

VISIONS

Beta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International

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Finding Lessons in Guatemalan Midwifery

Twice a year, USF nursing professor Linda Walsh takes a group of students to San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. As part of a service learning course, they spend several weeks learning about midwifery and health care in impoverished communities. The students worked alongside indigenous midwives to learn about their work and accompanied them as they provided care in local homes. The students also served the community by providing nursing services and training to a small parish hospital in town and to several small clinics that serve the area.

“Rather than having our more Western/American approach to birth, they integrate it with a spiritual approach,” Walsh said. “Although the midwives have been given training on



examining women and babies before birth, listening to the heart rate, etc., they don't talk about that as being part of their practice. When they are called to a birth, they pray for a safe birth before they

leave their house, pray before they enter the woman's house, and again before they do any physical care. It is these spiritual rituals and beliefs that they talk

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Informed Consent in Cross-Cultural Research

Linda Walsh, CNM, PhD

In developing my proposal for a research project entitled “Spiritual Elements of Midwifery Practice,” I quickly recognized the challenge of developing an informed consent process that had potential language and cultural barriers. The participants in my qualitative study were indigenous midwives (comadronas) in highland Guatemala. The primary language for most is Cakchiquel, a Mayan dialect; a few were fluent in Spanish. Educational levels ranged from no formal education to 6 years elementary education. Most did not read or write in Spanish. I

decided to start with contacting published researchers who had done similar work in Central American indigenous communities. I was surprised to find that none could articulate an informed consent process, and I was faced with the disturbing reality that many researchers make no attempt to obtain informed consent when working in indigenous communities outside the United States.

Just when I thought I would have no guidance, I spoke with another nurse-midwife researcher who had completed a study exploring critical thinking in

Mayan midwives in the Yucatan. Her spouse is an anthropologist who has done research exploring the use of native plants in healing in Mayan communities. Both generously shared their methodology and consent forms that I was easily able to transpose to my project.

The process ended up being quite simple. The informed consent was written at a very basic reading level, then translated into Spanish by a professional translation service. The introduction addressed my interest in preserving the

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Seeking nominations for chapter officers and committee chairpersons

Beta Gamma Chapter requests the pleasure of your company and participation in your professional organization. We need your help in meeting the challenges of the new year. We welcome new inductees as well as our current members. Your participation can make the difference.

Please take a moment to consider running for an office. Also, encourage a colleague to run. We are looking for people to replace those whose terms are up in April as well as to fill vacant positions. We encourage faculty, masters students, and undergrads to fill the positions. Please contact any board member for more information.

- Finance Chair
- Faculty Counselor
- Nominations
- Newsletter
- Fundraising
- Research
- Programs
- Publicity
- Awards

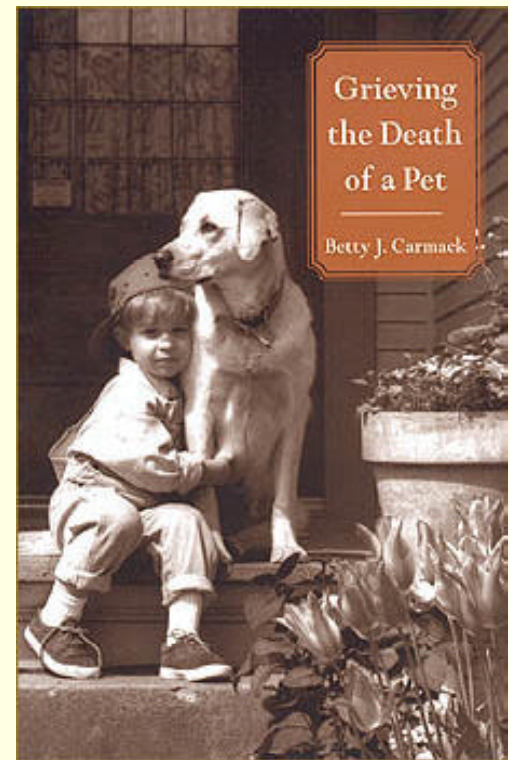


Dr. Betty Carmack and pet loss

Betty Carmack, EdD, RN (USF Faculty and Community and Mental Health Chair), is celebrating 20 years in leading the Pet Loss Group. She was recently interviewed on ABC Nightly News in a segment on grieving the death of pets. She was interviewed about her counseling work with individuals whose companion animals have died. Additionally, she was shown in the pet loss support groups she leads monthly at the San Francisco SPCA. The following is an excerpt from the web site (<http://bettyjcarmack.com/>) about her work and her new book:

“It is my sincere goal that this book be an instrument for healing. It marks the twentieth anniversary of my having worked as a nurse in pet loss counseling. Throughout these years I’ve had the privilege of walking the path with over 2,000 people who were anticipating or experiencing grief for the death and loss of their animal companions. It’s been an honor and gift to be invited on these journeys of grief. These are exceedingly private and personal times, and to be asked to share in these moments is a trust which I honor and respect.

“My book puts a face on the lived experience of loss and gives it a voice. It clearly says that grief from a loved animal’s death does matter and it matters profoundly.”



Predictors of Student Satisfaction in Distance-Delivered Graduate Nursing Courses: What Matters Most?

Gregory A. DeBourgh, RN, MS, EdD

This article describes a study designed to investigate graduate nursing students’ satisfaction with a course taught via interactive video teleconferencing (IVT) and World Wide Web/Internet (WWW/INT). A correlational research design examined the relationships among five learner attributes and three instructional variables and student satisfaction. Regression analyses identified learner attributes and instructional variables predictive of student satisfaction. Forty-three graduate-nurse students were surveyed using a 59-item Student Satisfaction Survey. Learner attribute predictors included: (a) previous technology courses, (b) technology competence, (c) between-class technology usage, (d) age, and (e) remote-site group size. Instructional

predictors were clustered in three dimensions: instructor/instruction, technology, and course management. Student satisfaction was a composite of overall satisfaction with the course and comparison with conventional classroom courses.

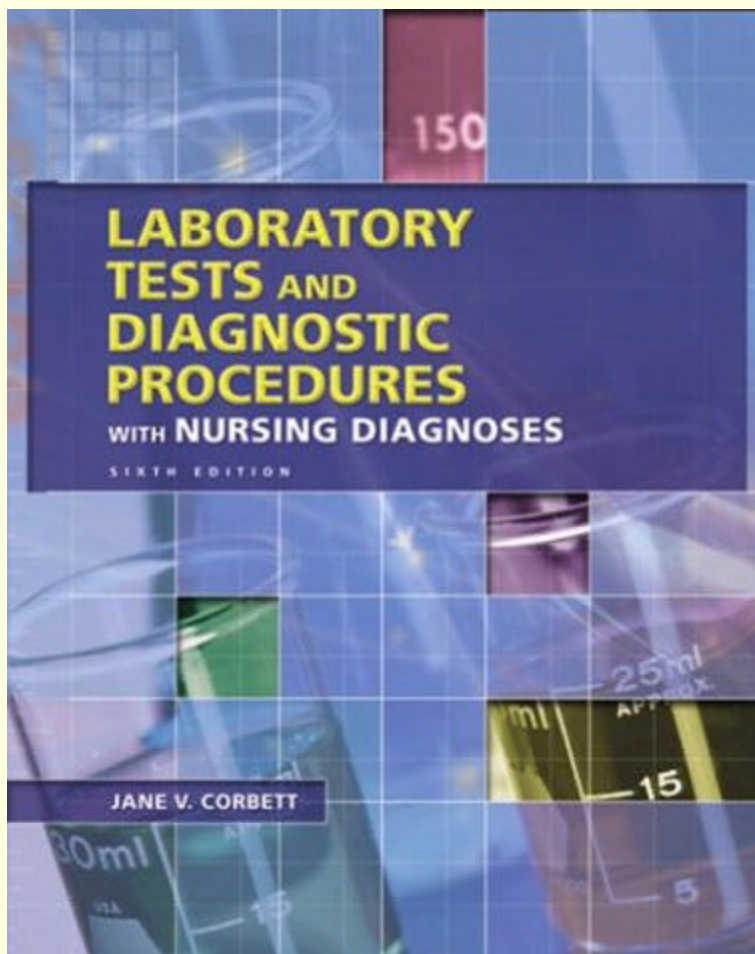
Instructor/instruction explained 21% of the variance in course satisfaction scores ($p < .01$). Overall instructor rating strongly correlated with satisfaction ($r = .56, p < .01$). The most potent finding is that good pedagogy is important to students’ perceived satisfaction with distance education. Students acclimate to the instructional reality—traditional, campus-based face-to-face instruction or technology-mediated distance education—and once accustomed, it is the quality and effectiveness of instructor

and instruction, not the technology, that is associated with satisfaction. The findings of this study provide essential information to faculty responsible for the design and delivery of effective instruction and to students pursuing flexible and convenient options for advanced education.



Beta Gamma Chapter Member Accomplishments

Jane Corbett, EdD, RN



Robin Buccheri, DNSc, RN, and **Louise Trygstad** had their manuscript, *The Effectiveness of an Interactive Multimedia Learning Tool on Nursing Students' Mental Health Knowledge and Self Efficacy*, accepted by CIN.

Betty Carmack, EdD, RN, is celebrating 20 years in leading the Pet Loss Group.

Jane Corbett, EdD, RN, was invited to be on an advisory panel for the next edition of *Davis' Drug Guide*.

The sixth edition of her textbook, *Laboratory Tests & Diagnostic Procedures*, has recently been published.

Mary Lou De Natale, EdD, RN, was one of the contributors to *The HeART of Nursing: Expressions of Creative Art in Nursing*. There will be a author book signing at the Sigma Theta Tau Convention in Toronto on Saturday, 11/1/03.

She will also present some current photographs for the HeART of Nursing creative arts presentation entitled "A Moment in the Garden" which are pictures completed during her research on caregiving.

Greg DeBourgh, EdD, RN, had his article, "Predictors of Student Satisfaction in Distance-Delivered Graduate Nursing Courses: What Matters Most?" published in the May-June issue of the *Journal of Professional Nursing*.

Dr. Debourgh attended the ED-MEDIA technology conference in Honolulu in June presenting the topic: "Patterns of Knowing: Web-based Learning Activities To Promote Metacognition and Reasoning Skills."

Sr. Mary Ellene Egan, EdD, RN, has been elected to Reconciliation Board at Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters of Mercy will be celebrating their 150-year anniversary in December of 2004. Sr. Egan is on the Planning Committee and has been asked to coordinate the event. The celebration and reception will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral. The motto is "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – 150 Years of Caring."

Beta Gamma Chapter Member Accomplishments

Sally Higgins, PhD, RN, moderated a session entitled, “Transitioning the Adolescent with Congenital Heart Disease Into Adult Health Care,” at the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions in Orlando in November. This meeting is the world’s largest convention for scientists and health professionals devoted to the science of cardiovascular disease and stroke. She also has a published article on this topic in *Progress in Cardiovascular Nursing*, Volume (2), Spring 2003.

Sr. Mary Brian Kelber, DNSc, RN, announced that St. Teresa’s Parish and USF’s Parish Health and Nursing Program have opened and clients are being seen presently by nursing staff. A Health Fair was held Sunday, October 19th.

Margaret Maag, EdD, RN, had her manuscript accepted by *Computers Informatics and Nursing*. Her upcoming published article on nursing education research is “The Effectiveness of an Interactive Multimedia Learning Tool on Nursing Students’ Math Knowledge and Self-Efficacy” January/February (2004) — *Computers Informatics Nursing*, Vol. 22, No. 1.

She is also working on a current nursing education research project: “Nursing Students’ Math Anxiety, Motivation and Time-on-Learning Medication Dosage Calculations”

Dr. Maag was also invited to write test questions for Sally Lagerquist.

Roberta Romeo, PhD, RN, appeared in a “Time For All Ages” TV production on Channel 27 in Novato. The topic was on elder abuse prevention with a 30 minute discussion with the assistant district attorney. Dr. Romeo also presented a talk on “Seniors Against Investment Fraud” at the November 13th Commission on Aging at the Maria B. Freitas Senior Community Center in San Rafael.

Betsy Stetson, EdD, RN, had her new research approved. It explores the experiences of nurse practitioners (NPs) with regards to their perception of their knowledge and ability to apply complementary-alternative (CAM)/ holistic

methods in their practice and to assess the level of NP satisfaction with their practice. The first part of the study involves two focus groups of NPs from Region 7 (San Francisco and San Mateo) to discuss their knowledge and use of CAM/holistic approaches and their level of satisfaction with patient care. The focus group data will be used to improve the study’s Nurse Survey.

Linda Walsh, PhD, CNM, had two articles published. The first was “International Learning Experiences,” published in the *Journal of Nursing Education*. The second article, “Service Learning in Midwifery and Nursing Education,” was published in the *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*.

Attention all Beta Gamma Chapter members. Do you have any news or accomplishments that you would like to share with your fellow Sigma Theta Tau members? If you do, please submit your news items to Alexander Agbay at Alexander.Agbay@ucsfmedicalctr.org.

Informed Consent in Cross-Cultural Research

Linda V. Walsh CNM, PhD

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values and beliefs inherent in comadrona practice. The next section explained the voluntary nature of participation and the right to withdraw at any time without penalty, and the benefits and risks of participation were described. Confidentiality was assured, including the fact that the results reported would contain no identifying data.

The key to having the process work was the inclusion of a trusted community member who could assist with translation and explanation in both Spanish and Cakchiquel. This person ended up being the health promoter with whom I have been working for several years during student immersion experiences. At first I was concerned that his gender may influence the openness of the discussion, but this proved not to be the case.

The day of the first interview came, and three of us—the health promoter,

my research assistant who is fluent in Spanish, and I—sat down with one of the experienced midwives. My research assistant read the consent in Spanish, the health promoter translated to Cakchiquel, and then translated back to Spanish for us. The comadrona readily agreed to the interview and we began collection of what was an extremely powerful description of the spiritual beliefs surrounding her practice.

At the end of the hour, the health promoter sat with tears streaming down his cheeks. “Linda,” he said, “I can’t tell you how many medical teams have come down here and did their research, yet this is the first time we’ve gotten consents. Thank you for doing this work.”

With each interview, he became more involved to the point that by the last few interviews, he did all of the consents without my research assistant’s

involvement.

Once back in the US, I had the tapes translated and transcribed into both English and Spanish. Themes were identified, and I then sent a copy of all the data with my notes to the health promoter who has become an active participant in the analysis of the data. We are currently in the process of developing the manuscripts describing the findings.

What does this mean to those of us who participate in research in the U.S.? As American culture becomes increasingly diverse, it is incumbent upon us to explore the impact of culture on health care practices and disease/illness patterns. Nurses are in a position to ensure that researchers who obtain informed consent use a process that is culturally sensitive through not only language, but also through understanding beliefs and values that may influence decision-making.

International Immersion Programs

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce two overseas courses for RNs and its currently enrolled nursing students. Each program offers 30 contact hours for RN’s in fulfilling their continuing education requirement. Nursing students who enroll in either of these programs will receive 4 academic units that will fulfill either their GEC requirements or Nursing elective. The focus of each program is nursing history.

Florence Nightingale and Her Times

This program will explore the development of modern nursing during Ms. Nightingale’s lifetime (1820-1910). Prevalent social forces, the role of women, the level of medicine, the focus and setting of health care will also be examined. This program will be held in London, England from April 13th to the 22nd, 2004.

The Heritage of Nursing and Health Care

This program will trace the history of medicine and nursing from ancient times up to the time of Florence Nightingale. Social forces, the role of women and the development of hospitals will also be explored. This program will be held in London, England from May 25th to June 2nd, 2004.

If you have any questions or are interested in either of these programs, please contact Eleanor Hein, EdD, RN, Professor Emeritus, at (415) 924-2021.

Nursing Professor Finds Lessons in Guatemalan Midwifery

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about as being central to their work,” Walsh said.

“The American medical establishment,” Walsh said, “can learn important lessons from the way in which these women perceive their work.” This was an opportunity that inspired her research.”

“What I’d like to see is those of us working with women during birth come to recognize that it truly is a miracle, it’s not a medical event,” said Walsh, who has been a nurse-midwife for 25 years. “It is far more of a spiritual, emotional, and psychological event for the women and families. Exploring that spiritual aspect is important for anyone working as a midwife.”

Walsh is now completing research based on extensive interviews with 11 indigenous midwives who see their work not as a medical vocation, as is often the case in the United States, but as a spiritual calling. Her work, which she plans to publish in 2004, has been funded through grants from the USF Faculty Association. The trips to Guatemala are supported by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.

The following is an excerpt from Dr. Walsh’s journal. “Hola desde San Lucas Toliman! We have completed our fourth day out in the communities and got back to town early so I have a chance to use the one computer in the computer place in town. We have been warmly welcomed once again by the parish staff and volunteers, and it truly feels like returning to be with good friends. After these first six days here, the students and I are feeling like we have been here much longer.

“Our days are similar to those in previous trips. We leave La Parroquia

after breakfast and head out to the remote communities surrounding San Lucas. It usually takes about an hour to get to our destination, at which time the health promoter we are working with goes to get the local comadrona. She then gathers up the pregnant women under her care, and we begin prenatal clinic in a community member’s home.

“These homes are typically made of wood planks or corn stalks lashed together, have dirt floors, and an open fire or woodburning stove for cooking and heat. Yet, the homes are clean, the floors swept to shine like marble, and everything is in its place.

“We have provided care to about 50 women so far, and the students are doing extremely well in getting medical histories in Spanish and examining the women. Most of the women are malnourished and anemic, but all are warm, gracious and thankful for our presence.

“The purchase of a cell phone has provided many benefits: the best, perhaps, is the ability for the hospital to

call us when someone comes in with labor contractions. I told them to call us before 8 PM and after 4 AM since we have no transportation at night.

“We were called early Tuesday morning, and my colleague Dr. Catherine Carr, CNM, from the University of Washington, took two students, Lea and Veronica, up there for a lovely birth of a healthy baby boy to a 16 year old first-time mom. This morning I was called, and had the blessing to receive (as they say here) a little 5 pound girl, the eighth for this particular mother. Marina and Cynthia assisted, and immediately before the birth, I asked Marina to also put on sterile gloves, and I delivered the baby into her hands. I wish I could have had a picture of the wonder on her face. The little baby is vigorous, but greatly undernourished, a result no doubt of the poor nutrition her mother had during the pregnancy.

“Thank you all who have supported this project. I am constantly reminded of how appreciated we are in this wonderful community.”



2004 Calendar of Events

January

26 - Membership application forms available for pickup at USF, Cowell Hall 215

February

20 - Completed membership applications due

23 - Research Night

University of San Francisco, Lone Mountain Campus, Pacific Rim Room (LM 148)

Networking and refreshments from 4:30 to 5:00 PM

Program from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

March

12 - Notification of membership to applicants

May

8 - Spring Induction Ceremony



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