

FALL 2008

CREIGHTON

SCHOOL OF NURSING PROGRESS REPORT



DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE OFFERED AT CREIGHTON
GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

DEAN'S REPORT



Dean Eleanor Howell.

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL!

It was such a treat to welcome so many alumni back to campus during the anniversary and reunion events at the end of September. In addition to our graduates celebrating their 50-year anniversary, the Golden Jays, we were joined by two members of the 1958 Traditional class, our first class of 4-year BSN students, Jackie (Jacqueline) Wagner Hartman and Geri (Geraldine) Cockson Erftmier, and a member of the 1938 St. Joseph's graduating class, Clare (Mary Clare) Ryan Fahey. Alumni traveled from more than 20 states, including Washington, Oregon,

California, New York, Virginia, Georgia, and Texas, to participate in a wide array of festivities. I am still receiving notes from alumni who share with me how engaging and enjoyable they found the weekend's activities, how valuable they found the presentations during the Expert's Symposium, and how proud they are of the work being done by fellow alumni. It was mentioned that "what we do as nurses is important to society, and how we do it, as Creighton nurses committed to excellence and imbued with the Jesuit imperative to serve the least of our society with compassion and dignity, is even more important".

During the Jubilee Luncheon, Dr. Barbara Braden, acclaimed internationally for her scholarship on skin integrity and the Braden Scale for Predicting Pressure Sore Risk, provided a memorable perspective on the evolution of the nursing profession and our School of Nursing. One of the academic leaders in the School's history, Miss Dorothy Vossen, was highlighted as the visionary leader whose efforts led to the establishment of the Traditional Nursing program. She passed away this year at the age of 95. Miss Vossen will be remembered for her strength, dignity, and her leadership in developing the program. Her support of the work that she began 50 years ago will continue through the lectureship and faculty development fund she established.

Throughout its history, the School of Nursing has proved to be adaptable and innovative in preparing Creighton University nursing students to take advantage of the expanding roles they can play in today's health care

environment. The faculty and staff continually seek ways to enhance our curricula and design innovative coursework that prepares our graduates to meet the demands of our profession. This fall, the School of Nursing launched the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. Designed for either a BSN or post-Master's entry, DNP graduates will focus on improving outcomes of health care practice through expertise in leadership, translational research, and policy. Through the DNP curriculum, we are posed to respond to the increasing complexity in health care and the need for leadership in delivering and designing clinical services.

Building on the exceptional achievements of the past, the future is indeed bright!

Blessings to you and your loved ones for a wonderful holy season and in the new year!

Sincerely,

Eleanor Howell, PHD, RN

ON THE COVER

Katie O'Keefe, DNP, with her granddaughter Morgan and her daughter, Colleen Wellman Jacobson (BSN 04).

ENROLLMENT FACTS

Creighton University School of Nursing August 2008

	Omaha	Hastings	Totals
Traditional	357	29	386
Accelerated Nursing	96	11	11
RN to BSN	—	—	23
RN to BSN	—	—	74

SETTING THE STANDARD

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

The changing demands of this nation's complex health care environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure high quality patient outcomes.

Creighton University School of Nursing is the first in the state to offer the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree, the highest level of preparation for clinical practice. Noted for innovative programs that keep pace with the ever-changing field of nursing, Creighton has earned a national reputation for providing excellence in nursing education and commitment to service. With less than 100 schools offering the DNP degree, Creighton is among the universities setting the standard.

The DNP is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice and offers an alternative to research-focused doctoral programs. The DNP is a professional doctorate, such as a doctor of pharmacy, doctor of physical therapy or doctor of medicine.

PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE NOW

The Institute of Medicine and others have issued a call for the transformation of health care. While all levels of nurses will continue to be in high demand and play important roles in health care delivery, it will be those that hold a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree who will be responsible for leading the evolution of the health care field. "Creighton University School of Nursing DNP graduates will be equipped to provide the leadership. They will be competent in translating research into practice, evaluating evidence,

applying research in decision-making and implementing viable innovations to change practice," says Eleanor Howell, PHD, RN, dean of the Creighton University School of Nursing. Howell attributes the movement toward doctoral preparation to the increasing complexity of health care, expanded knowledge, as well as a move to doctoral preparations by other health professions, such as pharmacy, occupational therapy and physical therapy. "Health care delivery is moving towards an interdisciplinary system with a team consisting of nurse, physician, pharmacist and other specialists delivering

in a health care organization, director of clinical programs, or a faculty position responsible for clinical program delivery and clinical teaching.

READY TO LEAD THE WAY

The DNP is designed for professionals that are eager to do more. "I had been practicing as a nurse practitioner and teaching graduate students — very fulfilling and challenging endeavors — but I felt something was missing," said Katie O'Keefe, DNP, APRN, assistant professor of nursing at Creighton University School of Nursing. "I wanted



Creighton physician Archana Chatterjee and Katie O'Keefe, DNP, confer on a course of care for their patient. Interdisciplinary collaboration and teamwork are key competencies needed for the 21st century health care delivery system.

core care," Howell says. "Nurses with clinical expertise and communication skills such as negotiation, mediation, facilitation, and dialogue techniques will be imperative."

DNPs will be prepared to seek a practice leadership role in a variety of settings — manager of quality initiatives, executive

a more integrated practice experience. The DNP degree filled a gap in my nursing education. As a DNP clinician, I feel that my practice is more innovative and evidence-based. As an educator, I feel even more prepared to encourage and mentor graduate students." ■



THE NURSING SCHOOL'S INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Merry Foyt, PHD, RN, demonstrating a suctioning procedure to the ICU nursing staff at Hebei Medical University Hospital in China.

CREIGHTON FACULTY, STUDENTS TO EXPLORE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA HOSPITAL

An intraprofessional group of about 20 students and faculty, representing Creighton University's occupational therapy, physical therapy and nursing programs, traveled to China October 17-27, to share health care knowledge and practices with Chinese health care professionals.

Dean Eleanor Howell, Associate Dean Mary Kunes-Connell, faculty members Bernie White, Merry Foyt and Cindy Costanzo, along with students Lindsay Iverson and Jillian Negri formed the contingent from the nursing school.

The group visited Hebei Medical University Hospital in Shi Jia Zhuang, located south of Beijing. The goal is to establish an ongoing relationship/exchange with the hospital that involves teaching, research and clinical care.

"The exchange helped to expand the cultural competencies of Creighton's nursing students and faculty," said Dean Eleanor Howell.

Creighton has been involved in several exchanges with Chinese health care providers over the past three years. ■



left to right: Mary Kunes-Connell, Bernie White, Lindsay Iverson, Merry Foyt, Eleanor Howell, Cindy Costanzo, Darren and Jillian Negri.

NURSING SENIOR VOLUNTEERS IN WEST AFRICA

Nursing Student Jackie Evenson and nursing faculty member Shannon Hoy, APRN, volunteered their time at the Women and Children's Hospital in Koutiala, Mali, West Africa, as a part of a medical mission trip through Christ Community Church in Omaha.

They assisted with numerous facial surgeries (cleft lip and palate) and delivered many newborns. Jackie was the surgical tech in the OR and also helped assess and take care of the newborns.

"This was my first international mission trip and my first time to a third world country," said Jackie. "It was something that I have always wanted to experience. Being able to take part in the health-care team was a real blessing because I was able to use the talents that I have been working so hard for!! It has helped to open my eyes to other areas of nursing such as global and public health. It will be the first of many healthcare mission trips for me!" ■



Nursing Student Jackie Evenson holding a newborn in West Africa.

SERVING OUR NATION, GOOD LUCK, LANA!



Lana Johnson Roche BSN 2005

Creighton alum Lana Roche is an Army Captain and works at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the MICU/PICU as a staff nurse. She sees patients from pediatrics to geriatrics and OIF/OEF soldiers, retirees and their families. Many of the injured warriors coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan come to Walter Reed. The majority of patients seen are adult medical ICU; however, there are 4 beds for pediatric ICU patients. Soon she will attend the Joint Enroute Care Course (JECC) at Ft. Rucker, Alabama to receive training on patient transports and learn the basics of aviation safety and water survival training in preparation to deploy for 6 months as a critical care nurse with the 47th CSH (Ft. Lewis, WA) to Iraq in February 2009.

Lana recently emailed the faculty: "I wanted to write to express how much I have grown to appreciate my education from Creighton. I don't think I could have been better prepared! All those tests, care plans and patho diagrams paid off. (That's ALL we did every day of clinical during the critical care course!) I feel like I really have an advantage over some of the other BSN-prepared students who never touched

anything research related (They didn't even know how to critique an article!), barely knew how to write a nursing diagnosis or put together a care plan." She goes on to write that ROTC and the Army have given her "such a rewarding nursing experience!" ■

SR. MARY KAY RETURNS TO GUATEMALA

Sr. Mary Kay Meagher, APRN and faculty member, traveled to Guatemala with the IXIM group, a project of the Spirit of Solidarity Between Peoples organization. IXIM (a word meaning "corn" in all 23 Mayan languages) began in 2002. The goal is to build relationships between the people of Nebraska and Huehuetenango, Guatemala and to encourage mutual sharing between the organizations. This is accomplished by supporting pastoral initiatives of the Huehuetenango people through the sharing of faith, prayer, life and work. Projects included areas of health promotion and education. They participated with the Promotores de Salud (lay health promoters) in their ongoing education series and learned about the role of the Promotores who supply much needed health care. ■



Sr. Mary Kay Meagher and school children in Guatemala.

SERVING NEBRASKA



Associate Dean Linda Lazure and Assistant Dean Joyce Bunger are winding down after a combined 23 years serving Nebraska. Linda currently serves as the Chairman of the Nebraska Board of Health and will retire from the board after serving 12 years. Joyce is ending her eleven years of service as Public Member on the State Board of Nursing.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



Amy Abbott, PhD
Undergraduate Program
May 2008 and August 2008



Nancy Bredenkamp, MS, APRN
Hastings Undergraduate Program
May 2008



Kimberly Hawkins MS, APRN
Undergraduate Program
December 2007



Lori Rubarth, PhD, APRN
Graduate Program
May 2008

NURSING ALUMNA RECEIVES HIGHEST ALUMNI AWARD

Creighton will present its highest alumni award, the Alumni Achievement Citation, to Karen Dolan Rauenhorst, a 1975 graduate of Creighton's School of Nursing, at its spring commencement ceremony.

Rauenhorst exemplifies many of the ideals of Creighton University through her leadership in nursing, service to others and philanthropy. Providing nursing leadership and care for more than 20 years, she earned nursing degrees from Creighton University and a master's degree in public health from the University of Minnesota.



Karen Dolan Rauenhorst

An active alumna, she and her husband Mark have hosted numerous regional alumni events in the Twin Cities. She and her husband, as well as the company he heads, Opus Corporation, provided the funding for Opus Hall, Creighton's newest residence community for junior and seniors.

The Creighton Alumni Achievement Award is given to outstanding alumni who represent the entire University. Recipients must be degreed alumni of Creighton, have provided distinguished service to the University or their communities that clearly exemplifies the University credo. ■

ALUMNI EXPERT SYMPOSIUM

A Nursing Alumni Expert Symposium was held on Friday, September 26. The alumni donated their time and travel to present at the symposium. They all are recognized for their knowledge, research and experience.

TRACK 1

CLINICAL CARE AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

Elizabeth Arquin Walker, PHD, RN, BSN 76
Professor of Medicine
Professor of Epidemiology & Population Health
Director, Prevention & Control Division
Diabetes Research Center
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, New York
Do Behavioral Interventions in Diabetes Care Improve Outcomes?

Ann Malone Berger, PHD, RN, BSN 71
Dorothy Hodges Olson Endowed Chair in Nursing
Director, PhD Program in Nursing
Advanced Practice Nurse – Oncology
University of Nebraska College of Nursing – Omaha Division, Omaha, Nebraska
Fatigue in Breast Cancer: A Behavioral Sleep Intervention

Joan Ortmeier Lappe, PHD, RN, FAAN, MS 85
Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing and Professor of Medicine
Creighton University School of Nursing
Osteoporosis Research

Alexa Kramer Stuijbergen, PHD, RN, FAAN, BSN 77
Professor, Dolores Sands Chair in Nursing Research
Associate Dean for Research
The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, Austin, Texas
Promoting Quality of Life in Persons With Chronic Conditions

Catherine O'Keefe, DNP, APRN, BSN 75, MS 85
Assistant Professor of Nursing
Creighton University School of Nursing
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
Creighton Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Vaccines: A Historical Perspective



Nancy Lakier.

TRACK 2

EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

Marilyn Valerio, PHD, RN, BSN 68
Associate Dean, Division of Nursing
Nebraska Methodist College
Advocating for Quality Outcomes

Nancy Mehmert Lakier, RN, BSN 75
Founder & President, InnoVia Health, Inc.
San Diego, California
Addressing Healthcare Workforce Needs Through Entrepreneurship

Amy Haddad, PHD, RN, BSN 75
Director and Professor
Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Endowed Chair in Health Sciences
Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics
Ethics - The Legacy Project

Eileen Barr Van Tasell, RN, BSN 68
President & Owner
Barr Private Care, LLC
North Kansas City, Missouri
Entrepreneurship, Business Ethics and Integrity



Students listening.

TRACK 3

CLINICAL CARE AND CLINICAL EDUCATION

Susan Dunn, RN, MBA, BSN 78
President & CEO
Donor Alliance
Denver, Colorado
Innovations in Organ Conservation

Mary Tracy Parsons, PHD, RN, BSN 76
Assistant Professor Creighton University School of Nursing
The Effects of an Involuntary Inter-Institutional Relocation on an Older Adult

Mary Sullivan, RN, BSN 83
Clinical Forensic Nurse Specialist
Phoenix VA Health Care System
Phoenix, Arizona
Emerging Field of Forensic Nursing

Lori Schumacher, PHD, RN, BSN 88
Associate Dean and Associate Professor
School of Nursing
Medical College of Georgia
Augusta, Georgia
Triumphs and Trials of Using Simulation to Enhance Student Learning and Critical Thinking in Nursing

Ann Franco Laughlin, PHD, RN, BSN 79, MS 94
Assistant Professor Creighton University School of Nursing
Partnering with Schools—Combining Service, Learning and Research



Eileen Van Tasell.

GOLDEN JUBILEE



Dr. Barbara Braden, shown with her many awards resulting from her development of the Braden Scale. She entertained reunion luncheon guests with her talk, "From Starch and Polish to Scrubs and Crocs."



Geraldine Cockson Erftmeier (BSN '62) was one of seven young women that embarked upon the brand new 4-year baccalaureate program in 1958. Up until that time, nursing students attended a diploma program and only came to Creighton for their final year.

Classmate Jackie Wagner Hartman also attended the reunion festivities.

PEGGY KARR PLATES FOR SALE

This limited edition plate, which measures 11" in diameter, was designed by Peggy Karr for the School's Golden Jubilee. The suggested price is \$55 plus a \$10 shipping charge. Funds raised from the selling of these pieces will support Creighton School of Nursing scholarships.

If you would like to purchase a plate, contact Joyce Bunger at 402-280-2029 or jbunger@creighton.edu.



CREIGHTON NURSING 50TH ANNIVERSARY

What a wonderful weekend it was! Over 350 nursing alumni came back to campus to celebrate their ties with Creighton.

The Creighton University School of Nursing celebrated the 50th anniversary of its four-year bachelor of nursing degree program September 26-28, 2008.

The 50th anniversary truly represents a pivotal moment in the history of nursing education at Creighton. Fifty years ago, nursing students attended apprentice-style diploma programs at hospitals while completing their BSN degrees at Creighton. The new program allowed Creighton to provide all four years of academic- and clinical-based programs, helping to prepare graduates for nursing's expanding role in health care.

There were seven women in the first class. Geraldine Cockson Erftmeier and Jacquenette Wagner Hartman attended the festivities. Judith James Duesman and Leslie Cleary-Merker were unable to attend. Three members of the class are deceased.

As part of the celebration, School of Nursing alumni, faculty and students performed 50 hours of community service to commemorate 50 years. On Friday, the school hosted an extremely successful alumni experts' symposium. Fourteen illustrious Creighton nursing graduates shared their expertise and research.

The Golden Jubilee Luncheon was held at the new Josie and Mike Harper Student Center. Dr. Barb Braden entertained us with her presentation entitled, "From Starch and Polish to Scrubs and Crocs" as she walked the attendees through the history of the school.

REUNION WEEKEND

SCHOOL CELEBRATES OF BSN DEGREE

A very special treat was recognizing the “Jenkins Family of Nurses” at the Jubilee Luncheon! Helen Condon Jenkins (SJN '50) and her sister-in-law Mary Alice Jenkins, (SJN '49) graduated from the St. Joseph School of Nursing, and four of Helen’s daughters received Creighton BSNs: Maureen Jenkins Kizer, (BSN '72), Ann Jenkins Steves (BSN '77), and Julie (BSN '84) and Molly Jenkins (BSN '85). Maureen represented her family at the podium and expressed the gratitude they felt toward Creighton.

A plate designed by artist Peggy Karr for the School of Nursing was unveiled. The plate design is based on the Creighton nursing pin created in 1964 by John Michael McCabe, the first male to graduate from the four-year BSN program. On September 28, McCabe performed his own compositions of liturgical music during Mass at St. John’s Church on the Creighton campus. While a nursing student at Creighton, McCabe also served as university organist and choir director.

To commemorate the occasion, the Alumni Advisory Board inaugurated a nursing scholarship to continue and promote the Creighton professional nurse.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as the Nursing Alumni Advisory Board President. It was especially thrilling to preside over this incredible weekend and hear the stories amidst all the laughter.

Diane Glow Stormberg (BSN '80)
President, Nursing Alumni Advisory Board



John Michael McCabe made his mark at Creighton University in 1964. Aside from being the first male to receive a baccalaureate nursing degree in Nebraska, it was the year he designed Creighton’s School of Nursing pin. The design has been used ever since.

As a part of the Golden Jubilee festivities, a special mass was held at St. John’s Church on Sunday, September 28. Nursing graduates received a special blessing. A special treat was the incredible organ music composed and played by Michael McCabe.



As a part of the celebration, 50 hours of service were contributed by nursing alumni and students during the duration of the Jubilee Weekend. Nursing Student Emerick Huber received an award for his work with the Community Bicycle Shop that repairs bicycles free of charge. The Iota Tau Chapter delivered treats to hard-working nurses in area hospitals. Alum Ellen Poole facilitated a Sigma Theta Tau meeting in Phoenix. Nursing student Brett Keiling offered coloring books to the children of families waiting in the ICU. Hastings faculty and students conducted a book drive. Alumni Board Member Le Anne Vitito coordinated a group to give manicures at a local nursing home.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATED.



St. Joseph School of Nursing Class of 1958.



Former Nursing Alumni Merit Awardees Nancy Curtis Molter, PHD, RN, (BSN 68), Anita Mejstrik Becky (SCN 53), Elizabeth Arquin Walker, PHD (BSN 76).



Expert Symposium presenters Ann Malone Berger, PHD, RN (BSN 71) and Lori Schumacher, PHD, RN, (BSN 88).



Anne Dyer McGuire (BSN 73), Golden Jubilee Honoree Helen Condon Jenkins, and Alumni Board President Diane Stormberg.



Members of the BSN Class of 1978.



Joe Becky, Dede Meyers Johnson (BSN 74), Helen Jenkins, Anita Becky and Helen Jenkin's daughter, Ann Steves.



Kathy Keogh Soto, Dean Howell, Calista Kelly Ambrose (BSN 61), Jim Ambrose and Michael McCabe.



Fr. John Schlegel, S.J., Judy Richmeier Pritza (BSN 92), Helen Jenkins, Annette Scott Sayers, (BSN 74), Randy Pritza and Roger Sayers.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Abbott, A., Schwartz, M., Hercinger, M., Miller, C., Foyt, M. (2008). Predictors of success on NCLEX-RN for accelerated baccalaureate nursing curriculum. *Nurse Educator*, 33(1), 5-6.

Costanzo, D., Walker, S. (2008). Incorporating self-efficacy and interpersonal support in an intervention to increase physical activity in older women. *Women and Health*, 47.

Lappe, J., Cullen, D., Haynatzki, G., Recker, R., Ahlf, R., Thompson, K. (2008). Calcium and Vitamin D supplementation decreases incidence of stress fractures in female Navy recruits. *JBMR*, 23: 741-749.

Xiao, P., Chen, Y., Jiang, H., Liu, Y., Pan, F., Yang, T., Tang, Z., Larson, J., **Lappe, J.**, Recker, R., Deng, H. (2008). In vivo genome-wide expression study on human circulating B cells suggests a novel ESR1 and MAPK3 network for postmenopausal osteoporosis. *JBMR*, 23: 644-654.

Rubarth, L.B. (2008). Infants in peril: Assessing sepsis in newborns. *American Nurse Today*, 3 (4).

Schwartz, M., Laughlin, A. (2008). Partnering with schools? A win-win experience. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 47 (6):279-82.

BOOKS OR BOOK CHAPTERS

Laughlin, A., Thorson, J. (2008). The dark night of the soul. In Adrian, T., Eliason, G., Wong, P., (eds). *Existential and spiritual issues in death attitudes*. New York, NY: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Pinch, W. E. (2008). Editor. Nursing and health care ethics: *A legacy and a vision: Essays by 23 nurse ethicists, a medical anthropologist and nurse historian*. American Nurses Association.

Roberts, D., **Lappe, J. M.** (2008). Management of clients with musculoskeletal disorders. Chapter 26. In J. Black, J. & Hokanson Hawks (eds.). *Medical-Surgical Nursing: Clinical management for positive outcomes*, 8th Edition. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co.

White, B.A. (2008). Fluid Management. In J. Black & J. Hokanson. Hawkes, (eds.). *Medical Surgical Nursing: Clinical Management for positive outcomes*, 8th edition. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Co.

White, B.A. (2008). Electrolyte Management. In J. Black & J. Hokanson Hawkes (eds.) *Medical Surgical Nursing: Clinical management for positive outcomes*, 8th edition. Philadelphia: Saunders.

NON REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Rubarth, L. B. (2008). Newborn Sepsis-Bacterial Infection, Part II. *Advance for Nurses*, 9 (15):30 (online and print editions), July 2.

Travers-Gustafson, D. (2008). Cancer and Vitamin D. Brief report: *University of Nebraska Gerontology Newsletter*, February.

PRESENTATIONS

Regional/National/International

Boardman, K., Stockard Spelic, S., Furlong, E., (2008). *When I was Hungry: Integrating learning & service*. (Poster) Mosby Faculty Development Institute, San Francisco.

Boardman, K., Furlong, E., Schwartz, M., Laughlin, A. (2008). *Web site development to meet school health needs*. Mosby Faculty Development Institute, San Francisco.

Bramble, J. D., Galt, K. A., Siracuse, M. V., Paschal, K. A., Drinsic, A., **Abbott, A. A.**, Fuji, K. T. *Organizational Factors Associated with Implementing Electronic Health Records*. Poster Presentation at Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Washington, D. C., June, 2008.

Chapple, H.S. (2008). *Rescue, transformation and stabilization: The ritual of intensification in the American hospital*. Society for Applied Anthropology/Society for Medical Anthropology Joint Meeting, Memphis TN, March 26.

Chapple, H.S. (2008). *The ritual of intensification in the American Hospital*. Association for Death Education and Counseling, Montreal, Canada, May 2.

Costanzo, C. (2008). *Preliminary results of a behavioral counseling intervention to increase physical activity in African American and Hispanic American Women*. Poster Presentation at the Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference, Indianapolis, IN, March 28-31.

Costanzo, C. & Ehly, R. (2008). Podium presentation. *Strategic planning: A catalyst for innovation to adopt the CNL role*. CNL Partnership Conference, Tucson, AZ, January 18.

Drinsic, A., Siracuse, M. V., Galt, K. A., Paschal, K. A., Bramble, J. D., **Abbott, A. A.**, Fuji, K.T. *The State of Electronic Health Records in Nebraska: Adoption, Barriers and Applications Physician EHR Adoption and ePrescribing in Nebraska*. Poster Presentation at Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Washington, D. C., June, 2008.

Foyt, M. (2008). *The experience of infant death for lower income African American mothers*. Paper presentation at the 9th Annual Arizona State University Evidence-Based Practice Conference, Glendale, AZ., February.

Galt, K. A., Paschal, K. A., Drinsic, A., Siracuse, M. V., Bramble, J. D., Fuji, K. T., & **Abbott, A. A.** *Electronic Health Record Adoption and Patient Safety*. Poster Presentation at Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Washington, D. C., June, 2008.

Galt, K. A., Paschal, K. A., Berens, D., **Abbott, A. A.**, Bramble, J. D., Drinsic, A., Rule, A. M., Siracuse, M.V. (2008) *Consumer Beliefs about Electronic Health Information Exchange and Privacy*. Platform presentation at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting, Nashville, TN, February.

Graves, J. (2008). *Porting a paper portfolio to e Portfolio*. Angel User Conference, Cincinnati, OH, May 20.

Hawkins, K., Todd, M., Manz, J., Hercinger, M., Parsons, M. (2008). *A comprehensive view of simulation*. Drexel University Technological Innovations in Nursing Education and Practice: Best Practices in Informatics and Simulation. Hilton Head, SC, March 26-28.

Hercinger, M. (2008). *Treatment decision making in adults with cancer*. Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference, Indianapolis, IN, March 28-31.

Laughlin, A., Parsons, M. (2008). *Predictive variables for mortality following involuntary inter-institutional relocation*. 7th Annual Nursing Research Conference, Mayo Clinic, March 7.

Lazure, L. (2008). *Activities of the Policy Workgroup*. Poster presentation at the LEAD Summit of the Center for American Nurses. Washington, DC, June 23-4.

Lappe, J. (2008). *Lifestyle Interventions for the Prevention of Stress Fractures*. Annual meeting of the American Physical Therapists Association. Nashville TN., February 7.

Lappe, J. (2008). *Calcium and vitamin D supplementation reduces incidence of stress fractures in female Navy recruits*. Bone Health and Military Medical Readiness State of the Science Stress Fracture Research Conference. Columbia SC, February 6.

O'Keefe, C. (2008). *Risk factors for overweight at five years of age: Birth characteristics, rate of weight gain and mode of infant feeding*. NAPNAP Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.

O'Keefe, C., Meager, M.K. (2008). *Finding the lost child: Pediatric content in the FNP Curriculum*. 34th Annual Meeting of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Louisville, KY, April 12.

O'Keefe, C. (2008). *Highlights of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Conference on Pediatric Health Care: Surgical Care in Pediatrics: An Update*. Medscape, June 5. (CEU offering)

O'Keefe, C. (2008). *Pediatric Pharmacology Update (Battling MRSA)*. Midwest Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Omaha, June 14.

Paschal, K. A., Galt, K. A., Siracuse, M. V., Drinsic, A., Bramble, J. D., Fuji, K. T., **Abbott, A. A.**, *Physician EHR Adoption and e Prescribing in Nebraska*. Poster presentation at Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Washington, D. C., June, 2008.

Selde, S. (2008). *On your mark, get set, study*. Workshop presentation at the 19th Annual Teaching Academic Survival Skills Conference, March 2-5.

Selde, S., Buffalohead-McGill, T. (2008). *The circle of success: Using a holistic approach to individualize academic consultation*. College Board National Conference: Native American Student Advocacy Institute, Tsailie, AZ, May 20-21, 2008.

Shirley, N. (2008). *Value-added faculty development: Implications for nursing education*. (Poster Presentation). NLN Faculty Leadership Conference. National League for Nursing. Orlando, FL, January.

CREIGHTON GETS \$2.34 MILLION TO STUDY EFFECT OF CALCIUM ON YOUNG GIRLS' WEIGHT

Shirley, N. (2008). *Exploring Professional Dispositions and Values Development by Returning RNs in an Online BSN Program*. National CASTL Institute. Omaha, NE. June.

Shirley, N. (2008). *Health care leadership for the 21st century*. (Poster presentation). LEAD Summit 2008. Washington, DC., June.

Siracuse, M. V., Galt, K. A., Bramble, J. D., Drinsic, A., Paschal, K. A., **Abbott, A. A.**, & Fuji, K. T., Kasha, T. (2008). *Physician Acceptance of Health Information Technology in Nebraska: Testing Model Applicability*. (Poster Presentation) Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Washington, D.C., June.

Siracuse, M., Bramble, J. D., Paschal, K. A., Drinsic, A., Galt, K. A., **Abbott, A. A.**, Fuji, K. T., Kasha, T. (2008). *Adoption of Electronic Health Records and ePrescribing in Nebraska and South Dakota*. Poster Presentation at the American Pharmacists Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March. (Research)

Synowiecki, B. (2008). *HPV Vaccine: Facts, Focus & Controversy*. National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners Annual Conference. Concurrent Sessions, Nashville, TN April 14-17.

Tow, J. (2008). *Breastfeeding issues for members of the armed services*. Table topic presentation at the Second National Conference of State Breast Feeding Coalitions. Arlington, VA, January 26-28.

Travers Gustafson, D. (2008). *Delegate Reflection: Health of Our People*. Kellogg Foundation National Rural Assembly, Washington, D.C., June 16-18.

NEWLY FUNDED GRANT AWARDS, 2007-8.

Abbott, A. (Co-I), Bramble, J. D., Drinsic, A. (Co-I), Fuji, K. (Co-I), Galt, K. A. (PI), Paschal, K. (Co-I), Siracuse, M. (Co-I). *Research Program in Health Care Quality and Safety*. Health Futures Foundation, 2007-2008, Time and Effort 10%.

Lappe, J. (PI), **Laughlin, A.** (Co I) (2008). *Efficacy of optimal levels of dietary dairy on modulation of adolescent weight*. NIH NINR . \$2.3 million.

Norris, J. (PD). *Advanced Education Nurse Traineeships*. DHHS HRSA, \$23,000.

Sandhurst, Holly (PI), **Cosimano, A.** (Co I). *The Positive Pregnancy Project*. March of Dimes, \$7,000 (3rd year renewal).

Tinley, S. (PI), **Hercinger, M.** (Co I), **Shirley, N.** (Co I). *The meaning of spiritual care among nurses*. Health Future Foundation, \$6,739. 2008-2010.



Joan Lappe, PhD,
RN, FAAN.

Whether calcium from dairy foods can help control weight and body fat in adolescent girls will be the focus of a new study at Creighton University. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently awarded the University \$2.34 million for the five-year study. Over the next three and one-half years, Creighton researchers will recruit 275 girls between the ages of 13 and 14.

“Our goal is to determine whether increasing the intake of dairy foods to recommended levels (1,300 milligrams for teenagers) decreases gain in body fat,” said principal investigator Joan Lappe, PhD, RN, FAAN. During adolescence, girls tend to increase body fat more than they increase muscle mass, so this is a good time to intervene.”

Lappe is a professor of medicine and Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss and Drs. Gilbert and Clinton Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing and Professor of Medicine.

“It’s an important topic to study,” Lappe said. “Overweight is epidemic in adolescents and leads to overweight as adults. Girls tend to have lower calcium diets than boys – partially due to the fear that dairy foods will cause them to gain weight. ■

POSITIVE PREGNANCY PROJECT

In 2006, with funding support from the March of Dimes, Creighton faculty designed and implemented the Positive Pregnancy Project to offer women the opportunity to gain important information regarding their pregnancies and to make meaningful connections with other pregnant women. Classes are offered at the Heart Center, an outreach program of Sacred Heart Church in north Omaha. The program consists of four sessions facilitated

by Creighton University School of Nursing faculty members Amy Cosimano and Holly Sandhurst and students. Each educational session addresses pregnancy related issues such as: the recognition of and preventative measures associated with pre-term labor, nutritious foods to enhance pregnancy dietary habits, infant and maternal health benefits related to breastfeeding and stress reduction measures to increase coping skills during pregnancy. ■



Recent Positive Pregnancy Project Class.



Winifred J. Ellenchild Pinch, PhD, RN, FAAN.

THE LEGACY PROJECT

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has published what is sure to become a key source document for nursing ethics, *Nursing and Health Care Ethics: A Legacy and a Vision*. In 2007, two leading nurse ethicists at Creighton University's Center for Health Policy and Ethics, *Winifred J. Ellenchild Pinch, RN, EdD, FAAN, and Amy M. Haddad, RN, MSN, PhD*, assembled a group of nurse scholars with a nurse historian and a medical sociologist to explore and reflect critically on their work and contributions to the bioethics and the health care ethics fields. These essays were the basis for *Nursing and Health Care Ethics*. ■



Dorothy Vossen.

In Memoriam

FORMER DEAN DOROTHY VOSSEN

Dorothy Vossen, 95, of St. Cloud, Minnesota, formerly of Watkins, died Aug. 18, 2008, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

Dorothy Vossen was recruited to Creighton in 1955 to run the newly-established Department of Nursing, then a part of Arts and Sciences. In 1958, under her direction, a 4-year baccalaureate program began at Creighton. Until that time nursing students attended a diploma program before coming to Creighton to receive their baccalaureate nursing degree. In 1970, she stepped down as director and returned to a faculty position.

Miss Vossen began a nursing scholarship program which is still in effect today. ■

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SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNI MERIT AWARD



Elizabeth Mohar Buschkemper, BSN'78.

Elizabeth Mohar Buschkemper is at her best when she is making life-saving decisions. Since earning her bachelor of science in nursing degree from Creighton University's School of Nursing, Betsy Buschkemper, now a Family Nurse Practitioner has honed her considerable skills in patient assessment and management. Those skills have taken her

from a pediatric intensive care unit to chief flight nurse duties with emergency medical flights, and from busy emergency rooms to community clinics.

Her desire to help the world's most vulnerable people get the health care they need has taken her from the Amazon Basin and mountain villages of South America to rural clinics and hospitals in Africa, the Central Highlands of New Guinea, Central America and the Caribbean. She has taught health, first aid, and trauma care in isolated jungle settings; assisted U.S. surgical teams to perform multiple surgeries; and, helped pilots improve air evacuation procedures. She has made 14 international health service trips to date, often using her vacation time. She transitions quickly from the surroundings of a modern medical unit to the most primitive conditions.

At the One World Community Health Center in South Omaha, she assesses and manages treatment for patients in the Acute Care Clinic – children and adults who are predominantly Hispanic immigrants with low income and no health insurance. In Betsy, the most underprivileged patients find a champion of social justice and an empathetic caregiver who appreciates diverse cultures and respects all persons.

Betsy's dedication to providing quality patient assessment and care management, and the health care she has provided to many who would not otherwise receive it, makes her truly a woman for others. ■

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FIRST BECKMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Joan and Gary Beckman with Jessica Lammers.

One day, the School received a call out of the blue from a delightful woman. She identified herself as an alumna of the nursing school and she wanted to find out how she could

make a donation. Her mother had died recently, and as result, she was the benefactor of a life insurance policy. She said she knew immediately what she wanted to do. She wanted to give a scholarship to her alma mater in honor of her mother and father and in memory of her baby daughters that died at birth.

We learned her mother had always wanted to become a nurse but hadn't the means—yet she wanted desperately for her daughter, Joan, to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse. Joan became dedicated psychiatric nurse. She raised three incredible children—among them a son serving in Iraq.

On September 27, 2008, Joan and Gary Beckman, of Iowa City, awarded the first Heather Bernadette and April Lynn Beckman Annual Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Jeanne Corrinne and Bernard J. Higgins.

The first scholarship was given to Jessica Lammers, an outstanding senior from Hartford, South Dakota. She is very involved in service on campus. Jessica hopes to work for a few years and eventually become a nursing instructor. ■

2007-2008 NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Below is a listing of each recipient and their scholarship.

AMDG Rad. Endowed Scholarship

Minh C. Nguyen

Andolsek, Regina Burnett Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

Kathy Tram Daotay

Beckman, Heather Bernadette & April Lynn Annual Nursing Scholarship in Memory of Jeanne Corrine & Bernard J. Higgins

Jessica M. Lammers

Beller, Mary Ann Scholarship

Julia Katherine Hector

Bellinger, Frank Earl M.D. Scholarship

Catherine Elizabeth Collazo

Sarah Anne Erthal

Kelley A. Gronenthal

Brittany M. Hemmann

Jacob Kent Holland

Jennifer A. Melton

Amber Lee Rosno

Ciciulla, Dr. Sheila Donahue Scholarship

Amanda C. McCormick

Creighton Memorial St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Endowed Scholarship

Constance Evelyn Storm

Curley, Norma Link Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

Winn Asay

Elizabeth Fund Scholarship

Nicole Ann Henrichs

Gaul, Emalea & Zeta Scholarship

Amanda C. McCormick

Mary C. Pomeranke

Gondringer, Jean H. Jerman

Endowed Scholarship

Barbara Paige Dixon

Hannasch, Anna M. & Donald H. Endowed Scholarship

Justina Arlene Schipporeit

Harper, Josie Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

Bailee A. Becker

Audrey Ann Bradshaw

Catherine Elizabeth Collazo

Erin Whitney Dailey

Hedequist, Jane A. & Susan S. Endowed Scholarship

Jordane B. Choquette

Jackie Ellen Evenson

Kitchens, Edeth K. Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

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Lamberto, Barbara A. Endowed Scholarship

Justina Arlene Schipporeit

McCabe, Diane Memorial

Endowed Scholarship

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Jacie Marie Hastings

J. Barry & Rita McCallan

Endowed Scholarship

Emily Ann Donovan

Danielle Marie Frericks

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

Abigail Leigh Morris

Robyn Sweley

Meister, Everett & Helen Endowed Scholarship

Katie Marie Rix

Powers, Leonard & Madeline Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

Frannie N. Maier

Jenna M. Williams

Quinlan, Thomas C. Endowed Scholarship for Nursing

Courtney Leigh Elliott

Amy Rebekah Spencer

Rauenhorst, Mark & Karen Scholarship

Rachael Anne Carmichael

Kevin T. McNamara

Kathrine Camille Olson

Lindsey Diane Tidwell

Suzuki, Lois R. Memorial Scholarship

Ashley Ann Wilke

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Three former classmates are closer than ever these days—quite literally, since they now all teach at the nursing school. Mary (Tracy) Parsons, PhD, BSN '76; Ann (Franco) Laughlin, PhD, BSN '76; MS '94; and Maribeth (McCullough) Hercinger, PhD, BSN '76.

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