STEUDENTS EDUCATE PEERS ABOUT PUBLIC POLICY

Four nursing students were given the opportunity to attend the AACN Student Policy Summit in Washington, DC this past March, courtesy of the College of Nursing. They were four of 125 students from around the country to attend, and the only ones from North Dakota. They had a chance to network with other nursing students and leaders in the profession, including Dr. Mary Wakefield, Kelly Leiphon (gerontology nursing graduate student), Lizz Sandberg (nurse education graduate student), John Freeman (undergraduate student), and Autumn Nelson (undergraduate student) also had the chance to go to Capitol Hill with Dean Julie Anderson to lobby the North Dakota Congressional Delegation. Dean Anderson shares, “the students represented themselves very professionally and made strong arguments for healthcare funding. I was very proud of them!”

On April 6 these four students gave a presentation to their peers about what they learned. The most important message was a quote they heard from Dr. Mary Wakefield, “If you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.” Students talked about the importance of being involved, writing your senators and representatives, and advocating for the profession – if nurses don’t do it for themselves, they’ll get overlooked. One student mentioned that most of the congressional staff aides they met are not from North Dakota, and the healthcare aides do not have an RN degree. Sending a note about a particular bill or topic and sharing your story – how funding has helped you – or could help you – is key. ‘You need to share your story, congressmen love to hear examples of how funding is making a difference” shared one student.

Making An Impact

The College has very talented and loyal alumni who are making an impact. The generosity you have shown in support of students, faculty and programs at the College of Nursing is so appreciated as it helps promote nursing, nutrition & dietetics at UND.

In particular, we are excited to announce that Lynne (Stenehjem) Ebner, ’64, has a testamentary provision in her will in the amount of $25,000 to set up a scholarship endowment. Testamentary provisions are created through the donor’s will and will be funded at the time of the donor’s death. Thank you Lynne!

Your personal commitment, no matter the level, is incredibly helpful in allowing us to reach our goals and your assistance means so much to everyone. THANK YOU for being an integral part of helping our students become the healthcare leaders of tomorrow!

Julie Anderson, Dean
BSN ’05
Haley Thorson

What is your job at GF Public Health?
I am a Public Health Nurse in the Nursing and Nutrition Division, but more specifically, I am a member of the Health Promotion Team, and a Tobacco Prevention Coordinator in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

What do you love about your job?
The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program is all about protecting the community’s health through education and policy change. I have always enjoyed teaching people things that they may not know, especially in new and innovative ways (like the use of social media.) So that’s the education part. As for policy change, it wouldn’t have a leg to stand without advocacy. I truly learned what advocacy was by living it. It’s about taking the passion you have for an issue and putting it to work.

Discuss your involvement with Tobacco Free ND
Tobacco Free North Dakota (TFND) is a non-profit organization that gives tobacco prevention advocates in North Dakota a voice. Yes, tobacco prevention is my job, but it’s also part of who I am. By becoming a member of TFND, I was able to join a larger number of others in the state who believe in the same issues. Collectively, we educated the public and our policymakers on some very important topics.

What do you talk to nursing students about?
Many nursing students come through the health department for clinical or practicum. I remember being in their shoes in Community Health Nursing, daydreaming about more exciting things like my next clinical at the hospital. Now, the message that I try to pass on is that even though public health interventions might not seem as exciting or quick-acting, when you achieve a public health outcome, there’s no better feeling.

A DAY OF DIALOGUE

On April 8, the College of Nursing hosted a Quality and Safety Education in Nursing (QSEN) workshop. QSEN initiative calls for a culture shift for all health professionals. The ‘Day of Dialogue’ workshop had over 100 participants - nursing faculty and nursing professionals from various healthcare agencies - who spent the day discussing patient safety issues. Bonnie Odermann and Lucy Heintz organized this outstanding event and secured national expert, Dr. Jane Barsteiner, PhD, RN, FAAN, who led our discussion.

Graduate students/alumni who presented posters at the Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference:

Evidence-Based Practice category (both FNP master’s students)
Alison Kaneshiro: Connecting air pollution exposure to cardiovascular disease
Rebecca Wolf: Advanced Skin Assessment for the Family Nurse Practitioner

Research Category (PhD students, now graduates)
Anne Heidi Heller: Staff nurse leadership: Leading at the point of care
Deborah Townsend: Quality of life as perceived by rural dwellers with a serious mental illness

Faculty who presented at the Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference:
Dr. Linda Shanta: Nursing Education Poster Discussion on “The Impact of Nursing Education on the Development of Emotional Intelligence”

Dr. Cindy Anderson: RWJ Faculty Nurse Scholar Symposia: “Epigenetic Patterns in Placental Programming of Preeclampsia”

Dr. Bonnie Selzler: Paper Session on Impact of Environment discussing “Post Disaster Emotional Needs of Elderly with a Disability”

UPDATE ON FACULTY & STUDENT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS


Graduate students/alumni who presented posters at the Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference:

Evidence-Based Practice category (both FNP master’s students)
Alison Kaneshiro: Connecting air pollution exposure to cardiovascular disease
Rebecca Wolf: Advanced Skin Assessment for the Family Nurse Practitioner

Research Category (PhD students, now graduates)
Anne Heidi Heller: Staff nurse leadership: Leading at the point of care
Deborah Townsend: Quality of life as perceived by rural dwellers with a serious mental illness

Faculty who presented at the Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference:
Dr. Linda Shanta: Nursing Education Poster Discussion on “The Impact of Nursing Education on the Development of Emotional Intelligence”

Dr. Cindy Anderson: RWJ Faculty Nurse Scholar Symposia: “Epigenetic Patterns in Placental Programming of Preeclampsia”

Dr. Bonnie Selzler: Paper Session on Impact of Environment discussing “Post Disaster Emotional Needs of Elderly with a Disability”

A LUM N I

PROFILE

ALUMNI PROFILE

BSN ’05
Haley Thorson

What is your job at GF Public Health?
I am a Public Health Nurse in the Nursing and Nutrition Division, but more specifically, I am a member of the Health Promotion Team, and a Tobacco Prevention Coordinator in the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

What do you love about your job?
The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program is all about protecting the community’s health through education and policy change. I have always enjoyed teaching people things that they may not know, especially in new and innovative ways (like the use of social media.) So that’s the education part. As for policy change, it wouldn’t have a leg to stand without advocacy. I truly learned what advocacy was by living it. It’s about taking the passion you have for an issue and putting it to work.

Discuss your involvement with Tobacco Free ND
Tobacco Free North Dakota (TFND) is a non-profit organization that gives tobacco prevention advocates in North Dakota a voice. Yes, tobacco prevention is my job, but it’s also part of who I am. By becoming a member of TFND, I was able to join a larger number of others in the state who believe in the same issues. Collectively, we educated the public and our policymakers on some very important topics.

What do you talk to nursing students about?
Many nursing students come through the health department for clinical or practicum. I remember being in their shoes in Community Health Nursing, daydreaming about more exciting things like my next clinical at the hospital. Now, the message that I try to pass on is that even though public health interventions might not seem as exciting or quick-acting, when you achieve a public health outcome, there’s no better feeling.
STUDENTS & FACULTY IN ACTION

Dr. Cindy Anderson was voted Chair-elect of the Genetics Research Section at the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Dr. Ginger Biddle (along with her fellow authors) received the 2010 Ellen Rudy Clore Excellence in Research Writing Award from the “Journal of Pediatric Health Care” for the article “Identification of Suicide Risk Among Rural Youth: Implications for the Use of HEADSS.” This award is given annually to one author to acknowledge the best research article published each year in the Journal.

Roxanne Hurley has been invited by Provost LeBel (and has accepted) to serve on the UND Self-Study Steering Committee for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Accreditation as a Co-Chair for the Criteria on Engagement & Service. This is a two+ year commitment as the HLC visit will take place in the fall of 2013.

Doria Keesling, PhD student, has submitted a grant to the International Lactation Consultant Association. Her grant request is for $7,000 and is titled, “Maternal vitamin D supplementation to correct deficiency in mothers and breastfed infants”.

Dr. Jody Ralph was voted Chair-elect for Physiological Phenomena Research Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Paige Scherer, nutrition student, has been selected to participate in the 2011 Advanced Undergraduate Research Awards (AURA) Program. Paige’s faculty research mentor is Dr. Cindy Anderson.

Dr. Bonnie Selzler has been accepted as a member Scholar of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology.

ALUMNI NEWS BITS

- Annie Reisdorf, ’08 BSN, is currently working at St. Mary’s Hospital (part of the Mayo Clinic) in Rochester, MN as an Orthopedic-Trauma Nurse. She is co-chair of her unit’s Practice Committee, and will be taking over as President Elect/Vice President of the Local NAON (National Association of Orthopedic Nurses) chapter in June 2011.

- Sylvia (Swartz) Noyes, ’64 Home Economics, values the education she received at UND. “I worked in many areas of dietetics over my career and was very well-prepared for all of the challenges in various work places including: a clinical dietitian in hospitals and a state women’s prison, food service director at a senior retirement community and at a county hospital, Child Care Nutrition Consultant for the State of California Child Care Food Program, and community dietitian in three different County WIC Programs.”

NUTRITION & DIETETICS CORNER

The Student Association of Nutrition & Dietetics (S.A.N.D.) has had a busy year at UND. The overall focus of the student group has been building a community within the department. Many of the projects they organized focused on providing service learning opportunities for students. Students volunteered at the Grand Forks Mission, drove and delivered Meals on Wheels through Altru Hospital, participated in the Empty Bowl project to fight hunger, and provided services at Project Connect to help the homeless in Grand Forks connect with appropriate agencies.

Their keynote event of the year was the “What are you Hungry For?” presentation. (photo above) Jordan Bonstrom is a UND who has lost 70+ pounds since his sophomore year by eating healthy and working out at the UND Wellness Center. He spoke about his success story as a motivator to help others live a healthier life. In addition Karina Wittmann, ’08 dietetics, presented to the group about how to incorporate healthier habits into their life, such as what to look for when eating out at restaurants; a big issue for college students.
Upcoming Events
Alumni Social
Tuesday, May 24
5:00-7:00pm
Bluebird & Finch Rooms, Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND
RSVP: becky.cournia@email.und.edu or 701-777-4526

MOVING? NEW JOB? LET US KNOW!
Be sure to send us an update on what you’re doing - whether you got married, had a baby, started a new job, or are moving across the country (or just down the street).
beckycournia@mail.und.edu We love to hear what alumni are up to!

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
www.facebook.com/UNDNursing

POP QUIZ TIME!
The CON is looking to track its former Student Nurse of the Year (SNOY) recipients and we’re missing a few years. If you know who the SNOY was in each of the following years please send the answer to becky.cournia@email.und.edu 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS
To reach the Dean, Dr. Julie Anderson, please send an email to:
UNDCollegeofNursing@mail.und.edu

News Bites

The latest issue of the CON magazine, CONnections, is here! If you are an alumni of the CON you should receive one at home. If you did not receive one please let becky.cournia@email.und.edu know. And be sure to check it out on our website: www.nursing.und.edu Enjoy reading it!