Nursing Dynasty: O’Neill Family chooses EMU’s School of Nursing

The O’Neill family didn’t intend to start an Eagle nursing dynasty, but a trio of graduations certainly has the makings of one. Cousins Sean and Vincent O’Neill earned their bachelor of nursing degrees from Eastern Michigan University’s School of Nursing in 2012, and Sean’s younger brother Shane O’Neill followed suit in 2014. “Our family values love and compassion. Nursing is a career that allows us to utilize these values to the greatest potential,” said Shane, 23, whose career was inspired, in part, by the death of his (maternal) grandfather. “I was heartbroken when he passed. Although I was only 5 at the time, I knew then I wanted to enter the medical field; I wanted to make a difference in the lives of my patients and their families during tough times and let them know their loved one received the best care possible,” he said.

Another lasting impression was cast by the alumni’s paternal grandparents. “Our grandmother had a stroke in her 30’s. Our grandfather’s steadfast devotion to her needs and their happy marriage prove the difference that a caring attitude can make,” said Sean, adding his (paternal) grandparents have been married 61 years. “I hope to make that same kind of a difference in my patients’ lives; to lift their attitudes and make them smile,” added Vincent.

While compassion is a good starting point, a successful nursing career also requires proper training and education—benefits that Eastern’s School of Nursing provides in abundance, all said. “I investigated several universities; Eastern stood out because of its affordability and the faculty’s reputation for going above and beyond,” said Vincent, Sean agreed. “Eastern’s professors are incredible. They help students believe in themselves and give them the resources to succeed,” he said, adding that he still stays in touch with fellow students from his core-nursing group. “These are friendships that will last a lifetime,” he added.

Another selling point was the employability of EMU graduates, they said. “My wife’s sister, Anne, was a graduate of Eastern’s School of Nursing and got a good-paying job immediately after graduation, despite the economic recession,” said Vincent. “That made a huge impression on me as I considered careers.” Like Anne, all three O’Neills found work immediately after graduation. Sean and Shane work as registered nurses at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, with Sean in the medical intensive care unit and Shane in the cardiac thoracic progressive care unit. Vincent works as a registered nurse in the University of Michigan intermediate care unit. “It’s exciting and rewarding knowing that other family members are making a difference in the lives of others. It’s a great way for us to pass along the compassion that our family taught us,” said Shane. Having the same career also has brought the trio closer, they said. “Many of our conversations are a direct result of being in the same field,” said Sean. Will the dynasty continue? Shane and Sean are not currently married, but Vincent and his wife have two young daughters and a son. “Let’s just say, if any of my children show an interest in nursing, I won’t discourage them,” said Vincent.
Happy Spring!

Spring is such a beautiful time of the year in Michigan. Flowers start to bloom, trees blossom and the sun finally shines! It is a time of re-birth and re-energizing ourselves! Spring also means a slowing down in the School of Nursing as we offer fewer courses in the summer than Fall and Winter semesters!

The School, however, doesn't shut down completely. Our MSN students and PhD students continue to take classes. Our 2nd Degree students, and our 2+2 students continue through the summer semester. And our staff start working very hard on finalizing applications for the BSN and 2nd Degree BSN program to start Fall 2015!

One very special thing about Spring (and Summer) is that it gives me and the staff the time to catch up on strategic thinking and operational planning for the upcoming year. We have already selected orientation dates for incoming and returning students, we have planned the new faculty orientation day and the welcome picnic for new faculty, we have a new MSN student orientation planned for September 5th, and we are working to finalize the schedules for all courses in the Fall. Last summer, we had the opportunity to update the nursing skills lab and nursing health assessment lab on campus with new paint colors, new privacy curtains, and a thorough cleaning!

Last year, we were fortunate to start using the high-fidelity simulation lab at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor! Our junior and senior nursing students explored various scenarios on caring for a patient with heart failure, chronic lung disease, cardiac arrest and sepsis syndrome. This summer we plan to re-design 205 Marshall into a mini-simulation lab for our sophomore nursing students and for make-up clinical experiences for those you are ill or miss clinical. We also hired standardized gynecological and genitourinary models for our Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner program this year and will hiring standardized models for our graduate health assessment class. We continue to purchase new equipment for our skills lab so students have the most up-to-date materials on which to practice!

Rest assured, the School of Nursing continues to work through the Summer. If you're near campus, please stop in and say hello! If you are an alumni or friend of EMU School of Nursing, please send us an email with your experiences since graduating from EMU. We look forward to hearing from you!
**EMU SCHOOL OF NURSING**

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<th>Current Enrollment</th>
<th>607</th>
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<td>84% Female</td>
<td>16% Male</td>
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**Minority Enrollment**

| 25% BSN students | 37% MSN students |

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<th>Degrees Awarded 2014</th>
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<td><strong>BSN</strong></td>
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<td>22 Doctorates</td>
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<td>5 Faculty with administrative responsibilities</td>
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Simulation Goes to the Next Level

Simulation has been a part of nursing education for many years. Many of us “older” nurses remember going to our skills labs to simulate medication administration safety on “fake patients” and be graded on whether we performed all the steps correctly and in the correct order. We held our breaths until the instructor said “you passed!” We simulated an occupied bed with a manikin in the bed and just hoped he didn’t fall out of when we turned him over. Fortunately, simulation has improved!

Simulation, in the aerospace industry using flight simulators, makes the experience of flying for pilots as real life as possible. Students, and experienced pilots alike, use simulators to practice high risk procedures in the safe confines of a flight simulator. Simulation has expanded beyond flight simulators. Increasingly, high fidelity simulation is being used in nursing schools. It allows student’s a chance to practice complex situations without potential harm to real patients. As the Institute of Medicine report (cite) has noted, preventable medical (and nursing) errors occur far too often.

While EMU School of Nursing has used low fidelity simulation in our skills lab for many years, higher fidelity manikins, an updated simulated hospital room, medication dispensing machine and other updated equipment made its way to our skills lab over the past six years. Professor Julie Slack, Associate Director of the Nursing Learning Resource Center, literally opened the box of our high fidelity simulator and introduced it in our lab in 2008. Shortly thereafter, the School signed a contract with Elsevier to use its simulation scenarios and electronic health record. Since then, our simulation efforts have continued to expand.

In 2013, Eastern Michigan University partnered with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (SJMH) to develop a collaborative high fidelity state-of-the-art simulation suite. The simulation suite is a replica of in-hospital patient rooms, OR suites, and clinic/exam suites of the SJMH facility. This allowed a simulation to be incorporated across all levels of the curriculum. In Fall 2014, over 200 undergraduate nursing students began using the simulation lab. Nursing students in pediatrics, obstetrics, and medical-surgical courses experienced a variety of simulations to better prepare them for real life clinical scenarios. EMU nursing faculty, along with part-time lecturers, oversaw the simulations and debriefing. The SJMH simulation staff and director worked with the School to work through issues, provide training for faculty and part time lecturers and feedback to improve as we enter this new learning environment in full force.

Student feedback has been very positive, It does require more time in the student’s already busy schedule. We chose not to reduce clinical hours to add simulation at this time, so students must arrange 2 four-hour blocks of time over a semester to participate in the simulations. However these times are blocked out a semester in advance so students can plan for them. According to Kortez King, a Level 3 student stated “It was nice to have a simulation case which involved the patient dying. I went to clinical the next week and my patient was actively dying. Because I had just done the simulation on the dying patient, I felt more prepared for the death of my patient in clinical. I felt like I could interact with the family and the nurses during this time.” Julie Slack, MSN, RN, Associate Professor of Nursing noted “this has been a very exciting year in clinical nursing education at EMU. All students were provided on opportunity to practice a clinical scenario using the high fidelity simulator. Those students that were not in the active case were able to watch through live video feed to allow for their participation in the debriefing process.” “As the School continues to develop further expertise in simulation, we anticipate educational research will be conducted and disseminated from the Sim Lab,” says Michael Williams, Director of the School of Nursing.
On March 29th, 45 individuals were inducted to Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, Eta Rho Chapter. Demita Pursell, Eta Rho President presided over the induction. Sigma Theta Tau International is the undisputed honor society of nursing. Its founder chose the Greek words storgé, thárros, and timé, (STI) as they represent love, courage, and honor. The invited speaker, Gloria Velarde, MSN, RN, an EMU Nursing Alumni and current nursing professor at Washtenaw Community College to the values of the honor society and challenges inductees to remain true to these values throughout their careers. Students and community members invited to become members of Sigma Theta Tau represent the top 35% of their respective class, as well as their leadership abilities. The following students were inducted at the ceremony:

**BSN (Level 3) students:** Rebecca Biriiac, Heather Buchel, Anna-Maria Cerilli, Krystal Cline, Cassandra Conrad, Shaun Hale, Renne Marcarian, Maxie Mitchell, Nicole ROsenbrock, Eric Simoneaux, Adam Traud and Mark Walker.

**BSN (Level 4) students:** Andrew Deneen, Katelyn English, Ashley Heraty, Tamara Hunter, Anna Kleppe, Lindsey Smith and Lauryn Sykes.

**RN/BSN Completion students:** Shukri Ashaweh, Allan Beaton, Stephannie Bordner, Denise Bovee, Sherry Felts, Caryn Gerhard, Shelia Griffin, Maria Hammer, Sarah Harless, Anglea Kerchaert, Isacc Kosel, Karin Landt, Jennifer Long, Tara Martines, Jessica Moret, Melinda Morris, Cadelia Nicholas, Brad Olson, Laura Range, Michelle Silka, Darlene Slaughter, Aimee Smith, Monica Thomas, Monique Woods.

**MSN students:**
Melinda Russell

**Nurse leader:**
Deborah Collins-Bohler
Deanna Gapp, MSN, RN, student in the PhD Educational Studies/Nursing program presented her research as a poster at the 2015 Midwest Nursing Research Society. Ms. Gapp’s research interest focuses on the use of technology to aid in student learning. As a portion of her doctoral work, Ms. Gapp investigated “First Generation College Students and Mobile Device Acceptance,” using iPad Minis in both clinical and classroom settings.

Tina Thorton, MSN, RN, a student in the PhD Educational Studies/Nursing program presented her research as a poster at the 2015 Midwest Nursing Research Society in Indianapolis, IN. Ms. Thorton’s research focuses on “The Influences of Social Support among Male Nursing Students in a Baccalaureate Nursing Program. Ms. Gapp and Ms. Thorton’s mentor is Dr. Tsu-Yin Wu, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor from the School of Nursing.

EMU Undergraduate Symposium

On March 27, 2015, Eastern Michigan University hosted its 35th Undergraduate Research Symposium in the student center. Three EMU Nursing students participated in the research conference with their faculty sponsors.

- Sylvie Yaacoub, BSN student, presented “Early Exposure to General Anesthesia May Lead to Developmental Deficits in Pediatrics Patients.” Faculty mentor: Angela Lukomski, DNP, RN.

- Isabelle McCormack, BSN student, along with Anjali T. Martin, Maya Rich and Mary Perroatta, presented “Student Voices: When Do They Matter?” Faculty mentor: Jeffrey Bernstein, PhD, From Department of Political Science.

- Anna Kleppe, BSN student, along with Ashley Braun, Noel Dement, and Jennifer Flynn, presented “PediaTrac: An interdisciplinary Tool for Assessing Developmental Risk Factors in Infancy.” Faculty mentors: Dr. Renee Lajiness-O’Neal from Psychology, Dr. Angela Lukomski from Department of Political Sciences.

- Isabelle McCormack, BSN student, presented “Nursing Student Supports Students in Transition to Tobacco-Free Campus.” Faculty mentor: Julie Slack, MSN RN
Rising Star: From Nurse to Chief Operating Officer

Valerie Gibson's mother saw her star potential at a young age. “Mom would tell me, I see very strong leadership tendencies in you. Shine as bright as you can.” She inspired my work ethic,” says Gibson (BSN ‘82) who also recalls being interested in hospitals as early as 6 years. “I never played house--I played hospital, and would nurse sick dolls back to health,” she adds, chuckling.

Her inclination towards healing, coupled with natural leadership skills and a solid educational foundation provided by Eastern Michigan University's School of Nursing, helped to fulfill her mother’s prediction. Today, the alumna is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Summa Health System, an Akron, OH-based healthcare delivery system that includes four hospitals, a rehab facility, a cancer center, several free standing emergency centers, and outpatient facilities over three counties.

Gibson, RN, MSA and NE-BC, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the integrated healthcare system, which was ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top-performing hospitals in the country. She oversees about 9,000 employees, including partner organizations.

Great foundation

“Eastern’s School of Nursing provided a great foundation for my career. Professors were inspirational and class schedules were geared for working people,” she says, adding that she commuted to Eastern from St. Claire Shores and needed to take morning classes in order to work afternoon shifts. The industrious alumna often put in 18-hour days during the years she pursued her bachelor’s degree, she adds.

“One EMU professor in particular encouraged me to go on for my master’s degree,” recalls Gibson. “I was so tired at the time, that the prospect of more school seemed daunting, but she insisted, then told me to write her a letter after I graduated.” That seed of suggestion took root, and Gibson ultimately did earn a master's degree in health services administration from Central Michigan University. She also wrote the professor, thanking her for the inspiration.

As Gibson became more interested in the policy that drives administrative decisions, she continued to hone her leadership skills, graduating from Leadership Detroit. “I believe in quiet leadership, that actions speak louder than words, and that integrity is the key to a successful leader,” she says. “The best leaders are those who listen to those around them and work for the positive outcome of the organization, not for personal agendas. That's what I try to do.”

Wellness perspective

In 2008, Gibson, a Board-Certified Nurse Administrator, was appointed COO of Detroit Medical Center; Harper/Hutzel Hospitals. “One of my goals is to guide policy so that all departments see day-to-day operations from a patient’s point of view. Another goal is for our healthcare system to revolve around a population health model,” she says, referring to a philosophy that revolves around the wellness of an entire population and is geared to prevent health problems. “One of the things I love most about my job is the ability to influence change and move an organization forward. We can never afford to rest on our laurels,” she adds. Gibson and her husband, EMU alumni Mark Gibson (BS ’78), have been married for 28 years and have four children ranging from 16-26 years. “Mark and I are proud to be EMU alumni,” she says.
Faculty Publications, Presentations and Awards

Publications

**Laurie Blondy, PhD, RN**


**Sherry Bumpus, PhD, RN**


**Linda Myler, DNP, RN**


**Delbert M. Raymond III, PhD, RN**


Presentations

**Tsu-Yin Wu, PhD, RN**


**Laurie Blondy, PhD, RN**


Sherry Bumpus, PhD, RN


Marguerite DeBello, MSN, RN

DeBello, M. (2013, November). Parish Nursing: A holistic approach in providing nursing care to a congregation at the community level: Lessons learned. ______________


Sandra Hines, PhD, RN

Blakeslee, A., Hines, S., Primeau, S., McCaffery, R. (March 2013). Reading and Writing in Nursing Education: Reaching out to the Discipline and Profession (and interdisciplinary collaboration between WAV, the UWC, and the School of Nursing at EMU). Podium presentation at the Conference on College Composition and Communication Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

Angela Lukomski, DNP, RN
Cecil, J., Lukomski, A., & Lan, V. Does Nurse Handoff at the Bedside Promote Accountability? Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS)/March 2014. (First place)


Linda Myler, DNP, RN


Gerald Newberry, PhD, RN

Delbert M. Raymond III, PhD, RN

Kathleen Seurynck, DNP, RN

Julie Slack, MSN, RN
Slack, J. (2014). Lessons from Oz: Assuring Capabilities for Future Nursing Education & Practice: Lessons Learned from Incorporating Clinical Lab Skills and Simulation into a Concept Based Curriculum for a BSN Program. A poster presentation at the 40th Annual National Professional Nursing Education Group Conference, Kansas City, KS.

Awards

Linda Myler, DNP, RN
New Faculty Provost Award – Simulation for remediation of nursing students in the clinical setting.

Angela Lukomski, DNP, RN
Faculty Research Fellowship Award – PediaTrac: There’s an app for that!

Deborah Collins-Bohler, PhD, RN
New Faculty Provost Award – “The lived experience breast cancer survivors with lymphedema from diverse ethnic origins”.

Kathleen Seurynck, DNP, RN
New Faculty Provost Award – Evaluation of nursing students using objective structured clinical examination.

Award Winning Student

Kortrez King, Level 3 nursing student, and President of the Student Nurses Association for 2014-2015, was awarded the Gold Medallion Award from the Division of Academic and Student Affairs at the April 2015 Student Awards banquet. The Student Gold Medallion award received by Kortrez was the Eagle Ambassador. As the SNA President and proud EMU nursing student, Kortrez has unabashedly advocated for EMU and EMU students. Kortrez was also awarded a Road to Completion scholarship through the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation at EMU. Lastly, Kortrez was awarded a Toumy Scholarship from St. Joseph Mercy Health System in Ann Arbor, MI, where he works as a Patient Care Technician. Awesome students become awesome alumni! Congrats Kortrez!
On March, 18, 2015, Drs. Linda Myler and Kathy Seurynck took 27 students to the Michigan Nurses March hosted by the Michigan Nurses Association. These future nurses attended the educational sessions to better understand their role in the political process, embrace their power and learn from others advocating for themselves and their patients. As part of their coursework, students learn about the political process in NUR 375: Essentials of Professional Nursing II, but having this “field trip” experience and learning first hand was really a great opportunity for students. Along with other nurses from the state, these professors and nursing students “marched” to the Michigan Capitol to show their political clout.

Congratulations Are In Order!

Diane Fox, Associate Professor of Nursing has completed her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the Department of Leadership & Counseling at EMU. Dr. Fox’s dissertation topic was “Nurse Faculty Shortages: Perspectives from Deans and Directors of BSN Programs” Congratulations Dr. Fox!

Cecilia O'Connor, Full Time Lecturer in the School of Nursing has completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Michigan-Flint. Dr. O'Connor’s capstone project title was “Implementing CHADS2 Tool to Improve Documentation Rate by the Provider Group in a Multispecialty Family Clinic. Congratulations Dr. O'Connor!
Donors make a difference…

Please consider making a donation to support current EMU Nursing students’ educational experience. Your gift will be used for the School of Nursing to train exceptional nurses of tomorrow. Follow the link to make a gift: https://www.emich.edu/foundation/give/?fund=00448

Thank you!

Alumnus Faculty Visit

Dr. Cheryl Schmidt, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, recently stopped by EMU School of Nursing to see the changes that have occurred since she taught here as a pediatric faculty member from 1975-1983. Dr. Schmidt vividly remembered the then “Department of Nursing Education” and its home in King Hall. We have since become the School of Nursing and moved to the Marshall building in 2000. Dr. Schmidt is retiring this year from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences College of Nursing where she has distinguished herself as a nurse educator and leader. Since 2006, Dr. Schmidt has been actively studying nursing students’ preparedness for disasters. She has been an active member with the National Student Nurses Association and in working with U.S. veterans. Dr. Schmidt is seen here posing with a picture of herself from EMU with pediatric nursing students outside of the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital from the 1980’s. Dr. Schmidt is retiring this summer and moving to Phoenix! Thank you Dr. Schmidt for sharing your expertise with our students and hundreds of nurses over the years and best wishes on a well-deserved retirement!