



OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing  
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A Passion for Nursing

# Nursing eNOTES

Your online newsletter about OHSU and nursing news.

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Portland Associate Professor Linda Felver, PhD, RN, gives a pharmacology lecture to undergraduate nursing students. Read about faculty life in the "[A Day in the Life](#)" story below. (Photo: Steve Hambuchen)

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## News

### Visiting Teacher Sees Contrasts between New Zealand and American Health Care Systems

By Lee Lewis Husk

New Zealanders don't say they have chronic illness. They have "lifelong conditions" according to Sarah Kooienga, PhD, FNP, assistant professor, who spent four months last year in the island nation and says chronic illness is a stigmatizing label. And instead of teaching a course, she gave a "paper" on the management of lifelong conditions at Massey University in Palmerston North, a north-island city of 80,000 people.

Despite the semantic differences, the 47-year-old McMinnville resident quickly adjusted and says the New Zealand academic culture readily opens itself to nurse educators from the United States and other countries.

Kooienga (pronounced koy-ING-ga), teaches half time in the OHSU advanced practice Family Nurse Practitioner program and works part time in a family practice clinic in West Linn. This past June through October, she took unpaid

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**"There's a desire in New Zealand for practice nurses – those who work in general practice – to care for people across the lifespan in rural settings and to improve their knowledge of chronic**

leave to teach graduate-level courses in Palmerston North, as well as Auckland on the north end of the North Island and Invercargill on the south end of the South Island.

illness.”

– Sarah Kooienga, PhD, FNP,  
assistant professor

Her salary came from tuition paid by the Ministry of Health (the government channel for funding health services), some district health boards and the students themselves. “I was recruited because New Zealand has few advanced practice nurses or nurse practitioners in the primary care sector,” she says. Instead, nurse practitioners tend to be specialty focused and based in the hospital or specialty clinics.

Outside the hospital system, most primary care nurses are employees of general practice physicians, who traditionally have resisted the practice nurses’ efforts to gain greater autonomy. “Nursing is in a different place in New Zealand,” Kooienga explains. “The employee/employer relationship in general practice hasn’t utilized nurses to their fullest potential, nor has it been particularly empowering.”

Besides teaching the intensive, three-day block course to practice nurses, she also spent time mentoring them. “There’s a desire in New Zealand for practice nurses – those who work in general practice – to care for people across the lifespan in rural settings and to improve their knowledge of chronic illness,” she says. As part of the national primary health care strategy, there is a movement for practice nurses to obtain postgraduate education and potentially become primary care nurse practitioners or family nurse practitioners as known in the U.S.

She visited several general practice groups and saw first-hand the strength of New Zealand’s primary health care system. “The country actually has a primary care system and a population-focused primary health care strategy – something we don’t have in the United States,” she states. Although health care is mostly government funded, primary care is a mixed pay model with a 60 percent of fees coming from the Ministry of Health and 40 percent from patients. Some services for people with one or more lifelong conditions, such as diabetes, are fully covered, she reports.

And in contrast with the United States where many primary care settings rely heavily on medical assistants and non-nurses, New Zealand physicians typically have three or four RNs in their practices – many with a defined physician/RN team.

Another difference she noted was the relaxed atmosphere of the work culture. She says it’s a slower pace there, and people who work together often play together. She also observed the islanders’ devotion to keeping the environment clean and green. “Coffee is served in a glass cup,” she says with admiration. “And they talk a lot about finding the proper balance between work and life.”

As with many people who spend time abroad and return home, Kooienga achieved new insight on her own culture. She appreciates the collegiality and respect American nurses have earned among their medical colleagues. “We can have autonomy in many settings, whereas our New Zealand counterparts are struggling to achieve that standing,” she says.

Another bonus of the American health care system is its consumer-driven or patient-centered care. “In primary care, we develop therapeutic partnerships with our patients. In New Zealand, the relationship is physician-driven, and GP practice is structured around a firm 10-minute appointment.”

So what conclusions did this American nurse draw? Global exchanges are beneficial. Blend the two health systems together, drawing on the strength of New Zealand’s established primary care system with America’s integration of nurse practitioners in primary care and the provision of patient-centered care.

And for nurse education Kooienga believes that chronic disease case management models could be taught at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

## Program Spotlight: Nursing Education Graduate Program

Nurse Educators are clinicians that are trained to help educate our future nursing population. As educators, they act as interpreters of future practice, coach and inspire students to appreciate change, and practice in a rapidly-evolving health care delivery system that requires new knowledge and skills.

The Nursing Education program at OHSU is a distance education program that offers a concentration in either gerontological nursing or community health nursing. As a future nurse educator, students will learn to facilitate clinical learning, develop competency statements for adult learners, design instructional environments, and use evaluation and assessment strategies. The program will allow students to enhance their ability to function as change agent and leader, implement the educator role, use new technologies in teaching, and provide leadership in population-based nursing care.

Degrees offered: MN, MS, PMCO. This program is offered as a distance-education program .

**Applications are still being accepted for this program. [Apply Online](#)**

**Learn more about the program, curriculum, and pre-requisites to apply:**

[Master of Science or Master of Nursing in Nursing Education with an emphasis in Community Health Nursing](#)

[Master of Science or Master of Nursing in Nursing Education with an emphasis in Gerontological Nursing](#)

[Contact the Office of Admissions...](#)

## A Day in the Life: Four OHSU Faculty Members Share Snippets of Their Jobs

By Lee Lewis Husk

What is a day like for faculty members at OHSU's School of Nursing? How do they approach education? What's the first week of school like? What do they hope to accomplish? Read the [Nursing Progress article](#) to explore snippets of the lives and approaches to teaching of four faculty members with diverse backgrounds, expertise and daily routines.

Featured faculty:

- Linda Felver, PhD, RN, associate professor at the Portland campus, is a personal trainer for the mind.
- Michelle Frazier, simulation specialist at the Ashland campus, is part casting director, creative artist, production coordinator and teacher.
- Carol Howe, DNSc, CNM, FACNM, director of midwifery program and interim director, Advanced Practice Nursing Programs on the Portland campus, is coach, mentor and eventually colleague.
- Gary Laustsen, PhD, FNP, assistant professor, is Renaissance man on the La Grande campus.



Photo: Steve Hambuchen

## The Bleich Blog: A Blog by Dean Michael Bleich

I welcome you to visit my new blog, [The Bleich Blog](#). I view this blog as a wonderful opportunity to build community and I welcome your response to and participation in the conversations. Below is a recent entry from *The Bleich Blog*. Again, welcome to the conversation.

– Michael Bleich, Dean

January 19, 2009

### [An OHSU SON First: Nurse Anesthesia Graduates](#)

It is with a great source of pride that OHSU restored an advanced practice nursing role after nearly 50 years of 'silence' in Oregon. On December 12, a recognition ceremony honored eight exemplary students who endured and surpassed the rigors of an exacting curricula preparing them for the world of anesthesia. Stephen Yermal, PhD, RN, CRNA and Douglas Arditti, MSN, FNP, CRNA were instrumental in guiding the students through the program - complemented by other faculty and preceptors who were equally critical in developing these competent practitioners. One of those faculty members, Linda Felver, gave the recognition address, which she did in "Linda" style - complete with props!

The nurse anesthesia program is nicely described in the 2008 SON magazine *Nursing Progress* for those who would like to read more about it ([download a copy](#)).

Congratulations to faculty, preceptors, families, and graduates for supporting each other throughout the development of the program and the launching of these nurse anesthetists into the workforce, where a shortage of CRNAs exists.

[Read More of the The Bleich Blog](#)

## Events & Announcements

### February 6-7, 2009: Northwest Environmental Health Conference at OHSU

The First Annual NW Environmental Health Conference brings together healthcare professionals – physicians, nurses, naturopathic physicians and public health practitioners – to deepen our understanding of environmental health, build knowledge of tools and resources and create a foundation for institutional and public policies that protect the health of our patients, employees and community. Leading scientists, researchers and healthcare professionals in the field of environmental health will stimulate robust dialogue on the impact of the environment on health and healthcare practices. OHSU School of Nursing faculty and students will be presenting at this event. Read the [event brochure](#) for more information.

### February 12, 2009: Annual Career Fair

The Alumni Association is hosting the Annual School of Nursing Career Fair on the Portland campus from noon to 3pm in the first floor lobby. Employers will be on hand from many area companies and hospitals to talk to students and any nurses looking to expand their careers.

### May 7, 2009: Meet the Dean Reception in Klamath Falls

Date and time for this event are to be announced. Check the school's [web site](#) for information as it is announced.

### May 12, 2009: 1919 Society Dinner

The inaugural Dean's Club 1919 Society Dinner will be held on May 12. The location and time are to be determined. This is an invitation only event for all donors who have made gifts of \$1000 and above to the School of Nursing over the last fiscal year.

### June 4, 2009: Reunion Brunch

This year the OHSU Alumni Association is hosting a reunion brunch on the Portland campus on the morning of graduation for all classes ending in a "4" or "9". More details will be coming soon. If your class is celebrating a reunion year (decade or half-decade) you still have time to plan a personal event around the reunion brunch. For



Photo: Steve Hambuchen

additional details, please contact Dana Solof at 503 494-4404 or [solofd@ohsu.edu](mailto:solofd@ohsu.edu).

### **No More Dues**

That's right, everyone who graduates is automatically in the Alumni Association!

### **OHSU School of Nursing Alumni are on Facebook**

Colin McInnes, past-president of the Alumni Association, has created a group on Facebook for all OHSU School of Nursing Alumni. Anyone can join. It's a great way to connect to former classmates and keep up-to-date on news and events. [Go to Facebook...](#)

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