



Scholarship Update

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Trinity Western University Nursing Department

Update Nursing Scholarship Initiatives

Purposes of Scholarship Update:

- To communicate current scholarship initiatives within the nursing department
- To profile faculty achievements
- To provide information regarding upcoming conferences, funding opportunities, etc.

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Welcome to our second issue of *Scholarship Update!*

Since the last issue in January, we have had several important developments in the nursing department which we feature in this newsletter:

- Darlane Pankratz has completed her major paper for her MSN. See p. 3 for details
- A team of nursing faculty have been awarded a national Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) research grant to study the negotiation of religious plurality in health care
- Dr. Pesut has been awarded a networking grant from the Coalition of Christian Colleges and

Universities (CCCU)

In addition to these developments, this issue features other practice- and education-based scholarship in the nursing department including plans for a Clinical Teaching Unit.

While we are a small department, our engagement in various dimensions of scholarship speak to the commitment to the profession and the scholar-teacher role of the professoriate. Someone who has exemplified the scholar-teacher in our midst, **Lynn Van Hofwegen**, is leaving after 7 years at Trinity Western University, to join her husband in San Francisco where she has accepted a position with California State



Lynn Van Hofwegen

University-Hayward. Lynn has been involved in several of our current nursing research projects since their inception: The Diabetes project, the Innovative Clinical Placements projects, and the PAR project with students returning from international placements. Lynn's optimism, analytic mind, and thoughtful approach to life will be very missed.

All the best, Lynn!

Resources for Research at Trinity Western University: Research Ethics Review Board (REB)

The mandate of the Research Ethics Board (REB) is to approve, reject, propose modifications to, or terminate any proposed or ongoing research involving human subjects as to compliance with the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*. These ethical standards include respect for hu-

man dignity, respect for free and informed consent, respect for vulnerable persons, provision for privacy and confidentiality (for both subjects and researchers), respect for justice and inclusiveness, balancing harms and benefits, and minimizing potential harms and maximizing potential benefits to subjects.

Catherine Hoe Harwood serves on the REB and is an excellent resource for us in interpreting ethical issues both in research and classroom projects involving human subjects. For more information, please visit the REB website at: <http://www.twu.ca/research/ethics/default.aspx>

NEWS! TWU Nursing Professors awarded SSHRC and CCCU Grants to conduct research on Religion, Spirituality, and Culture

The Negotiation of Religious and Spiritual Plurality in Health Care (SSHRC 2006–2009)



Canada has been described as the world's first international nation—referred to as such because of the more than 200 ethnic

groups reported in the 2001 census. The shift in immigration patterns that has seen the majority of newcomers to Canada arrive from Asian source countries has also brought about a substantial increase in the number of Canadians who report affiliations with religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism, creating a more diverse religious profile. Yet, the intersections between ethnicity, culture, gender, class, and religion, and the negotiation of spiritual and religious plurality have received little attention in the healthcare context. This oversight is notable in light of the intensely political and “eminently social”

nature of religion. Where religion and spirituality are included in health related research, the focus typically centers on links between religiosity/spirituality (R/S) and health/illness, or on what are portrayed as circumscribed cultural-religious practices, apart from particular sociopolitical contexts.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the negotiation of spiritual and religious plurality in healthcare services, and the social, gendered, cultural, historical, economic, and political contexts that shape these social dynamics. The objectives are to:

- (1) describe how R/S plurality is negotiated in healthcare provider/recipient encounters;
- (2) examine the ways in which healthcare contexts shape the negotiation of R/S plurality;
- (3) critically analyze the ways in which societal contexts shape the negotiation of R/S plurality in healthcare; and

(4) facilitate knowledge translation into practice, health policy, and professional education.

Using ethnographic methods of participant observation and interviewing, the perspectives of nurses, chaplains, patients, and health care administrators in acute and community settings will be sought.

Principal Applicant Sheryl Reimer Kirkham, PhD, TWU Nursing

Co-Principal Applicant: Barbara Pesut, PhD, TWU Nursing

Co-Applicant: Heather Meyerhoff, MSN, TWU Nursing

Collaborator: Rick Sawatzky, PhD(c), TWU Nursing

Consultant: Jonathon Dawn, PhD, TWU Religious Studies

External Collaborators: Sally Thorne, PhD, UBC; Joan Anderson, PhD, UBC

A Christian Theoretical Framing for the Concepts of Religion, Spirituality and Culture in Healthcare (CCCU 2006–2009)

The purpose of this networking project is to establish a Christian theoretical framing for the concepts and intersections of religion, spirituality and culture within a healthcare context. Issues of spirituality and culture have gained increasing attention in the healthcare literature over the past two decades. Healthcare policy documents and institutional accreditation criteria are now including, and indeed emphasizing, the need for attention to spiritual, cultural and religious matters. However, with this attention has emerged an increasingly politicized debate about the nature of these concepts. Religion and spirituality, in particular, are being re-defined. Spirituality has become a universal, inherently good, individualized concept while religion has been relegated to external rituals and beliefs, a social product of culture. What has emerged is a healthcare discourse that has produced a vague, con-

tentless spirituality, and a marginalized understanding of religion that is far from Paul Tillich's definition of religion as “ultimate concern”.

Although a number of scholars have presented arguments for why the theological perspective must be maintained in this debate what is required is a theoretical framework as the basis for understanding these highly related concepts. This framework, while based upon a theological understanding, must be able to accommodate the diversity of patient spiritual experiences in healthcare. Such a framework would provide both direction for knowledge production and patient care in this emerging and vital area.

In response to this challenge, we propose to bring together a group of scholars from Canada, the US, and the UK who have significant expertise in

spirituality, religion and culture within a healthcare perspective to create a Christian theoretical framing for these concepts.

Principal Applicant: Barbara Pesut, PhD, TWU Nursing

Co-Applicants: Sheryl Reimer Kirkham, PhD, TWU Nursing; Bart Cusveller, PhD, Lindeboom Institute, in Ede, The Netherlands; Marsha Fowler, PhD, Azusa Pacific University; Elizabeth Johnston Taylor, PhD, Loma Linda University

Funding: Christian Coalition of Colleges and Universities



“Job versus practice readiness” for new graduate registered nurses

(Practice Education Innovation Fund—PEIF)

In partnership with Nursing Education Council of British Columbia (NECBC), Health Care Leaders Association of British Columbia (HCLABC), College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC), and the Coalition on Entry-level Registered Nurse Education, **Dr. Pesut** is providing leadership to a project studying practice readiness for new graduates. The purpose of this project is to understand the underlying historical structures that contribute to

perpetuation of myths about new graduate nurse readiness for employment. Project strategies include a detailed literature review that will trace the historical influences contributing to the persistence of the issue in the nursing profession; focus groups with key informants in education, practice and regulation as well as new graduates themselves; and a synthesis of present research related to the relationship of entry-level nursing education on system, organization and patient outcomes.

Our thanks and acknowledgement to **Sharon Leng** who has just completed her term as Chair of the Interschool Clinical Placements committee. Sharon was instrumental in helping to set up a new comprehensive framework for Interschool - one that is much broader and will enable the interschool/interagency committee to address some of the policy issues that are such a factor in clinical placements. She is also a partner on the Practice Readiness PEIF grant, and TWU's clinical placement coordinator. In these ways, Sharon portrays another dimension of scholarship in the TWU Nursing Department

Trinity Western University Nursing Department is part of an exciting venture in the development of a **Clinical Teaching Unit**, scheduled to be operational in January 2007. The Clinical Teaching Unit (CTU) Project is designed to increase capacity and optimize student practice education opportunities. Project goals are to develop clinical learning units that are effective, respectful, creative mediums for clinical practice learning, to merge content, context and experience, to recruit and retain competent professionals across sectors and programs, and bridge the perceived gap between nursing practice and education.

Meet Janna, Faith Richardson's 'pet' research project!

Janna is a one-year-old Dalmatian who is being socialized to become a therapy dog.

Therapy dogs are welcome additions to the health care team in a variety of settings, including Hospice, School Health, Elder Care, and Mental Health facilities. Why? There is data from several small studies showing how human-pet interaction favorably impacts on levels of blood lipids, glucose and thrombotic factors as well as influencing the body's own production of substances which boost the im-

mune system, relieve pain and generate a sense of well-being—in part by reducing cortisol, the “stress” hormone.

“Hopefully, Janna will help me contribute to the growing body of work on the positive health effects of a community that is consciously in relationship with all of God's creation—especially the four-legged, wagging tail kind!”

Faith Richardson MSN APRN, BC
Assistant Professor of Nursing, TWU



Congratulations to Darlane Pankratz, MSN!

Darlane Pankratz, RN MSN, TWU Lecturer, is graduating this spring from UBC with her Masters of Science in Nursing. Darlane has a passion for international nursing, and has led teams of nursing students to Guatemala in the 2004 and 2005. Her major paper, entitled “**Considering the process of learning through international clinical immersion for baccalaureate nursing students**”, examined what educational processes

or experiences occurring pre, during, and post international immersion could transform students' understanding of cultural diversity of self, clients and co-workers in a developing country and potentially impact their professional practice in Canadian health care. This work will be highly relevant to future international learning experiences for TWU nursing students.

Preliminary findings of TWU's **National Survey on the Use of Innovative Clinical Placements in Undergraduate Nursing Education** (Finding: WRCASN) were presented in Ottawa in March 2006 by **Dr. Reimer Kirkham** to Canadian Association Schools of Nursing's (CASN) Clinical Placement Advisory Committee Meeting. This study complements three other national CASN studies underway examining clinical nursing education

Trinity Western University Nursing Department

Dr. Landa Terblanche recently attended the annual Western Region Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (WRCASN) in Edmonton as TWU's Member-at-Large representative.

WRCASN has an annual fall competition for a **Nursing Education Research Award** and a **Nursing Education Innovation Award**.

For more information, please visit the WRCASN website at: <http://www.wrcasn.ca>

Recent Faculty Publications

Pesut, B. (2006). Fundamental or foundational obligation? (2006). Problematizing the ethical call to spiritual care in nursing. *Advances in Nursing Science* 29(2), 124-133.

Pesut, B. & Sawatzky, R. (*in press*) To describe or prescribe: Assumptions underlying a prescriptive nursing process approach to spiritual care. *Nursing Inquiry*, 13(2),

Reimer Kirkham, S. (*in press*). Review: Cultural safety in Aotearoa New Zealand edited by Dianne Wepa. *Contemporary Nurse*.

Sawatzky, R. (2006). Proposal: A research proposal to examine the relationship between health and quality of life. Unpublished manuscript, University of British Columbia. Full proposal is available at: <http://www.ricksawatzky.com/qol>

BC Health Academic Council has announced another Request for Proposals (RFP) from the **Practice Education Innovation Fund (PEIF)**. It is intended that the collaborative initiatives supported by PEIF will lead to significant improvements in capacity and quality of practice education in BC.

Applications will be accepted until: **July 5, 2006; 12:00 noon**

For more information, see http://www.bcahc.ca/BCAHC_page.asp

Nursing Research Conference:

Research in a Changing Landscape

Victoria, British Columbia,

November 15-18, 2006

Call for abstracts: deadline **June 9 2006**

Upcoming Faculty Presentations/Accepted Abstracts

Pesut, B.K., & Sawatzky, R. (May 2006). *Teaching spiritual care: Deconstructing the nursing process approach*. Accepted for presentation at the 1st Nurse Education International Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

Pesut, B.K. et al. *Symposium: Communicating around spiritual issues in healthcare*. European Association for Communication in Healthcare, Basle Switzerland, Sept 5-8, 2006

Pesut B.K. et al. *The ins and outs of spirituality in a healthcare context*. Workshop for Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh, PA, November, 2006.

Reimer Kirkham, S. *Considering the intersections of religion, spirituality, culture, and health*. The Vancouver Research Network for Spirituality and Healing, University of British Columbia, May 10, 2006.

Sawatzky, R., Ratner, P. A., Zumbo, B. D. (July 2006). Multidimensional measurement of life satisfaction: A story is found in the residuals. Accepted for presentation at the 7th Conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS), South Africa.

Brief overview of Sawatzky's upcoming presentation in South Africa

Many multidimensional life satisfaction instruments are based on the assumption that overall life satisfaction can be measured by averaging satisfaction scores pertaining to various areas of life. Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) has been widely used to test the implied indirect reflective measurement model (i.e., a second-order factor model). We used CFA to test Huebner's (2001) proposed measurement model for the 40-item Multidimensional Students' Life Satisfaction Scale (MSLSS) in a randomly selected sample of 8,200 adolescents in British Columbia. The MSLSS is designed to measure adolescents' satisfaction with their family, friends, living environment, school and self as the basis for obtaining an overall life satisfaction score. In this presentation we will compare the results of various methodological approaches and discuss a revised measurement model. Our ongoing analyses include the use of latent factor mixture models to examine sample heterogeneity as a possible explanation for our finding that the measurement model of the MSLSS was not supported in our sample. Please visit the following project page for further information ongoing updates on this project: <http://www.ricksawatzky.com/mslss>

TWU Nursing Scholarship: Spirituality and Health

TWU Nursing Department Program of Research

in Spirituality and Health...New!!

Visit our website at <http://www.twunursing.ca/web/research/spirit/spirit.html> to review an annotated bibliography of all publications by TWU nursing faculty on spirituality and health, and summaries of current research projects in this field.

Chiu, L., Emblen, J., Van Hofwegen, L., Sawatzky, R., Meyerhoff, H. (2004). An integrative review of the concept of spirituality in the health sciences. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 26(4), 405-428.

Emblen, J. & Pesut, B. (2001). Strengthening transcendent meaning: A model for the spiritual nursing care of patients experiencing suffering. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 19(1), 42-56.

Harwood, C., Drury, M., Van Hofwegen, L., Meyerhoff, H., & Emblen, J. (2002). Spiritual health interventions to restore meaning: Synopsis of conference proceedings. INPM Press.

Meyerhoff, H., Van Hofwegen, L., Harwood, C., Drury, M., & Emblen, J. (2002). Restoring meaning in life through spiritual nursing interventions. *Canadian Nurse*, 98(3), 21-24.

Pesut, B. (2006). Fundamental or foundational obligation? Problematizing the ethical call to spiritual care in nursing. *Advances in Nursing Science* 29(2), 124-133.

Pesut, B. (2005). *A philosophic analysis of the spiritual in nursing literature*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

Pesut, B. (2003). Developing spirituality in the nursing curriculum: World views, intrapersonal connectedness and interpersonal connectedness. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 24(6), 290-294.

Pesut, B. (2002). The development of nursing students' spirituality and spiritual caregiving. *Nurse Education Today*, 22, 128-135

Pesut, B. & Meyerhoff, H. (2005) When a student FAILS... *Journal of Christian Nursing*, 22(4), 28-33

Pesut, B. & Sawatzky, R. (in press). To describe or prescribe: Assumptions underlying a prescriptive nursing process approach to spiritual care. *Nursing Inquiry*, 13(2),

Reimer Kirkham, S., Meyerhoff, H., Pesut, B., & Sawatzky, R. (2004). Spiritual care-giving at the juncture of religion, culture, and state. *Canadian Journal of Nursing Research*, 36(4), 248-264.

Sawatzky, R., & Pesut, B. (2005). Attributes of spiritual care in nursing practice. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*, 23(1), 19-33.

Sawatzky, R. (2006). A meta-analysis of the relationship between spirituality and quality of life: A thesis proposal. In Wood, M.J. & Ross-Kerr, J. (eds.), *Basic steps in planning nursing research*. Boston: Jones & Bartlett.

Sawatzky, R. (2002). *A Meta-analysis of Spirituality and Quality of Life*. Unpublished masters' thesis. University of British Columbia.

Sawatzky, R., Ratner, P., and Chiu, L. (2005). A meta-analysis of the relationship between spirituality and quality of life. *Social Indicators Research*, 37(2), 153-188.