domestic violence and consequences in male-female interactions and other refugees in both Omaha and Lincoln. 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 was a need for understanding cultural and religious education and law enforcement, clergy, teachers and other care providers about varying cultural behavioral norms.

Sudanese community members actively worked with Travers Gustafson and Iluebey 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.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011


Abdul, A. (Principal Investigator). concerted action: a guide for interprofessional practice (pp. 802-806). Rapid City, SD: Jones and Bartlett Learning.


FUNDED GRANT AWARDS

Abdul, A. (Mentor). Gatt, K. A. (Principal Investigator). Blood types and a BO

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

Or, you may read the article in its entirety at www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/nursing/13-14Faculty_scholarship_Report_2011.pdf.

"TRADITIONAL DISCIPLINE" OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Dianne Travers Gustafson, Ph.D., R.N. | Associate Professor, Creighton University
Violet Iluebey, M.S.W., M.A. | Executive Director, International Daycare Center

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.

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 in 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.

Coauthor:


PAMELA TURNER MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

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 migrants and headcases. Later, the Turners returned to Omaha, where Pam 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 4, 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 parent.

“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 Andolek Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
        Maluvie Marie Mond

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

Thomas and Mary Ann Belford Scholarship
        Molly A. McEwen

Frank Earl Bellinger, M.D. Scholarship
        Miranda A. Barber
        Terre L. Danks
        Demetria E. Panopoulos
        Nicole C. Pipko
        Brittan P. Pelto

Agnes Hailer Bertoldi Endowed Scholarship
        Katelyn L. Conner

Dr. Sheila Donovan Ciciolla Scholarship
        Rachel M. Brudzak

Norma Link Curley Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
        Shelby E. Elison
        Amy E. Smith

Elizabeth Fund Scholarship
        Amy L. Crutcher

Emalee and Zeta Gaul Scholarship
        Jessica A. Bakht
        Colleen M. McEwen

Jean H. Jerman Gondringer Endowed Scholarship
        Erika Anne Arkle

Anna M. Hannasch and Donald H. Hannasch Endowed Scholarship
        Rashanda Wanita Lucy

Josie Harper Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
        Rachel T. Burnett
        Taylor E. Bemang
        Cathleen M. Evans

Jane A. and Susan S. Hedegust Endowed Scholarship
        Lauren Elizabeth Darie

Edeth K. Kitchens Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
        Jennifer J. Pearson

Barbara A. Lambert Endowed Scholarship
        Megan D. Kooistra

Michael E. and Mary Neppl Leighton Endowed Scholarship
        Chelsea A. Luscher

Diiane McCabe Memorial Endowed Scholarship
        Amber C. Blonne
        Mira J. Swangruch

J. Barry and Rita McCallan Endowed Scholarship
        Dana Kay Fuelberth
        Hannah M. Oreiskai

Margaret L. (Lucy) McCarthy-Spielman Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
        Lindsay E. Sypherd

Roma Nagengast McGahan Scholarship
        Deidre E. Richard

Ruth and Bernard Mehrmehr Endowed Scholarship
        John L. Khong

Nursing School Alumni Scholarship
        Megan E. Lane

Leonard and Madeline Powers Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
        Megan C. Faustian

Thomas C. Quinnian Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
        Janice J. Bakerik

Mark and Karen Rauenhorst Scholarship
        Sarah E. Brandeau
        Emily A. Broder
        Jessica B. Cooper
        Mareco Gonzalez Orpeno
        Jamie L. Vannamplee

School of Nursing Scholarship
        Hannah E. Carlson
        Julie M. McShane
        Brittan P. Pfeifer

Stafford Family Endowed Scholarship
        Michelle L. Andrews

Lois R. Sazaki Memorial Scholarship
        Maggie M. Braun

H. Margaret Thorough Scholarship
        Laura C. Cortes

Dorothy E. Vossen Endowed Nursing Scholarship
        Erika A. Abke
        Hannah E. Carlson
        Sarah C. Carrey
        Michelle A. Hannerschmidt
        Mary Kate Lauler
        Melanie E. Lynch
        Tanya L. Peterson
        Cadri L. Young
SCHOOL OF NURSING 2012 ALUMNI MERIT AWARD

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 Jacqueline 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

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Kathy Worler (BSN’83), Omaha
Wendy Worthing (BSN’87), Omaha
Bridget Young, (BSN’75), Omaha
Ann Zielinski (BSN’64), Canon City, Colo.

President 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.

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 rehospitalizations 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 lead care coordination, integration and improvement.

The day’s presentations can be viewed at this link. www.creighton.edu/nursing/ceevent/2012ceevent/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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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 Binger, 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.
"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