

# Graduate Research Day 2013

## Florida Atlantic University

### **Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing**

#### **P Building Structures for Research: Culturally Congruent End of Life**

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Understanding how theory and practice is integrally linked is a challenging goal for nursing students. The 10-step process outlined in “Building Structures for Research” (Smith & Liehr, 2008) was utilized in a doctoral course at Florida Atlantic University to address this goal and explore theory development and evaluation in the context of nursing knowledge, guided by caring philosophy. Nursing theories were studied among doctoral nursing students with emphasis on middle range theory as applied to practice and research. Concept analysis methods were introduced as a foundation for theory building and evaluation. In this lively course students had an opportunity to develop a theory related to their phenomenon of research interest with consideration of the relationship between a memorable, significant nursing practice situation and nursing theory. This scholarly learning opportunity allowed for:

- Examination of nursing theory for relevance to practice and research
- Demonstration of role synthesis by analyzing and critiquing methods of concept analysis for relevance to area of research-practice interest
- Understanding wholeness of persons connected with others and the environment through caring by evaluating nursing theory for relevance to a caring philosophy
- Actualization of nursing as nurturing the wholeness of others through caring synthesizing a conceptual definition which is consistent with caring philosophy, emerges from nursing practice and is central to planned research