

# Kw'selktnéws

## School of Nursing Newsletter

April 2024 (Issue #3)

## Message from the BScN Chair

Dear SON Community,

As we celebrate the accomplishments of another academic year, it is with great excitement that we witness our year 4 students graduating and preparing to embark on their clinical practice journeys. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to these graduates and wish them success in their professional endeavors.

This year has been marked by outstanding interprofessional collaboration between the TRU School of Nursing (SON) and Royal Inland Hospital (RIH), particularly in the realm of maternal and code blue simulations. The department offered, further IPE opportunities through a collaborative unfolding case activity with Respiratory Therapy students and NURS 4380 Nursing students. We piloted a collaborative educator position with RIH to support students, preceptors, and faculty. The experience has been very positive for all, and we will be seeking continued funding for such roles.

Our engagement with RIHs educator team has been fruitful, culminating in an upcoming event in May that will gather practice partners from across Interior Health to assess our collaborative efforts, identify areas for enhancement, and explore new clinical opportunities. Additionally, we extend gratitude to our Wellness Committee for organizing the "Straight From the Heart" fundraising event, which raised \$1487 for the Owyn McInnis Memorial Fund.

In recognizing the exceptional achievements of our faculty, I am delighted to announce recent accolades received by members of our community. Congratulations to Michelle Borgland for receiving the President's Distinguished Teacher Award, Dr. Florriann Fehr for the Faculty Excellence Award, and Renee Anderson for the BCcampus Award for Excellence in Open Education. Additionally, I would like to thank those who nominated me for the 2024 TRU Chair Leadership Award – it was not expected, but greatly appreciated! We also say goodbye and happy retirement to our longstanding faculty colleague Joyce O'Mahoney and wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life.

The dedication and enthusiasm of our students have been exceptional this year, with numerous engaging events organized by student groups such as the Nurses Undergraduate Society (NUS) and Canadian Nursing Students' Association (CNSA). Notable activities include the Teddy Bear Clinic, stem cell donation tables, study nights, clothing orders, back-to-school BBQ, and the annual Nurses Ball. The launch of a peer mentorship program has been particularly successful, fostering meaningful connections between BSN students across different levels.

We're continuing with our international activity. This year we hosted students from Norway, and also sent students to Denmark and Nepal for study abroad! This spring we have another group of students travelling to Nepal (Dhulikhel Hospital) CPE 3 practicum. This is the 2nd year for the renewed partnership and lots of excitement for all involved.

In closing, our recruitment efforts have been productive, with all First-Year seats for Fall 2024 now filled following successful recruitment days and Open House events with local school districts. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the growth and success of our department this year.

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**Steven Ross RN, BSN, MN**



# News From Our Programs

## Nursing Students meet with Royal Inland Hospital

On November 29, 2023, fourth year nursing students were able to attend an event in the Nursing Population Health building to meet with various individuals from Royal Inland Hospital. Approximately 120 people attended the event consisting of: students, Preceptors, Directors, Managers, Patient Care Coordinators, Clinical Practice Educators, Clinical Resource Nurses, TRU Faculty, Interior Health PPO staff, British Columbia Nurses Union (BCNU) stewards, staff from External Recruitment, and members of the RIH Foundation.

The goal of the event was to foster meaningful connections between students, their preceptors, and the RIH Leadership team before students entered their final practicums in January. The event provided opportunities to increase networking and information sharing among all the various individuals present.

“It provided me with an opportunity to meet my preceptor, unit PCC, and manager well in-advance. It assisted me to feel confident and supported. It was very useful as I met with interdisciplinary teams to understand the roles of different disciplines and support systems in place as a new grad.”

-Yr.4 BScN student Kulvir Moudgil



## Priority Health Grants for Healthcare Programs at TRU



In December 2023, it was announced that TRU students in Kamloops, Williams Lake or Open Learning (online distance education) in select healthcare programs would be eligible for Priority Health Grants up to \$5,000 per program year. Programs included at this time are Open Learning's Medical Lab Assistant Certificate program and the in-person Respiratory Therapy Diploma program.

Additionally, Indigenous prospective students for the Practical Nursing Diploma program or the Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner program can receive anywhere between \$5,000 to \$10,000 in grants towards their education. Further, all nursing students in Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Practical Nursing (PN) programs will receive a tuition credit of \$2,000 each year for the three-year period between September 2023 and August 2026.

## Dual Credit Opportunities in Williams Lake



Welcome to the Dual Credit students from School District #27! The students attended an orientation to the Health Care Assistant program at Williams Lake Campus on January 29th. They will be utilizing the wonderful campus facilities while working on the HCA program through Open Learning. Thank you to Learning Commons and Student Support Coordinator Nirach Suapa for providing the students with an orientation to the supports available at TRU. We wish the students all the best as they complete their studies!

-HCA/PN Chair, Kim Morris

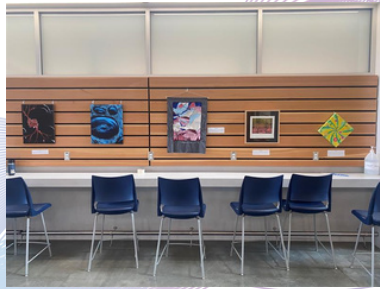


# News From Our Programs

## Nursing Showcases Graduating Visual Arts Artwork

During February 7th-9th, samples of artwork by the graduating class of 2024 from the Visual Art Department were on display in the School of Nursing atrium. All artwork was available for sale, with any additional donations going towards funding the year end exhibition.

Some of the named artists were: Shoshana Wilson, Emily Hinds, Adrian Romeo, Renee Thomas, Siddhesh Chikane, Morgan Jr. Tinsley, and Fae Lyn Eden.



## Nursing Teams Up with Education and Social Work

On February 16, the School of Nursing collaborated with the Faculty of Education and Social Work to host a special event on campus for students. A free breakfast was available to students, with various door prizes, photo booth, and talented guest speaker Gurdeep Pandher. More information on Gurdeep Pandher can be found on his website: <https://gurdeep.ca/>



All images taken by Kim Anderson Photography

## School District 73 Comes to TRU

On February 22, School District 73 high school students came to TRU to get introduced to the worlds of Respiratory Therapy and Nursing. There were 61 students from grade 10, 11 and 12 attended the Discovery Day event.

Split into two groups, the students rotated through various activity stations in the Nursing and Population Health building labs, as well as in the Science building Respiratory Therapy labs. Additionally, students got to meet with Interior Health representatives to discuss other career opportunities in the health care industry, encouraging students to take different careers into consideration in their future studies.

"It has opened my eyes to different careers that I hadn't thought of before"

-Anonymous student





# Celebrating Success

## Teddy Bear Clinic

On February 19th, the Kamloops Year 4 Nursing students teamed up with the Canadian Nurses Student Association (CNSA) to host a special event for children in the community. The goal of the event was to make medical care less intimidating for children by allowing them to use their teddy bears as patients.

Students guided the children through various stations and demonstrated nursing care. This experience helped students gain experience working with the pediatric population, gain hands-on skills in a fun and interactive setting, in addition to receiving participation certificates that could be used when applying for pediatric placements. It was reported that about 30 families participated in the event, along with 17 nursing student volunteers.



## 2024 Merit Award Winners

Every year TRU faculty and staff make extraordinary contributions that change the lives of our students, colleagues and wider community for the better. Through a process involving peer nominations and review, committees from the Research Office, the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT), and People and Culture recommend a few for special recognition.

This year we are proud to announce two award recipients from the School of Nursing:



Michelle Borgland

-Michelle Borgland who received the President's Distinguished Teacher Award

-Dr. Florriann Fehr who received the Faculty Excellence Award



Florriann Fehr



# Celebrating Success

## Nursing Supporting Local Nonprofit Organizations

On February 24, nursing students participated in a walk to raise money for The Mustard Seed, a local nonprofit organization that helps support people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. 10 students and their instructor participated in the event, along with several members of city council. A total of \$976 was raised.



## Learner of the Month of March



Congratulations to Interior Health's Learner of the Month and our very own 4th year BScN student, Taylor Bachmier. Taylor was nominated by her fellow c-workers on Royal Inlands Pediatric Outpatient Clinic for: her pleasant and engaging attitude with the patient population, her family centered approach with patient care, her openness to learning of all experiences, and specifically going above and beyond to try and help find credible resources in a different language for a family whose first language was not English.

## Did You Know?

### School of Nursing has Open Learning Certificates

There are five certificate courses that can be taken through TRU's Open Learning division:

1. Health Care Assistant Certificate
2. Interprofessional Mental Health Practice Certificate
3. Interprofessional Substance Use Practice Certificate
4. Return to Registered Nurse Practice Certificate
5. Senior Living Management Certificate



More information about these programs can be found at [tru.ca/distance/programs.html](https://tru.ca/distance/programs.html)

# New Faces and New Roles



Welcome to the new Learning Strategist, **Jaspreet Kaur**, who began in her position on January 8th. Jaspreet completed a graduate degree in education from TRU in 2019 and began working soon after at the TRU Writing Center. She then moved to Enrollment Services. Jaspreet is currently completing her Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology with Yorkville University.

Her background knowledge, and experience, from both departments makes her ideal to support students in identifying appropriate student services that they could access, assist with admission applications, and/or help students navigate TRU regulations and processes. She can be reached at 250-371-5536. Her office is on the 3rd floor (342 – near the back, by the window).



Welcome to **Gina Guerrero**, who has accepted the position of Academic and Administrative Coordinator, Practicum Experiences on February 15, 2024. The focus of this role will be on supporting the MN-NP program and MN program review.

Many of us know Gina from her previous engagements with the SON. In addition to familiarity and relationships within the SON, Gina brings a strong background in administrative support across TRU and within the Interior Health Authority, as well as her experience as an Admissions and Registration Officer with TRU.

Fluent in English and Spanish, Gina has a keen interest in continued learning opportunities, influencing her in completing her bachelor's degree in business and human resources with a minor in leadership.



As of March 1st, **Dr. Tracy Christianson** will assume the role of Interim Associate Dean, SON for a 10 month period. This means SON will have two Associate Deans. Dr. Tracy Hoot will continue in her AD role with focused work in the OL, HCA, & PN programs, and Dr. Tracy Christianson will work with the BScN, MN, & MN-NP Program.

Dr. Christianson has been with the SON full-time since 2007 with a long association dating back to 1992. She brings more than 30 years of nursing practice and teaching experience. During her tenure she has held many formal and informal leadership positions including serving as a senator and faculty representative on the TRU Board of Governors. Her varied and vast experiences in nursing education and the SON will be an asset in this interim capacity. Her academic interests are in nursing education, gerontology, and rural health issues and has completed many research projects and publications similarly related.



As of April 8th, **Kate Jagodzinska**, will be taking over as temporary Program Advisor for a 18 month period. Kate brings a rich tapestry of skills and expertise to our collective. Currently pursuing a master's in nursing with a focus on Education & Leadership at Athabasca University, Kate exemplifies a commitment to continuous learning and professional growth.

Since April 2022, Kate has been a valuable member of the school of nursing as a simulation technician. She has also served as a sessional Instructor for the TRU HCA Program. We are also fortunate to continue to tap into her simulation expertise as that team rebuilds.

*Welcome & Congratulations*



# News From SIM Center

## Partnership Focus -Supporting Interior Health Education Day

The simulation team supported interior health's education day on February 22nd by providing workshop presentations. This activity goal was to build further relationships with the interior health education team. The event offered a variety of learning opportunities, depending on your learning needs. "Stations" were visited in 30-minute intervals and there were 13 stations to choose from.

- Michael Lundin presented:
  - Peer Observation & Coaching – peer observation as a tool for professional development, tips & tricks to support coaching conversations.
- Jaimie Gallaher presented:
  - Hot Debriefing – What is it and why do we do it, tools to support the conversation.

The event and presentations were well received, and further relationship building occurred with IH sim, IH education, and UBC-O



Jaime Gallaher and Michael Lundin



## Kudo's to Renee and Jaime for: Virtu-WIL Program

75 BSN students in 2nd and 3rd year participated in a virtual simulation session consisting of 3 virtual simulations and 3 group debriefings sessions. The debriefs were either in person or done virtually. All students that completed the program received \$250 for their participation and the school itself received a monetary payment for their role in the Canadian wide program put on by the Colleges and Institutes Canada: <https://www.collegesinstitutes.ca/programs/virtu-wil/>

The feedback from the students was incredibly positive and they acknowledged that the debriefs were incredibly rich and consolidated their learning from the simulations. The faculty who also participated were able to grow their skills around best practices in virtual simulation debriefing and insight as to what virtual simulations landed best with their students which will help inform future integration of virtual simulations into our current curriculum.

We regret to announce the departure of Biomedical Engineering Simulation Technician Hiren Nayee. His last day was March 6th. Hiren had chosen to accept a similar position at Mount Sinai Hospital to be closer to his family. Hiren's dedication and proactive approach will be greatly missed. We all extend our best wishes to him as he embarks on his new adventure.

GOODBYE!

## Global Health Committee

The Global Health Committee at the School of Nursing is a dynamic and collaborative platform dedicated to advancing awareness, education, research, and action on global health issues within the nursing community. Comprising faculty members with a passion for global health, the committee fosters a culture of engagement, empathy, and advocacy for health equity worldwide.

Some of our previous international practicum placement initiatives included Belize, Samoa, Lesotho, Nepal, and Thailand. This consolidated nursing practice experience is designed to provide opportunities for participants to integrate learning from previous semesters, and to advance their clinical decision-making in an international nursing context. Participants have traveled to a selected international site to practice nursing in a variety of settings which have and may include, acute care, community, and primary care settings. Students can utilize this experience in place of Consolidate Practice 3.

The Committee also fosters global health awareness among TRU faculty and students by collaborating with TRU World and the TRU International Mobility Working Group. We have collaborative partnerships with International Nursing Associations. Our committee is working on future incentives which include faculty exchanges with other practice-partnered institutions and exploring and connecting with practice partners in the Northern part of Canada.

Additionally, we are exploring a partnership with UBCO who have an established practicum in Ghana and Zambia. In Ghana, this global health practice experience is a community development-type experience and therefore students will also have the opportunity to gain insight into global health issues, and cultural safety, using a bottom-up, grassroots approach to change, group dynamics, and teaching.

Through its multifaceted approach, the Global Health Committee at the School of Nursing plays a vital role in fostering a culture of global health awareness, competence, and action within the nursing community, ultimately contributing to improved health outcomes and equity on a global scale.

### Members of the Global Health Committee

In order: Chairperson Michelle Borgland, Dr. Tracy Hoot, Shari Caputo, Laurel Macgray, Heather Correale, Jenni Mason, Lisa Dyck





# Student Voices - Reflections on our journey

Doing my first two years of the BScN program in Williams Lake was a very informative experience for me. I got the opportunity to establish meaningful connections with instructors and other faculty members on this campus. With there only being 20 students in my cohort, we were able to turn to one another for help when it became necessary.

My experience in Williams Lake differs from the students in Kamloops because the Williams Lake campus does not offer everything that the Kamloops campus does. However, we got equal opportunity to be a part of organizations and clubs hosted in Kamloops by keeping up to date on social media updates.

I really look forward to moving to Kamloops for the last two years of the program. In Kamloops, students have a greater chance to engage in hands-on learning within the simulation lab and secure various clinical placements. We will get the opportunity to network with other nursing students and faculty. I eagerly look forward to finishing this program and being able to work as an RN.

-Lukhvir, 2nd year BScN student

Dear fellow students,

This is Priya, a second-year practical nursing student at TRU, Williams Lake. As a nursing student, I embark on a journey filled with challenges, growth, and countless rewarding moments. From the exhilarating rush of class, lab simulations, and clinicals to late night studies and assignments fueled by the determination and passion to become a competent and compassionate caregiver.

Throughout my time in university, I have had the privilege of learning from dedicated faculty members who inspire us to strive for excellence in our practice. I have had the opportunity for hands-on experience, honing my skills and cultivating the confidence to provide quality care to patients.

As I continue this journey, I want to embrace every opportunity for growth, learning, and making a difference in the lives of others.

-Priya, PN student

I am currently wrapping up the final semester of the Practical Nursing Program at TRU. It has been a long two years of school, but I have felt a significant amount of support from my classmates and instructors along the way. When I found myself struggling with how to write a paper, or with Math, the Library staff was a great resource for additional support.

All of the staff at TRU have been nothing but amazing, helpful, knowledgeable, and supportive. I wish you the best in your future programs at TRU!

-Kayla, PN student

I felt compelled to reach out and express my heartfelt gratitude for the enriching lab experience provided during NURS 3643.

The unanimous feedback from my peers and myself is one of great appreciation for the exceptional learning journey we embarked on together. The lab experience was insightful and will undoubtedly be a highlight in our academic records that we will cherish for years to come. The encouragement and wise counsel Faculty and Staff offered has spurred us on to embrace our upcoming student placements with renewed vigor and determination.

As I look forward to future learning opportunities, I carry with me not only knowledge but also gratitude. Please continue to extend your support to internationally educated nurses like myself; your dedication and excellence are truly inspiring.

I am proud to be a part of Thompson Rivers University's Nursing community and am excited for what the future holds. Once again, thank you for this unparalleled opportunity.

-Adonis, RRNP student

# Newsletter Content Submissions

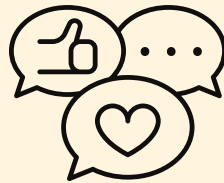
## Share your accomplishments!

If anyone has important or exciting news they would like shared in the SON newsletter, they are welcome to send their information to **nursing@tru.ca**.

**Kw'seltktnéws - We are all related and interconnected  
with nature, each other, and all things.**

## Feedback/Suggestions?

The SON welcomes any feedback or suggestions on this newsletter. Please send ideas, suggestions, or improvements to **nursing@tru.ca**.



## Social Media - Instagram

Don't forget to follow the School of Nursing @trunursing!



Kukwstéc-kucw ("We thank you!")