2013 Alumni Awards and Recognition Reception

Thursday November 7, 2013
Magnolia Room
The Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center at Meadowmont
5:30 p.m.

Program

Welcome
Roulhac Johnson, ’00
President SON Alumni Association

Presiding
Dean Kristen M. Swanson, RN, PhD, FAAN

Remarks
Elizabeth Coble, Eunice Morde Doty Scholar

Alumni Awards Presentations
2013-2014 Alumni Awards Committee
Robin Harper, ’86
Phyllis Justus, ’81
Kay Slattery, ’62

Remarks
Lisandro Hernandez Perez,
Cronenwett Global Health Scholar

Honorary Alumna of the Year
Debra J. Barksdale, PhD, FNP-BC, ANP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN

Dr. Debra J. Barksdale is an associate professor and director of the DNP program at UNC-Chapel Hill. She is certified as a family nurse practitioner (NP), an adult NP, and a nurse educator. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the American Academy of Nursing. In addition, she was also a Department of Health and Human Services Primary Health Care Policy Fellow. Dr. Barksdale is President of the prestigious National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). She is also a member of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows 2011 Cohort.

On September 23, 2010, Dr. Barksdale was one of 19 members appointed to the 21 member Board of Governors for the new Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) by the U.S. Government Accountability Office under the Obama Administration. She is the only nurse appointed to the PCORI Board. In 2012, she was reappointed for six more years. She chairs the PCORI Scholarly Publications Committee and is a member of the Communication, Outreach, and Engagement Committee of the Board of Governors.

Dr. Barksdale’s research focuses on stress and cardiovascular disease in Black Americans. Specifically, she studies the relationships among contextual and psychological factors, physiological stress responses and blood pressure. Her current work explores the underlying hemodynamic determinants of hypertension, particularly sleep blood pressure and sleep total peripheral resistance, and the cortisol awakening response. Her study “Hypertension in Black Americans: Environment, Behavior, and Biology” was funded by the National Institutes of Health. She also is a member of the Steering Committee for the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and the SON’s Biobehavioral Laboratory Scientific Advisory Board.

As a clinician, Dr. Barksdale currently practices as a volunteer nurse practitioner at the Robert Nixon Clinic for the homeless in Chapel Hill. She has over 20 years of NP experience and has been a NP in urgent care, primary care, home care and care of the underserved. She was the administrative director for Medlantic Med+Care a clinic of the Washington Hospital Center Network in Washington D.C. and co-director of Imani, a faith-based nurse-managed clinic in Detroit, MI.
Distinguished Alumna

Robin Knobel, PhD '06

Robin Knobel, PhD, RN is an assistant professor at Duke University School of Nursing (DU SON), where she teaches in the graduate nursing programs. Dr. Knobel practiced as a neonatal nurse and neonatal nurse practitioner for 28 years prior to becoming a nurse scientist. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on basic physiologic processes related to thermoregulation and perfusion in extremely premature infants. She is currently studying body temperature in 30 infants. Her work is funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is the past chapter president of Beta Epsilon Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society (2011-2013) and the 2013-2014 Chair of the American Nurses Foundation Grant Review Committee.

Dr. Knobel has demonstrated excellence in her program of research, and has received recognition at the national level for the significance and impact of her work. The results from her first study, describing the intervention of placing infants in polyurethane bags during delivery room resuscitation continues to be the paper with the most significant impact and the study which has been her most significant contribution to neonatal healthcare to date. These seminal findings, along with study results from her Canadian colleagues were instrumental in urging the AAP to change national guidelines in the 2006 American Academy of Pediatrics Neonatal Resuscitation Program manual (Fifth Edition, 2006).

Dr. Knobel has demonstrated excellence in teaching. Her teaching efforts have concentrated on imparting knowledge and experience related to research and neonatal nursing. She strives to mentor students at every level and encourage nurses to continue ongoing education, while attempting to increase those involved in nursing research in order to generate new knowledge and increase the nursing faculty workforce.

Dr. Knobel demonstrates excellence in service at the local, regional and national levels. Within the local level at the DU SON, she has affiliated with the Masters and PhD program committees since 2008 and served as a member of the Admissions committee for the Master's program committee. At the state level and as a nursing leader, she served as President of Beta Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, International Nursing Honor Society from 2011-2013. At the national level, her research expertise has allowed her to contribute to grant awarding organizations, as current Vice Chair of the American Nurses Foundation Grant Review committee and prospectively as elected Chair for ANF Grant Review.

Graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D.) Award

Leslie Davis, BSN, '85, MSN, '80, PhD, '11

Leslie Davis, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FAANP, FNHA, is an assistant professor of nursing at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dr. Davis completed her doctoral studies in nursing in August 2011 at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her dissertation focused on women’s decisions to seek care for symptoms of acute coronary syndrome. Prior to starting her doctoral program, she was a clinical associate professor at the School of Nursing at UNC-Chapel Hill. She taught both undergraduate and graduate level nursing courses for nearly 20 years. Since graduation, she has served as an adjunct clinical associate professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing.

Since 2000 she has maintained a part-time clinical practice as a nurse practitioner in the outpatient cardiology clinic at UNC-Chapel Hill. As a clinician, she has focused her care on patients with hypertension, chronic heart failure, and acute coronary syndrome. Dr. Davis’ 2004 book, Cardiovascular Nursing Secrets, won the American Journal of Nursing’s Critical Care Book of the Year award. She also has authored and coauthored book chapters and articles in journals such as the American Journal of Critical Care, Circulation, Heart and Lung, the Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Progress in Cardiovascular Nursing, Dimensions of Critical Care, and The Nurse Practitioner Journal. She currently is serving as a guest editor for a special edition of The Journal for Nurse Practitioners, which will focus on cardiovascular issues. The special edition is scheduled to be published in November of this year.

Among her other achievements, Dr. Davis has served on the American Heart Association (AHA) task force/writing group for the “Improvement of Care in ST-Segment Elevation MI Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Intervention”; has served as chair for a specialty continuing education series on cardiovascular topics for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) in 2010 and 2011; and served on the AHA National Go Red for Women” Task Force in 2012. She is currently serving as faculty chair for a group lecture series on Hypertension for the AANP; and also works with the Million Hearts Initiative to implement evidence-based protocols for NPs and other health care providers nationwide. Dr. Davis’ honors since graduation in 2011 include being selected as a “Great 100 Nurse of NC” in 2011, being inducted as a fellow in the AANP, and, most recently, she was selected as an AHA fellow.

Carrington Award for Community Service

David Oehler, BSN, ’96, MSN, ’00

David Oehler is the administrator for New Hanover Regional Medical Center’s (NHRMC) Orthopedic Hospital at the Cape Fear Campus. He leads over 600 employees in providing quality care for over 50,000 emergency, surgical, and medical patients annually. Prior to his current position, Mr. Oehler served as the NHRMC Orthopedic Service Line Director for 6 years and helped lead the Orthopedic program to earn a Specialty Center Designation as well as quality and service awards from national agencies.

Oehler has held previous roles within NHRMC since 2000. Those roles include administrative resident, human resource recruiter, vitaline and endoscopy staff nurse, nursing supervisor, and the hospital’s first Administrative Operations Officer.

Before arriving in Wilmington, Oehler earned his master’s degree in Healthcare Administration in 2000 from UNC-Chapel Hill while working as an emergency room nurse at Duke University’s Trauma Center. He earned his bachelor’s degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1996 and began his nursing career in pediatric ambulatory care.

David enjoys coastal living in Wilmington, NC with his wife Susan and 2 daughters Lauren and Lindsey. In addition to land and sea recreation, they are avid supporters of American Red Cross, United Way, the NHRMC Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Sharing Our Bounty (a charity that provides donated furniture to needy families in Wilmington), Habitat for Humanity, and other church-sponsored mission work. This year, David is helping organize, solicit donations, select projects, and direct ‘Work on Wilmington’ – a project that will utilize up to 1,800 community volunteers to work for one day on projects at local schools and non-profits. David’s mother and step-mother are both advanced practice nurses and his mother was a UNC nursing graduate and previous recipient of SON Alumni of the Year award. Susan and David’s daughter, Lauren, is currently studying at UNC-Chapel Hill and hopes to be the next family member to walk and learn the halls of Carrington.

Distinguished Alumnus

Robert Dodge, BSN, ’91

Robert Dodge is a clinical associate professor of medicine at the UNC School of Medicine and clinical director of the HIV/STI Clinic at Wake County Human Services in Raleigh, NC. Also, he is an adjunct assistant professor at the UNC-Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy. He is the HIV/AIDS senior clinical advisor at IntralHealth International.

Dr. Dodge holds a diploma in nursing from St. Joseph’s College of Nursing in Syracuse, NY, a BSN from UNC-Chapel Hill, an MSN/Adult Nurse Practitioner in HIV/ Oncology from Duke University; and a doctoral degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Dr. Dodge has been working to some degree in the field of HIV/AIDS since 1992 through clinical care, education, research, and administration. His clinical experiences range from public health to private institutions. He has participated in the educational training of nurses, physicians, and pharmacists alike, and he has guided research ideas and clinical trials that have created new approaches to practice.

Dr. Dodge has received numerous accolades, honors, and awards for his commitment in the field of HIV/AIDS. He was awarded the Certified HIV/AIDS Nurse of the Year award in 2009; the Joanne Fizzi Achievement Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice in HIV Care in 2010; Cambridge Who’s Who Professional of the Year Infectious Disease Medicine in 2010; and the Frank Lamendola Achievement Award for Nursing Leadership in HIV Care in 2011. His scholarship as an HIV/AIDS clinician has led him through multiple publications and presentations. He currently serves (2013-2015) as President-Elect for the HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board. He recently served (2009-2013) as a member of the DHHS Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel.