



The Bobcat Nurse 2015

A publication of Montana State University's College of Nursing

A Message from Dean Helen Melland

Greetings Bobcat Nurses and friends of the College of Nursing:

Each summer about 30 MSU leaders including President Cruzado, the vice presidents, deans and faculty participate in a three day tour with the opportunity to meet the citizens we serve in their home settings and learn a bit about their lives and how nearly everything in the great state of Montana relates to MSU and our land grant mission. Earlier this summer, we *Followed the Tourism*.

Previous themes included: *Follow the Grain, Follow the Beef, and Follow the Energy*. This year, as the bus rolled through Big Sky Country, we listened to presentations by industry leaders and legislators on topics ranging from the relationship between tourism and economic development to the significance of water issues in Montana, and the need for growers in the state to diversify. We enjoyed an amazing landscape with stops that included a fly fishing outfitter and fly fishing lodge, the Berkeley pit in Butte, a hops farm in the Flathead area (Montana leads the country in craft beer), and the Northwestern Agricultural Research Center.



Since I'm not a Montana native, I feel very fortunate to participate in these trips as I've learned so much about my new state. I've also met many individuals who are committed to MSU and the College of Nursing. Several of the folks I've met are nursing alums or somehow connected to the College. I've sat at picnic tables at "ag" gatherings and ridden on a flatbed truck touring a canola field, and along the way, I've heard stories from parents of nursing graduates and from nursing alums. They recall their days as an MSU student and they speak of the challenges and rewards of their current work. Without fail, they express pride, gratitude and tremendous respect for the profession of nursing.

As I've visited communities around the state I've met with nursing leaders (usually MSU nursing alums) serving as nurse administrators, industrial nurses, or advanced practice nurses in remote settings. They will do whatever it takes to deliver quality healthcare to the people of Montana.

We can be proud of the College of Nursing. We have graduates in every corner of the state working to improve the health of Montanans in many different settings. That is part of our mission in the College of Nursing and it is part of the land-grant mission of Montana State University.

Enjoy this edition of the Bobcat Nurse. It too will make you proud of your College and the wonderful profession of nursing.

Please do stay in touch –

Helen

Note from the editor: We welcome your feedback and your input.
Please send photos and story ideas for the 2016 Bobcat Nurse to kay.lafrance@montana.edu

A note from Anna Pearl Sherrick

from her 1976 book, *The Montana State University School of Nursing - A Story of Professional Development*

“It was during the depression in 1934 when I drove in a Durant to Great Falls, Montana. I had just completed my Master’s Degree in education at Colorado State College, Greeley. Wanting to stay in the West, I had applied for a position at the Montana Deaconess Hospital and was accepted. A friend accompanied me to Bowen, Illinois to see my family before moving west. The evening before I left for Montana, the minister tried to convince my mother not to let me drive alone to Montana. But I had no money, there was no other way. So I started out alone in the Durant traveling through Iowa, the Dakotas, to Glendive, Billings, and on to the Montana Deaconess Hospital to be the instructor of student nurses.”

Anna Pearl Sherrick, RN, MA, EdD

Former Director of Nursing, Montana Deaconess Hospital, 1934-1937

Coordinator of Nursing Education, Montana State College, 1937-1943

Director, School of Nursing, Montana State University, 1943-1965

“Montana State has attracted students able to meet the challenges of society in the latter part of the twentieth century. Most of them are women but if women are to take their place in today’s society, continued advanced education is necessary. In fact, men and women in nursing should continue to use their minds if they expect to have full lives and to serve humanity. Science searches for a longer useful life-span. The nurse’s role appears to be an increasingly useful one without limitations in the health team of future generations.”



Sherrick Hall is now Anna Pearl Sherrick Hall

Formerly known simply as “Sherrick Hall,” both the new and former names honor Dr. Anna Pearl Sherrick, founding director of the nursing program at MSU. Sherrick served as the first dean in the College of Nursing from 1937-1965. During some of those years, she also taught anatomy and physiology for the Department of

Zoology and Entomology. According to college leaders, Dr. Sherrick was known for her cheerful, effective leadership amidst seemingly endless administrative hurdles and was often referred to as a nurse who knew no barriers to progress.

The new name is also intended to help differentiate Anna Pearl Sherrick Hall from Herrick Hall, a building on the northeast side of campus that houses Family and Consumer Sciences, as well as the Food and Nutrition Laboratories, Early Childhood Education and the MSU Child Development Center lab.



(at left, MSU Facility Services installs a new sign)

MSU Students Witness History on Cuba Visit

by Gail Schontzler, Bozeman Daily Chronicle

On their 10-day tour of Cuba, Montana State University nursing students got quite a surprise when the U.S. and Cuban presidents made the dramatic announcement that they were thawing relations after 50 years of hostility.

“We felt like we were a witness to history,” said Steve Glow of Missoula, an associate clinical professor with MSU’s College of Nursing.

Glow and his wife, Sally Baskett, a family nurse practitioner, led the trip to Cuba for a dozen MSU nursing students and one pre-medical student, most of them from the MSU Bozeman campus. They traveled from Dec. 12 to 22 to learn how Cuba’s socialized health care system works, on a trip sanctioned by the U.S. government as an educational exchange.

The Cuban people they met were already warm and welcoming, and then the diplomatic agreement was announced Dec. 17. Cuban human rights activists have denounced the agreement, and there were protests in Miami’s Cuban exile community, but the news was welcomed on the island.

“It was really a very joyful time for the Cuban people,” Glow said. “They were absolutely thrilled.

“People would stop us on the street and ask where we were from. ‘America – we love America!’” they’d say.

Keith Esland, 31, an MSU student from North Carolina, said after the announcement the Cubans were excited to meet the Montanans. “It ratcheted up a notch. They would hug us.”

The day after the announcement they attended a block party put on by a Committee for the Defense of the Revolution – a sort of combined neighborhood watch and government advocate, Glow said. People played guitar and accordion, children danced, a DJ played pop songs and residents served cake and rum.

They said the Cuban people seemed most excited that normalizing relations with America would allow more travel – their U.S. relatives can only visit once every three years now – and would improve the economy for a nation with a lot of poverty.

To learn about the Cuban health care system, the MSU group visited a primary care clinic, specialty clinic, maternity home, a center for sexually transmitted diseases and another for disaster medicine, and colleges that train nurses and doctors.

Cuba has “consultorios” – one primary doctor and one nurse – to serve every 800 to 1,000 people and keep people healthy. They even make home visits.

Cuba’s health system focuses more on preventive care, rather than on treating disease, they said. Cuba can afford to spend only about

\$500 per person, compared to \$5,500 per U.S. citizen. Yet their health outcomes, in infant mortality and life expectancy, are similar or better than those in the U.S.

“Everything is free, which is pretty crazy,” Esland said. From a simple checkup to triple bypass heart surgery, health care is free. He said equal access to health care -- whether a patient is poor or better off -- is the thing he liked best about the Cuban system.

Medical schools to train doctors and nurses are also free, so students don’t incur large debts, Glow said. Cuba trains doctors from 80 countries, and sends Cuban doctors to places like Africa to treat Ebola patients, which creates goodwill for the country.

Pay for Cuban doctors and nurses is similar to that of other professions, like engineers, and doctors earn only about 20 percent more than nurses.



“Some things work very well, some things not so well,” Glow said. Cuba has significant shortages of medical equipment, which they likely would blame on the embargo, but the country’s limited finances probably play a role.

At one clinic, the visitors asked if abstinence is promoted to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. “They just laughed,” Glow said. “They said not in this culture. That would not be a very effective technique.”

Walking down the streets of old Havana, seeing the “gorgeous” colonial architecture, riding in 1950s-era cars, and the warm reception from the people were some of the highlights, Glow said.

“We learned a lot,” he said.

“We would do it again in a heartbeat.”

Improving Health Care for Montana and Beyond

A Commitment to Partnership and Engagement



MSU's College of Nursing builds relationships with the Blackfeet and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations where students participate in service-learning projects (*pictured at top left*). On the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, students complete up to 60 hours of their required pediatric clinical hours.



Through collaboration with MSU's Office of International Programs, nursing students join students from other disciplines studying abroad in Mongolia (*pictured below*), Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador (*pictured center left*). Together these students learn to appreciate different traditions, view problems from diverse perspectives, and approach solutions cooperatively.

These cross-cultural experiences give MSU's nursing students a competitive advantage when establishing their careers or when applying to graduate school. More than that, these experiences give students the chance to see first-hand how they can improve the lives of individuals and families.

With the right mix of experiences and capabilities, Montana State University graduates can establish themselves in communities where they can have the greatest impact.



College of Nursing Joins Health Info Network

This spring the Montana State University College of Nursing joined the Health Information Exchange of Montana (HIEM), a 425-mile fiber optic rural health care technology network.

HIEM is one of the most advanced and robust medical technology networks in Montana, according to Helen Melland, dean of the MSU College of Nursing. It connects 18 hospitals and clinics, as well as the MSU College of Nursing between Missoula and Kalispell, and other educational institutions.

“HIEM is providing important connectivity between the MSU College of Nursing in Bozeman and one of the college’s five satellite campuses in Kalispell,” Melland said. “We’re very pleased to be part of this network.”

Sandy Kuntz, site coordinator of the MSU College of Nursing Kalispell campus, said the network has dramatically improved reliability, quality and connection speed for the campus interactive video system. As a result, she said, students are able to focus on learning, rather than on issues with connectivity and technology.

“Joining HIEM has been a very positive move for our students, as well as for our faculty members,” Kuntz said. “This technology is enabling our students and faculty to focus on the educational material. We’re thrilled to be part of HIEM.”

Robert Barksdale, IT coordinator for the MSU College of Nursing, said that joining the network was a collaborative effort among many from MSU, as well as from outside partners.

“Without everyone’s contributions, this connection would not be in place today,” Barksdale said.

Improving Health in Ravalli County through Assessment, Education and Evaluation

The Jane S. Heman Foundation has funded a project proposed by Susan Raph and Dr. Charlene “Charlie” Winters, faculty members in the MSU College of Nursing, to provide a systematic approach to improving the health of the citizens of Ravalli County. The project includes a formal community health needs assessment, planning and implementation of health care education and care activities and ongoing evaluation by BSN nursing students.

The College seeks to improve the health of the citizens of Montana and this targeted approach to assessment of needs, planning and implementation of health care education and care activities, and ongoing evaluation provides a mechanism to achieve that goal in the identified area.

“I believe this project is a win win for the Heman Foundation, the nursing students in the College of Nursing, and the citizens of Ravalli County,” said Dean Helen Melland.

Nursing Students Engage in Service & Outreach Programs without leaving Campus

In addition to domestic and international service projects, the College of Nursing engages in many projects without leaving the classroom. Science Olympiad students from across Montana (pictured lower right), Leadership MSU, K-12 student field trips (pictured upper right) and alumni reunion groups are just a few of the college's regular visitors.

Visitors learn how to check reflexes and hearing, don proper scrubs and improve their hand-washing techniques. A favorite activity among guests of all ages is "meeting" simulation mannikins.

Gallatin Heart Rescue also offers students many opportunities to work in their communities teaching hands-only CPR techniques. Students have assisted the Gallatin Heart Resuce team at MSU's Catapalooza (lower left photo), Christmas stroll and the Bobcat Football Spring Game.



CAM Health Literacy Measure – Psychometric Evaluation



Dr. Jean Shreffler-Grant has spent 15 years studying the use of and health literacy about complementary and alternative therapies (CAM) among older rural residents. She found that this group primarily used self-prescribed CAM and often had limited understanding about the therapies they used. Dr. Shreffler-Grant is addressing the need for education to improve this population's understanding of CAM. Dr. Shreffler-Grant discovered that an instrument to assess the skills necessary for health self-management using CAM did not exist so she decided to develop an instrument. Based on previous research findings, the MSU CAM Health Literacy Scale was constructed. Currently Dr. Shreffler-Grant and her research team are putting this new and innovative instrument through the rigorous psychometric testing that is necessary to build evidence to support the validity and reliability of the MSU CAM Health Literacy Scale.

Jennifer Show and Kate Taubert Recipients of the Helen Jacobsen Lee Endowment for Rural Nursing Research

Dr. Helen Jacobsen Lee is a former MSU College of Nursing faculty member. She established the Rural Nursing Research Endowment in 2002 upon her retirement from MSU. The endowment is available to MSU graduate and undergraduate nursing students, nursing faculty, and alumni interested in conducting rural nursing research.

Type II Diabetes and Native American Populations

Jennifer Show, a DNP student, is conducting her professional project on Type II diabetes, a chronic health issue that plagues many Native American populations. One of the complications of diabetes that is not fully understood is periodontal disease. Jennifer has found in her practice as a nurse that persons with diabetes are seldom screened for oral health issues, nor is oral health addressed in relation to their diabetes. Jennifer's project is addressing this issue through the use of oral health screening and motivational interviewing of American Indians on a rural reservation in Montana.

Oral Health Outreach in a Non-Dental, American Indian Setting

Kate Taubert (a DNP student) is in the process of designing a three part oral health intervention to be implemented in an American Indian, pediatric primary care setting. The overall goal of this project is to facilitate the integration of sustainable pediatric oral health initiatives into a non-dental setting. Kate's project includes conducting a caries risk assessment and oral health assessment on American Indian pediatric patients and increasing the dental home referrals and oral health education done during routine well-child checks.

Recent Master's Graduate Develops Research Instrument

Sarah Hinton's work is based on that of Dr. Sheila Grossman who originally published a 2007 article about her Leadership and Management Competency Checklist. This checklist was developed by Dr. Grossman for use by critical care staff nurses. Hinton pursued research on the: 1) revision of the checklist into an instrument, and 2) psychometric examination of the resulting instrument. Hinton's research instrument is designed to be used by all nurses to: 1) examine their current level of leadership competency, 2) identify areas of strength and where growth is needed, and 3) develop and implement strategies to further improve their leadership competency.

Hinton's findings were reported in the May 19, 2015 issue of the *Center to Champion Nursing* in America's Campaign for Action and she has been contacted by nurses around the country, seeking more information on the instrument. Hinton is in the process of copyrighting the instrument and developing a mechanism whereby all nurses would be able to access the instrument.

Dr. Christina Sieloff, Chair of Hinton's graduate committee, said, "Sarah's work is unique in that it is the only nursing theory-based instrument designed to assist nurses to both assess and improve their leadership competencies. This basis in nursing theory is critically important as Ms. Hinton's work both adds to nursing knowledge as well as addresses the building of nursing leadership from the unique perspective of nursing rather than that of other disciplines. Ms. Hinton's work addresses the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine's report (*Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*) and will be of benefit to nurses at all levels in all practice settings."

Teresa Seright and Jane Scharff, also served as members of Hinton's graduate committee.

Comforting Toward Your Wishes—Exploring a Taboo Perception on Discussing End-of-Life Issues and Developing a Lay Health Educator Intervention

Dr. Yoshiko Colclough and her research team are working toward gaining an understanding of the traditions and culture of the Blackfeet American Indians as related to talking about death and end of life care. These topics are often perceived as taboo to the Blackfeet. Dr. Colclough is developing a culturally appropriate intervention to aid in the discussion of these topics. Her current project is enlisting the help of Blackfeet elders to help her deepen her understanding of the traditional views on discussing death and end of life care. She is also surveying tribal members to gain an understanding of the current culture as related to these topics. Building on this information she and her research team are designing a lay health educator intervention and evaluation that will help change the stigma associated with discussing death and end of life care.



PROGRAMS

COLLEGE OF NURSING 2014-2015 RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

Dr. Renee Reijo Pera

Research on Stem Cell Applications Throughout the Lifespan

September 15, 2014; 12:15-1:15 pm

Dr. Waded Cruzado

Of Worlds and Dreams That Never Were: Literature and Land-Grant Universities

October 20, 2014; 12:15-1:15 pm

Dr. Linda Torma

*Are You Saying It's All In My Head: A Look At Fibromyalgia,
Aging, and Resilience*

November 17, 2014; 12:15-1:15 pm

Dr. Bernadette Melnyk

*Building Evidence-based Programs To Improve "So What"
Outcomes in Children, Teens and Families Through Intervention*

Research: Key Strategies For Success

March 16, 2015; 12:15-1:15 pm

Research Seminar Schedule for 2015-2016:

September 21, 2015 12:15-1:15 pm

October 19, 2015; 12:15-1:15 pm

November 16, 2015; 12:15-1:15 pm

February 29, 2016; 12:15-1:15 pm

April 18, 2016; 12:15-1:15 pm

PROGRAMS

THE COLLEGE of NURSING

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN

Learn in a supportive environment that encourages exploration, facilitates research and embraces service.

Build a strong foundation of knowledge in science, physiology and nursing care.

Provide care in underserved communities in the U.S. and internationally through service-learning projects.

DNP MASTER OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE LAUNCHED IN FALL 2013



MSU'S COLLEGE OF NURSING

Offers a statewide program with 5 campus sites to accommodate more students. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Montana State University is offered in Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula.

Offers the only Accelerated Nursing Program in the state of Montana for students who've already earned a bachelor's degree in another discipline. Same courses, same number of credits as the traditional nursing degree – but FASTER.



MSU OFFERS THE ONLY GRADUATE AND DOCTORAL NURSING PROGRAMS IN MONTANA



5
CAMPUS SITES

996 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PRE-NURSING AND NURSING

OFFERING STARTING SALARY
FOR MASTER'S AND DOCTORATE STUDENTS
\$75,480

63% of MSU nursing graduates who responded to a recent career survey reported full-time employment in Montana. Average starting salary was **\$49,566**

DEGREES

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
- Master of Nursing (MN)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

SIM LAB



THE SIMULATION LABORATORY enables nursing students to practice patient care in a safe environment.



FOR STUDENTS IN ECUADOR, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, MONGOLIA & MORE

EST. **1937**

OLDEST STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION OFFERING NURSING EDUCATION

MSU CLINICAL CENTERS FOR UPPER-DIVISION COURSEWORK



200+
BSN GRADUATES EACH YEAR
LARGEST SUPPLY OF BACCALAUREATE-PREPARED NURSES IN THE STATE

College Recognizes Outstanding Leaders

From MSU News Service

BOZEMAN – Montana State University’s College of Nursing recently honored several faculty members, as well as a staff member, a student and a community partner, at the college’s annual recognition ceremony and spring pinning celebration, held on May 7.

At the recognition ceremony, Steve Glow received the Outstanding Teaching Award, Jennifer McCall received the Outstanding Staff Award and Elizabeth Kinion received the Outstanding Research Award. Retiring faculty members Gretchen McNeely, Carolyn Wenger, Deanna Babb and Karen Zulkowski were also honored.

Pat Wilson received the Dean’s Award for Excellence during the college’s spring pinning ceremony on May 8th. Wilson is the director of Education Services at Kalispell Regional Medical Center and has demonstrated exceptional leadership as a community partner to the college.

Student Jessie Hardin received the George & Laurine Harris Award, an award given annually to an outstanding nursing student.

(Photo: Pat Wilson at left and Dean Helen Melland, right)



Student Presents Resolution at Spring NSNA Conference

Kathryn Hastings , a senior nursing student in Bozeman, presented the resolution;

**IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED RESEARCH
AND AWARENESS OF THE CURRENT HEALTH
CONCERNS RELATED TO E-CIGARETTES**

Hastings co-authored and presented the resolution with a student from Emory University. The resolution passed in the House of Delegates at the National Student Nurses Association conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

(Kathryn Hastings pictured at left in photo)

Leaders & Legends

In September 2014, the College of Nursing hosted its second Leaders & Legends Celebration in conjunction with MSU's Homecoming activities. Pictured in the photo at right (from left to right) are: Dean Helen Melland, Joyce Dombrowski (Alumni Achievement Award), Kay Chafey (Distinguished Faculty Award), Matt Rognlie (Honorary Alumni Award) and John Maccagnano (Distinguished Staff Award).



Awards for Excellence

Three nursing students and their most influential mentors received Awards for Excellence at the annual recognition dinner held this spring. Pictured in the photo at right (from left to right), Dean Helen Melland, Mary Christiaens (student in Great Falls), Lauri Jackson (faculty in Great Falls), Jessie Hardin (student in Bozeman), Michele Sare (faculty in Missoula), Teresa Henry (faculty in Missoula), Kayla LeMire (student in Missoula). Jessie Hardin also received MSU's Torlief Aasheim Award for service.



Emerging Scholar

Kellie Phillips, a member of the Caring for our Own Program (CO-OP) in Billings, was the recipient of the MSU Emerging Scholar Award. Phillips was selected to present a poster at the Oncology Nurse's Association annual convention in Florida and was named the 'Outstanding Nursing Student of Montana'. Phillips is pictured at right with CO-OP staff members Terrylee Altemus (left) and Mariya Waldenberg (right).





Dr. Peter Buerhaus,

a renowned nurse economist who is recognized nationally for his expertise on health care workforce issues has joined the faculty of the Montana State University College of Nursing.

Peter Buerhaus served as the Valere Potter Distinguished Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies at Vanderbilt's School of Medicine, and professor in the Department of Health Policy in the Institute for Medicine and Public Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Buerhaus also chairs the National Health Care Workforce Commission and is a member of the Institute of Medicine.

As a nurse economist, Buerhaus' research includes forecasting nurse and physician supply, developing and testing measures of the quality of care in hospitals, determining public and provider opinions on issues involving the delivery of health care, and assessing the quantity and quality of health care provided by nurse practitioners.



Dr. Sandra Benavides-Vaello

has joined the Montana State University College of Nursing as Campus Director in Missoula.

Benavides-Vaello served as Assistant Professor at Washington State University in Spokane.

She has a strong background in health disparities research, particularly in rural communities and experience teaching at the doctoral, graduate and undergraduate levels.

Benavides-Vaello's research interests are oriented towards ethnic minorities (Latinas and Native Americans of low socioeconomic status) in rural settings, issues related to self-care of chronic health conditions (food practices, health status monitoring, cultural values and norms, behavioral health concerns) and health policy.

Her interests are expanding to include social determinants of health such as poverty and discrimination.



Dr. Tracy Hellem

earned her PhD in Nursing from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and has recently served as adjunct faculty at Westminster College.

Hellem's research explores novel treatment approaches targeted at brain bioenergetics for the management of comorbid psychiatric illness and substance use disorders.

Hellem's focus on drug abuse, including clinical trials to determine the effectiveness of creatine as a therapeutic approach to management is consistent with the mental health priorities recently established by the College of Nursing and Montana State University.

Hellem has been a part of a federally-funded research team at the University of Utah since 2008, acting as research coordinator, research nurse and investigator.

Hellem will begin her faculty position in Missoula this fall.

Long-Time Employees Retire from College of Nursing

Four employees, with a combined MSU service record totalling more than 100 years, are retiring.

After 26 years, **Dr. Gretchen McNeely** is retiring from her position as Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Nursing. Gretchen’s MSU career started in Missoula when she was hired by Dean Anna Shannon to teach Pediatric Nursing in 1983. She spent her summer months working on her doctoral degree and eventually was hired as the Assistant to the Dean in Bozeman, working for Dean Kathleen Long and Associate Dean Julie Johnson. Just as Lea Accord was hired as the MSU dean of nursing, Gretchen received an offer to teach at Westminster College in Utah, where she stayed until 1999. That year, Gretchen returned to the College of Nursing at MSU as Associate Dean, her position until retirement. Gretchen claims the biggest change in the college is in the realm of technology - “in the early years, there were no computers so we had no internet and no e-mails”. As for retirement plans, Gretchen plans to spend summers in Bozeman, winters visiting family and friends in warmer climates and she plans to shop at Costco on Wednesdays (instead of weekends) expecting a smaller crowd.

Carolyn Wenger is retiring after 34 years with the College of Nursing. Through the years, Carolyn taught thousands of students Community Health Nursing and Health Policy among other classes. Carolyn was instrumental in the implementation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree at MSU and is well-known for her unwavering commitment to the homeless and veteran communities in the Billings area. Carolyn is also known for her keen sense of humor, her incredible cooking skills and her ability to be calm and present in all things. Long-time friend, Jane Scharff, claims Carolyn is the “best traveling companion ever” and “a most loyal colleague and friend.”

Linda Nix, Accounting Associate II, began her MSU career 27 years ago. Linda has provided a “bank” of institutional knowledge for the College of Nursing and has been a dedicated employee and a friend to all who know her. Upon retiring, Linda looks forward to spending time with her family in Illinois and then returning to a number of home remodeling projects in Bozeman. Congratulations, Linda!

Dr. Karen Zulkowski, is retiring after 17 years as a faculty member in Billings. Karen is a dedicated and experienced advocate for prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers and has assisted in the development and testing of a toolkit designed to reduce pressure ulcers in acute care settings. She also serves as the executive editor of *The Journal of the World Council of Enterstomal Therapists*.



Carolyn Wenger



Gretchen McNeely



Linda Nix



Karen Zulkowski

A Note from the MSU Alumni Foundation

Montana State University is taking steps to advance its place in the top tier of our nation's public teaching and research universities. But we cannot achieve our goals without you, our alumni, friends and donors. As University President Cruzado has said, "The work of building a great and enduring institution is an 'everybody in' proposition."

World-class teaching and research demand world-class funding. Your support of the College of Nursing is essential to the success of our students and the continued excellence of our programs. As Montana's land-grant university and home of the state's only graduate nursing program, MSU has the unique responsibility of educating tomorrow's professional nursing leaders.

The College of Nursing seeks to raise private philanthropic support for people and programs with a focus on:

Scholarships for students, especially those enrolled in MSU's Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Fellowships for master's nursing students to develop more of tomorrow's nursing leaders.

An Endowed Chair to advance programs of research relevant to the health and well-being of Montanans.

Outreach and Service-learning in underserved communities across Montana and around the world.

Your gift makes you a part of the solution to our nationwide nursing shortage and will help to improve health care in Montana and beyond.

If you're considering a gift that will raise the bar for nursing education, you can reach the MSU Alumni Foundation at 406-994-4207 or make your gift today at msuaf.org/give-cnu.

Meet the College of Nursing Development Officer

Greetings from the Montana State University Alumni Foundation! My name is Sofie Garcelon and I was thrilled to join the College of Nursing in January 2015 as the Director of Development. I am part of an amazing team at the Alumni Foundation that is tasked with raising private philanthropic support to advance Montana State University.

It is an exciting time to be part of the Montana State University College of Nursing. Our graduates are moving from MSU to incredible careers, and we are actively increasing our presence in Montana and beyond!

I consider myself lucky to work with YOU, the alumni and donors who choose to support the College of Nursing. Your support changes lives at MSU. Whether it is scholarships for students in our accelerated program, funding for faculty and student research, or support for our students to travel internationally, it has a large impact and we are grateful.

If we haven't yet had the opportunity to meet, please don't hesitate to reach out – I would love to grab coffee with any Bobcat Nurse!

My direct line is: 406-994-7671 and I can be reached via email as well: sofie.garcelon@msuaf.org



Every effort has been made to ensure that all names are listed correctly. This list represents donations given from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or misspelled, please contact the MSU Alumni Foundation at (406) 994-2053.

A

Ms. Amy & Mr. Jesse Adams
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