A very troubling statistic reported by The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is that the time between research discovery and integration into clinical practice spans from one to two decades and typically is 17 years (AHRQ, 2004). The practice doctorate is designed to close that gap through doctoral scholarship and practice. Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduates have the capability to use the best evidence and design innovative solutions to address real world problems and improve practice outcomes (Willis, Inman, & Valenti, 2010).

In 1990, Dr. Ernest Boyer, then president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, identified four types of scholarship and knowledge generation for professional practice: Discovery, Integration, Application, and Teaching (Boyer, 1990). Within each of these four dimensions, a variety of types of scholarly pursuits can take place to bring research and practice in closer proximity for the benefit of the populations served by the professions.

While the DNP holds promise for advancing improved health outcomes, there has been much discussion, debate, dialogue, and confusion in national and local conversations about the culminating scholarly project for a DNP degree. Is it a dissertation or scholarly project? Is it rigorous enough? Is it scholarly enough? Is it clinical enough? Does it improve practice? Does it take too much time to complete? Is it too easy? For the past six years, the pioneering faculty and students in the DNP program at the College of Graduate Nursing (CGN) at Western University of Health Sciences WesternU have had the benefit of experience, collaboration, and generative dialogue as we have addressed those questions and simultaneously applied the Boyer scholarship model in the real world, generating more than 50 practice dissertations across six types of dissertation options:

- Practice Dissertation Portfolio
- Health Systems Leadership Practice Dissertation: Policy Analysis or Practice Improvement Analysis
- Structured Literature Review Practice Dissertation
- Exploratory/Translational (Traditional) Research Practice Dissertation
- Case Study Practice Dissertation
- Two Manuscript Practice Dissertation

Recently, CGN faculty, staff, and students contributed to revising the CGN Dissertation Guidelines, providing more clarity and consensus about the options, and assuring that all options meet the standards for doctoral scholarship (CGN, 2013).

WesternU CGN DNP students and graduates are contributing to improved outcomes in practice, closing the gap between knowledge of the best available evidence for application in the real world. Congratulations students, alumni, faculty, and staff for all of your efforts to close the gap!


**Student and Alumni Accomplishments**

Congratulations to our accomplished DNP students and alumni:

**Sylvia Estrada** accepted the position of Membership Chair for CANP.

Congratulations to DNP Alumni **Dr. Shirley Bristol** for her publication:

**Presentations:**

**Minna Miller** presented her abstract on Interprofessional Collaboration at the 2013 BCNPA Conference on May 10th.

**Podium at AANP - Las Vegas, June 2013:**


**Poster at AANP - Las Vegas, June 2013:**


**Podium at DNP conference, 2013 Scottsdale, AZ:**

Tina Escobedo, DNP, RN, FNP-BC *The Clinical Education of the Family Nurse Practitioner Student: What We Know, What are the Gaps, and Where Do We Go From Here*

Gabriella Malagon-Maldonado, DNP, APRN, MSN, CNS, NEA-BC *Reframing Interprofessional Collaboration Using an Inquiry-Based Approach*

Kathleen Ann Menasche, DNP, CNM *Collaborative Practice between Certified Nurse-Midwives/Certified Midwives and Obstetricians and The Factors Involved In Working Together To Normalize Childbirth: An Integrative Review*

**Posters at DNP conference, 2013 Scottsdale, AZ:**

Cora Caballero, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, BC-ADM, CDE *Effect of a Group Medical Appointment on Glycemic Control of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes*

LaSonya A. Davis, DNPC, FNP *The Effects of Cardiovascular Education on Knowledge and Perceptions of Self-Efficacy to Implement Behavior Change among African Americans in a Church Setting*

LuAnn E. Sanderson, DNP, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, RN *Improving Civility in the Mental Health Nursing Workplace: A Study of Leadership Strategy*
Participants in Guatemala Surgical Mission

Jocylane Dinsay

Over the course of my career I have engaged in several international missions. My most recent mission took me to Guatemala with a surgical team I met up with in Houston. After a six hour flight to Guatemala City, we were met by our host group and driven to the hospital an hour away, where we would be performing surgeries for a week.

Like other developing countries, Guatemala is very poor and modern medical care is limited. Most of our patients were Mayan people who live in the mountains and the remote villages. They are usually recruited and assisted by nongovernmental (NGO) agencies.

Although Spanish is the main language spoken in Guatemala, many of the patients we saw spoke only Mayan dialects. We used both a Spanish and a Mayan translator to assist us in our communication. We might not be speaking the same language but all understood the language of caring, compassion, and gratitude.

For one week, we performed a variety of surgeries, including laparoscopic cholecystectomies, hernia repairs, and minor surgeries, such as removal of lipomas, masses, and cysts. We performed surgeries with the bare minimum supplies and equipment. Even without the usual advanced technologies to which we are accustomed, our team was still able to provide safe and quality care. Medical flexibility is an art to be mastered in missions. Most of the patients would not have these surgeries without the missions due to cost and poor access to medical care.

It never fails to amaze me how the people are so grateful and graciously indebted to everything we offer them. We offer them services that help and change their lives and in return they change and touch our hearts forever. I will be doing more missions in the future, helping one patient at a time. In all my missions, I try to remember a quote from Mother Teresa: “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

Dissertation Updates  Jenny Castro, DNP Program Administrator

Congratulations to the following DNP students on completing their dissertation!

Sabrina Chimienti, Portfolio: An Assessment of the Quality of Life of Parents of Down Syndrome Children

Mitchelle Schroader, Portfolio: Prevention of Osteoporosis in Estrogen-Sensitive Breast Cancer Post-Menopausal Women Receiving Aromatase Inhibitor Therapy

Terrance Ito, Portfolio: Implementing Pneumonia Care Improvement Processes at a Los Angeles County Hospital

Amritpal Ramboj, Portfolio: Nurse Residency: An Answer to Improve New Graduate Nurse Competency


Casey Cole, A Reinvestigation of Sero-Conversion Rates in Hepatitis B Vaccinated Individuals: A Pilot Study

Richard Staggs, Risk Awareness of Ultraviolet Exposure in Youth: A Practice Dissertation Portfolio

Lindsay Young, Clinical Practice Change: RME (Rapid Medical Exam) in the Emergency Department at Centinela Hospital Center

Tamara Maurizi, Policy Change: Applying Skin-to-Skin Approaches and Enhancing Early Initiation of Breastfeeding for Women Having Cesarean Section Deliveries While in the Recovery Period: A Practice Dissertation Portfolio

LaSonya Davis, The Effects of Cardiovascular Education on Knowledge and Perceptions of Self-Efficacy to Implement Behavior Change Among African Americans in a Church Setting.

Pat Callard, Portfolio: Interprofessional Collaboration and Team Work in Health Professions Students

Cora Caballero, Effect of a Group Medical Appointment on Glycemic Control of Patients with Type 2 Diabetes

Rosalie Villora, Integrative Review of the Current Educational Strategies for Teaching Pediatric Nursing in the Pre-Licensure Nursing Program

Louann Janicki, A Community of Practice: Utilizing Nurse Practitioners to Improve Primary Care Access to Marginalized Individuals with HIV/Hepatitis C: A Practice Dissertation Portfolio

Candace Malson, Nurse Practitioners’ Satisfaction with Electronic Medical Records

Kathleen Rindahl, Portfolio: Increase School Nurses Awareness and Ability to Screen for Eating Disorders
LEAD Services for DNP Students

The dissertation journey is difficult, yet rewarding. The desire of WesternU, and CGN in particular, is that all DNP students complete and successfully defend their dissertations. With this in mind, LEAD is offering their free services to any interested DNP student. This includes:

**Life Balance:** There is no such thing as a 50-50 balance when you have to deal with work, home, school, research, and writing. With so much to do, it is hard to keep and maintain any kind of balance. Working with LEAD, we can help you to come up with a balance that is beneficial and rewarding.

**Time Management:** All but Dissertation (ABD) for some this is a reality. With so much going on in our lives, sometimes the dissertation gets pushed into the background. We can help you to come up with a schedule that will keep you on track to help you achieve your goal.

**Dissertation Editing:** Once you are done with your draft, there are so many other things to address, including citations, plagiarism, APA format, and more. LEAD can help you by reviewing your dissertation to help you produce the most scholarly, professional writing possible.

If interested in any of these services, please contact LEAD:
In person: Health Science Center, First Floor, Room 101
By phone: (909) 469-5325
By email: LEAD@westernu.edu

A Message from the Library

The Harriet K. and Philip Pumerantz Library now has Nvivo, Endnote X6 and SPSS installed in library computers.

Endnote X6 and SPSS are present in all the computers (first, second, and third floor,) while Nvivo is installed in five computers in the second floor computer room and one computer in the third floor computer room. For more information, see the blog post about new software in the library by visiting:
http://pumerantzoutreach.blogspot.com/2013/04/new-software.html

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of DNP Perspectives is November 30th. Please send all submissions to Jenny Castro at jlcastro@westernu.edu.

The discipline of learning. The art of caring.

Calendar of Events

- **August 5-10**
  Welcome Week
- **August 9**
  Summer Semester Ends
- **August 10**
  Convocation & White Coat
- **August 26**
  Fall Semester Begins
- **September 6-8**
  Seminar Weekend I
- **October 25-29**
  Seminar Weekend II
- **November 22**
  Fall Semester Ends

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