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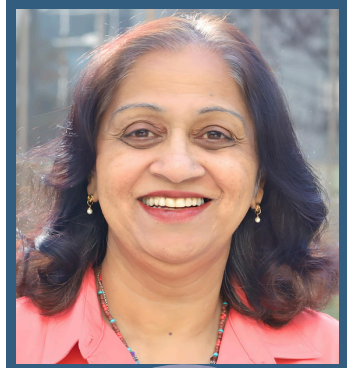
School of Nursing Newsletter

September 2024 (Issue #4)



Message from the Dean, School of Nursing

Welcome to the academic year 2024-2025! It is a pleasure to see our returning and new students. The building is filled with energy and excitement. We have BSCN students from WL joining in Yr 3 and LPN students joining in Yr 2. Thank you to Steve Ross, Tanya Sanders, and Candace Walker for organizing the orientation to familiarize them with our beautiful Kamloops campus and local resources! A special shoutout to our learning strategist and program support team for the welcoming display in the atrium. We also have colleagues from the Open Learning Department temporarily housed with us NPH 374.



The summer of 2024 has been a busy one! Our first MN NP student cohort was on site for lab. We were able to complete the acquisition of the SON Mobile Simulation lab, and NPH 245 has become home for the Population Health and Aging Rural Research (PHARR) Centre for the next year. Over the summer we hosted a knowledge mobilization forum and Virtual simulation development workshop and continued to host many tours of our beautiful simulation facilities for donors, community, and future students.

Fostering a culture of belonging and inclusion at SON is not just a stated value but something that we live every day. We have new digital signage that we can use to share important dates, exciting events and achievements to celebrate the people who form our wonderful SON community. The newsletter has now become a regular feature and we continue to seek your feedback, suggestions, and contributions for future editions. It takes all of us to create an inclusive community – your ideas and contributions needed!

As we start off the new academic year, you will notice some new faces (and old faces in new roles) – some are here on a short-term basis and others in more permanent roles. Please take a moment to introduce yourself, welcome them to TRU SON, and get to know them. We are delighted to announce and warmly welcome Gwendyline Campbell McArthur, FPRPN (Ret.) FPRN (Ret.) BScN-MH Spec. MN, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Specialist as our TRU School of Nursing (SON) Metis Elder Cultural Advisor. Elder Gwen will be working alongside our Gitksan faculty member Dr. Sheila Blackstock and together they will teach protocols of engagement, indigenizing of nursing education and research, and local community partnerships to positively impact recruitment, retention and of students and faculty.

The SON faculty, staff, and students, continue to grow, inspire, learn, and make a significant impact on our TRU and local community and the profession. I look forward to a wonderful fall and the 2024-2025 academic year.

Dr. Rani H. Srivastava RN, PhD, FCAN, FTNCS

News From Our Programs

Interdisciplinary Indigenous Health Big Canoeing Fieldtrip

Educators often speak of a variety of ways of learning to promote the education of students, but at times this can be challenging to incorporate into the classroom. Many indigenous cultures use ways of knowing that are different than the western education system and have a profound connection with the land. One way of indigenous knowing is participatory learning- learning through doing (NCCIH, 2024).

With the importance of land and participatory learning in mind, our Interdisciplinary Indigenous Health course incorporated a fieldtrip on the land. While actually, on the water. We collaborated with a local club Thompson Rivers Interior Paddle Sport, a knowledge keeper from Secwempcoluw, and faculty at the School of Nursing, to create a learning environment outside of the classroom.



Through this collaboration, we put together a Voyageur canoeing fieldtrip (Big Canoes) to immerse ourselves (not in the water 😊) in learning from the land/water. The focus of the outing was to develop a better understanding of the connection of land and water to health through an Indigenous lens. The TRIPS guides were excellent at organizing and directing the students to gather safety equipment, load us into the boats, and paddle safely as a team. The students were able to put their teamwork skills into action on this trip by loading and unloading the boats and most importantly paddling in sync. We were honored to learn from the knowledge keeper about the waters and lands importance to the local community. This included learning about the connection of the name Tkemlúps to the where the rivers meet. Tk'emplúsemc means- 'the people of the confluence' (Tkemlúps te Secwépemc, 2024).

The event even brought in the media. CBC interviewed the instructor and some students to better learn how the event was advancing the education of the students by drawing on the local community. It was an inspiring event in which the students were able to develop an appreciation for learning in a unique way, embrace different ways of learning, practice teamwork, and reflect on how this learning can be utilized in practice. Overall, a successful and fun filled event to end the semester!

HCA Graduation ceremony

Congratulations to the graduates of the January 2024 HCA program! 32 students completed the HCA program on July 19th. These students worked hard during the 27 week program, completing 6 theory courses, a lab practice course and two practicums. Many of the students have already started working in long term care, assisted living, home support and other agencies. We wish them all the best in their new careers! Thank you also to the many instructors who supported these students during their learning journey.



News From Our Programs

Nursing goes to Nepal

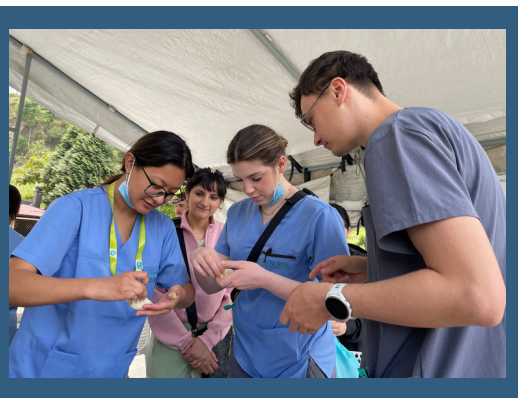
This past May, eight BScN students travelled to Nepal for their CPE 3 International field school. They spent one month in Dhulikhel Hospital, a 475-bed hospital, about 1 hour drive from Kathmandu, Nepal's capital city. Students spent time mainly observing nursing and health care in medical and surgical departments, as well as the ER and OR/PAR. Furthermore, all students travelled to an outpost clinic, where some assisted with basic health assessments. It was a very full month with many extracurricular experiences such as participating in Nurses Day celebrations, visiting Buddhist and Hindu temples and ceremonies, and completing a 16 km hike in the Shivapuri National Park. Students will be sharing their experiences with their peers at a presentation this fall- stayed tuned for more information!



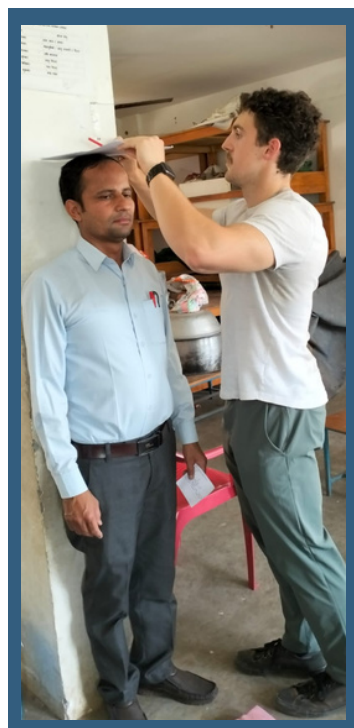
At Swayambhunath - The Monkey Temple



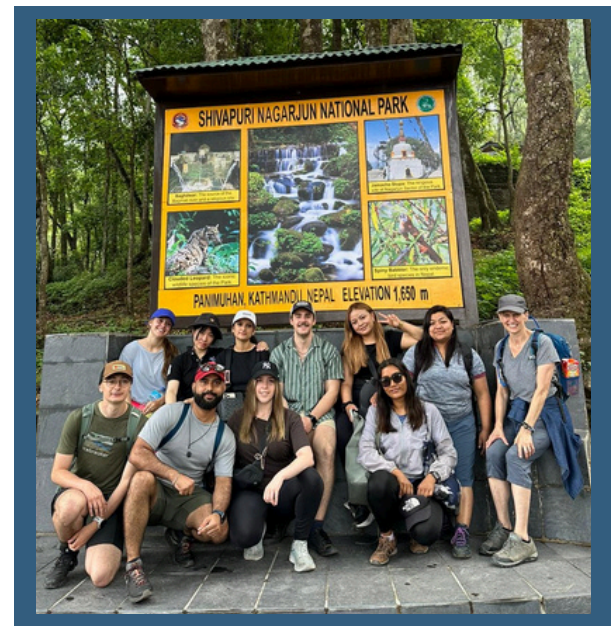
At Dhulikhel Hospital



Students learning to make Momos



(R) Alex Marshall at the Outpost Clinic



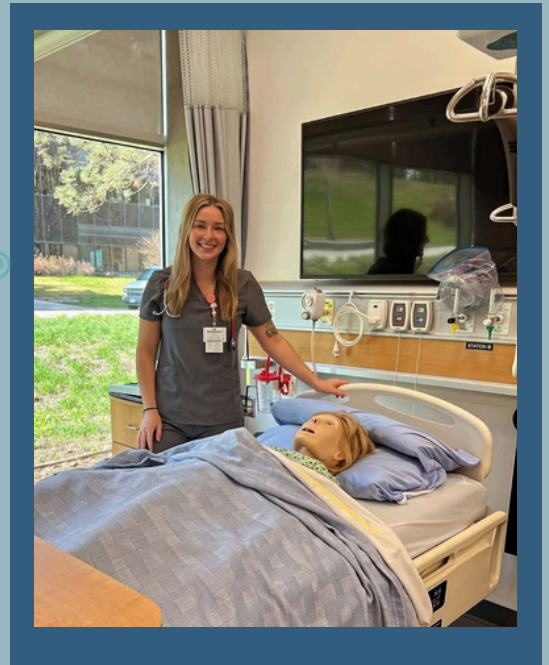
Shivapuri National Park

Celebrating Success

Student Awards



Karma Lalli (L) was recognized as the Valedictorian and **Brittany Funk (R)** received the TRU Medal of Nursing from the BScn Class of 2024. Congratulations!



BSN Student, **Hennisha** is the recipient of the Beedie Luminaries Scholarship

Faculty Awards

Steven Ross received the Thompson Rivers University (TRU) 2024 **Chair Leadership Award**. This award recognizes individuals for effective leadership and leading with compassion at TRU. Congratulations on this inspirational achievement!



Gillian Balfour (L) & Steven Ross (R)



Renee Anderson

BC Campus Award for excellence in Open Education recognizes individuals dedication to open education. Renée Anderson an associate teaching professor in the School of Nursing at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) is one of the pioneers of creating nursing open educational resources (OER) and was the recipient of this award. She is a wonderful example for faculty and has shared her voyage into OER development with many colleagues over the years.

New Faces and New Roles



Samantha Hampton

Samantha joins TRU from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) where she was an Associate Professor teaching in the BSN program for 16 years. Over the last 7 years, Samantha held leadership positions including BSN Coordinator, HCA/PN and LPN Access Coordinator, and Clinical Placement Coordinator.

Prior to joining UFV, Samantha was working with Fraser Health in Acute Medicine, Home Care and Hospice Palliative care. She developed a special interest in Hospice and Palliative Care Nursing and completed her MN Advanced Specialty in Palliative care in 2009 from the University of Victoria. Samantha completed her BSN from UBC.



Joyce Adjei

Joyce is an alumnus of TRU SON. She completed the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from TRU. She completed the Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) degree in 2016 from York University, Toronto, ON. As part of the MScN program, she completed a teaching practicum at TRU SON. In addition, Joyce completed a law degree from TRU in 2019 and practices as a Lawyer. She is intrigued by the interplay between law and health, health promotion, health policies and their effect locally and globally. Joyce's clinical experience as an RN includes long-term care, community nursing, and working as a research nurse.



Kandace Kennedy

Kandace joins the HCA team on a 2-year Limited Term contract after completing her MN this past year at TRU. Kandace completed her BScN from TRU SON (2012) and Certificate in Gerontology studies in 2015. Kandace has been a very active sessional member at TRU since 2021, teaching in both the HCA and BScN programs. Kandace has clinical experience with Interior Health includes areas of Mental Health, Home & Community and Long-term Care.



Shalina Sarwal

Shalina joins TRU on a 2-year Limited Term contract with the BScN team. Shalina completed her BScN from Langara College (2015) and MN from TRU in 2023. She has also completed Advanced Certification in Nursing (ER) from BCIT. Shalina has worked as an RN for both Fraser Health and Interior Health as an Emergency Room nurse. She has also worked as a sessional instructor in the BScN program at TRU.



Amy Beck

Amy joins TRU SON from the University of Alberta, where she is a Post-Doctoral Associate in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine – Occupational Therapy. Prior to that, Amy was a Post-Doctoral Associate at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary. Amy holds a PhD in nursing as well as an MN and BScN from the University of Calgary. Her interdisciplinary approach, coupled with her experience in co-designed research methodologies, will add to the depth and breadth of research within the SON, as well as the community-engaged research endeavors at TRU.

In addition to her research, Amy has taught as a sessional instructor at Mount Royal University and the University of Calgary, where she has instructed undergraduate and graduate students. She has also served as a supervisor for the University of Calgary's student research program, working with students from the Biomedical Engineering, Kinesiology and Nursing programs.

Welcome & Congratulations

New Faces and New Roles

Aaron Wiebe

Aaron joins us as a Simulation Technician and brings with him over a decade of hands-on experience as a computer technician, specializing in building, repairing, and maintaining various forms of technology. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from TRU, graduating in 2019. Prior to joining us, Aaron worked in the Sustainability office where he co-authored TRU's platinum award-winning Sustainability reports and spearheaded numerous campus projects, including the creation of the university's car-sharing program and cycling incentive programs.

With a passion for enhancing student learning experiences, Aaron has seamlessly integrated his diverse skill set into supporting simulation teaching. His expertise spans various topics, including VR, 3D printing, sewing, AV management, tech support, applied science, robotics, programming, and beyond. His eagerness to learn and adapt has allowed him to quickly acclimate to his new role as Simulation Technician, where he continues to explore the potential of simulated learning environments. Aaron's office is located on the first floor in NPH 114, and he can be reached at simulationteam@tru.ca.

Dinesh (Dan) Hari Krishnan

Dinesh (Dan) Hari Krishnan joins us as our new Biomedical Engineer Simulation Technician. Dan comes to us with hands-on experience in servicing, maintaining, and troubleshooting a diverse array of biomedical equipment, also bringing expertise in managing real-time service, installation, and calibration across various medical domains. He has successfully worked with leading brands equipment such as GE, Siemens, Philips, ValleyLab, Karl Storz, Pentax, Stryker, B. Braun, Erbe, Cincinnati, and Johnson & Johnson.

He is dedicated to advancing medical device technology and has provided in-plant training for biomedical engineering students & clinical staffs. He has done bachelor's in biomedical engineering & pursued a PG diploma in healthcare leadership and management at Niagara College. Additionally, he is pursuing a diploma in electrical techniques, further enhancing technical skills and knowledge. Passionate about leveraging biomedical engineering and electrical techniques to enhance the quality and safety of healthcare delivery, Dinesh (a) Dan is committed to driving innovation and excellence in the field. His office is located on the first floor in NPH 114, and he can be reached at simulationteam@tru.ca.

Kiran Kaur

Kiran Kaur joins us as our new Simulation Technician, Kiran recently completed her Bachelor of Computing Science degree from TRU in December 2023.

She is committed to providing valuable support by helping to maintain and operate the simulation equipment, that enhances the learning experience for our students. Her strong foundation in computing science combined with her operational and administrative skills, and her enthusiasm for acquiring new skills, makes her a promising addition to the Simulation Lab. Her office is located on the first floor in NPH 114, and she can be reached at simulationteam@tru.ca.

Alex Floyd

Alex started her career in post-secondary education in 2019. With experience in both private and public educational sectors, she brings extensive knowledge in student services. Alex has held diverse positions, including Director of Student Services, Assistive Technology Specialist, Accessibility Services Advisor, Life Skills Coach, and now, Program Advisor, SON.

Alex is well-versed in developing and implementing various support systems, guiding institutional policies (union and non-union), advising, LMS systems support, and student loans (including permanent disability loan eligibility). She is passionate about advocating, guiding, and creating inclusive environments where every person can achieve equitable access to education. You can find her in the Program Support Office (NPH 242) supporting MN and MN-NP students in their graduate academic journey.

News From SIM Center

New launch alert! Mobile Simulation Lab

TRU's mobile health-care training unit is ready to hit the road thanks to a donation of \$200,000 from TD Bank Group. The TRU School of Nursing's Mobile Simulation Lab will soon provide TRU students living in BC's rural areas in-person clinical training in their own communities.

The retrofitted RV, complete with state-of-the-art training equipment and remote learning capabilities, has already logged its first kilometres and plans are underway for future trips near and far. With TRU Open Learning health-care students in locations from Bella Coola to Barriere, the mobile lab is intended to be an asset to BC's health-care system and TRU students for years to come.



Dean SON with students and donors

The School of Nursing is committed to continued learning of Indigenous ways of knowing and being and increasing access to learning for all our students. The mobile simulation lab provides an opportunity for both.



Simulation workshops

The Simulation team has been busy with various workshops and projects with partners, faculty and students.

The simulation team is applying to the '**International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning**', simulation Endorsement. The expected process is to be completed December 20th 2024. A lot of work has been completed behind the scenes getting our accreditation documents organized. A big thank you to Renee for all her work with helping to organize the amazing work all the faculty here at TRU SON do for simulation.

Jaime has worked hard over the summer to create a new "**simulated patient**" program. A formal program has been started where we are recruiting, hiring, and training new SPs. Our demographics needed for this upcoming fall semester have been elderly patients so that is who we have hired for this term. For more information contact Jaime at jgallagher@tru.ca

Partnership growth: Interior Health's use of the simulation Centre outside of TRU curriculum has been increasing with Maternity, Pediatric, ICU, and EM now running simulations in our center. We have been getting more external requests from BCCH, BC Women's and Columbia Paramedic Academy. The word is spreading on how amazing our simulation space and team are, and we are being asked to host next year's 'BC Simulation Networks Conference' for 2025.

Jaime and Laurel hosted a large group of 'student wellness ambassadors' to facilitate CPR and Opiate Overdose simulations. The group loved it and found the training incredibly helpful! See pictures of the sessions. For more information, contact Jaime at jgallagher@tru.ca



Faculty Retreat

During the summer, our faculty had the annual retreat, which focused on enhancing faculty mentorship, fostering collaboration, and promoting strategic thinking.

This retreat served as an invaluable opportunity for faculty members to come together, share insights, and plan for the upcoming academic year. It was a time to reflect on the impact of our mentorship efforts, explore innovative approaches to support student and faculty development, and strengthen the connections that underpin our vibrant academic community.



Engaging with Change: Proposed Faculty of Health and TRUly Flexible Strategy

The School of Nursing (SON) faculty and staff's recent engagement in a valuable discussion with Provost Gillian Balfour, on two critical topics for Thompson Rivers University's (TRU) educational future. The School of Nursing faculty and staff recently discussed two important initiatives with TRU Provost Gillian Balfour: the TRUly Flexible strategy and the proposed Faculty of Health Sciences and Population Health.

Shaping the TRUly Flexible strategy is an Education Design Team, a group of experienced educators and instructional designers. The TRUly Flexible strategy focuses on improving education accessibility and quality through online and blended learning, strategic alignment, and a student-centric approach, supported by an Education Design Team. The Provost announced plans to explore creation of a new Faculty to meet the regional demand for healthcare professionals and research. The new Faculty aims to address regional healthcare needs with programs in Kinesiology, Biomedical Sciences, and Health Sciences, while expanding access to nursing and allied health education. It also emphasizes culturally relevant education for Indigenous communities and interdisciplinary research to enhance health outcomes.

The proposal is at an initial exploratory stage and we will be creating a working group to explore the issues and questions further.



Donor Corner

The TRU School of Nursing is deeply grateful for the support of our donors who have contributed generously over the years to student scholarships, awards, bursaries, simulation training equipment, research, and programming needs.

Since April 2024 more than \$500,000 has been contributed to the School of Nursing. Our generous donors are faculty, retired faculty and staff, community members, and Alumni including Johnny Tablason (TRU School of Nursing Alumni 2016). Johnny is a Registered Nurse specializing in Critical Care. He was a recipient of an Award of Excellence when he was a student and since then Johnny has had a goal of giving back and supporting future nursing professionals. He recently established the John Tablason Nursing Excellence and Critical Care Certification Award. The award he received when he was a student inspired him to continue his excellence into his healthcare profession and then recognize and support future nursing students at TRU.

Thank you, donors, for your generosity and for investing in the next generation of nurses and nurse leaders!



Nursing Kits for students at Williams Lake

Nursing students were excited to receive lab kits, made possible by the 2023 TRU Day of Giving. Thanks to a generous \$5,000 donation from the Williams Lake and District Credit Union, the lab kits were fully funded for this year's first-year nursing students. Each kit included essential tools: a stethoscope, scissors, a pen light, and blood pressure cuffs.

Student Kayleigh Jacobson said that knowing people in the community are by her side makes her more motivated to chase her dreams of becoming a nurse. "The feeling of having this support is so encouraging and fulfilling," said Kayleigh.

Faith Dueck echoed these sentiments, "As a student, it can be difficult to afford school supplies, alongside everyday purchases, especially in the current time where everything is quite expensive. It is very reassuring to know that the community cares and will do what they can to help new students achieve their education, so that we can later on care for our communities."



Newsletter Content Submissions

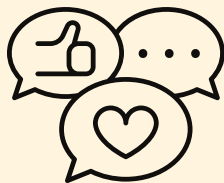
Share your accomplishments!

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

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

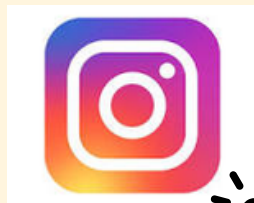
Feedback/Suggestions?

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



Social Media - Instagram

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



Kukwstéc-kucw ("We thank you!")