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Dear alumni, friends and colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that the College of Nursing has selected Laurie Lauzon Clabo, Ph.D., RN, as our next dean, effective April 1, 2015.

Dr. Clabo joins us from the MGH Institute of Health Professions, a health professions graduate school in Boston, where she has served as dean of the School of Nursing since 2010. Prior to that, Dr. Clabo was associate dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Rhode Island. Additionally, she has held a number of positions in nursing leadership, including the director of nursing practice at Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. In 2011, she was named a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow. Dr. Clabo received her bachelor’s in nursing from the University of Windsor, her master’s in nursing administration from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, and her Ph.D. in nursing from the University of Rhode Island.

On a personal note, I am sad to announce that Dr. Stephanie Schim, our dear friend, colleague and assistant dean of Family, Community and Mental Health, was involved in a serious accident that has left her a quadriplegic. Dr. Schim was at home preparing for an early morning departure to the 2014 Academy of Nursing meeting when she fell down a flight of stairs. She suffered a C4 fracture, a left orbital fracture and two fractured wrists. Her fractures were surgically repaired, but she remains without feeling or movement from mid-thorax down at this time. She is currently in a rehabilitation facility. I encourage you to send cards and well wishes to Dr. Stephanie Schim at Boulevard Health Center, 3500 South Blvd. W., Rochester Hills, MI 48309. Contributions toward her medical expenses can be made at gofundme.com/stephanieschim.

It has been a pleasure to serve as interim dean. I am thankful for the wonderful learning opportunities and for the support I have received from all of you. We can be proud of everything that our faculty and students have worked hard for and have achieved in the past year and look forward to working with Dr. Clabo on our continuing journey toward excellence.

Nancy T. Artinian
Ph.D., RN, FAHA, FPCNA, FAAN
Amanda Farnum volunteered in soup kitchens growing up in Northern California. But it wasn’t until she moved to Detroit that she saw firsthand how much need existed in the world — and how much she could help.

Now a College of Nursing senior, Farnum applied to Wayne State when her husband, Hieu Nguyen, entered the School of Medicine. Although the couple moved to Midtown across from campus, Farnum struggled at first to find a sense of community because so many students commuted. Then she joined the Student Nurses’ Association (SNA).

“I immediately began to build relationships with classmates and upperclassmen,” Farnum says. “I found mentors within that community and began to have invaluable experiences through the group.”

Founded in 1952, the National Student Nurses’ Association is made up of more than 60,000 members across the United States. The WSU chapter, which falls under the umbrella of the Michigan Nursing Students’ Association, focuses on providing educational, social and service opportunities to undergraduate nursing students. Activities include American Red Cross blood drives, neighborhood greening projects and collection efforts to gather basic supplies for those in need.

After diving into active SNA membership her sophomore year, Farnum continued to take on increased responsibilities, currently serving as president. She says that community outreach is one area that has expanded during her time on campus. The group is now partnering with one primary organization annually to focus that year’s outreach efforts. They’re currently working with the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, a 100-year-old nonprofit that provides food, shelter, and services to the homeless and disadvantaged.

“When we value the connection that partnerships provide, we established a community outreach chair to strengthen those relationships,” says Farnum, adding that this year’s chair, Anita D’Souza, is “phenomenal.”

Farnum also has high praise for SNA Vice President Damian Tomasik, who came to Wayne State in 2007 as a music education student. “I had a passion for health care, but at the time I wasn’t sure I could handle the coursework,” he says. After seeing school districts make budget cuts to music and art education, Tomasik worked with WSU advisors to explore new options.

“Nursing is perfect for me,” he says as he looks ahead to graduating this May. “And everything I’m doing with SNA — whether I’m planning activities or participating in them — will one day make me a better nurse.”

Tomasik is accustomed to rolling up his sleeves. In 2007, he was appointed by the mayor of Hamtramck to their town’s Human Relations Commission, established to promote mutual understanding and respect for multiculturalism and diversity. He currently serves as secretary of that group in addition to his WSU studies, SNA board duties and work as a senior skills lab assistant.

Busy as he is, Tomasik is convinced that student organization membership is key to success at Wayne State. “Being in SNA widens the network of people we meet, including faculty we might not have for class,” he says. “Getting involved in Detroit helps us understand the opportunities and needs that exist. SNA has made me feel like I’m doing more than getting my degree — I’m part of the College of Nursing and I’m taking steps to make a difference.”

Farnum is grateful to serve alongside Tomasik and the rest of the board. “I’m really proud of how far SNA has come,” she says. “Support from faculty continues to promote participation. I’ve enjoyed watching my own cohort share our life experiences through the years and blossom with responsibility.”

Nursing students look beyond the books

Student Nurses’ Association board members, from left: Amanda Farnum, Nour Hamade, Vian Murad, Anita D’Souza and Damian Tomasik.
Congratulations to Wayne State University’s latest crop of Jonas Scholars

College of Nursing students serve diverse populations and promote community and urban health while becoming nurse leaders in research, education and practice. Their excellence is exemplified in the three standout students recently honored by the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare.

“Nurses are the backbone of the American health care system,” says Donald Jonas, FAAN and co-founder of the center. “It is essential that we support nurses and the vital role they play in our hospitals, schools, clinics, nursing homes and on the battlefield.” His vision and philanthropic support created the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare, which is dedicated to building the effectiveness of America’s professional nurses. The center supports both the Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program and the Jonas Veterans Healthcare Program.

The Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar Program was created to support educational development of new nursing faculty and stimulate models for joint faculty appointments between schools of nursing and clinical affiliates. Meanwhile, the Jonas Veterans Healthcare Program was established to improve the health care of those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by supporting doctoral level education advancement of nurses who will be involved in all levels of veteran health care, from administration and policy to direct patient care.

“We are proud of our Veterans Healthcare Scholars, Maria Gahry and Kamla Yancy, as well as our Nurse Leaders Scholar, Jason Kiernan,” says Interim Dean Nancy Artinian. “These awards will surely help them remain on a path to continued success.”

Maria Gahry
2014 Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar

After earning her bachelor of science in nursing degree in 2009, Maria Gahry returned to Wayne State in 2012 to enter the doctor of nursing practice program. “I was going back and forth between medical school and nursing,” she says. “When I learned I could get a doctorate in nursing, I knew that would be my path. It’s a field that’s close to my heart; my grandmother was a nurse.”

Gahry’s own nursing career includes five years in cardiac intensive care. “That experience sharpened my critical thinking skills,” she says. She is a member of the American Holistic Nurses Association and the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners, and currently is a registered nurse working in critical care for Oakwood Health System.

Gahry is specializing in adult primary care and is obtaining a graduate certificate in complementary and alternative medicine. Her graduate research involves studying integrative, holistic approaches to the screening for and treatment of thyroid disease and its connection to other health problems.

She says, “I am excited and grateful to have the opportunity to implement my DNP clinical inquiry project at John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit to improve an aspect of health care for our veterans who have already given so much to our country.”

Jason Kiernan
2014 Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar

After earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, Jason Kiernan was living in Canada and working at Detroit Medical Center. Choosing Wayne State for graduate school just made sense. Ph.D. studies had been on his mind for awhile. “I like research,” he says, adding that after working with a group of Ph.D. nurses in Windsor, “I decided to mold myself toward being a researcher.”

His 20-year nursing career includes concentrated practice in urban health care settings in the United States and
Canada. Kiernan’s current Ph.D. research focuses on cancer and nutraceuticals — he plans to examine the common spice ginger and its potential as an adjunct for chemotherapy-related nausea.

Kiernan says, “Oncology nursing exists along a spectrum of care, from long before a cancer diagnosis is made through treatment, palliation and survivorship. Being a Jonas Scholar enables me to contribute my own research to the evidence base from which oncology nursing practice develops, and to impart this knowledge to future generations of nurses.”

Kamla Yancy
2014 Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholar

After 25 years of service and leadership in the U.S. Air Force as a medic, this retired Chief Master Sergeant has spent her post-military career helping and inspiring others through an impressive range of progressively complex clinical and administrative assignments.

Yancy earned three degrees and worked in the computer science field before enrolling in Wayne State’s doctoral program. “I had good-paying jobs but office work wasn’t personally fulfilling,” she says. “Now I realize that veterans’ health care is where I can make an impact. I feel the greatest sense of contribution by helping the people who ensure our safety when they are at their most vulnerable.”

A member of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners, the Chi Eta Phi sorority and the Emergency Department Unit Council, Yancy is keenly interested in helping veterans. Her graduate evidence-based practice project interest includes cardiovascular risk reduction, with a focus on female veterans.

She says, “I am excited to have the opportunity to work with some of the greatest professionals in nursing (Jonas Scholars) and give back to the military community that I hold so dear.”
In the business of caring

Michael Gillet is not a nurse, but for more than 30 years, he’s been in the nursing business.

“To be honest, I was trying to find work at a CPA firm,” Gillet says. “I got a job at Beaumont. I worked there for four years and was promoted five times. Eventually I said, ‘OK, I think I’m going to do pretty well here. I’m going to concentrate on health care.’”

Gillet worked in the hospital’s financial planning department, a position that allowed him to collaborate with leaders throughout the facility. As a young professional, Gillet’s passion for the work grew as he was exposed to all aspects of health care.

“It gave me a huge overview of the hospital. I think that over the years, I’ve been in every aspect of health care,” Gillet says. “That’s what I like most; I’ve had experience in all facets.”

This varied experience helped Gillet make new connections with physicians and other health care organizations. He started helping companies with Medicare certification, and in many cases he ended up staying on to become their financial consultant.

“I worked with a nursing consultant who did the clinical side, and I did the financial side,” explains Gillet.

In the late 1980s, Gillet started working with a client focused on hospital, private duty and nursing home staffing. He saw potential in the field and decided to start his own venture, staffing nurses in homes, hospitals and elder care facilities. Health Partners Inc., a home health care and staffing operation, is now in its 24th year of business.

“Health Partners started with a group of guys who owned an IT design staffing company and knew nothing about health care,” says Gillet. “They became my financiers, and I hired a staff coordinator. The two of us were basically the whole business.”

Today, Heath Partners operates in five cities across the state of Michigan and has expanded its services to include staffing nurses who specialize in care for individuals suffering from catastrophic injuries, including spinal cord and closed-head trauma.

It is the value he places on education that attracted Gillet to Wayne State’s College of Nursing. In 2006, he was asked to get involved with the college’s Board of Visitors by colleague Sheila Atkinson. Gillet saw an opportunity to help shape the education of the very nurses he might someday employ.

“I was just humbled to be asked to join the board,” Gillet says. “I’ve been in and around nursing for 38 years, and I think Wayne State has a great program.”

As a board member, Gillet is helping connect the college with local business leaders through a series of informational meetings that focus on the importance of investing in nursing education for community health. He also is making clinical training opportunities available for nursing students at Health Partners.

“There was a lot of favorable feedback from our nurses about working with the students,” Gillet says. “It makes Health Partners stronger when we can provide these collaborative efforts, and my staff gets excited about it.”

In addition to his volunteer efforts, Gillet is a generous benefactor of the College of Nursing. He has contributed annually to the college, and has arranged a $1 million planned gift to ensure his efforts carry on in the future.

“I think everyone should give back. It makes for a stronger community,” Gillet says.

He may have started out with aspirations of becoming a CPA, but today Gillet is proud of the success he’s had in health care and the difference his company makes in the business of nursing.

“What nurses do in all aspects of health care leads to better community wellness,” he says. “I’m happy that I can support the field.”

Student Jessica Rogers (left) and Board of Visitors members Dave Dickens, Gillet and Rose Torrento listen to a research poster presentation.
Searching for 40-week solutions

When Dr. Carmen Giurgescu was a labor and delivery nurse in a high-risk antepartum unit during the mid-’90s, she became intimately familiar with the factors that lead to preterm birth. And while she knew that some stressors—such as strenuous job duties—can be eliminated or avoided during pregnancy, others cannot. Often, a pregnant woman can’t escape chaos and uncertainty because she is literally surrounded by it in her own home.

When babies are born prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation, there is a higher rate of mortality, as well as increased risk of chronic and acute diseases, developmental delays and behavioral problems—plus all of the parenting strain and financial burden that accompany these issues. The Institute of Medicine estimates that preterm birth in the U.S. costs $26 billion annually, which includes not only specialized care in the neonatal unit but increased long-term health care and special education down the road.

In 2013, 11.4 percent of infants were born prematurely, and African American women had 1.6 times higher rates of preterm births compared with non-Hispanic white women. This disparity is not fully explained by low maternal socioeconomic status or poor physical health. Pregnant African American women are more likely to live in neighborhoods with high poverty, violent crime and abandoned buildings, and they are more likely to be exposed to racial discrimination. These chronic stressors have been related to higher rates of preterm birth for African American women.

Now an assistant professor in the College of Nursing, Giurgescu aims to improve outcomes by reducing inequities. To that end, her long-term research goal is to develop an evidence-based, culturally appropriate intervention to decrease preterm birth among African American women. In prior pilot studies, Giurgescu and her team found that pregnant African American women identified dangerous neighborhoods and racial discrimination as risk factors of preterm birth. Now, in collaboration with Dr. Paul Stemmer, director of Wayne State’s Proteomic Core Facility, she has obtained funding from WSU’s Center for Urban Responses to Environmental Stressors (CURES) to discover how chronic stressors and psychological stress modify proteome profiles in pregnant African American women.

Launched late last year, her team’s pilot, “Chronic Stressors, Proteome Profiles and Preterm Birth in African American Women,” is now measuring pregnant African American women’s stress-related protein levels through blood tests and correlating those results with measurements of participants’ neighborhood stressors.

Both social and physical disorder—such as vandalism, crime, homelessness and vacant lots—will be measured, using participants’ perceptions as well as census data. “If we can identify African American women at risk for preterm birth earlier in their pregnancies, we can try to intervene,” Giurgescu says. “The key is to find interventions that are culturally and financially appropriate.”

Suggesting a yoga class or a walk around the neighborhood, for example, might not be appropriate to those without a gym membership or safe streets for strolling. “We have some stress-management alternatives in mind,” says Giurgescu, noting that their team’s goal is not just to research but to help women. “That’s part of what we’re looking at—realistic lifestyle modifications that are culturally appropriate.”

Giurgescu and Stemmer’s research team includes co-investigators Thomas Templin, Ph.D.; Dawn Misra, Ph.D.; and Theodore Jones, M.D.; along with two investigators external to WSU: Shannon Zenk, Ph.D., RN (University of Illinois) and Robert Welch, M.D. (St. John Providence Health System).
Farewell to three fine faculty members

Please join us as we salute three faculty members who are leaving the College of Nursing this spring and summer. We appreciate their collective 97 years of service and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Judith Floyd

Dr. Judith Floyd, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, who will be retiring from the College of Nursing effective May 15, joined the CON faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor and worked her way up to full professor. She completed her B.S.N. at the University of Michigan, her M.S. in psychiatric nursing from Ohio State University and her Ph.D. in nursing from Wayne State. Floyd also completed several post-graduate courses in the area of meta-analyses.

In addition to her meta-analysis expertise, Floyd’s research addresses promotion of sleep across the lifespan and research synthesis and dissemination methods. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Nurse Practitioners Healthcare Foundation and other agencies, and has addressed aging-related sleep changes, dysfunctional sleep beliefs and practices, prevention of chronic insomnia, and use of graphics to disseminate meta-analytic findings. She has published numerous articles and book chapters on this work.

During Floyd’s 37-year tenure at the CON, she served as assistant director of nursing and director of nursing research at the Michigan Department of Mental Health’s Lafayette Clinic. She also served as the associate dean for research and director of the Center for Health Research from 2003-08. Floyd is a member of the American Nurses Association, American Academy of Nursing, American Academy of Sleep Medicine, Midwest Nursing Research Society, National Academies of Practice, Sigma Theta Tau International and the Sleep Research Society. She has received numerous honors throughout her career, including an American Nurses Association Book of the Year Award for Nursing Models: Applications for Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, Distinguished Practitioner and Fellow from the National Academy of Nursing Practice, Sigma Theta Tau Fulld Research Scholar Awards, and Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

Judith Fry-McComish

Dr. Judith Fry-McComish, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, who plans to retire from her CON position as associate professor effective August 30, has worked tirelessly at the CON for 27 years. She has garnered attention and accolades for the college through her conscientious attention to teaching and mentoring baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral students; through research on postpartum depression and doula care; and through college, university and professional service. From 1991-94, Fry-McComish also held a faculty associate appointment with the WSU Developmental Disabilities Institute, and from 1992-94 was a research associate for the School of Medicine’s Institute of Maternal and Child Health in its Department of Community Medicine.

Fry-McComish received her B.S.N. from Indiana University School of Nursing, and her M.S.N. and Ph.D. in nursing degrees from Wayne State. She is a certified infant mental health specialist and received endorsement from the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health as an Infant Mental Health Mentor. Fry-McComish is an expert in psychiatric-mental health nursing and infant mental health and was integral to initiating and developing the WSU infant mental health specialty concentration and the infant mental health dual-title degree program. She has written numerous refereed journal articles and has received honors including the John Kennell and Marshall Klaus Award for Research Excellence from the Doula Organization of North America and Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing. Her research has targeted development of a smartphone app for decreasing perinatal depression and postpartum doula care, as well as targeted program evaluation conducting evaluations of the Detroit Health Start program, the Flint Odyssey House and the School Nurse Practitioner for the Great Lakes Region.

Fry-McComish currently serves on the board of directors of the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses (ISPN) Foundation, and previously served on the finance committee and as treasurer and awards committee member of ISPN. She has also served on the board of trustees for the Village of Oakman Manor/Presbyterian...
Villages, and as a member of the March of Dimes, Southeastern Michigan Chapter; Health Professional Advisory Committee and the Detroit Fetal-Infant Mortality Review Team, Michigan Department of Community Health.

Virginia Rice
Dr. Virginia (Ginnie) Rice, Ph.D., RN, CNS, FAAN, who will retire effective August 30 after 33 years of service, joined the CON as an assistant professor in 1982, received tenure in 1990 and was promoted to full professor in 1997. She also is a professor of oncology in the WSU School of Medicine and the Karmanos Cancer Institute.

Rice is a leading internationally renowned tobacco use and cessation expert who has received consistent external funding for her research, including grants from the National Institutes of Health to study tobacco use in Arab American youth and the health effects of adolescent water pipe smoking with and without cigarette smoking. She’s written numerous journal articles and in 2012 published the second edition of the Handbook of Stress, Coping and Health: Implications for Nursing Research, Theory and Practice. Rice has received many honors, including the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing Research, the Governor’s Recognition for Contribution to Tobacco-Free Michigan Action Coalition, the Midwest Nursing Research Society’s Stress and Coping Research Section’s Advancement of Science in Stress and Coping Award, and fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing.

Through her teaching, research, mentoring and tireless service and leadership, Rice has contributed immensely to the success of CON students and faculty. On a personal note, she has volunteered many hours in the Detroit community, including serving on the board of trustees and advisory committee of Crossroads of Michigan, on the health advisory committee of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, on the United Health Foundation board of trustees, and as a Life Member of the St. John Hospital Fontbonne Auxiliary.

“We are indebted to their collective commitment to the college,” says Interim Dean Nancy Artinian. “Each of their contributions will always be valued and remembered.”
Promotions and appointments

Lindsey Rossow-Rood has been named CON director of philanthropy. Rossow-Rood earned her bachelor’s in social work in 2001 and her master’s in social work in 2002, both from Wayne State. She brings several years of fundraising experience, most recently as the director of development and alumni relations for the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan.

Anthony Harris and Chanta Stanley each joined the College of Nursing this past fall as clinical instructors.

Presentations and awards

Interim Dean Dr. Nancy Artinian recently received the Katharine A. Lembright Award from the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing. This is one of the AHA’s highest awards and Dr. Artinian is the first Wayne State faculty member to receive it.

Dr. Tom Templin, Dr. Karen Aroian (former CON faculty member) and Dr. Edythe Hough (former CON dean) received a Presentation of Distinction Award at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science meeting for their coauthored paper, “Substantive Application of Cross Lagged SEM for Testing Diathesis Stress Theory.”

Dr. Barbara Pieper, Dr. Tom Templin and Dr. Allon Goldberg received the 2014 Roberta S. Abruzzese Publishing Award for their article, “A Comparative Study of the Five-Times-Sit-to-Stand and Timed-Up-and-Go Tests as Measures of Functional Mobility in Persons With and Without Injection-Related Venous Ulcers,” which will be published in Advances in Skin & Wound Care.

Dr. Joan Bickes and her community health faculty team received funding from the WSU Graduate School’s Master’s Program Innovation and Development Fund for their proposal, “Advanced Public Health Nursing MSN Program Enrichment.”

Dr. Helene Krous’s study, “ORL Nurses’ Awareness of Clinical Practice Guidelines,” was funded by the Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head-Neck Nurses. She is developing a Web-based survey to assess ORL nurses’ knowledge and use of specialty practice guidelines.

Dr. Nutrena Tate and Dr. Hossein Yarandi received a Diversity Section Award for their poster presentation, “Mediator and Moderator Effects of Sociocultural Factors and Weight Related Behaviors on Obesity in African American Adolescents,” at the 2014 Obesity Society national conference in Boston. Out of 1,500 peer-reviewed abstracts, the poster received second place for its quality and focus on diversity.

Dr. Feleta Wilson and Dr. Umeika Stephens received a $1.1 million grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for their proposal, “Educating Advance Practice Nurses to Care for Individuals With Multiple Chronic Conditions and Michigan’s Returning Veterans in Medically Underserved Communities Through Enhanced Technology and Interprofessional Education.” Wilson and Stephens also received a three-year, $526,696 grant from HRSA for their proposal, “Addressing the Behavioral Health Care Needs of Children, Adolescents and Families Through Interprofessional Education.”

Dr. Karen Kavanaugh was guest editor for the May/June 2014 issue of MCN: The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing. The special issue focused on perinatal and pediatric bereavement.

Doctoral student Ericka Brunson Gillespie presented her poster at the Michigan Nursing Summit in Lansing last September.

Dr. Karen Kavanaugh, Dr. Leanne Nantais-Smith and Dr. Stephanie Schim received the 2014 Excellence in Writing Award given by Neonatal Network: The Journal of Neonatal Nursing for “The Role of Extended Family in Supporting Parents Faced With Life Support Decisions for Extremely Premature Infants.”

Dr. Nutrena Tate’s poster, “Who Says I’m Fat? Measures of Obesity in African American Adolescents: Body Mass Index, Waist Circumference, and Body Fat Composition,” was selected for research poster presentation at the 2015 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners’ 36th annual conference.
Web extra: Interdisciplinary team approach

Learning new skills and approaches to patient care. Integrating invaluable knowledge from complementary disciplines for a common patient population. Providing more comprehensive patient assessments. Fostering respect and appreciation for other health care professionals. Thanks to a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, several Wayne State entities have collaborated to create the Interprofessional Team Home Visit Program to provide students the opportunity to do all of this and more.

Working with the College of Nursing on this endeavor are the School of Medicine, School of Social Work, and three programs within the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Studies. The Interprofessional Team Home Visit Program is a multifaceted method of providing wellness visits to seniors in the community while delivering long-term benefits to students.

Read the full story at nursing.wayne.edu.


Dr. Nutrena Tate, Dr. Hossein Yarandi and Dr. Nancy George had “Who Is Most Important? Media, Family and Peer Influences on Social Physique Anxiety in African American Adolescents” presented as a podium session at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science’s 2014 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research.

Class notes

In memoriam: Alberta Anna Bowes (M.S.N. ‘56)

Dr. Carol Boyd, RN, FAAN (M.S.N. ‘82, Ph.D. ‘86) is the Deborah J. Oakley Collegiate Professor at the U-M School of Nursing. She has conducted mixed-method studies that use innovative technologies to examine the relationship between gender and health behaviors.

Peter Buerhaus, RN, FAAN (M.S.N. ‘81, Ph.D. ‘90) recently joined the Montana State University College of Nursing faculty. A nationally known nurse economist, he focuses on health care workforce issues.

Rosanna DeMarco, RN, PHCN-BC, APHN-BC, FAAN (Ph.D. ‘97) is chair and professor of nursing in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Megan Keiser, RN (D.N.P. ‘12) joined the faculty in the Department of Nursing at the University of Michigan – Flint in 2013. She has been active in many professional organizations and currently is serving as president of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses.

Jeanne K. Kemppainen, Ph.D., RN (B.S.N. ‘62) was inducted into the Academy of Nursing and is Irwin Belk Distinguished Professor of Nursing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She was one of the first to attend class in the Cohn Building after it was built.

Janet Larson, Ph.D., RN, FAAN (B.S.N. ’75) is professor and chair, Division of Acute, Critical and Long-Term Care; and interim chair, Division of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction in the Department of Health Behavior and Biological Sciences at the U-M School of Nursing. She is an expert in the pulmonary rehabilitation of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Patrick Miller, RN, M.B.A., MHSA, FACHE (B.S.N. ’96 via the Second Career/Degree program) is executive vice president and COO of Hospice of Michigan.

Dr. Pamela Reed, Ph.D., RN, FAAN (B.S.N. ’74, M.S.N. ’76) received the 2014 Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award from the University of Arizona College of Nursing. Her research and clinical interests include end-of-life caregiving decisions and practices and nurse moral distress.

Iris Taylor, RN (B.S.N. ‘74, M.S.N. ‘78, Ph.D. ‘96) recently retired as CEO of Detroit Receiving Hospital. She earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees in nursing from Wayne State and is a member of the CON Board of Visitors.

Jacquelyn Y. Taylor, PNP-BC, RN, FAAN (B.S.N. ’99, M.S.N. ’02, Ph.D. ’04) was recently promoted to associate professor with tenure at the Yale School of Nursing. She is the first woman of color to advance from assistant to associate professor with tenure in the 91-year history of the school. She also was awarded an R01 from NIH/NINR for “Intergenerational Impact of Genetic and Psychological Factors on Blood Pressure” in the amount of $3,386,699.

Antonia Villarruel, RN, FAAN (Ph.D. ’93) was recently named professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is also CON’s 2015 Alumna of the Year. Her research focus has been on health promotion and health disparities underpinned by a community participatory approach.
Internationally recognized nurse leader and Wayne State alumna Antonia M. Villarruel (Ph.D. ‘93) will receive the Alumna of the Year award and present the keynote address during the CON 2015 Research Day. Villarruel is professor and the Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania.

Villarruel’s research focus is on health promotion and health disparities underpinned by a community participatory approach. Her current research projects include sexual risk reduction interventions for Latino and Mexican youth; parent-adolescent communication interventions to prevent teen pregnancy and STDs; the use of virtual environments to train members of the community on implementing evidence-based interventions; and language learning to promote global health competency in undergraduate nurses.

She also developed an effective evidence-based intervention to reduce sexual risk behavior among Latino youths called ¡Cuidate! (Protect yourself!), which has been disseminated nationally by the CDC.

The celebration on April 1 also features faculty presentations and the research poster reception. For more information about attending, call the CON Office of Health Research at 313-577-4135 or write to us at ohr@wayne.edu.

Send us your news! The College of Nursing wants to know what you have been doing, what award you recently received, or your fully realized retirement plans. Email updates to con@wayne.edu.