Welcome

Linda Eddy, College of Nursing Associate Dean and Director for Vancouver Nursing Programs

Hard to believe it is the end of an academic year like no other. Like most of you, our College responded to the ever-changing Covid situation with as much nimbleness as we could muster. As we look back, most of our changes worked well and some of them, like offering more of our didactic courses over Zoom, will likely persist. Our faculty and staff were very creative and offered courses and services over Zoom without losing personal connection with our students. For example, we were able to offer our nurse practitioner students high quality advanced physical assessment and diagnostic experiences in the comfort of their home. I really appreciate the hard work of our staff and faculty in ensuring that our students remained connected.

To that end, although we had a few more students than usual that took leave during Covid, our admission and retention numbers remain high. In our graduate programs, we have admitted 18 FNP-DNP students for Fall 2021, the most that we can offer placements to. Similarly, we have admitted 10 PMHNP-DNP students, with a possibility of two more admits to that program. We are still in the admission process for our post-masters DNP program, but the numbers look similar to last year. Finally, our RN to BSN program is still admitting students, but we have 44 for Fall, 2021 and at least 13 for Summer 2021. These numbers are similar to our pre-Covid situation. Our staff is working very hard to influence recruitment and retention, with some very creative Zoom-based information sessions for new students. Our faculty, too, are working with their advisees and course-based students to ensure that their needs are met.

We thank all of our advisory board members for your continuing support of our programs. We could not do this without you! We hope you enjoy learning a bit about our ongoing faculty achievements and our students' achievements and awards.

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Dr. Linda Eddy

Dean Dr. Mary Koithan
WSU-Vancouver partnering with Koelsch Senior Communities
By Catherine Van Son PhD, RN, ANEF, FGSA
Associate Professor Nurse Gerontologist

Catherine Van Son and Shelly Fritz are coordinating with one of our community partners, Benjamin Surmi from Koelsch Communities to bring stakeholders together in the design and development of a senior living community here in Vancouver. Beginning in November of 2019 some faculty and administration met to discuss a partnership between WSU-Vancouver and Koelsch University Village. Koelsch University Village will be a senior living complex about .5 miles from the WSU-V campus. Initial discussions were to brainstorm the ways we could partner together on behalf of both students/faculty and future residents. The village aims to be a teaching senior community providing students opportunities for practicums, research, and projects from various disciplines such as nursing, human development, media, and computer sciences to name a few. At the same time, older adults will have opportunities on the Vancouver campus. Older adults could take classes, tutor, guest lecture, attend social events, interact with the childcare center in intergenerational activities…. and much more. The facility is planned to open in the summer of 2022. Due to the pandemic, meetings stalled but are picking up again this summer. Faculty will be attending a virtual review of the University Village designs which currently includes Cougar and other university-themed décor. Stay tuned, exciting times.
(Illustration’s courtesy of Koelsch Communities)

Research on Language Assistance Services
By Vicki Denson PhD WHNP-BC, CNE
Clinical Assistant Professor – Director RN-BSN Program

Vicki Denson completed research related to language assistance services in non-federally funded free and charitable clinics. The aim of this study was to examine the types of language assistance services used by these clinics and determine whether clinics provided medical interpreter training for volunteers and staff. The findings were presented at the Transcultural Nursing: Advancing Culture Care Conference as well as at the Western Institute for Nursing Research. A manuscript for consideration of publication is in progress.
The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse as a Prescriber
By Louise Kaplan PhD, ARNP, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
Associate Professor, Associate Academic Director

Louise Kaplan, Associate Professor at the WSU College of Nursing-Vancouver, and her colleague Dr. Marie Annette Brown, Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington School of Nursing co-edited the second edition of *The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse as a Prescriber* published in March 2021. Having the authority to prescribed medications as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse includes role socialization, and regulatory, legal, ethical and socioeconomic considerations that typically are not part of graduate education. The second edition of the book has been updated and includes new chapters on global prescribing and medical marijuana. Work began on the book in fall 2019 with a draft submitted in July 2021 which were finalized in November 2022. In addition to the chapters written Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Brown, there were four-chapter authors including Dr. Tracy Klein, another WSU Vancouver faculty. A description of the book can be found at [https://www.wiley.com/en-us/The+Advanced+Practice+Registered+Nurse+as+a+Prescriber%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9781119685579](https://www.wiley.com/en-us/The+Advanced+Practice+Registered+Nurse+as+a+Prescriber%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9781119685579)

Mental Health Ministry within a Local Faith Community
By Pam Stover DNP, MN, ARNP, PMHNP-BC, PMHCNS-BC
Clinical Assistant Professor, PMHNP Clinical Track Coordinator

Pam Stover, PMHNP-DNP faculty and PMHNP clinical track coordinator, participated in service to the community by participating in the development of a mental health ministry within a local faith community. She submitted a grant proposal for funds to support the ministry development, which was approved, and was one of four people in the faith community to be trained as a Mental Health First Aid instructor. She led the proposed initial development of mental health education and two support groups as part of the ministry. She will do two presentations at this year’s American Psychiatric Nurses Association conference related to this project.
American Asian & Pacific Islander Public Health and Community
By Dr. Connie Kim Yen Nguyen-Truong, PhD, RN, Alumnus PCCN
Assistant Professor

Dr. Connie Nguyen-Truong and Dr. Roschelle (Shelly) Fritz, co-first authors, led their academic-community research team with Asian Health & Service Center, community partners, and students, and has a national award-winning paper, American Public Health Association's Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health Best Published Paper entitled, "Older Asian immigrants' perceptions of a health-assistive smart home". Gerontechnology journal: https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2020.19.04.385.

Dr. S. Robert Spence, DNP FNP (2021 Graduate), was awarded the international 1st student scholarship for a paper publication in the Asian/Pacific Island Nursing Journal (https://doi.org/10.31372/20200503.1099) entitled, "Gaining entrée into a Micronesian Islander-based community organization through culturally responsive team building and reflection", with Dr. Nguyen-Truong as the Senior Author and interdisciplinary mentor, Dr. Shelly Geil as the project faculty mentor, and Dr. Jacqueline Leung, Executive Director of the Micronesian Islander Community. This led to working with MI Parent Leader Champions on developing an early child learning toolkit (https://labs.wsu.edu/ecl-mic/). Dr. Nguyen-Truong mentored in dissemination. Dr. Spence won 1st Place in the 3 Minute Thesis Competition at the Vancouver campus and 3rd place in the WSU system wide, 3rd Place Podium Presentation at WSU Vancouver Research Showcase, and the College of Nursing (multi-campus) Outstanding DNP Student Award, for "Easing Access to Early Childhood Learning with Micronesian Islanders: A Quality Improvement Project in a Culturally Diverse Community."

Impacts of Social Distancing due to COVID-19 on Health Behaviors
By Linda Eddy, PhD, RN, ARNP, CPNP
Professor and Associate Dean

A multi-disciplinary team of WSU Prevention Science graduate faculty from three disciplines (Human Development, Nursing and Psychology) formed a collaborative to study the impact of social isolation as a result of social distancing on health-related behaviors across the lifespan. Our goal was to identify risk and protective factors of social isolation on health behaviors across the lifespan, understand how health behaviors change as the pandemic evolved, and use these findings to inform, direct, adapt, implement and disseminate interventions that are designed to support the health of Americans and their families.

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The team is following 400 participants over time, and we have published our first results paper, with a number of other papers in preparation. Our early results are interesting. In particular, we found that emerging adults (ages 18-24) and older adults experienced less perceived negative effects from social distancing, when compared to young adults and middle adults. I am currently writing about Subjective Well-Being in our participants, using both our quantitative and qualitative data. Interestingly, most participants identified a number of positive things arising from Covid 19-related changes that they hoped to retain, and subjective well-being was not negatively affected for most participants.

**Students in the News**

**Spence takes third in system competition**

Published on March 29, 2021, by adriana.thomas

Rob Spence, a doctor of nursing practice student in the College of Nursing, took third place and won a $500 travel grant in WSU’s Three-Minute Thesis final competition March 24. The competition allows doctoral students three minutes to give a compelling talk about their research that is rated by a panel of judges. Spence previously prevailed at the campus level, earning the right to compete at the WSU system level.

**Vancouver ANEW Scholarship Recipient**

DNP students at the WSU College of Nursing are eligible for an Advanced Nursing Education Workforce (ANEW) grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration. The grant aims to provide enhanced training and scholarships to students to increase the number of primary care Nurse Practitioners practicing in rural and underserved areas. Students who will enter their clinical rotations in the Spring 2022 (FNP) or Summer 2022 (PMHNP) are eligible to apply this fall. This is a story of one of ANEW scholarship recipients who will graduate this spring from WSU Vancouver.

Catherine Shutty

“I’ve been in nursing for 13 years. When I got my bachelor’s degree, I decided that being out in the community as a nurse was a passion of mine. I was a school nurse for five years where I was able to see students over a long period of time rather than a couple hours in an ER or couple of days in a facility. I liked having that impact on their health over the course of time.

School nursing spurred me to go back to school, get a terminal degree and be at the top of what nursing allows me to do. I chose the Family Nurse Practitioner program because I wanted to be able to care for all ages and focus on outpatient care rather than being in a hospital. I felt like WSU would give me the best opportunity to learn about rural healthcare because I live in a rural community rather than going into a more urban setting. My overall goal is to work in primary care in a rural community. I think it’s really important to have providers who understand that rural way of life, who live in a rural community and are able to dedicate big chunks of their career to that community. That consistency is really beneficial. A big part of the ANEW program is making sure your clinical experiences are dedicated to rural settings. It definitely has prepared me well. As an NP who wants to work in a rural community, I need to make sure I’m at the top of my game and as prepared as possible because in a lot of situations I’m going to be it. This program has definitely set a great foundation for that.”

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