Never Settle for the Status Quo

One of the most exciting facets of health care is that knowledge and practice are constantly evolving. As nurse leaders, scholars, practitioners and educators, we must never settle for the status quo, but instead, continually seek improvement and lead through learning.

The pursuit of new knowledge was evident at the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) annual research conference last month in Albuquerque. It gives me great pride to say that more than 40 Wildcat Nurses, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and alumni, presented their advancements in nursing science and clinical practice during poster and podium sessions throughout the conference. In addition, two of our faculty members and one of our PhD alumni were celebrated with outstanding awards for their achievements in research and education (see page 3).

In celebration of discovery and innovation, our spring issue is focused on just a few of the new and novel ways in which our faculty, alumni and students are creating a better tomorrow by improving nursing education, clinical practice and human health.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with comments, questions or suggestions: jshaver@email.arizona.edu.

Joan L. Shaver, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Dean

First-Ever White Coat Ceremony Held

On March 9, more than 60 students in our online Doctor of Nursing Practice program participated in our inaugural White Coat Ceremony. Students representing 12 states were cloaked in their white coats and affirmed their commitment to providing compassionate health care as future nurse practitioners specializing in family, pediatric, adult-gerontology acute care or psychiatric mental health.

A team from KGUN 9, the ABC affiliate in Tucson, attended the event and produced a story that ran on both the morning and evening news. Originally designed by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation as a way to welcome new medical students into the profession, White Coat Ceremonies were extended in 2014 to welcome nursing students into the profession.

Wildcat Nursing faculty cloak Doctor of Nursing Practice students during our inaugural White Coat Ceremony.
Through the generous support of a three-year grant totaling $545,398 from The David and Lura Lovell Foundation, we are establishing the Integrative Nursing Faculty Fellowship (INFF), a first-of-its-kind program that will provide faculty with opportunities to learn the theory, science and practice of integrative health, and create applications to nursing education and discovery.

“With this critical support we are strategically positioned to become the national leader in integrative nursing education,” said Dean Joan Shaver. “Faculty fellows will learn a new framework and novel skills to transform nursing curricula so that future generations of nurses deliver contemporary, integrative health and wellness care.”

Starting in May 2016, 10 UA College of Nursing faculty members will begin their year-long fellowships. The following year, 30 fellows will be selected, including peer faculty who are members of the Western Institute of Nursing, a collaborative of collegiate nursing schools and health-care agencies in 13 Western states.

INFF Director Mary Koithan, PhD, RN-C, CNS-BC, FAAN, associate professor, is an internationally recognized leader in whole-systems healing and research methodologies and was recently named the new Anne Furrow Professor of Integrative Nursing (see below for more information).

Faculty Lead for the program is Cheryl Lacasse, MS, RN, OCN, clinical professor, who has more than 30 years of nursing experience in advanced clinical practice, managing complex care of cancer survivors and integrating nursing therapeutics for symptom management and long-term health and wellbeing.

Judith Brown, who recently retired after 10 years as our director of development, helped envision the INFF program and will continue to support the project as a consultant.

**Anne Furrow Professor of Integrative Nursing**

Through the extraordinary generosity of Anne Furrow, we are excited to announce the first professorship in integrated nursing in the country, established to help us recruit and retain outstanding faculty at our college.

“The UA College of Nursing is creating transformational change as it develops programs to train integrative nursing faculty, creates curriculum for all levels of nursing education and determines core competencies required for national certification in the field,” wrote Ms. Furrow, who earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the UA. Ms. Furrow was the first pediatric nurse practitioner licensed in the state of Arizona, and in 2011, joined the College of Nursing Advisory Board.

**Nurse Anesthesia Specialty**

This June, we will begin offering the state's first practice doctorate with a nurse anesthesia specialty. A part of our online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, this specialty will expand and complement our current nurse practitioner specialties focused on family, pediatric, adult-gerontology acute care and psychiatric mental health.

Upon completion of the full-time, 36-month program, nurse anesthetist students will be eligible to take the national certification examination to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

“We are preparing students at the highest level to engage in innovative, evidence-based, professional anesthesia practice.”

Nurse anesthetists have been providing anesthesia care to patients in the United States for more than 150 years, dating back to the Civil War, according to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Each year in the United States, CRNAs safely administer more than 34 million anesthetics to patients in every practice setting and for every type of surgery and procedure. CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in nearly all rural hospitals, and the main providers of anesthesia in the U.S. Armed Forces.
Health and Being ‘Undocumented’

About 11.2 million undocumented immigrants—individuals who lack legal migration documentation—live in the United States. For the first time, the health implications for individuals, families and communities of being undocumented, and nurses’ professional responsibilities for impacting care for this vulnerable population, have been comprehensively examined in a series of articles authored by our alumni and former and current faculty.

The articles, published in a special issue of *Nursing Outlook*, the official journal of the American Academy of Nursing, were authored by Marylyn M. McEwen (BSN ’76, MSN ’87, PhD ’03), associate professor and the Gladys E. Sorenson Endowed Professor for Diabetes Research and Education; DeAnne K. Hilfinger Messias (BSN ’80); Joyceen S. Boyle, former associate dean for academic affairs; Lauren Clark (BSN ’85, MSN ’88, PhD ’92); and Jody R. Lori (PhD ’09).

“To my knowledge, this is a first-of-its-kind and very timely examination through a nursing lens of the impact of state, national and global immigration policies and practices on the health of undocumented individuals, families and the communities in which they live and work,” said Dr. McEwen.

The articles incorporate far-reaching implications for family and community systems, policy, and nursing education, research and practice, says Dr. McEwen. In particular, she hopes the articles help equip nurses to create and influence policy change that will support and promote the humane treatment of undocumented persons.

WIN 2015 Award Recipients

**Anna M. Shannon Mentorship Award**

- **Anne G. Rosenfeld, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN, WAN (MSN ’76)**
  Professor and PhD Program Director
  *For unselfish efforts to support and promote the professional growth of other nurses in the West.*

**Western Academy of Nurses Fellow**

- **Carrie J. Merkle, PhD, RN, FAAN, WAN**
  Associate Professor
  *For demonstrated excellence in nursing education and research related to vascular biology and altered health.*

**Carol A. Lindeman Award for a New Researcher**

- **Moonju Lee, PhD, RN (PhD ’13)**
  Assistant Professor, UT Health Science Center San Antonio
  *For her research paper “Colorectal Cancer Screening Behaviors among Korean Americans.”*

STUDENT PROFILE

Love of Research

Growing up, Laura Bassi knew she wanted to pursue a career in health care because of her love for chemistry and biology. Her desire to work closely with patients led her to choose nursing.

As a BSN honors student, Bassi was exposed to research for the first time and says she fell in love with it. With the support and guidance of her faculty mentor **Anne G. Rosenfeld, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN**, for her thesis, Bassi evaluated whether symptoms of heart attack differ in women with and without diabetes.

“Dr. Rosenfeld was doing a larger study looking at symptoms of heart attack,” Bassi said. “I took a subset of that data for women with and without diabetes. The hypothesis was that women with diabetes wouldn’t experience symptoms the same way as women without diabetes. However, in my study, both groups experienced the same symptoms, which adds to the literature and informs education for both.”

On April 25, Bassi had the distinct and impressive honor—particularly for a BSN student—of presenting her findings during a podium session at the Western Institute of Nursing annual research conference.

In the future, Bassi says she hopes to pursue her PhD in nursing at the UA, but first plans to get some real-world experience as a nurse. After graduation, she would like to start her career in the Intensive Care Unit.
Amanda Romaine, BSN Scholarship Recipient

“Without your financial support, going to school here and becoming a Wildcat Nurse wouldn’t be a reality for me and many others. Thank you so much for your support. It means the world to us.”

Albuquerque was Wildcat Country during the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) annual research conference this year. Wildcats Nurses presented a total of 30 posters and 13 podium sessions and three received prestigious awards. Wildcat Nurses from near and far came together to celebrate at our WIN dinner.