Statistical Consult Now Available

Jan Boller, PhD, RN

I am pleased to introduce Neil Patel, PhD as our most recent addition to the DNP Program faculty. Dr. Patel has a PhD in social psychology from Claremont Graduate University and is the Senior Assessment Analyst and Adjunct Professor at Western University’s Institutional Research and Effectiveness Department. We have been able to secure a 0.1 FTE adjunct position for Dr. Patel at the CGN. In that capacity, Dr. Patel will be co-teaching the DNP-level biostatistics and epidemiology courses. Additionally, he will be available to provide up to 2 hours of free statistical consultation for every DNP student. We are very pleased that Dr. Patel has joined our faculty and know that you will enjoy working with him. In the next paragraph, Dr. Patel will tell you more about how to contact him and how to prepare to meet with him.

Greetings from Dr. Patel

It is an honor to be a part of the CGN and a privilege to assist you in successfully completing your dissertations. To utilize my services, please communicate with your Dissertation Chair and come to an understanding that you are indeed ready to meet with me. In doing so, your Chair will provide you with a consultation checklist with items intended to capture the following information: Type of project, purpose statement, research question(s), types of variables [e.g., independent variable(s), dependent variable(s)], operationalization of variables, sample size, and suggested type of analysis. This checklist helps me learn more about your project and will allow us to begin the consultation with some groundwork already established. I am available to meet with students for two 1-hour meetings Monday-Friday after 5 p.m., and on Saturdays. If you desire further consultation, it is available hourly for an additional fee. When you and your Chair feel that you are ready to contact me, please email me at patelnm@westernu.edu and include your consultation checklist. I look forward to helping all of you.
Lifelong Learning

Helen Kelly, DNP, MSN, CNS, RN

As a young person I was fortunate to have my desire for lifelong learning shaped by the principles of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Newark, New Jersey, when I was a student in one of their neighborhood schools. These women, many of them immigrants to the United States (U.S.), were dedicated to the education of young people. They inspired us with the idea that higher education would prepare us to help others less fortunate and add meaning and purpose to our lives. In addition to building schools, the sisters were pioneers in establishing homes for orphans and building hospitals, and were missionaries to the most vulnerable of populations outside the U.S.

It was not unusual for many of us growing up in the 1940s and 1950s to be the first in our families to seek a college education. In rural New Jersey we had two options for higher education, the local teaching college or one of the hospitals across the Delaware River that separated New Jersey from Delaware’s DelMarVa peninsula. These states had hospital-based nursing diploma programs and universities, but they were only accessible by ferry boat, which was not an easy option for a high school graduate with limited transportation.

During the summer of 1955, while working in the medical records department of a local hospital, I was drawn to the actions of a young nurse in the emergency room. Her professional demeanor and quick actions to help the traumatized patients who came for assistance left an impression that would not go away. Shortly after learning more from her about the nursing program of which she was a graduate nurse, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the National League of Nursing (NLN) and applied to Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing, New York University. Once again I was influenced to continue learning from the women who carried on in the tradition of Nightingale.

Upon graduation from the program and obtaining my registered nursing license, I worked for two years in the emergency room and began to pursue my bachelor’s degree in New York.

My education was put on hold while I had children and my husband Tom pursued his own educational dreams that culminated in his obtaining a doctorate in education from the University of Kansas. Together, we raised four children while I continued to pursue a formal nursing education. I left behind in New York the practice skills I learned in a very large hospital with the homeless on the streets of New York City.

Several years later, I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Iowa State University, the oldest graduate of my class at 50 years of age. I then applied my knowledge to the business I owned, Nursing Services of Iowa, which specialized in home care. It was accredited with commendation twice by The Joint Commission. After 17 years I retired from the business and moved to California, at the insistence of our kids who were all now residents of this state.

I became a full-time caregiver for my aging mother who lived out her 95 years. I took classes at California State University in San Bernardino, and I earned my master’s in nursing with a focus on community health in 2006. With my new knowledge and new credential, I believed, like the women who shaped my life as a young girl in New Jersey, that I was ready to teach best practices to nursing students, which I do to this day.

It was at the suggestion of a nursing professor from Western University of Health Sciences that I joined the charter class of the DNP program. While I appreciated her confidence in me, I thought “I am too old!” My husband agreed and said “they probably won’t accept you.” But the letter came from the Dean welcoming me. As I showed the letter to my husband of more than 50 years, he laughed, shook his head and said “well, here we go again.”

I was on a roll again. I loved it all. The courses were challenging and interesting. The Blackboard discussions bonded those of us who shared our ideas and opinions. We didn’t always agree, but I always learned something new that I then shared with my students. It was great to meet up with everyone on the seminar weekends, to hear directly from the instructors, and to share information and the interesting lives we each lived. In many ways, I miss the camaraderie that was formed during that journey.

Finally, I am finishing the last leg of this life-long educational journey and the project, with the wonderful support of Dr. Diana Lithgow, the CGN staff, and most recently Dr. Chris Magladry, one of my classmates from the charter class.

Another chapter in my journey of life-long learning is coming to an end. But it does not close the opportunity for me to continue moving forward the vision first shared with me by the Sisters of St. Joseph. I am truly blessed by all those I have been privileged to meet on this journey.
ABD Boot Camp Highlights
Rod Hicks, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
The DNP faculty led the second ABD Boot Camp on October 28. The purpose of the Boot Camp was to help facilitate students in completing their dissertations. As more DNP students are completing their dissertations, faculty are learning ways in which to assist students in the process. Here is a summary of what was covered at the ABD Boot Camp:

Formatting the final document is a challenge. DNPs must learn to use the resources available in Microsoft Word. Appropriate use of MS Word can help with section breaks and the automatic table of contents. Insertion of a section break is necessary to help change margins and avoid widows and orphans in your document. The section break allows the end user to change “pagination” characteristics for that page or an entire section. At the end of each major section, the user inserts a section break and reformats the upcoming content. The automatic table of contents feature inserts the leader dots and helps align the content, page numbers, and spacing. While not perfect, the feature is the best way to ensure that all Level I, II, and III headings match the table of contents page as well as the appropriate places in the text. These two features are very important for every formatted document. Please review online tools, web resources and ask faculty for help if you need to master these.

Citations. The faculty cannot overemphasize the importance of accurate citations. In addition, how the citation is formatted is of scholarly importance. The University graciously offers EndNote software and support to help with citations. The use of appropriate citations avoids claims of plagiarism, upholds legal standards when material is copyrighted, and demonstrates the highest level of professionalism. The College is deeply indebted to our colleagues in the Pumerantz Library for supporting EndNote and our students.

Data analysis is not data-challenging. That is the word from our consultant, Dr. Neil Patel. His services are available on a limited one-time 2-hour consultation. As you plan a study, make sure you carve out time to visit with him for design and planned analysis.

Future Directions

Many of the DNP projects involve qualitative research methods. The College has a number of faculty members experienced across the range of qualitative research methods. Dr. Jan Boller anticipates our next ABD Boot Camp to be an immersion in the different methods. Watch for the dates! Having the “experts” speak to the different approaches may influence how your approach your practice questions.

If you would like to view webcast recordings* from the ABD Boot Camp please contact Jennifer Gill at jgill@westernu.edu or Jeremy Brown at jjbrown@westernu.edu.

*Dissertation Updates Jenny Gill, DNP Program Administrator
Congratulations to the following DNP students on successfully defending their dissertation!
Juanita Mays, DNP, MSN, RN Can Compassionate Care be Documented in the EMR? July 31, 2012.
Tammi Harris, DNP, MSN, GNP-BC, RN A Descriptive Analysis of Selected Variables Associated with Hospital Readmissions Among Adult Heart Failure Patients: August 14, 2012.
Helen Kelly, DNP, MSN, CNS, RN An Examination of Factors That Influence Infants at Risk for Celiac Disease: An Integrative Review: September 28, 2012.
Linda Pierog, DNP, FNP, MSN, MBA 30-Day Lifestyle Modification Intervention for Patients with Low-Risk Chest Pain Episodes: September 28, 2012.
Frances Dunnaway, DNP, RN, CNS, FNP-BC, CCRN An Exploratory Study to Shape a Disaster Nurse Practitioner Scope of Practice: October 16, 2012.
Tracey Swanson, DNP, MSN, RN Assessing Effective Strategies to Increase Cervical Cancer Screening Awareness by Hispanic Women: An Integrative Review: November 8, 2012.

For more dissertation information or to see abstracts, please visit www.westernu.edu/dnp-dissertations.
Dissertation Guidelines and Resources

Jan Boller, PhD, RN

Over the past months, our CGN DNP faculty has been engaged in dialogue and consensus-building to bring more clarity to different practice dissertation options. We now have a document that outlines six options that we believe are most likely to be utilized:

1. Clinical Practice Guideline (Clinical Practice Change Project)*
2. Health Systems Leadership Change Project*
3. Literature Analysis*
4. Traditional Six-Chapter Dissertation
5. Case Study*
6. Two-Manuscript Option (for any of above options)
   * = Collaborative Project Option

This document and also a PowerPoint presentation, which was presented at the ABD Boot Camp, can be found on the DNP Info Section in Blackboard in the ABD Bootcamp Folder.

Self-assessment checklists to help doctoral candidates prepare their materials, including dissertation proposal submission, dissertation defense, and completed dissertation submission can also be found in the same section on Blackboard (DNP Info/ABD Boot Camp).

Dissertation Defense Presentations can also be accessed in the DNP Info Section of Blackboard or by contacting Jennifer Gill at jgill@westernu.edu.

A Message from the Library

Have you ever had trouble deciding on how a report from a website or a dissertation from a web page or even a blog should be cited and referenced in your dissertation? The library can help! Harriet K & Philip Pumerantz Library now has the APA Style Guide to Electronic Reference as an online PDF. You can print one time, the full PDF of the eBook from the library. The APA Style Guide to Electronic References outlines for students and writers the key elements to include in references to electronic sources, with numerous examples. Read more about the APA Style Guide for Electronic Reference at the Pumerantz Library News and Events blog.

Blog Address: http://pumerantzoutreach.blogspot.com/2012/08/apa-electronic-references.html

Faculty Accomplishments

Congratulations to our faculty members:

Dr. Quanetta Edwards presented a case-based workshop Breast Cancer Risk Assessment at the Nurse Practitioner Women’s Health Conference in Orlando, FL on October 12. Dr. Edwards has also been invited by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners to speak at the 28th National Conference in Las Vegas, NV, June 19-23, 2013. She will be co-presenting with Ann Hurdle Maradiegue on Assessing the Risk for Colon Cancer in Primary Care Settings: The Genomics of Lynch Syndrome and Other Hereditary Colon Cancer Syndromes."

Dr. Donna Emanuele has been elected President-elect of the California Association of Nurse Practitioners.

The following faculty presented at the 2012 Sigma Theta Tau Odyssey Conference in Ontario, November 1-2:

Dr. Patti Shakhshir and Linda Flores presented the poster session Lab of Horrors: Active and Latent Failure Simulation.

Drs. Jan Boller, Mary Lopez, Gabriella Malagon-Maldonado (DNP Cohort III), Patricia Shakhshir, and Dawn Stone presented a research symposium Phenomenological, Grounded Theory, and Mixed Methods Research.
Achievements Attract New Students

Eva Badouin, Recruitment Chair

In the world of recruitment, nothing speaks more to the rigor and excellence of a university than the accomplishments of its students and faculty. As you read this issue, you begin to realize that the CGN has a cadre of amazing students and faculty engaged in high-quality nursing research, producing scholarly dissertations, presentations, workshops, books and peer-reviewed articles, to name a few. Our students have also been the recipients of numerous scholarships and awards, and both faculty and students have been appointed to important positions in professional nursing organizations to advocate for and advance the professional nursing role in our country and around the world.

The commitment I’ve witnessed from our students and faculty in volunteering their time and nursing skills locally, nationally, and internationally is honorable and praiseworthy. Simply put, we have an amazing community of professional nurses. As Recruitment Chair for CGN, I can tell you that it is so exciting for our recruitment team to share the amazing work you have accomplished with prospective nursing students. But we need your help to get the word out. So, please continue to keep us updated by emailing ebadouin@westernu.edu. Our students and alumni are our best recruiters!

Call for AACN Nominations

Outstanding Dissertation and Capstone Project Awards

AACN has created this new awards program to recognize and showcase outstanding dissertations and capstone projects completed by students in research and practice-focused doctoral programs. Many doctoral students are advancing ground-breaking research and practice innovations that are worthy of national recognition and could serve as exemplars for other students to emulate. Two awards will be presented at AACN’s annual Doctoral Education Conference in January 2013: the Excellence in Advancing Nursing Science Award and the Excellence in Advancing Nursing Practice Award.

Nomination Process

Nominations may be made by the dean, doctoral department chair, dissertation committee chair, or capstone project advisor. One nomination for each program type may be sent from an individual school of nursing. Students must have defended and completed their dissertation or capstone project between August 2011 and September 2012. All nominations must be received by December 7, 2012.

Winners will be notified by December 21, 2013 and will accept the honors at the annual AACN Doctoral Education Conference January 23-26, 2013 in San Diego. The award includes a “symbol” of appreciation and a $1,000 check. Winners will be announced via AACN publications and website. All abstracts will become part of an AACN online repository of exemplary dissertations and capstone projects.

Please direct any questions related to this awards program to AACN’s Faculty Programs Director Catherine Cox at ccox@aacn.nche.edu.

Evaluation Corner

Jeremy Brown, Assessment Manager

In the last issue of DNP Perspectives, I came to you with a request for feedback on assignments and/or experiences that best prepared you in the areas of evidence-based practice and interpersonal communications. Thank you to everyone who provided examples. They were all wonderful and it was a difficult task to select a winner, but the Starbucks card goes to Minna Miller from Cohort V.

I now come to you with a new request for feedback and participation. We are working to establish a stronger link to all of our alumni, a way to connect with you and keep up with the wonderful things that you are doing in the world. We want to hear about conference presentations, article publications, new jobs, awards and/or honors, as well as any life changes. As examples, within the last couple of months we have had students selected to present at the CANP conference (Kathleen Rindahl, Cohort V) and the AANP conference (Xinxia Zhao, Cohort III and Patti McCluskey Andre, Cohort V). Anna Reber-Frantz (Cohort IV) had a teaching learning strategy published on the QSEN Institute’s website, and Sylvia Estrada (Cohort V) received the Kaiser Permanente Deloras Jones Nursing Scholarship. We know this is only a small sampling of the great things being done by our students and alumni and that is why we want to hear from you.

We are currently in the planning process for how we can best reach out to our alumni (e.g., emails, Facebook, Twitter, phone calls, etc.), and we want to get your suggestions. Please feel free to email me at jjbrown@westernu.edu or call me at 909-469-5234 and give me your recommendations.

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Congratulations to our accomplished DNP students and alumni:

Jennifer Ballard-Hernandez (Cohort VI) presented on CHF Readmission Reduction and Value-Based Purchasing at the Fifth Annual Northern California Cardiac Care Associate Symposium in San Francisco on August 18th.

Dr. Cecelia Crawford (Cohort III). Dr. Crawford’s Nurse-Physician Communication Integrative Review was incorporated into a manuscript and accepted by JONA for publication tentatively scheduled for January 2013.

Juanita DuBon, (Cohort VI) is the recipient of the National Hispanic Health Professional Student 2012 Scholarship. Juanita is in MSN-FNP-DNP pilot program, where her practice inquiry will investigate the effectiveness of evidence-based health and behavioral interventions to support and promote breast feeding practices among pregnant Latina adolescents and young adults. This scholarship will assist Juanita in advancing her doctoral work, which will benefit the community she serves. For more information about the National Hispanic Health Foundation, visit www.nhmafoundation.org.

Sylvia Estrada (Cohort V) has been selected as a recipient of the 2012 Kaiser Permanente Deloras Jones Nursing Scholarship.

Dr. Nicolann Hedgpeth (Cohort IV). Dr. Hedgpeth’s abstract, Systematic Review of Psychosocial Interventions for Anxiety in Adults with Cancer, was presented at the Connections: Advancing Care Through Science Conference in Phoenix, AZ, November 16-18.


Kathleen Rindahl (Cohort V). Her abstract, SCOFF Screening Tool for Eating Disorders, has been selected by the Conference and Education Committees to be included as a session during the California Association for Nurse Practitioners Annual Conference.

LuAnn Sanderson (Cohort III). Her abstract for poster presentation Leading a MH Nursing Team to Improve Civility Through Assertiveness Training with Role-play was accepted for the AONE 2013 Annual Meeting and Exposition scheduled for March 20-23, 2013 in Denver, CO.

Sigma Theta Tau Odyssey Conference, Ontario, CA:

Dr. Debra Wallace (Cohort IV) presented the poster session New NP Transition-to-Practice Residency in an HMO Setting.

Anna Reber Frantz (Cohort IV) presented the poster session Use of Live Actors in Nursing Simulations.

Dr. Debra Wallace and Anna Reber Frantz co-presented the podium session A Thematic Analysis of Clinical Nurse Educators’ Safety Concerns.

Calendar of Events

December 22-January 6 Winter Break, University Closed | January 9 Spring Semester Begins | February 10 Seminar III

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of DNP Perspectives is January 11, 2013. Please send all submissions to Jenny Gill at jgill@westernu.edu.