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Summer 2016

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Pictured from left to right: Brianna Bogan, Blake Ohm, Ashley Cox, and Shannon Sulak. (Lubbock)
Rebecca Metzler (Abilene)

Undergraduate Student Research Program

Undergraduate students are given an opportunity to collaborate with SON faculty mentors conducting research to gain hands-on experience. The selected students spend an academic year with their mentors to gain insight into the importance of previous studies, roles and responsibilities of the research team, protection of human subjects, data collection and analysis, and role of the Institutional Review Board. Additionally, students are able to direct questions to their personal mentor to gain a better understanding of the research process.

This year's participants and their mentors include:

- Ashley Cox, student researcher, with mentor Dr. Mary Rogge
- Brianna Bogan, student researcher, with mentor Dr. Susan Andersen
- Rebecca Metzler, student researcher, with mentor Dr. Jennifer Collins
- Blake Ohm, student researcher, with mentor Dr. Laura Thomas
- Shannon Sulak, student researcher, with mentor Dr. Alyce Ashcraft

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Donna Owen, PhD, RN, CNE

Recipient of the SON Research Achievement Award 2016

Dr. Owen's distinguished research career currently encompasses the dissemination of 35 peer-reviewed data based publications. Her notable scientific contributions comprise extensive knowledge development in the arenas of health behavior, aging, methodological approaches in research and qualitative research design. She is a recognized thought leader and researcher both internationally and nationally. She has engaged in 24 scientific presentations regarding her work in promoting innovation and quality in nursing education and in healthcare delivery approaches in dementia and long-term care.

Dr. Owen has a long history of mentoring students and faculty to address significant problems through various research projects. She has mentored students and faculty in all aspects of research, from development of research questions and study design to data analysis and dissemination. She has provided support to both individuals and teams who have various levels of expertise. Dr. Owen has an uncanny ability to assess the level of expertise of individuals or teams and provide thoughtful guidance for completion of a project. As an example, Dr. Owen helped one faculty member negotiate a very complex process between two universities on three different campuses, five committee members (most at a distance), and a final total of five data collection sites and multiple IRBs.

Of special note, Dr. Owen has a phenomenal ability to mentor faculty in study design. Dr. Owen has taught students and faculty how to uphold the rigor of research design from question to analysis and manuscript preparation. Dr. Owen's meticulous dedication to maintaining the rigor of study design is evident in the research and publication history of students and faculty she has supported.

Dr. Owen has mentored students to consider prior experience in recruitment and retention of vulnerable populations in development of study design, data analysis, and translation of evidence. Dr. Owen emphasizes the need to establish and foster community partnerships, an integral skill for community-based research. She is sensitive to the dynamic needs of stakeholders in multiple communities, from urban and rural adolescent populations to county and state health departments to hierarchies in academic institutions.

A hallmark of Dr. Owen's approach to research and teaching is a seemingly endless source of energy fueled by an insatiable passion for others' success, be it a student's dissertation or a research participant's improved health. School of Nursing program directors regularly ask Dr. Owen to mentor faculty in development of programs of research. Dr. Owen treats all students and faculty with the utmost respect, challenging each person to achieve professional growth. Students and faculty contribute a significant amount of their productivity to her enthusiasm and support.

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Andersen, S. & Bezanson, J. L. (2016). Brief Report: Do pregnancy experiences predict cardiovascular disease in women? *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners*. In Press. doi.org/10.1016/j.nurpra.2016.03.019

Andersen, S. & Bezanson, J. L. (2016). Do Pregnancy Experiences Predict Cardiovascular Disease in Women? Paper presented at the National Nurse Practitioner Symposium in Keystone, Colorado. National Nurse Practitioner Society Conference Proceedings.

Ashcraft, A. & Owen, C. (2016, June). *Project FRONTIER: End-of-Life Planning in a Rural Elderly Cohort*. Poster presented at the 2016 Rural Health at the Crossroads Conference: Building Bridges to Care, Lubbock, TX.

Lake, D.M., Allen, P.E., Armstrong, M.L. (2016). Former military nurse officers: One answer to the faculty shortage? *Journal of Nursing Education*. 55(5), 244. DOI: 10.3928/01484834-20160414-01

Long, J., Ashcraft, A., Ford, C., Stennett, R., & Roney, J. (2016, July). *Establishing a Research Academy Collaborative: Benefits, Challenges, and Preliminary Outcomes*. Poster presentation at the Sigma Theta Tau International's 27th International Nursing Research Congress, Cape Town, South Africa.

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