

DocPost

The Newsletter of University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing Doctoral Students

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Health Care on the Verge of Change

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Engaging in Your Environment and Caring to Leave Your Mark

Dean Afaf Meleis PhD, DrPS(hon), FAAN

It is the beginning of another academic year and I want to welcome you back, though I know that as doctoral students, you probably spent much of the summer working on research, proposals, qualifying exams, or grant applications. Nevertheless, the start of a new academic year requires a pause and a launch. In the pause, I hope you outlined your goals, reflected on this year's objectives within your overall program goals, and positioned yourself to take full advantage of the rich, scholarly environment of our School and University. Environments, whether for patient care, for family health, or for student growth, are central to the discipline of nursing. However, for you, our doctoral students, I want to focus on one in particular – intellectual environments.

A learning, intellectually-challenging, healthy, and supportive environment for scholarly growth is what your faculty set out to create and maintain for you. It was therefore particularly rewarding to review the Carnegie report on the [Formation of Scholars: Rethinking Doctoral Education for the Twenty-First Century \(2008\)](#) and learn that a most important criteria for the future of PhD programs is to create and foster scholarly communities. The report goes on to enumerate the components of such intellectual environments as having flexible and respectful intellectual communities of faculty and students, where students are engaged in the life of the school, where there is a high level of collaboration and sharing of research across boundaries, where it is safe to take risks, where time is set aside to review and reflect, and where there are physical spaces for intellectual and

social gatherings (Walker, Golde, Jones, Bueschel, and Hutchings 2008). However, it is important to keep in mind that these environments are only effective when all members take full advantage of opportunities, when they truly engage and fully participate in becoming integral parts of the community.

Whether through symposia, seminars, Dean's lectures, debates, or dialogues, countless opportunities for intellectual stimulation abound at the University at large and the School in particular. Also provided for you are opportunities to become members of teams and research centers, opportunities to create innovative ways to demonstrate your leadership, to inspire master's and undergraduate students with your goals and research, and to challenge faculty with questions and diverse opinions.

As we begin a new academic year, I pose these questions – Are you taking full advantage of the intellectual environment we have created for you? Are you truly engaged in this inspiring and learning atmosphere? Are you personally and collectively making a difference?

As our future distinguished scholars and leaders, we expect you to deeply touch all who are around you and to change the world, starting right now, in your current intellectual environment.

Walker, G.E., Golde, C.M., Jones, L., Bueschel, A.C., Hutchings, P. (2008) *The Formation of Scholars: Rethinking Doctoral Education for the Twenty-First Century*. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Jossey-Bass, CA

The days are not getting any shorter....

Lorraine Tulman DNSc, RN, FAAN
Associate Professor of Nursing
Chair, Graduate Group in Nursing



The official time clock and the sun are telling us that the days are getting shorter, yet we all know that they are not! So at this time of year, with the first semester of the academic year coming to a close and work is piling up, some words of encouragement are sorely needed. So here goes.

To the first year students: you will survive – you will get your papers done and you will take that stat exam!

To the second year students: congratulations on getting through the Qualifying Exam! And don't forget to keep in touch with your fellow students – they are a precious asset.

To the third year students: dissertation seminar is almost over – make the most of it. Your peers will be the most empathetic proposal review group you have in a long time. And you will successfully defend your proposal!

To the fourth year (and beyond) students: stay focused – don't let one day slip into the next without doing something, no matter how small, on your dissertation. (OK, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years excepted!)

And to all: take time out to enjoy your family and friends over Thanksgiving (even if Uncle Bernie is a pain and always picks an argument) and give them all a hug!

Lorraine



Welcome to the Winter edition of the DocPost! In order to brighten our spirits, this issue will reflect on some of our adventures and accomplishments of the summer and remind us that there will be warmer days ahead! SG Hallowell, Editor

2009-2010 DSO Board

Clockwise From Bottom L:
Susan Lysaght and Kamila Alexander (co-presidents) Michael Fachko (social committee) and EeeSeung Byun (treasurer), Esther Pinkston & Lisa Kohr (colloquia coordinators), Melissa O'Connor (student lab coordinator, Lit Soo Ng (secretary), & Chenjuan Ma (social committee) and SG Hallowell (Editor of the DocPost)



Welcome to the 2009-2010 academic year!

We are your Doctoral Student Organization (DSO) co-chairs and excited to serve in this capacity. Thank you for your participation in our summer survey; we are using your responses as a guide for event planning. Our goal is to fulfill the DSO mission by providing support to the over 50 doctoral students enrolled in our program. It was wonderful to see such great commitment and participation during the first weeks of school at the PhD review session and full membership meeting in September. Upcoming fall events include: Dinner with Dean Meleis and Dr. Patricia Benner, a Halloween hayride, another Milestone Series dialogue in November entitled, "Preparing for a Job Interview and Talk: What your Future Colleagues will be Looking For!", the Red and White Ball, and an End-of-the-Semester Potluck. Please join us in congratulating our entire DSO board in their efforts to make all of these exciting things happen. Each of the cohorts is represented on the board and we are looking forward to a fun year full of new ideas and lots of fun!

Please contact either of us with ideas/suggestions/thoughts.

Thank you,

Susan Lysaght & Kamila Alexander



Fireside Chat with Dr. Patricia Benner

October 22, 2009: Our gracious host Dean Meleis invited doctoral students to her home for an intimate dialogue with Dr. Patricia Benner. Students were treated to a candid discussion about challenges on the road to academia and how to overcome them, the great privilege of academic life, and the importance of tenacity in the pursuit of publication. It was a fantastic evening of shared wisdom and knowledge from two Nursing leaders and visionaries.





L: Meeting with Terrence Gaynor, Senate Sergeant at Arms. R: Post meeting with office of Tom Harkin (D) Iowa



Health Care in Washington

SG Hallowell, MSN, CRNP, RN

From July 6-10, 2009 I was fortunate to participate with a group of nursing and medical students lead by Marylou de Leon Siantz, Assistant Dean of Diversity of Cultural Affairs at the School of Nursing and Dr. Hamilton from the School of Medicine, leaders of Penn's Leadership, Education and Policy program (LEAP) who ventured to Washington D.C. to learn how to communicate with law makers in Congress to lead and shape health policy and make a difference in the U.S. health-care system. The timing of our visit was exceptional. At a time where over 40 million Americans are uninsured and with the cost of health care in the trillions, during the week the first version of the Health Bill was proposed, a group of PENN health researchers became experts on health care on The Hill.

Judging by the bleary-eyed expressions on the faces of the otherwise young, energetic and polished legislative aides from the offices of Congressman Chaka Fattah of Philadelphia, Senator Tom Harkin (D- IA), Senator Lois Evans (RN and D- CA), Senator Casey (D-PA) we had come right on time to give them sound bites of the valuable work being done with research dollars that someday will influence the lives of every day Americans. We met with the PENN presence in Washington, the Annenberg Center for Public Policy where Mr. Rudy de Leon and Mr. Bill Anderson gave us a crash course of how to introduce ourselves on The Hill. We had dinner with Congresswoman Donna Christensen and met with the nations No.2 Drug Czar, University of Pennsylvania's own Dr. Tom McLellan, leading expert on the treatment of drug addiction.

This visit only reinforced my personal feelings that nursing, the largest body of health care providers, should have an equally dominant influence on shaping health care. Encouraged by the thought that a nurse could be an expert on Capitol Hill, highlighted the idea that nursing researchers may have an active role in shaping health policy. A seat at a table on The Hill is waiting for nurse to fill it, the meal however, is not necessarily free. I believe for those nursing leaders willing to accept the challenge and responsibility of being the voice of Nursing on Capitol Hill, nurses will have the ability to influence American health care in a novel and positive way. In the mean time, we all wait to see if the proposed Health Care bill will provide Americans with the change that they want AND what they need.



Back row L-R: Tiffany Dovydaaitis, Marcus Gonsalves, Marylou de Leon Siantz, Howeida Fouly, Bridgette Brawner, Aisha River
Front: Thomas McLellan, Deputy Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and Jing Li.
Below: The group with Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen (center)



L-R: Howeida Fouly, Jing Li, Christa Heyward, Marylou de Leon Siantz, Sara Sawah, Tiffany Dovydaaitis, Bridgette Brawner, Aisha Rivera



Kamila A. Alexander, RN,
MSN/MPH
Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA
Predoctoral Fellow Research
on Vulnerable Women,
Children and Families
(T32NR007100) University of
Pennsylvania School of
Nursing Center for Health
Equity Research

Summer 2009 was busy! I left my darling husband in Baltimore every Sunday night to tough it out for five days straight in Philadelphia. This was a huge change for us. Until that point, I had been able to get away with living here for only 2 – 3 days per week so while it was a big decision, it made sense given that it was the chance to keep moving through the program at a rapid pace. After completing my research residency in the spring, I was offered the opportunity to continue working with the HIV Clinical Trials Unit in the School of Medicine. I happily accepted and enjoyed learning more about the research process through hands-on work as a research nurse. As in my previous work, I found counseling men and women about sexual decision-making in the context of their social realities both challenging and fun at the same time. Next, I was the clinical instructor for 7 students entering the accelerated BSN program. My first account with academic instruction was full of “teachable moments” for me as well as the students! The lab, the hospital, and the rehabilitation center were all new environments for me (at least since nursing school 8 years ago!) and I enjoyed discovering that in most cases, the ability to “think like a nurse” was really what was needed. Throughout all of this, I was writing my Qualifying exam which I defended at the end of July. My stomach was in knots during this process but I got through it okay. Now onto the next big challenges!

Summer Projects

My excitement over the summer consisted of going on the 9th Annual Kohr Family vacation where 18 of us gathered to enjoy a week of each other's company. This year, my younger brother picked the Alabama shores (just outside Mobile) as our destination. All winter, I complained to my colleagues that I was going to “Gator-land” but my Southern friends swore that I was wrong. Well, the second day out, I spied a rather large alligator at the end of our driveway. As I was just getting ready to scream, I remembered that my brothers had just returned from Walmart and were probably playing a joke on me. So my nephews and I proceeded to the beach as planned. But as we approached the “plastic alligator” it began to move towards the pond! I should have known things weren't going to be good when my rented car resembled a hearse, so much so that the kids were afraid to ride in it. But it came in handy carting the kayaks back and forth from the beach.

I spent the rest of the summer working with Dr. Curley on the RESTORE project as part of my research residency. This experience provided insight into the foundations needed for successful implementation of a multicenter trial. I attended weekly RESTORE clinical and administrative staff meetings, participated in Control and Intervention Site conference calls, and created CPOE order sheets for the intervention phase of the study which I presented at the Intervention Sites' start up meeting when was held on the UPENN campus. I also collaborated with Dr. Curley on an editorial for *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine* and co-authored an article on the nursing management of pulmonary hypertension for the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Society and the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Lastly, I was elected as Co-Chair of the NQF Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Steering committee to assist in the identification of process and structure metrics for the outcomes of this population.



Lisa M. Kohr RN, MSN

CPNP/AC-PC, MPH
Doctoral Student Division
of Family and Community
Health University of
Pennsylvania School of
Nursing



Kohr Family pet gator
“Smiles”



Janine Everett

Ruth L. Kirschstein
NRSA Predoctoral Fellow
University of Pennsylvania
School of Nursing Center
for Health Equities
Research



Janine Everett was awarded a grant from the Institute of Nursing Science at the University of Basel and the ThinkSwiss organization to travel to Switzerland to participate in the “Measurement in Health Care Research” course at the Universität Basel in Basel, Switzerland in August 2009. This course focused on measurement theories and frameworks, concept analysis, instrument development, psychometric analyses, instrument evaluation, and measurement issues. She enjoyed the opportunity to learn with scholars from several countries, incorporating different perspectives into the work and gaining insight on how these perspectives may impact research and global health. The ThinkSwiss Organization sponsored a trip to the Swiss Ministry of Health, where participants were treated to a presentation on the Swiss health care system and how the compulsory insurance system works. This was both informative and timely, considering the current debates surrounding health care and insurance coverage here in the United States. In addition to the coursework, there were opportunities for exploration of the beautiful countryside. Visits to the Matterhorn and the historic capital city of Bern were highlights of the trip, as were the fabulous cheeses and chocolates for which Switzerland is well known. Janine hopes that this is the first of many international ventures.

Adventures in Scholarship



Below 2nd from L: Tiffany Dovydaitis, RN, WHCNP Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Predoctoral Fellow Research on Vulnerable Women, Children & Families (T32NR007100) University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Center for Health Equity Research



In 2007 I took a 4 wk trip to Cusco, Peru over the summer to take Spanish classes and immerse myself in Latin American culture. While I was there I lived with the Broggi family and immediately fell in love with them. My host mother Martha and I became especially close. We've kept in touch ever since through email and Skype. I visited them again in 2008 and became aware of Martha's need for an oxygen concentrator. (Martha has COPD and needs to be on supplemental oxygen a large percentage of her day.) At the time, Martha was getting HUGE oxygen tanks delivered to the house, which kept her in her bedroom many hours a day. She was able to go out in town, but could never go far, as she always had to return back to the house for her oxygen. I made it my cause to find a way to get her a concentrator, but soon realized that only the best, most expensive concentrator would work at her altitude - she lives at 11,000ft in the Andes mountains! Neither of us could afford the machine, so I reached out to the CEO of Sequal Technologies, the maker of the only concentrator that would work effectively at her altitude...and the company donated a BRAND NEW MACHINE! I've just returned from another trip to Peru in order to bring her the machine and simply can't tell you how wonderful it was to give her that gift. Not only will the machine allow her to stop getting oxygen tanks delivered to the house, but it will also allow her to travel and visit family and friends in other parts of the country. It is my hope that the concentrator will significantly improve her quality of life.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be one of three men at a summer camp for women? Well, after working all summer as one of three men surrounded by over 100 women ages 10 to 37, I have an answer for you! The answer is that even a guy who looks like Waldo can be called the camp's "eye-candy" after sufficient time has lapsed from exposure to the normal distribution of men in society.

During the past summer I worked as the head nurse for Wellspring NY, a weight loss camp that serves girls ages 10-27. This was an exciting opportunity for me because I am an aspiring obesity researcher, and the camp is structured around the work of Daniel Kirschenbaum, a leading obesity researcher from the field of Psychology. At Wellspring I was able to do several things at one time: earn a living, observe the experiences of the girls attempting to lose weight, and examine the model used by Wellspring to facilitate weight loss.

As you might expect the experience was eye opening for me. I observed girls tackling issues that go beyond body weight and acceptance of self, and saw amazing improvements in individual girl's feelings of self-worth, confidence in achieving goals, and in the ability to cope with challenges.

I can honestly say that while the pay was good, the experience was even better-priceless in my progression towards my academic and professional goals.



Corbett Brown MSN, CRNP, RN
President, Graduate Students Organization, University of Pennsylvania
Research Interest include: Phenomenon of obesity within families, huge Arizona Suns fan and a proud Republican

Summer Experiences and a Fall Introduction



Matthew Lucas, Academic

Matthew Lucas is a first year MS/PhD with combo MBE student, using this time to essentially double his number of degrees. He moved to Philadelphia in April 2009 from Brooklyn, NY, and had a wonderful time working overtime hours as a *per diem* nurse in CHOP ED's Urgent Care and short-term observation unit, while simultaneously not having a good time fending off his apartment's slumlord-approved sewage and other code-breaking indoor water features. He has since become a first-time homeowner and now comfortably resides in West Philly.

Matthew is situated in the Center for Health Equity Research as a T32 pre-doctoral fellow, was awarded the American Cancer Society (ACS) Graduate Scholarship in Cancer Nursing, and has just submitted his application for the ACS Doctoral Scholarship in Cancer Nursing. He is currently participating in Dr. Janet Deatrick's Caregivers of Childhood Brain Tumor Survivors research program, and his research will eventually be focusing upon the integration of palliative care for children with cancer at diagnosis.

Although he just celebrated his second wedding anniversary, Matthew has decided that he is going to pretend he is a newlywed so that he doesn't miss too many dinners in his first year of doctoral study. Additionally, he has the best dog that has ever existed.

Special Achievements



Min Kyoung Song and Nancy Ho at the 69th ADA conference in New Orleans, Summer 2009

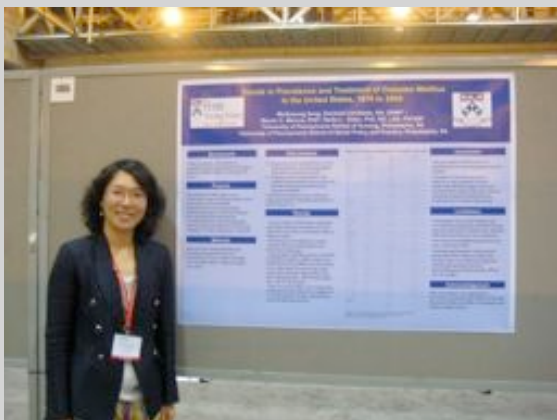
Awards and grants: Global Korean Nursing Foundation Scholarship, 2009 Sigma Theta Tau International Small Grant, Principal Investigator June 2009-May 2010

Publications:

Song, M. & Lee, C.S. (2009) Self-care, Co-Morbid conditions and Perceived health in Patients with Diabetes, *European Diabetes Nursing*, 6(2), 65-68.

Brusselle, G., Michils, A., Louis, R., Dupont, L., Van de Maele, B., Delobbe, A., Pilette, C., Lee, C.S., Gurdain, S., Vancayzeele, S., Lecomte, P., Hermans, C., MacDonald, K., Song, M., Abraham, I. (2009) "Real-life" effectiveness of omalizumab in patients with severe persistent allergic asthma: the PERSIST study. *Respiratory Medicine*, 103(11), 1633-1642.

Meetings Attended: The ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research from July 20 through August 14. I strongly recommend any doctoral/post-doctoral student who would like to learn advanced statistical method in a short time of period but it was very intense!!!



MinKyoung Song, PhD (c), MSN, RN, CRNP
University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Song, M. (Accepted) Diabetes Mellitus and the Importance of Self-Care. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*. Presentations: "Trends in Prevalence and Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus in the United States, 1976-2004", 69th American Diabetes Association scientific sessions, New Orleans, LA, June 5-9, 2009.



Melissa O'Connor, MBA, BSN, RN,
COS-C Predoctoral Research
FellowNewCourtland Center for
Transitions and HealthCenter for
Integrative Science in
AgingHartford Center for Geriatric
Nursing ExcellenceUniversity of
Pennsylvania, School of Nursing

Congratulations to Melissa O'Connor who spent her summer publishing and preparing her NRSA!

In press:

Bowles, KH., Pham, J.,
O'Connor, M., and Horowitz,
D. (in press). Information
Deficits in Home Care: A
Barrier to Evidence Based
Disease Management.
*Home Health Care
Management and Practice*

NRSA submitted to the NINR
this summer entitled: Impact
of Length of Stay and
Number of Home Nursing
Visits on Rehospitalization.

Future Doctors of PENN's School of Nursing

All students/candidates currently in the Penn Nursing Doctoral Program are listed on the following pages. Each name is followed by the year of entry into the program, any notes that the student/candidate supplied for this edition of the newsletter.

Alexander, Kamila (2008) Research Interest: Women's sexual health and intersectionality (race, class, & gender inequalities)

Advisor(s): Chris Coleman

Awards, grants funding: Fontaine Fellow 2008-2009. Qualifying Exam: July 2009

Events: Attendee Global Health Conference May 26-29, 2009, Washington, D.C.

Ball, Katherine(2006)

Beacham, Barbara (2006) Research Interest: Children, Chronic Illness, Family Management Advisor: Janet Deatrck Dissertation Proposal Title: Children with Chronic Health Conditions: Perspectives on Family Management Qualifying exam: Vulnerability in the School-Aged Child with Sickle Cell Disease; October 2007 Awards, grants funding Sigma Theta Tau, Xi Chapter Research Grant Publications and presentations Brawner, B., Deatrck, J. Hobbie, W., Beacham, B. & Hardie, T. (2009). Assessing Suicidal Ideation and Behaviors among Research Participants: Incorporating the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) in Family/Community-Based Research. RIG Symposium – Strategies for Managing Risks and Challenges in Family and Community-Based Intervention Research. Eastern Nurses Research Society. Panel Participant: B.Beacham Poster: Beacham, B. & Deatrck, J. (2009). Family studies of children with sickle cell disease: An examination of conceptual and methodological issues. (Accepted for poster session, International Family Nursing Conference June 2009) EVENTS: ENRS Annual Conference March 19-21, 2009 Boston, MA

Benavente, Viola, G. PhD (c), RN, CNS (2004)

Research Interest: Cardiovascular disease prevention and risk reduction in Hispanics

Advisor(s): Kathy McCauley, PhD, RN, CS, FAAN, FAHA

Dissertation Proposal Title: Predictors of Cardiovascular Health Promotion in Mexican-American Women. Candidacy exam: December 2009. Proposal defense: January 2008 Qualifying exam: December 2005

Awards, grants funding:

2008-2010 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Individual Pre-Doctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research, Grant #F31NR010847, National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

Publications:

Benavente, V. G. (2009, manuscript submission). An integrative literature review of the cultural context of health, illness, and healing traditions of Mexican-origin individuals. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*

Benavente, V. G. & McCauley, Kathleen. (2009, manuscript submission). An integrative literature review of the rise and fall of the "Hispanic Paradox" of cardiovascular disease. *Hispanic Health Care International*, official publication of the *National Association of Hispanic Nurses*.

Oral Presentations:

07/2009 *An Integrative Literature Review of the Cultural Context of Health, Illness, and Healing Traditions of Mexican-origin Individuals*, 20th International Research Nursing Congress Focusing on Evidence-based Practice, Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Poster Presentations:

10/2009 *Predictors of Cardiovascular Health Promotion in Mexican-American Women*, 2009 Special Topics Conference: *Technology, Genetics and Beyond: Research Methodologies of the Future*, Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science/National Institute of Nursing Research, Pre-and Post-doctoral Poster Session, Washington, DC

Bohinski, Julia (2007) Research Interest: HIV prevention among pregnant adolescent girls
Advisor: Dr. Anne Teitelman. General Exam: July/August 2008
Papers: Teitelman, A.M., Bohinski, J.M., Boente, A. (in press) The social context of adolescent girls' sexual health and sexual risk. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*.
Presentations: Teitelman, A.M., & Bohinski, J.M. (October, 2009). Understanding partner abuse and HIV risk among young urban women attending family planning clinics. 16th international conference of the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International. Miami, FL.;
Teitelman, A.M., & Bohinski, J.M. (April, 2010). Exploring the Impact of a Violent Environment on Young Women's Relationships and HIV Risk.
Penn-ICOWHI 18th Congress: Cities and Women's Health: Global Perspective. Philadelphia, PA.

Brown, Corbett (2008)

Bunting-Perry, Lisette (2005)

Byun, Eeeseung (2008). Research Interest: Family caregivers of older adults with stroke Advisor: Dr. Lois Evans Awards, grants funding: T32 fellowship: Individualized care for at-risk older adults, NINR
Publications and presentations: Byun, E. (2005). Lamivudine Therapy in Hepatitis B e Antigen Negative Chronic Hepatitis B. Research Dinner Meeting and Meet the Candidates Night, SePA Chapter, American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, April, 2005. EVENTS: Conference: GSA (Gerontological Society of America) 2008
Meetings: Gero scholars seminars and the New Courtland Center For Transitions meetings 2008 -2009.

Connerton, Winnifred (2005). Research Interest: U.S. nurses' international work in the early twentieth century Advisors: Julie Fairman
Dissertation Proposal Title: Have Cap, Will Travel; Nurses Abroad 1898-1939 (defended 2/7/2008)
Qualifying exam: *The Sphinx by Moonlight: Letters to the American Journal of Nursing from Nurses Abroad 1900- 1912* (defended 9/12/06) Candidacy exam: (defended 5/12/08) 1--What's the meaning of this? *Textual analysis in historical inquiry 2--Plague or Public Health? International Health Organizations' Shifting Focus Before and After the First World War*

Darcy, Ashley (2007). Research Interest: Cognitive Development in LBW infants
Advisors: Dr. Medoff-Cooper & Dr. Pinto-Martin
Dissertation Proposal Title: The Influence of Home Environmental Mediators on Cognitive Development of an Age Nine Cohort of Low-Birth Weight Infants
Qualifying exam: "Optimizing the Use of Infant Developmental Assessment Instruments: Theoretical Underpinnings in Clinical Applications" (Fall, 2009)
Awards, grants funding: 2008 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, United States, Greater Philadelphia Program 2008 NSNA Promise of Nursing Scholarship Winner 2008 March of Dimes Scholarship Winner 2008 NANN/Ovation Scholarship Winner 2008 Nursing Science Institute at the University of Basel-Invited International Visiting Scholar
Publications and presentations:
Darcy, AE. (2009). Complications of the Late Preterm Infant. *Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing* 23(1);pp. 78-86.
Darcy, AE. (2009). Complications of the Late Preterm Infant: Same Challenges, New Strategies. *Neonatal Advanced Practice Nursing Forum*; [poster] Washington, DC

Delaney, Kelly (2007)

Dovydaitis, Tiffany (2007) Research Interest: Women's Health, Immigrant Health, Sexual Violence. Advisor: J.A. Grisso. Qualifying exam: 10/20/08 Sexual Coercion in the Indigenous Migrant Farmworker Population: An Evolutionary Concept Analysis.
Publications and presentations: Dovydaitis, T. Crossing the Virtual Border: Giving Voice to the Female Migrant Farmworker Experience (Poster). March 2009 Eastern Nursing Research Society, Boston, MA.
Dovydaitis, T. & Shadbeh, N., Addressing the Problem of Sexual Assault in the Indigenous Farmworker Population. October 2008 Eastern Migrant Stream Conference, Providence, RI.

Everett, Janine (2007) Research Interest: Skin biomechanics, particularly skin elasticity, as correlated with skin color. Health disparities. Advisor: Lynn Sommers.
Dissertation Proposal Title: (tentative) Skin Elasticity and Skin Color: Understanding Disparity in Sexual Assault General Exam (defended 06/11/2008): 1. Skin Color: An Evaluation of Two Quantitative Studies 2. Pressure Ulcers: Prevention and Management.
Awards, grants funding: 2009-2012 Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for Individual Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Grant #1F31NR011106-01, National Institute of Nursing Research, "Skin Elasticity and Skin Color: Understanding Health Disparity in Sexual Assault" 2009 Institute of Nursing Science (INS), University of Basel, Switzerland; Invited International Scholar and Travel Grant Award Recipient 2007-2011 National Institute of Nursing Research; National Institute of Mental Health; 2R01NR05352: Sommers (PI) "Injury from Sexual Assault: Addressing Health Disparity;" Role: Senior Technical Consultant Publications and presentations: Everett, J.S.; Fargo, J.D.; Hanrahan, C.E.; Basta, N.I.; Sommers, M.S. (2009). *Skin Injury and Protection in Sexual Assault: How Skin Elasticity Varies by Color and Age in Females*. For presentation at American Public Health Association 137th Annual Meeting and Expo, November 2009, Philadelphia PA.

Fachko, Michael (2008). Research Interest: Technology and Stroke Rehabilitation
Advisor: Mary Naylor
Qualifying Exam: November 2009
Awards, grants funding: Jonas Scholarship

Fleck, Desiree(2005) Research Interest: Self-Care in Emerging Adults with Congenital Heart Disease
Advisor: Barbara Riegel
Dissertation Proposal Title: Correlates of Self-Care in Emerging Adults with Congenital Heart Disease (Defended January 2008) Qualifying Exam: Health Care Transition in Adults with Congenital Heart Disease, December 2006 Candidacy Exam: December 2009 1. Self-Care in Emerging Adults with Chronic illness 2. Neurocognitive Issues in Emerging Adults with Congenital Heart Disease Awards, grants funding: Edna Kynett Foundation Grant
Publications & Presentations: Fleck, D. (2009). Neurocognitive Issues in Emerging Adults with Congenital Heart Disease, Poster Presentation, Spring Meeting of Council of Cardiovascular Nurses and Allied Health Professionals of the European Society of Cardiology, Dublin Ireland. Rupperecht, C., Buckenmaier, C, Fleck, D., McKnight, g., McMillan, B, White, R, Deatrick, J and Polomano, R., (2008). Poster presentation Pain Conference, Hawaii.
Events, Conferences, Meetings Attended: Council of Cardiovascular Nurses and Allied Health Professionals of the ESC, Spring Meeting, Dublin Ireland, April 2009. Gatti, Lisa (2006)

Froh, Beth (2009). Research Interest: Surgical infants and mothers in the NICU and correlation of outcomes with human milk
Advisor: Diane Spatz

Gatti, Lisa (2006)

Gilbride, Jonathan (2003)

Greenberg, Sherry (2009)

Grube, Wendy (2003) Research Interest: Appalachian women and cervical cancer Advisor(s)/ Committee: Chair- Julie Fairman; Members: Marjorie Muecke, Lynn Stringer Dissertation Proposal Title: Cultural Attitudes, Values, and Beliefs Influencing Cervical Cancer Screening Among Appalachian Women in West Virginia: An Ethnographic Study (def: September 2008) Qualifying Exam: Sociocultural Dissonance: A Concept Analysis and Framework for Researching Barriers to Preventative Gynecological Care in Appalachian Women (def 2/2006) Candidacy Exam: Focused Ethnography as a Research Methodology for Understanding Cervical Cancer Screening Among Appalachian Women in the Context of Cervical Cancer Screening

Hallowell, SG (2008). Research Interest: Infant Development
Advisor: Diane Spatz

Harris, Catherine (2005)

Herrmann, Linda (2006) Research Interest: Early functional outcomes of older adults after mild and moderate traumatic brain injury Advisor(s): Terry Richmond, Neville Strumpf, and Margaret Stineman Dissertation Proposal Title: The Impact of Discharge Disposition and Intensity of Rehabilitation Services on Short Term Functional Outcome of Older Adults Following Mild to Moderate Traumatic Brain Injury Qualifying exam: Outcomes of Older Adults Following Traumatic Brain Injury: A state of the science (09/14/07) Candidacy Exam: What Social and Environmental Factors Affect the Recovery of Older Adults After Acute Brain Injury? AND What Factors Determine Which Older Adults Get Rehabilitation Services versus Those Who Do Not? (01/23/09) Awards, grants funding: John A. Hartford Foundation BAGNC Predoctoral Scholar 2007-2009 Events, Conferences, Meetings Attended: Hartford Leadership Conference, November 2008 Other Fun Facts: Linda continues to be a lean, mean, dissertation machine...

Ho, Nancy (2006) Research Interest: Neuroscience, Diabetes, Depression, and Cognition. Advisor: Lynn Sommers Dissertation Proposal Title: Diabetes and Changes in Neurobehavior: The Role of Hippocampal Neurogenesis (defended 04/27/2009) Qualifying exam: The neurobiology of depression: A review of current hypothesis (May 2008) Awards, grants funding: 1. National Research Service Award (NRSA) 2. Johnson & Johnson/AACN Minority Faculty Scholarship Publication: Balu, D. T., Hodes, G. E., Hill, T. E., Ho, N., Rahman, Z., Bender, C. N., et al. (2008). Flow cytometric analysis of BrdU incorporation as a high-throughput method for measuring adult neurogenesis in the mouse. *Journal of Pharmacological and Toxicological Methods*, 29(2), 100-107. Other fun facts: I have an AMAZING cat named Roxy. She knows how to go to the bathroom in the toilet, come when I call, roll over on command, and jump through hoops.

Holsten, Joanna (2005) Awards, grants funding: National Research Service Award (NRSA) "The Food Environment and Body Mass Index in Middle School Children"

Irving, Sharon (2006)

Kohr, Lisa, M. RN, MSN, CPNP-AC/PC, MPH (2008)
Research Interest: Clinical decision making in the ICU and outcomes in pediatric patients with congenital heart disease. The impact of capacity building in the ICU for pediatric patients with congenital heart disease and postoperative outcomes following palliative and corrective surgery. Advisor: Martha Curley. Qualifying Exam: October 2009

Jacoby, Sara (2009)

Jost, Sandra (2009)

Kelly, Deena (2009)

Lucas, Matthew (2009)

Lyons, Melanie (2007)

Lysaght, Susan (2008) Research Interest: Transitions of Care in Hospice
Advisor: Mary Ersek Awards, grants funding: T32 Individualized Care for At-Risk Older Adults Events, Conferences, Meetings: Geriatric ELNEC Training
Qualifying Exam: Dying at Home: A Concept Analysis, October 2009

Ma, Chenjuan (2008) Research Interest: Health outcomes, nurse education, international collaboration. Advisor: Linda Aiken

Mackenzie, Meredith (2009)

Mages, Keith (2006) Research Interest: History of Nursing. Advisor: Patricia D'Antonio. Dissertation Proposal Title: Books, Numbers, and Nurses: The Intellectual Commentary of the Bellevue School of Nursing Library and its Classification System (defended 05/13/09) Qualifying exam: Print Culture and Nursing History (defended 10/07) Awards, grants funding: Sigma Theta Tau, Xi Chapter, Research Grant (03/09) Publication: Mages, K. (2009). [Review of Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines, by Warwick Anderson], *Nursing History Review*, 16. Events, Conferences, Meetings Attended: American Association for the History of Medicine (2009)

Mahoney, Amanda (2009)
Maldonado, Linda (2007) Research Interest: Nursing History: Women's Health, Oral History, and Archival Research Advisors: Barbara Mann Wall and Julie Fairman Dissertation Proposal Title: The Philadelphia Women's Health Movement of the 1960's to 1980's General Exam: Defended 12/08 Awards, grants funding: First recipient of the Walter Lear Fellowship
Massimo, Lauren (2009)
Masterson, Ruth (2009)
McDonald, Catherine (2006) Research Interest: Adolescent mental health, youth development, and community violence Advisor: Therese Richmond Dissertation Proposal Title: Community Violence Exposure, Posttraumatic Stress, and Positive Youth Development in Urban Adolescents (def: 12/08) Qualifying exam: 9/07-Community Violence Exposure and Mental Health Symptoms in Urban Adolescents. Candidacy exam: 12/08- What is Positive Youth Development and How can it be Measured? AND What are key individual and ecological characteristics that contribute to posttraumatic stress in youth? Awards, grants funding: NRSA F31 NR011107-01 Principal Investigator: McDonald, Catherine C Project Title: Community Violence Exposure and Positive Youth Development in Urban Adolescents. Publications & Presentations: McDonald, C.C., Deatrick, J.A., Kassam-Adams, N., & Richmond, T.S. What is positive youth development and how can it be measured? Abstract Accepted for Rising Stars Poster Presentation at the 2009 Sigma Theta Tau Biennial Convention (November 2009-Indianapolis, IN). McDonald, C.C. & Deatrick, J.A. The role of family phenomena in posttraumatic stress in youth. Accepted Abstract for Poster Presentation, 9th International Family Nursing Conference, June 2009. Iceland. Invited panel speaker at the Penn Injury Science Forum December 2, 2008 "Panel Discussion on Violence and Stress: Exploring Community Strengths." (Philadelphia, PA).
Mooney-Doyle, Kim (2008)
Mora, Sara (2009)
Ng, Lit (2008)
O'Connor, Melissa (2008) Research Interest: Geriatric Home Care Advisor: Kathy Bowles Dissertation Proposal Title: Does the nurse visit schedule have an impact on Acute Care Hospitalization?. Awards, grants funding: Sigma Theta Tau, Xi Chapter, Induction to membership 2009. T32 Funding, Transitions Center Events, Conferences, Meetings Attended: Gerontological Society Association (11/08) Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence event "Panel Discussion on Preparing for the Faculty Role" (04/09)
Olds, Danielle (2006) Research Interest: Patient Safety Advisor: Linda Aiken Dissertation Proposal Title: "Hospital Culture of Safety Perceptions and Patient Safety Outcomes" Qualifying exam: "The Effect of Fatigue and Work Hours on Adverse Events and Errors in health care" 11/8/2007 Awards, grants funding: T32-NR-007104, Aiken, PI
Pak, Victoria (2006) Research Interest: Phthalate exposures Advisor: Jennifer Pinto-Martin, Linda McCauley Dissertation Proposal Title: (Tentative title) "Assessing Workplace Phthalate exposures among Massage Therapy Students" General exam: June 2007 "Benzene exposure: A comparison of 2 distinct methodological designs" and "A Critique of the Scientific Basis of the Standards of Practice Issued by the ANA on Back Injuries among Nurses". Qualifying exam: June 2007. Candidacy exam: September 2009 Awards, grants funding: T32-National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Predoctoral Fellow American Association of Occupational health Nurses (AAOHN) Mary Louise Brown Practice Poster Award Sigma Theta Tau, Xi Chapter, Research Award Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) 2009, Sponsored by NINR Publications & Presentations: Pak VM., O'Hara, M., Crawford, G. (2009). <i>Implication of a Rubber Accelerant in an Allergic Reaction of an Atopic Health Care Worker</i> , <i>AAOHN Journal</i> , 57(4). Pak VM., Watkins, M., McKenzie, JG. (2009). <i>What is the Role of Thiurams in Allergy to Natural Rubber Latex Products?</i> <i>Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine</i> , (in press)

Pinkston, Esther (2008)
<p>Puzantian, Houry (2007) Research Interest: Coronary Artery Disease in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease Advisor: Barbara Riegel Dissertation Proposal Title: Myeloperoxidase in the early detection of CAD in patients with CKD (tentative)</p> <p>Qualifying Exam: State of the Science of Coronary Artery Disease in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease: An Examination of Coronary Artery Changes, Underlying Pathophysiologic Processes and Relevance of Kidney Disease Staging – 10/24/2008</p>
Rao, Aditi (2009)
Rearden, Jessica (2009)
Sawah, Sarah (2007)
<p>Siow, Elaine (2007) Research Interest: Critical care, sedation use in the ICU, functional outcomes</p> <p>Qualifying Exam: 11/03/08– Factors that influence the decision to discharge patients out of the ICU</p> <p>Publications and presentations: Enteral versus Parental Nutrition for Acute Pancreatitis. Critical Care Nurse 2008; 28” 19-30. ENRS 2009, 21st annual scientific session, Boston MA. Poster presentation entitled “Factors that influence decision to discharge patients out of the ICU”</p>
Slota, Christina (2009)
<p>Song, Min Kyoung (2006) Research Interest: Type 2 Diabetes, self-care, health outcomes, co-morbid conditions</p> <p>Advisor & Dissertation Chair: Barbara Riegel Dissertation Proposal Title: Self-Care and Health Outcomes of Diabetes: How do Co-morbid Conditions Influence This Relationship? (05-07-09)</p> <p>Qualifying exam: 10-01-07 Concept Analysis: Self-monitoring in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Candidacy exam: 01-14-09 Awards, grants funding: Sigma Theta Tau International Small Grant, Principal Investigator June 2009– May 2010</p> <p>Publications & Presentations: Publications Song, M., Marcus, S., & Volpe, S. (2009) Trends in Prevalence and Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus in the United States, 1976-2004. Diabetes [Abstract] (In Press). Song, M., Deatrck, J., & Feetham, S. A Review of Literature: Family Assessment Instruments in Diabetes Mellitus from 1982 to 2008. Journal of Family Nursing (Under Revision)</p> <p>Song, M. & Lee, C.S. Self-care, Co-Morbid conditions and Perceived health in Patients with Diabetes, European Diabetes Nursing (Re-submitted, Under Review)</p> <p>Presentations: “A Review of Literature: Family Assessment Instruments in Diabetes Mellitus from 1982 to 2008”, Eastern Nursing Research Society, Mar 19-22, 2009. “Pulmonologists’ subjective versus GINA-derived classifications of asthma control in patients with persistent severe asthma (the Belgian AWARE Study)”. Belgium Association of Pharmaceutical Physicians 3th Annual Scientific Conference & Provider Exhibition, March 19, 2009.</p>
<p>Trotta, Rebecca (2005) Research Interest: Palliative care in the nursing home setting</p> <p>Advisors: Sarah Kagan, Neville Strumpf Dissertation Proposal Title: Quality of Death in the Nursing Home: A Proposed Grounded Theory (03-25-09) Qualifying exam: 06-30-06 Candidacy exam: 12-18-07 Awards, grants funding: Elizabeth Anne Prostic Memorial Award, 2008-2009 Publications and presentations: Poster at Eastern Nursing Research Society Conference 2009, Boston, MA. Title: Pain Assessment in Cognitively Impaired Nursing Home Residents: A Systematic Review Events, Conferences, Meetings Attended: ENRS 2009 (see above) Fun Facts: Planning to start data collection in New York in May!</p>
Tubbs-Cooley, Heather (2005)
<p>Vincent, Carol (2004) Research Interest: Family Management of Chronic Illness; HIV</p> <p>Advisor and Dissertation Chair: Dr. Janet Deatrck</p> <p>Qualifying Exam: Passed 11/13/06- Family Management and Children Infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus: State of the Science</p>
Waite, Theresa (2009)

White, Patricia (2004)

Wiltse, Kelly (2007) Research Interest: The effect of the nurse practice environment and surgical volume in decreasing post-operative mortality following AAA repair surgery. International nursing Advisor: Linda Aiken Qualifying exam: The Impact of Nurse Staffing, Education and Environment on the Volume-Outcomes Relation- ship. Successfully defended Nov 11, 2008. Awards, grants funding: T32 Fellow in the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research 2007-2009

Witkoski, Amy (2007). Research Interest: The effect of long work hours and fatigue on younger hospital staff nurses and patient safety
Advisor Ann Rogers
General Exam: June 2008 Physiological Effects of Sleep Deprivation, General Exam Question 2: Measurements of Sleepiness
Fun Facts: I got engaged April 4th, 2009 in Central Park!

Xiao, Canhua (2007) Research Interest: Symptom clusters in Cancer
Advisor: Sarah Kagan Qualifying exam: 28th Oct. 2008 "The state of science in the study of cancer symptom clusters" Publications and presentations: Presentation at 2009 ENRS (Eastern Nursing Research Society) 21st Annual Scientific Sessions

The Newest Doctoral Stars!



Welcome First Year Students! Elizabeth Froh, Sherry Greenberg, Sara Jacoby, Sandra Jost, Deena Kelly, Matthew Lucas, Meredith Mackenzie, Amanda Mahoney, Lauren Massiomo, Ruth Masterson, Sara Mora, Aditi Rao, Jessica Rearden, Christina Slota, Theresa Waite,

Committee Memberships:

Research Committee: Houry Puzantian

Faculty Awards Committee: Linda Hermann

Taskforce for Research Resources for Students: & Tiffany Dovydaitis

Curriculum Committee: Esther Pinkston

Dean's Advisory Board: Kamila Alexander & Susan Lysaght

GAPSA representatives: Sara Jacoby & Beth Froh

UPenn Library Committee on Graduate Research: Kamila Alexander

Hours of Happiness!



DSO Fall 2009 Welcome at Cappogiro Artisans: Located at 40th and Walnut, this gelato emporium in the heart of West Philly was the site of the first social gathering of the DSO. Thanks to Michael Fachko for organizing!

Left: Elian Siow, Lisa Kohr, Srah Sawah

Below CW from far left: Beth Froh, Mattjehew Lucas, Susan Lysaght, Chenjuan Ma, Jing Li, Houry Puzantian, Eeesung Byun, Kamila Alexander (front,) Amy Witowski



Christina Slota, Aditi Rao, and Vic Pak, GAPSA happy hour

GAPSA President Corbett Brown and friends

Images courtesy of SG Hallowell, Amy Witoski, and Julia Bohinski



Viola Benavente and husband Larry recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. They went all the way to Vancouver, BC in Canada to experience an amazing sunset!



Kate McDonald's children, Connor and Maeve celebrate Halloween in style!



These are the happy faces of Corbett Brown, Julia Bohinski, Susan Lysaght, and Amy Witowski after STAT501 class – only THEY could make studying statistics this much fun!



Sara Mora, and Larry and Viola Benaventa attended the Minorities in Nursing Organization Red and White Ball – Fall 2009

Updates and happenings



Elaine Siow and her husband Jeff became proud parents of Edward Yang Ming, Ng, born on Nov 13, 2009 at 6.30 am (EST). Length 18.9 inches, weight 3.130 kg (6 pounds 14 ounces). Congratulations!

Visit the website: [http:// www.nursing.upenn.edu/dso](http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/dso)

Please visit the share drive/intranet space devoted to all things DSO: [https:// share.nursing.upenn.edu/ sites/dso/default.aspx](https://share.nursing.upenn.edu/sites/dso/default.aspx)

Milestones Series and Spring Colloquia 2010

The Milestone Series was developed to guide students through the milestones of Doctoral Study. Thank you to Lisa Kohr and Esther Pinkston for establishing the first two lectures in this innovative gathering. Thank you also to all the participants and lecturers!

- Milestone Series # 1: Surviving the first year
- Milestone Series # 2: Employment after Doctoral study – Preparing your Resume

**Coming in
April 2010
Spring
Colloquia!**



Care to Change the World!

The DocPost is the official newsletter of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing Doctoral Students.