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#### **Recruiter Showcase**

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**February 13 2023** 

Information for the Oklahoma Nursing & Health Care Professional

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# **OU Partnership to Grow Nursing Workforce**



University of Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing Dean Julie Hoff, Ph.D, MPH, RN announced a new nursing partnership to help grow the profession.

by Bobby Anderson, RN, Staff Writer

Oklahoma Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing continue to grow with new partnerships announced

Last week, OU announced a partnership with the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma and Murray State College. This new collaboration is an important step toward building a qualified, educated nursing workforce to address the critical nursing shortage in Oklahoma.

"As the Dean of the University of Oklahoma, Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing, I take great responsibility for building a strong nursing workforce; one that is well-prepared and ready to

The impact and reach of the University of join our colleagues in practice. This is not a oneperson job; it takes all of us," said Julie Hoff, Ph.D., MPH, RN. "It is only through partnerships like the ones we are celebrating today with Murray State and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma that support workforce innovation in nursing."

Beginning this fall, Murray State and Science & Arts will each offer a guaranteed admission opportunity to six qualified undergraduate students majoring in nursing to pursue their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at the OU College of

See PARTNERSHIP Page 2

## Crawford is honored as 2023 recipient of the State Award



Gina Crawford DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP, CNE, Dean, Kramer School of Nursing, Interim Dean, College of Health Professions at Oklahoma City University.

by Van Mitchell, Staff Writer

Gina Crawford DNP, APRN-CNP, FNP, CNE, Dean, Kramer School of Nursing, Interim Dean, College of Health Professions at Oklahoma City University was honored as the 2023 recipient of the State Award for Excellence from the American Association of Nurse Practitioners® (AANP).

Crawford was named this year's Oklahoma honoree for her work to increase patient access to high-quality care.

Each year, nurse practitioners across the nation are nominated by their colleagues to receive the prestigious award. One nurse practitioner from each state, district or territory is chosen and they all will be honored at the 2023 AANP National Conference in New Orleans in June.

The AANP State Award for Excellence was See AWARD Page 3

#### **PARTNERSHIP**

**Continued from Page 1** 

Nursing's educational sites at Cameron University in Lawton and Duncan Regional Hospital.

Guaranteed admission students must remain in good academic standing while completing prerequisite nursing courses and meet all other OU College of Nursing admission requirements to be granted full admission.

In addition, this agreement will allow students who earn their associate degree in nursing from Murray State and who ultimately want to earn a BSN the option of pursuing OU's RN to BSN program - a degree completion program that is offered 100% online.

Hoff pointed out this year's nursing class — which has grown from 103 students last year to 406 this year — is the largest it has ever been.

These new partnerships will contribute to strengthening the nursing workforce, primarily benefiting rural Oklahoma, as students typically begin their careers close to where they received their degrees.

"Enhancing our state's health one of our most important responsibilities at the University of Oklahoma," said OU President Joseph Harroz Jr. "Through this strategic collaboration with USAO and Murray State, our institutions are aligning our resources and our unique strengths to address our state's critical nursing





BSN - the OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center, and Cameron University in Lawton.

With campuses in Tishomingo and Ardmore, Murray State College offers associate degrees in science, arts, and applied science, including a 70-credit-hour nursing program. At the completion of the nursing program, students graduate with an

State nursing graduates guaranteed access, both online and in-person, to a career ladder with greater professional opportunities and earning potential," said Dr. Tim Faltyn, president of Murray State College. "Our RNs will have the ability to pursue bachelor's, master's, and doctoral nursing degrees with the University of Oklahoma from anywhere they live and work in southern Oklahoma starting today. This is the first step in the creation of the Southern Oklahoma Center for Nursing Education at our Ardmore campus. What we are doing here



today will improve the quality of care for all of southern Oklahoma."

The University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha is Oklahoma's only public liberal arts college. The university provides undergraduate liberal arts and sciences education, including a pre-nursing degree.

"This partnership will allow students to receive the benefits of our broad-based liberal arts curriculum alongside the rigorous clinical education and training a career as a professional registered nurse requires. It is imperative that these critical frontline workers have the liberal arts foundation, technical and interpersonal skills to care for the whole human being, and we are confident that innovative, collaborative programs such as this will provide our future nurses with the competence, compassion, and critical knowledge necessary to meet the complex and individual needs of all our fellow Oklahomans," said Dr. John H. Feaver, Science & Arts president.

shortage - ultimately yielding lifechanging outcomes for countless Oklahomans."

OU's Fran and Earl Ziegler College of Nursing, the largest nursing program in Oklahoma, is a nationally recognized college offering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs to prepare professional nurses.

In the past two years, the College of Nursing has implemented a number of programs to help address the nursing shortage, including working with its healthcare partner, OU Health, in developing a degree accelerator program.

Additionally, last year announced it would accept all qualified applicants for its BSN program - a pledge that continues for

In 2021, the university announced it would offer its BSN degree at two additional locations, partnering with Norman Regional Hospital and Duncan Regional Hospital. The expansion adds to the college's existing locations that offer the traditional Associate of Applied Science degree. "This partnership provides Murray

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#### AWARD Continued from Page 1

established in 1993. AANP is the largest professional association for NPs of all specialties, with more than 121,000 members and headquarters in Texas and Washington, D.C.

"I was surprised and honored," Crawford said of her recognition. "I look forward to going to the AANP conference in June to accept my award."

Crawford was named dean in October after serving as interim dean of the nursing school. Her professional career includes more than 30 years as a registered nurse, 17 years as a family nurse practitioner and 10 years at OCU as a full-time faculty member.

Her clinical interests are in rural health care, primary care and increasing access to health care in underserved areas. In addition to her responsibilities at the nursing school, she is a peer evaluator for the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and an appointed member of the Oklahoma Board of Nursing Advanced Practice Advisory Committee. She is also a member of multiple nursing and nurse practitioner organizations.

Crawford said coming from a

small town with limited healthcare access helped spur her desire to educate the next generation of Nurse Practitioners about the importance of serving communities both large and

"I am from Okarche, and when you come from a rural area, access to care is high on your awareness because there aren't hospitals and clinics on every corner," she said. "There had never been a Nurse Practitioner in that area when I began practicing there in 2005. There was a need to educate the community on what is a Nurse Practitioner and what do we do because of the lack of familiarity with that role. When I came into Higher Education, I wanted to teach future Nurse Practitioners how to be what I consider the best Nurse Practitioner they can be and go out and make a difference in Oklahoma or wherever they choose to practice."

The Kramer School of Nursing at Oklahoma City University offers Advanced Practice, **BSN-DNP** following **Programs** the in specialties:

- Family Nurse Practitioner Program (66 credit hours)
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Track (67 credit

• Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse licensure. Practitioner Track (68 credit hours)

All programs are Full Post BSN-DNP programs, with minimal residency requirements. The core nurse practitioner courses meet once a week on campus. Advanced Practice students can expect one class day per week, on campus. The BSN-DNP program is completed in 4 years. Completion for students with an MSN pursuing Advanced Practice education and DNP Completion may complete the program in 2-3 years. Doctoral level courses are taught in a hybrid format. Students come to the OCU campus for a required threeday intensive prior to beginning each Fall, Spring, and Summer semester. Doctoral coursework thereafter, each semester can be completed in an online format.

Crawford said the number of Nurse Practitioners has grown in Oklahoma, and across the country, but there is still a shortage of NPs, especially in the rural areas. "There is still a lack of providers in these communities," she said. "The goal is to increase the availability of providers to provide patient care."

Crawford said Nurse Practitioners in Oklahoma face hurdles to be able to fully serve patients to the full extent provided by their NP

"With current barriers to Nurse Practitioner practice in Oklahoma makes it more challenging for Nurse Practitioners to practice to the full extent of their license," she said. "Currently in Oklahoma, Nurse Practitioners have to have a written agreement at the Board of Nursing that allows us to prescribe (medication). The written agreement is with the physician that agrees to be the supervisory physician for prescriptive authority."

Crawford said the Oklahoma Legislature could help address that barrier this legislative session with Senate Bill 458.

"SB 458 is Transition to Practice legislation that would experienced advanced practice registered nurses to continue serving Oklahomans without the current and often expensive supervisory agreement for prescriptive authority," she said. "The bill does not change anything about what we can do or prescribe; however, passage of this bill would reduce barriers to practice and improve access to care in Oklahoma. This bill after so many hours of practice you would be able to apply to no longer have that requirement for prescriptive authority."

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# Norman Regional Nurse of the Year

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Since 2010, Norman Regional Health System physicians nominate and fund Norman Regional's Nurse of the Year awards, recognizing the nurses who stand out for their exceptional work and can-do attitude.

Nurse of the Year finalists for 2022 were surprised in early January by a visit by Lana Nelson, DO and Norman Regional Health Foundation members at their respective hospital and clinics.

Three nurses were given the exciting news that they were selected as finalists, with one runner-up and ultimately, the award winner.

Sheila Monson, RN, Emergency Department (ED) at our Norman Regional Moore campus, is a prime example of the Norman Way and the official NRHS 2022 Nurse of the Year.

Her nomination included how her patient-care efforts go beyond the ED into the regional communities we serve. "She has really made an impact through her work with human trafficking. She single-handedly developed a program and has championed this throughout the hospital." Monson started her career at NRHS in 2009, and currently gives of her time as the chair of the unit based council. Her nominator wanted Monson to be acknowledged for her leadership over the ED. "Beyond the excellent work she does as a nurse, she is a department leader. Her patients and co-workers love her and are so glad she is there to think in an innovative way and to make positive changes."

Runner-up for NRHS' Nurse of the Year was bestowed on **Diana Hughes**, **LPN**, **at Oklahoma Headache Center at the clinics**. Hughes has been a Norman Regional healer for nearly 30 years and was recognized for going above and beyond for her patients on a daily basis, particularly for returning patient calls quickly and efficiently. Her nominator said, "Many of our patients brag on her, not a week goes by where a patient doesn't comment about how wonderful she is. I have been around a long time now, and I have never seen or worked with a better nurse."

Katie Gilmore, RN, a float/flex nurse at Norman Regional HealthPlex was a finalist nominated for being a smart and outstanding nurse who is willing to be flexible at all times. Her nominator also shared, "She is calm under pressure and is always willing to go the extra mile for her patients."

Charissa Gowens, RN, oversees the Same Day Surgery Department as charge nurse on the Porter Campus. Employed with NRHS since 1998, her nominator states Gowens should be commended for her demeanor, leadership, compassion and commitment to patient care. Gowen's nominator also shared, "She remains calm in the midst of a busy, chaotic ambulatory care unit."

Amy Hawley, RN, a nursing supervisor over Labor & Delivery at Norman Regional HealthPlex, rounded out the trio of finalists recognized for NRHS's Nurse of the Year. Her nomination stated, "She is an individual who demonstrates excellence in nursing advocacy, patient

advocacy and leadership; she serves as a champion for the nursing profession and actively seeks to improve nursing management." Hawley's nomination also stated that she often goes above and beyond to meet everyone's needs while working tirelessly and asking for little in return.

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Diana Hughes, LPN, at Oklahoma Headache Center at the clinics.



Katie Gilmore, RN, a float/flex nurse at Norman Regional HealthPlex.



Charissa Gowens, RN, oversees the Same Day Surgery Department as charge nurse on the Porter Campus.



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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2022 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

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Rosa Ketchum, DNP, RN is an associate professor and director of the school of nursing's new DNP

"One thing that is exciting is just the role of the DNP," Ketchum said. "It's becoming more evident in view of the pandemic that nurses have a very important voice in health care and they are a huge piece of the puzzle and their experience and value and perspective on health care is needed to help address practice and policy development."

Designed for working adults, this program offers two doctoral learning pathways: a Post Master's DNP and the BSN to DNP.

The Post Master's Pathway enables Advanced Practice Nurses, Nurse Informaticists, Nurse Educators, Nurse Administrators, and other master's prepared specialty nurses to obtain a DNP in Executive Leadership. Additionally, BSN-prepared nurses with a master's degree in a related

Similarly, the BSN to DNP Pathway allows bachelor's prepared nurses to earn their doctorate of nursing practice.

Within this pathway, students choose a focus in either Nursing Administration or Nursing Education. OKWU has designed this curriculum for experienced nurses seeking terminal degrees in practice-focused areas. Moreover, OKWU prepares nurses to function as an advocate and leader, improving healthcare and patient outcomes through innovation and involvement in practice and policy.

Most importantly, both pathways provide graduates with advanced practice skills to serve as providers and organizers of the healthcare delivery process, or as faculty members in a nursing education program.

**Translating** that bedside knowledge and pairing it with evidence-based practice is the focus of the DNP program.

Ketchum completed her DNP in

"I wanted a degree that focused on patient outcomes. That's where my nursing heart is, helping the patient whether it's one patient or a population, I wanted to impact patient outcomes," Ketchum said.

"That is part of the focus of the DNP and I wanted a piece of that. I wanted to be better able to do that whether it be through teaching students or through direct patient

OKWU's Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership program is designed to equip nurses to serve at the highest level of nursing practice. The DNP program develops nurse leaders who improve patient outcomes and health systems by translating research into practice, all from a Christian worldview.

Enrollment for the program began last fall. A new group of students begins each semester, three times a year.

The initial 15 students came from a variety of backgrounds. While most programs only accept advanced practice nurses, Oklahoma Wesleyan accepts any kind of master's prepared

"Their ideas and perspectives may be a little broader because we have nurses that are coming from an administration background, or education background or advanced practice background so we're getting to see them all together," she said. "The perspective is broader than some programs but they all want to impact health care and they all want to make our health care system a little bit

Delivery of the program is 100-percent online with no required visits to campus. Classes are delivered one at a time, eight weeks in length.

"Our program is designed for the working adult and that's better facilitated because they are only taking one class at a time. For eight weeks they can focus on one class at a time and I think that helps them be able to balance life, work, family, school better than if they were in a more traditional semester setting," Ketchum

The BSN to DNP program is 54 credit hours with anticipation of three years to graduate. The postmaster's DNP is 36 hours allowing for completion in roughly two years.

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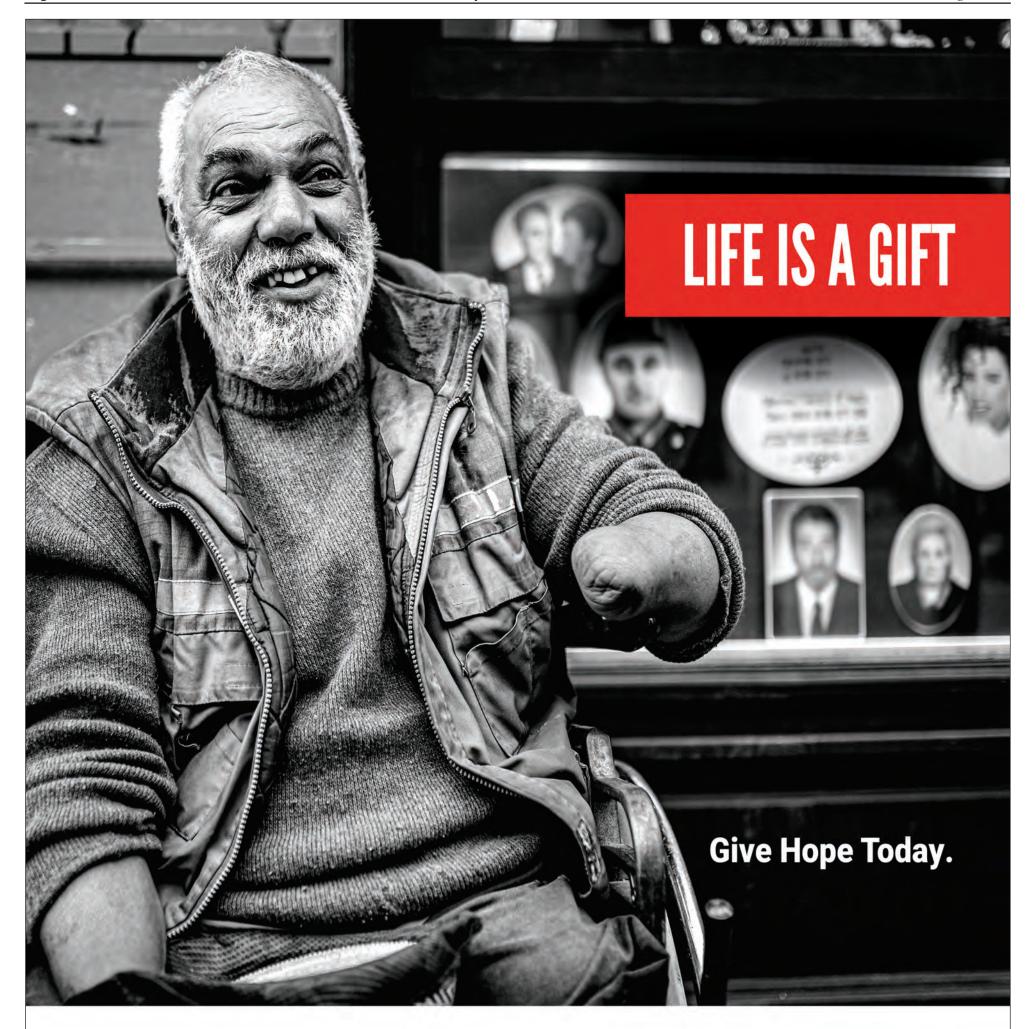
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What do you admire about the team you work with?

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Sarah McNitt, RN

"We have good teamwork and communication and we're always willing to help each other and have some fun."



Cynthia Skinner, RN

"I admire the opportunity for a learning. I can ask any question whether, and they're quick to answer without judgement."



Lauren Boswell, RN



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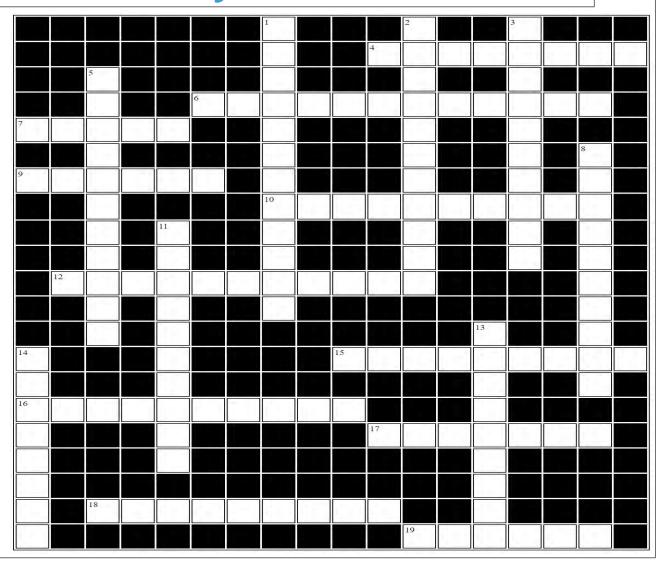
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 13







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## OMRF couples balance love, life and the lab



home is pretty heady stuff: genes, molecules and how errors during DNA replication lead to cancer and other diseases. Even on Valentine's Day.

"Our 13-year-old son tells us we're always talking about work," said Courtney Sansam, Ph.D.

Such is life when your parents are teammates at home and in the

Courtney and Chris Sansam, Ph.D., sweethearts since graduate school, are among nearly three dozen married couples at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. Combined, they comprise more than 10% of OMRF's workforce. In most cases, each couple works in the same

This phenomenon isn't unique to OMRF, nor is it new. Marie and Pierre Curie won a joint Nobel Prize in 1903 for discovering the radioactive elements radium and polonium. They were the first married couple to win a joint Nobel Prize, and four others - including their daughter and sonin-law - have done it since.

In 2008, a Stanford University study of more than 9,000 faculty members found 36% to be part of an academic couple. Of those, 38% worked in the same department. Among scientists, the figures were even higher: Of those in relationships, 83% of women and 54% of men chose a fellow scientist as their significant

Rose Ko, Ph.D., half of another OMRF scientist couple, has a theory for those numbers: "There's no guilt

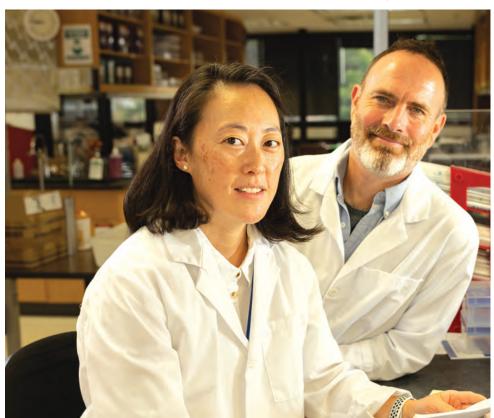
Dinner conversation at the Sansam when work calls," said Ko, who's been married to Bob Axtell, Ph.D., since 2008. "It's like, 'I know we said we were going to do a movie, but I have this lab result I need to check on.' Another scientist is going to say, 'I totally understand."

> Axtell and Ko study multiple sclerosis. Like the Sansams, they met as grad students and chose to join forces rather than open separate labs. The pressures of science might follow them home, the couple said, if it weren't for their 4-year-old sons. "Having twins kind of makes it simple," says Axtell. "At home, we're focused on our guys' needs - and that they're not, you know, injuring themselves."

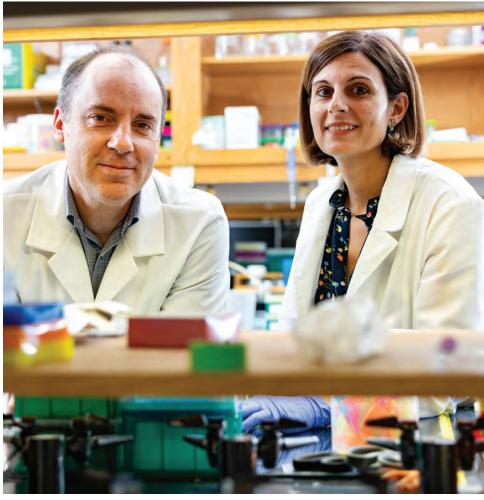
> Until a few years ago, the couple's Valentine's Day routine featured a long walk followed by a special meal, Axtell said. But that was pre-kids. Since welcoming the boys in 2018, Axtell laughed, "our Valentine's Day dinner is take-out."

> For the Sansams, with the toddler years long past, there's no compartmentalizing work and home. Holiday or not, said Chris, "I ask science questions all the time." And despite collaborating for the last decade, they joke they're still making up for lost time. With rigorous schedules during their graduate studies and postdoctoral years at different institutions, "We never saw each other."

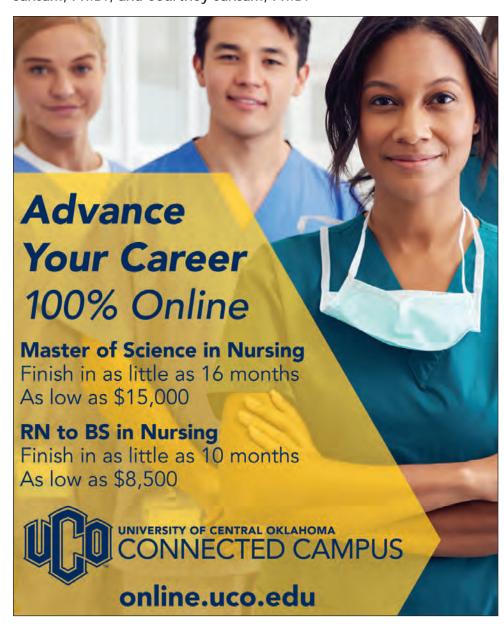
> While this Valentine's Day may be just another Tuesday working to advance human health for these OMRF scientist pairs, one thing is sure: they'll do it together.



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientists Rose Ko, Ph.D., and Bob Axtell, Ph.D.



From left, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientists Chris Sansam, Ph.D., and Courtney Sansam, Ph.D.



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## American Nurses Association Statement on Fraudulent Nursing

This week, federal law enforcement authorities uncovered what is reported to be a multi-state, fraudulent nursing school diploma and credentialing scheme, bringing charges against more than two dozen individuals involved from accredited higher institutions of learning. The following statement is attributable to American Nurses Association (ANA) President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN:

"This disturbing news of a coordinated conspiracy allowing individuals to circumvent necessary coursework and clinical experiences as well as critical steps in the nursing licensure and credentialing process, is extremely unsettling. Nursing is without a doubt a highly specialized and ethical profession requiring rigorous and life-long education and training to acquire unmatched clinical expertise. You don't achieve this overnight. There are no shortcuts in nursing – our

patients and clients depend on us. It is both a demanding and rewarding profession that requires individuals to be adaptive to the evolving and complex health care landscape to ensure the delivery of safe and quality patient care.

The accusation that personnel at once accredited nursing schools allegedly participated in this scheme is simply deplorable. This undermines everything the nursing profession represents and stands for and is in direct opposition to the Code of Ethics for Nurses. Furthermore, these unlawful and unethical acts disparage the reputation of actual nurses everywhere who have rightfully earned the title of the 'Most Trusted and Ethical Professionals' through education, hard work, dedication and time. We support the investigation and the judicial process to ensure individuals found to have been involved in this scheme are held accountable."

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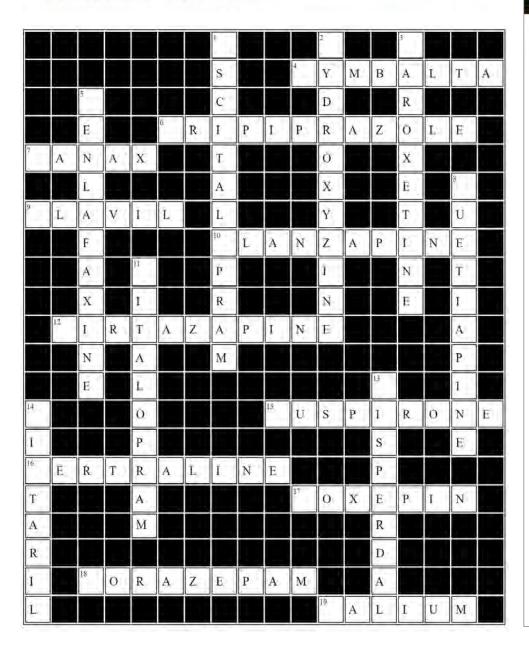
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