Dr. Catherine Staes, Director of the Nursing Informatics specialty track, was awarded the Reed M. Gardner Award for Faculty Excellence for 2021. Students in the Department of Biomedical Informatics and Nursing Informatics specialty track created this award to acknowledge the achievements of faculty members in the areas of teaching, mentoring, and service to the departments. The award is given annually after a competitive nomination and decision process supervised by a committee of students. The late Dr. Reed M. Gardner was Emeritus Professor, and previous Chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics. A noted national...
leader in biomedical informatics, his primary academic and research interests were broad and groundbreaking, including hospital informatics systems, computerized medical decision-making, computerization of critical care, automation of clinical processes, medical informatics education, and public health informatics. He was one of the principal developers and evaluators of the medical expert system known as HELP (Health Evaluation through Logical Processing), and served as co-director of medical computing at LDS, Cottonwood, and Alta View Hospitals.

Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) selected the Gamma Rho Chapter to receive the 2021 Chapter Key Award. According to STTI President Dr. Richard Ricciardi, “This is recognized as quite an accomplishment given the extraordinary circumstances of the biennium. Additionally, as one of the highest scoring Chapter Key Award entries, Gamma Rho Chapter is being considered for the Ethel Palmer Clarke Founders Award for Chapter Excellence.” The Chapter Key Award, established in 1991, honors STTI chapters that excel in chapter-related activities such as membership recruitment and retention, publicity and programming, professional and leadership development; and local, national, and international collaboration.

Professional Development:

Graduates of the 2020-2021 Utah Health Equity Leadership & Mentoring (U-HELM) cohort include Drs. Siobhan Aaron, Kimberly Garcia, Youjeong Kang, and Maddie Lassche. The year-long U-HELM program provides mentoring and leadership development opportunities to junior faculty members and postdoctoral scholars from underrepresented populations in the health sciences, or who are involved in health equity research and practice.

Grant Award:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) awarded a 22-month $375,000 grant titled Great Plains Mountain GWEP Consortium on Resiliency in Long Term Care to the University of North Dakota Geriatrics Department. As Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) leaders in North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming, respectively, Principal Investigator (PI) Dr. Donald Jurivich, and Co-PI's Drs. Linda Edelman, Christine McKibbin, and Catherine Carrico organized themselves into the Great Plains – Mountain GWEP Consortium and will lead the project. In collaboration, they will develop GWEP partnerships with long term care (LTC) facilities and community-based organizations to improve health outcomes of LTC residents; develop curriculum and train LTC staff, family members, and community workers on resident-centered and age-friendly care, including training about COVID-19 vaccines, pandemic-driven behavioral and mental health issues, and health disparities; provide links to community resources for nursing home residents and family members; and create training modules regarding health disparities in HRSA region 8, and COVID-19 management and treatment in nursing homes. Dr. Edelman will serve as site program director for Utah Geriatric Education Consortium activities; ensure that deliverables are met; participate in Consortium planning, program development, implementation and evaluation; and lead evaluation activities in partnership with the U Health Clinical & Translational Science Institute.
Presentation:

Dr. Linda Edelman will facilitate a webinar titled *Fostering Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in Geriatrics: Two Stories of Change*. Dr. Anna Goroncy will present *An Introduction to Anti-racism and Terminology*, and Monica Long and Barbara Gordon will present *Examples of Institutional Change and Community Impact*. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar, which is scheduled for September 16, 2021 at 2 PM MDT.

Publications:


Wallace AS, Luther BL, Sisler SM, Wong B, Guo J. Integrating social determinants of health screening and referral during routine emergency department care: Evaluation of reach and implementation challenges. *Implement Sci Commun.* In Press. DOI: [10.21203/rs.3.rs-327585/v1](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-327585/v1)


In Other News:

The Lamp of Learning ceremony was held on August 31. The ceremony is a tradition in which we recognize incoming pre-licensure students and acknowledge their decision to enter the profession of nursing. Maddie Marshall – Student Services Pre-Licensure Program Manager – planned and directed the ceremony. Our Fall 2021 pre-licensure cohort and their invited family and friends met in the Student Union Ballroom for a meaningful evening that included hearing from Dean Marla De Jong, Dr. Sharifa Al-Qaaydeh, Dr. Valerie Flattes, Dr. Amanda Eckersley (President of the Alumni Association; Member of the Dean’s
Advancement Board), Chris Sneddon, and Dr. Melody Krahulec. Carrie Radmall, Angel Burton, Kristen Mahoney, Mike McIntosh, Korinne Pickett, Mindy Francis, and Vianney Alcala supported Maddie and the event.

The University Sophomore Rise Celebration was held on the J. Willard Marriott Library Plaza. Carrie Radmall, Savannah Manwill, and Dean Marla De Jong were there congratulating students on their return to campus, and speaking with pre-nursing students about the pre-licensure and nursing early assurance tracks, pre-requisite courses, and the application process. Students also enjoyed free lunch and received a T-shirt.

Peter Lichtenberg, 2022 President of the Gerontological Society of America, appointed Dr. Kara Dassel to serve on the GSA Program, Publications, and Products Committee. Beginning in January 2022, Dr. Dassel will serve a 2-year term. The role of the committee is to 1) organize and oversee the scientific and professional program for meetings of the Society; 2) assist the Society and its staff with advancing the Society's publications program; 3) build new products and/or services to improve the value of current membership and attract new markets; and 4) support the strategic plan by recommending strategies and policies to strengthen the Society's programs, publications, and products.

In the Media:

Dr. Valerie Flattes was featured in The City Journal – South Salt Lake's Own Community Newspaper (August 2021, page 11), announcing her appointment as the inaugural Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and describing her career.

Dr. Kathie Supiano wrote a guest post titled Coping with Grief while Coping with the Pandemic for the College of Social Work’s interACTION Blog. Posted on Grief Awareness Day, Dr. Supiano wrote, “Healthy grief requires attention to the loss of the one who died and attention to the tasks of living.”

Caring Connections Board members Beth Cole, Carrie Pike, and Sherry Poulson reunited to create grief teddy bears for family members of the American service men and women who lost their lives in the suicide bombing attack at the airport in Kabul, Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.