

The Bobcat Nurse 2016

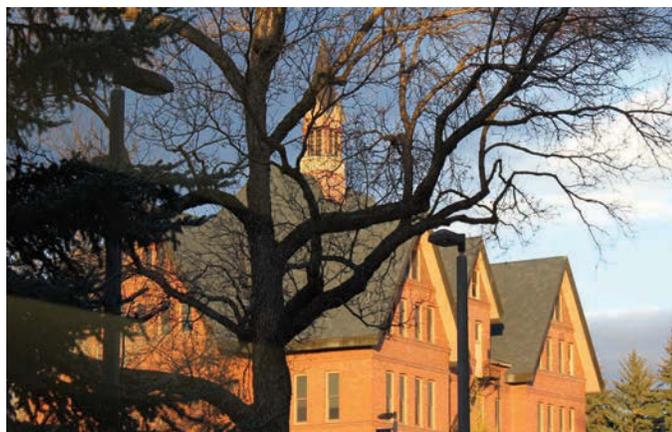
A publication of Montana State University's College of Nursing

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About Us

The College of Nursing at Montana State University offers a traditional bachelor’s of science degree, an accelerated bachelor’s of science degree, a master’s degree (Clinical Nurse Leader) and a doctor of nursing practice degree with Nurse Practitioner (Family/Individual) and Nurse Practitioner (Psychiatric/Mental Health) options. The College delivers undergraduate education at five sites across the state of Montana in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula. Courses in the graduate program are delivered by blending online video and teleconference.



A Note from the Editor

We welcome your feedback and your input. Please send photos and story ideas for the 2017 Bobcat Nurse to kay.lafrance@montana.edu

Greetings Bobcat Nurses and Friends of the College:



Over the past year I've had the opportunity to welcome Dr. Peter Buerhaus as a faculty member to the College of Nursing and to listen to him give lectures at various venues in Montana and beyond. One of the messages I've heard Dr. Buerhaus deliver again and again is that we really are at a critical juncture in healthcare: as the shortage of primary care providers intensifies, especially in rural settings; as millions more become insured as a result of the Affordable Care Act and thus seek care; and as the entire health care system transitions from a fee-for-service to an outcomes based reimbursement system. I am pleased to share with you how the College of Nursing is responding to the forces and trends in that complex system that we are preparing our graduates to enter.

Because evidence indicates that students are more likely to choose to work in rural and underserved settings if they've had clinical learning experiences in those settings, the federal government has released funds to support students who participate in learning experiences in such settings. We were excited to learn that the College is one of only nine schools in the country to receive a \$501,572 two-year federal grant (Dr. Wade Hill, P.I.) that will increase the experiential learning opportunities for our senior undergraduate students in rural community based settings. We also received a \$349,000 HRSA grant (Dr. Donna Williams, P.I.) to support our third year doctoral of nursing practice (DNP) students who do their clinical experiences in rural settings.

Projections are that by 2030 the nation's RN workforce may fall short by 130,000 and in Montana we could be short 800 nurses by 2025. Those are scary numbers for all of us as we are all consumers of health care! The College of Nursing is committed to educating as many nurses as possible at the baccalaureate level. We will be taking the first step towards expanding our student numbers this fall as we plan to admit an additional 16 students to our accelerated BSN program – 8 on the Missoula campus and 8 on the Kalispell campus. We will also be moving forward this year with our plans to expand the number of students admitted to our Bozeman campus from 16 to 32, beginning fall 2017.

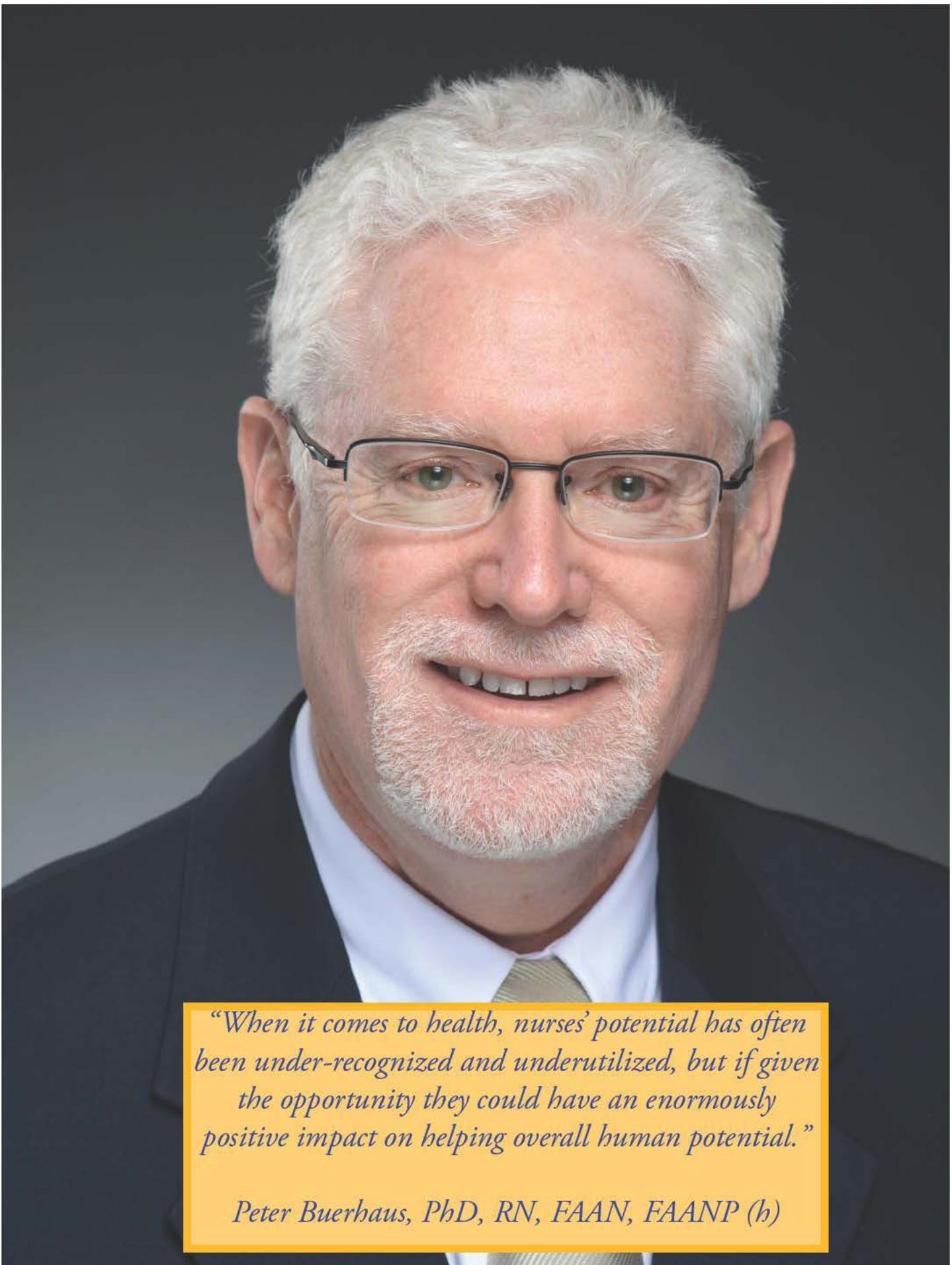
To help meet the needs of the state for primary care providers, we graduated our first class of 8 doctorally prepared nurse practitioner students in May – the first doctoral students in nursing to ever graduate in Montana! Interest in that DNP program continues to be strong with a projected enrollment this fall of 95 students – all who will be studying to be nurse practitioners having opted for either the family/individual or psychiatric/mental health option.

But – numbers and where students do their clinical learning experiences don't tell the whole story. We will be continuing to evaluate our curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to assure that our students are armed with the knowledge and abilities they need to be leaders in this rapidly changing world of health care. Topics such as health policy, economics, outcomes management, quality improvement, evidence based practice, and leadership are woven throughout our curriculum.

I continue to be honored to lead this outstanding College of Nursing and have lofty dreams for our future. As you will see as you read in this issue of the *Bobcat Nurse*, our vision remains clear and our commitment to the population we serve is strong. Your continued partnership has helped us become who we are today and will guide who we will become tomorrow. Please do stay in touch! Go Cats!

Helen

Helen Melland, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor



“When it comes to health, nurses’ potential has often been under-recognized and underutilized, but if given the opportunity they could have an enormously positive impact on helping overall human potential.”

Peter Buerhaus, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAANP (h)

Faculty in the News

Dr. Peter Buerhaus

Excerpt from MSU News Service story

BOZEMAN – Throughout his career, Montana State University Nursing Professor Peter Buerhaus has seen firsthand how research can transform national conversation on an issue as important – and complicated – as health care delivery.

He witnessed it after publishing a paper in a respected medical journal 15 years ago that first alerted the country to a potentially dire situation – the retirement of the baby boom generation of nurses at the very same time that baby boomers would be consuming more health care services themselves. He observed how published research eventually persuaded a commission that accredits hospitals to create avenues for nurses to provide more input. And he saw how health care economics is valued when, in 2010, he was appointed chair of the National Health Care Workforce Commission that was established under The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to advise both the U.S. Congress and the President on national health care workforce policy.

Buerhaus first came to MSU in 2014 to attend a conference on rural health care in nursing – a topic with which he had become increasingly interested. He and his wife liked the area and found themselves considering Bozeman as a possible place to retire. Then, during the conference, Buerhaus met a faculty member from the MSU College of Nursing, as well as MSU College of Nursing Dean Helen Melland. Several months later, Buerhaus again visited MSU, this time to consider a career move.

“I met with the dean, the vice president for research and economic development, the president and the provost. I could take a reading of their spirit, of their sense of purpose. It made me feel comfortable that this was an organization that (could) be effective and could lead,” Buerhaus said. “The college (was) very close to its mission of educating good nurses who are going to take care of the lives of Montanans...I found authentic faculty and authentic students with a clear mission.”

Buerhaus joined MSU and the College of Nursing in 2015. Melland said the university is fortunate to have Buerhaus as a member of its faculty.

“Dr. Buerhaus is a nationally acclaimed nurse researcher and health care economist,” Melland said. “His expertise was recognized when he was elected to the National Academies’ Institute of Medicine and appointed chair of the National Health Care Workforce Commission, a commission that, when funded, will advise Congress on barriers limiting health care workforce production and encouraging innovations that can address the current and future personnel requirements of the U.S. health care system. Dr. Buerhaus will contribute significantly to MSU and to the state of Montana and beyond as he studies the role and impact of nurses in the reformed health care environment, especially in rural America.”

Ultimately, Buerhaus’ work is motivated by a desire to help the nursing profession better realize its potential to advance humanity.

“Human beings have enormous potential to do good in whatever way one defines good, but so often that potential is not realized,” Buerhaus said. “When it comes to health, nurses’ potential has often been under recognized and underutilized, but if given the opportunity, they could have an enormously positive impact on helping overall human potential.

“Nurses really consider the whole person and that whole person’s relationship to their families and their loved ones, to their environment and the communities,” Buerhaus continued. “That appeals to me. When that all happens, you can get enormously positive ripple effects.”

Faculty in the News

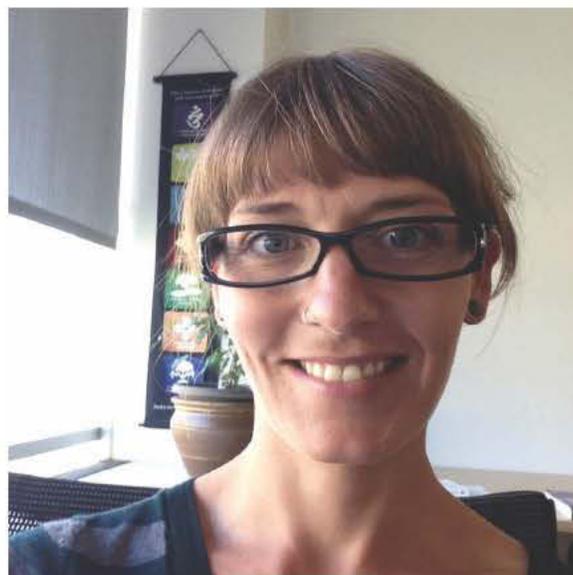
Dr. Sandra Benavides-Vaello, Campus Director in Missoula and Associate Professor, conducts research in collaboration with community health centers and religious institutions. She is currently engaged in a bi-national study (Peru and United States) examining the use of complementary and alternative therapies (CAM), particularly herbal remedies, by low income Latinos for the treatment/management of chronic conditions. She has recently joined a study, as a consultant, related to the use of promotores in southwestern Montana. Other research efforts include the use of nurse navigation and increased patient engagement for the management of diabetes and hypertension and related co-morbid conditions among low income Latinos. *(Dr. Benavides-Vaello is pictured top right.)*

Dr. Tracy Hellem explores novel treatment approaches to manage mood symptoms among individuals with substance use disorders. She is currently conducting a study of creatine monohydrate for methamphetamine users with depression and anxiety. Creatine has been shown to be an effective adjunctive treatment for adult women with major depressive disorder in a randomized controlled trial. Her current study is the first clinical trial of creatine for depression to include both men and women. Dr. Hellem is also working on a descriptive study of substance use characteristics of individuals living in Missoula, Montana. *(Dr. Hellem is pictured middle right.)*

Dr. Jean Shreffler-Grant, is the Principal Investigator of a funded research study entitled *Skill Building to Enhance CAM Health Literacy for Older Rural Adults*. The grant, in the amount of \$431,029, was awarded by the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, National Institutes of Health. Co-investigators are Elizabeth Nichols, PhD, RN, FAAN (Dean Emerita), Clarann Weinert, SC, PhD, RN, FAAN (Professor Emerita), and David Young, PhD (MSU Professor and Community Resource Specialist).

The goal of the study is to deliver and evaluate a skill building intervention to enhance health literacy about complementary and alternative therapies (CAM), specifically natural products, to promote more informed health management decisions among older rural adults. The intervention will be implemented with older adults living in four rural Montana communities and involves four skill building sessions focused on health literacy and CAM, communication with healthcare professionals, essential CAM knowledge, and health information seeking skills. The protocol includes recruitment of at least 20 participants from each site who will complete the study, recruitment and training of community Champions and Senior Center Directors who will facilitate the local intervention, and identification of potential resources to sustain the intervention's impact beyond the grant.

(Dr. Shreffler-Grant is pictured bottom right.)



Faculty in the News

Dr. Charlene “Charlie” Winters has been elected president of the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN). The Western Institute of Nursing, or WIN, is based in Portland, Oregon, and is one of four regional nursing research organizations in the U.S. Winters has been involved with WIN since 1997. She has served as a member of the organization’s board of governors since 2011, when she was elected governor of nursing education. Her service at the helm of the organization includes serving as president-elect for one year, president for one two-year term and past-president for one year. She began her two-year term as president in April.

“Serving as president of WIN is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in an organization that engages researchers, educators and practitioners,” Winters said. “Ultimately our work comes down to improving outcomes for patients, and improving health for communities and populations.” *(Dr. Winters is pictured top-right.)*

Dr. Christina Sieloff was a distinguished speaker at the International Nursing Theory Conference at Azusa Pacific University in Monrovia, California. The aim of the conference was to advance disciplinary knowledge in nursing to inform, transform and reform health care through practice, education and research.

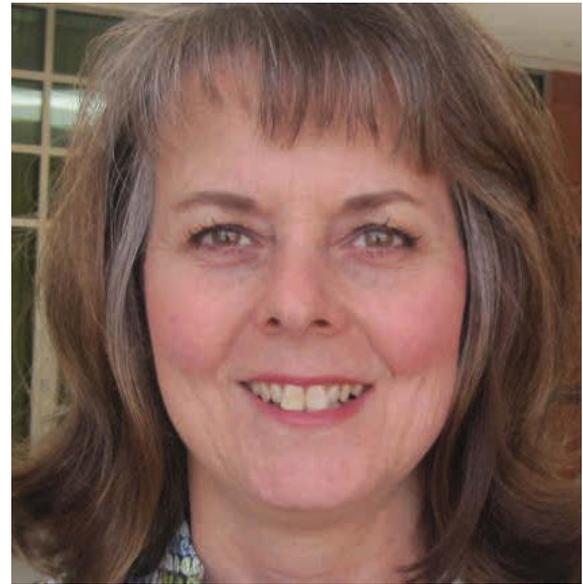
In 1995, Sieloff developed a theory to assist nursing teams in assessing and improving their level of group empowerment. The theory, which has been refined over the years, has been translated into Finnish, Hebrew and Korean. It is based on the work of Imogene King, a pioneer in nursing theory who emphasized goal-setting between nurse and patient as a means to better results. *(Dr. Sieloff is pictured middle right.)*

Dr. Teresa Seright, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, has been selected to serve as an on-site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

CCNE is the premier accrediting agency for baccalaureate and graduate degree programs in nursing, and is nationally recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. More than 700 nurse educators and practicing nurses from across the country currently serve as on-site evaluators for the CCNE accreditation process.

Dr. Seright was also the recipient of the Montana Center to Advance Health through Nursing (MT-CAHN) Outstanding Nurse award for 2016. *(Dr. Seright is pictured bottom right.)*

Dr. Linda Torma and Teresa Henry, long-time faculty members on the College of Nursing Missoula campus announced their retirements in May 2016. The two professors’ combined service to Montana State University totals 47 years. The College extends sincere appreciation and wishes both a happy retirement.



College Highlights

HRSA Grants Awarded to College of Nursing

The College of Nursing is one of only nine schools in the country to receive a \$501,572 two-year Rural Nursing Experience (RN-E) Health Resources and Services Administration grant (Dr. Wade Hill, P.I.) to increase exposure of senior nursing students to rural primary care practice. This clinical immersion experience will increase the number of baccalaureate prepared nurses prepared for rural primary care practice, increase access among rural primary care agencies to a qualified pool of baccalaureate prepared nurses, and influence health outcomes for rural and underserved populations by providing a sustainable conduit for recruitment of baccalaureate prepared nurses to serve rural and underserved populations.

The College has also been awarded a \$349,000 HRSA Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship grant (Dr. Donna Williams, P.I.) to educate advanced practice graduate students to the highest level of the nursing profession with an emphasis on delivering health care in a culturally sensitive manner to residents in sparsely populated areas.

Nursing Research Seminar Schedule

Donna Williams, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, has announced the 2016-2017 Research Seminar Schedule in the College of Nursing. The research presentations will take place from 12:15 - 1:15 PM on September 19, October 17, November 21, February 27, and April 17. Research presenters and location information will be announced via MSU Today and through College of Nursing communications.

ADRN to MN Distance Graduate Education

The College of Nursing has designed a track to a Masters in Nursing (MN) degree for Associate Degree Registered Nurses (ADRN). Master's in Nursing graduate students are educated to be leaders at the point of care with a broad range of opportunities to influence health practices and are prepared to take the national certification examination as Clinical Nurse Leaders (CNL). The deadline for Spring 2017 application is November 1, 2016. For more information visit <http://www.montana.edu/nursing/graduate/adrntomn.html>.

Nursing faculty attend Simulation Workshop

Nine nursing faculty members travelled to a national conference held at the College of Health Sciences Simulation Center at Boise State University. In the coming year, faculty will implement systematic integration of simulation into the nursing curriculum. In the photo at right, Dr. Teresa Seright demonstrates simulation technology to participants in the 2016 Leadership MSU program.



DNP Accreditation and Graduation

In 2016, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education voted to grant the MSU College of Nursing five years of accreditation of the Doctor of Nursing practice program. Additionally, the first class of MSU College of Nursing doctoral students were hooded at the commencement ceremony on May 7, 2016.

Mari Dominguez Honored at Pinning

Mari Dominguez was presented the Dean's Award for Nursing Excellence during the Spring 2016 Pinning Ceremony. This award was established to recognize outstanding leadership and service to the College and to the profession of nursing. Mari is the Executive Director of BridgerCare, a nonprofit clinic in Bozeman and an alum of the College of Nursing. Mari's nomination stated, "Ms. Dominguez is an excellent teacher, a champion for MSU nursing students, and a skilled clinician who consistently shares her experience with the next generation of nurses. Two times a year Ms. Dominguez visits MSU to provide an orientation to students enrolled in the Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family course as they prepare for their rotation through BridgerCare".



BridgerCare has been a clinical partner with the College of Nursing for more than a decade. The Nursing Excellence Award was established to recognize outstanding leadership and service to the college and to the profession of nursing.

(Photo: Dean Melland on the left and Mari Dominguez)

Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies Approved

The MSU Center for Interdisciplinary Health Workforce Studies was approved in March by the Montana Board of Regents. Its purpose is to generate research and information regarding key trends in nursing and other health workforces, to analyze that information and to share it with stakeholders. The center's ultimate mission is to improve the performance of the national health care delivery system. The center was originally housed at Vanderbilt University but moved to MSU after its director, Peter Buerhaus, accepted a position in the MSU College of Nursing. The center, which is now housed in the MSU College of Nursing, is funded entirely by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Buerhaus said the center addresses an issue of vast importance to the economy of Montana and to its people. "Health care is one of the fastest growing industries, and it's going to hire significant numbers of people at (relatively high) incomes," he said. "From an employment perspective, health care is important, and it's also important from a public health perspective."

The center shares information through its website (<http://healthworkforcestudies.com/>), as well as via webinars and conferences it organizes for researchers, policy makers, members of the media and other stakeholders.

Students in the News

Nursing Students attend Policy Summit



Estella Wilmarth and Evan Thompson, students in the College of Nursing, attended the National Healthcare Policy Summit in Washington, DC during Spring 2016.

The summit coincides with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) annual conference for deans.

Both students accompanied Dean Melland on her Capitol Hill visits and were able to meet and engage in thoughtful healthcare dialogue with staff members in Senator Jon Tester's office and Senator Steve Daines' office.

Awards for Excellence

Three students and their faculty mentors were honored at the 2016 Awards for Excellence Banquet. In the photo below (front row, left to right) Janet Smith, Bozeman faculty member; Katie Hogamark, Bozeman student; Susan Luparell, Great Falls faculty member; Evan Thompson, Great Falls student; and top row left to right: Karen Thornberg, Missoula Student; Carolyn Mack, Missoula faculty member and Dean Helen Melland.

Janet Smith was also a 2015-2016 MSU Pure Gold Award recipient

Katie Hogamark received the 2016 Harris Award

Karen Thornberg was a 2016 Tørlief Aasheim Community Involvement Award Winner

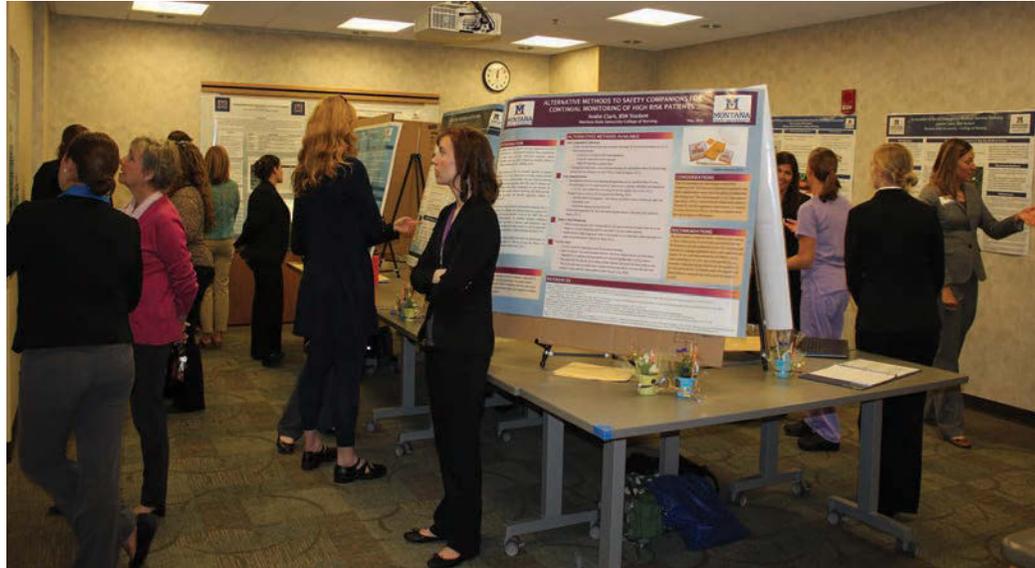
Kay LaFrance received the MSU employee Service Excellence Award

2016 CON Dean's Awards went to: Michelle Baker (staff), Christina Sieloff (research), Teresa Wicks (faculty)



Students in the News

Presentations



As students approach the final days of their bachelor of science education, they prepare and present research posters based on their experiences in classroom and clinical settings. These sessions are open to the public and are often held in community rooms at the hospital (see photo at top) or at the college.



The College was well represented at the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) meeting held in Anaheim, CA in the spring of 2016. The college sponsored four graduate students (Kira Kitchens, Kara Christensen, Amy Braaksma, and Shoshannah Seed) and one undergraduate student (Evan Thompson). Mickey Mouse joined students, Dr. Jean Shreffler-Grant and Dean Helen Melland for a photo opportunity!

Students in the News

Tenley Keller

Navigating a bachelor's of science degree in nursing is complicated anywhere. In the state of Montana, with five extended MSU nursing campuses, it gets extremely complicated. When you add a rigorous college rodeo schedule to it, navigation becomes nearly impossible, but Tenley Keller has managed it with Montana State cowgirl style.

Keller, a Big Sandy native, spent her junior year in Great Falls. She worked at Benefis Health most days and then drove 20 minutes to the Wild West Arena in Vaughn, where she kept her horses. In the Spring, Keller continued her nursing education in Billings and worked for St. Vincent Healthcare. She kept her horses in one place and hauled them to another to train for barrel racing and breakaway roping events as part of the MSU rodeo team. It's not an ideal situation but in a recent article in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Keller said, "I was doing that all through high school. I would be up all day long and in late hours, I would go ride horses."

Andy Bolich, MSU's rodeo coach, said, "Tenley was on a full rodeo scholarship and she had a very successful college rodeo career. She did very well juggling school at a distant site with rodeo practice and travel."

Coach Bolich's assessment is accurate; Keller was the Big Sky region's barrel racing champion in June and will graduate from the College of Nursing with a bachelor's of science in nursing in December 2016. Tenley Keller has proven she can navigate her nursing education and nearly everything else, as long as her trusty horse is nearby.



Students in the News

Graduate Skills Labs



Most of the hands-on activities and the classroom time associated with graduate classes in the College of Nursing occur in distant clinical settings and on-line.

However, once a year, graduate students gather to learn or enhance their casting and stitching skills. In the past, the “patient” of choice for the stitching portion of the skills workshop was a pig’s foot (the texture was just right), but this year, students were able to work with simulated skin pads and simulated skin mannikins.

Fellow students were enlisted to receive casts, and this year, a few engineering students joined in the fun and volunteered as “patients”.

Students in the News

Serving Communities Near and Far



MSU nursing students travel at home and abroad to work with and learn from underserved rural populations. They provide primary care and education on the Fort Peck Reservation and as far away as the Amazon Basin and Northern Mongolia. These experiences introduce student nurses to health concerns rarely addressed in large teaching hospitals and benefit individuals and families without routine access to health care.

Pictured top left: Students prepare to deliver vitamins on a service trip to Ecuador.

Pictured to right: A BSN student administers a flu shot to a Montana resident.

Pictures bottom: Students participate in a cultural exchange activity on the Ft. Peck reservation.

1893 Society

Thank you for your generous contributions to the College of Nursing. With your support, we have made extensive and humbling progress toward our fundraising goals in the “What it Takes” campaign. In 2015-2016, the college awarded \$64,000 in scholarships to 53 undergraduates and 6 graduate students. The average award was \$1095. Thank you for contributing to our students’ success!

In this edition of the *Bobcat Nurse*, we would like to feature some of the significant and/or recent endowments established by our friends and donors. If you are moved to contribute to one of these funds or to create/support a different fund, contact Sofie Garcelon at 406-994-7671 or via e-mail sofie.garcelon@msuaf.org. Again, thank you for investing in the College of Nursing and our students.

We appreciate you!



Montana State University’s success is rooted in the vision and investment of its founders and the dedication of many to create the state’s first institution of higher learning in 1893. Today, members of the 1893 Society continue to invest in the future of the University.

The 1893 Society honors and recognizes those who have made a planned gift commitment, as a gift through their estate, a charitable gift annuity, or charitable remainder trust.

Through planned gifts, more than 500 alumni and friends have shared their vision for the University’s next generation of successes.

Contributors to the 1893 Society from the College of Nursing include:

Jane P. and Eugene E. Bourne, Morrein Bowen, Ann E. Carlson, Marilyn K. Carpenter, Kathleen Chafey, Diane M. and Richard F. Cromer, Carol L. Gard, Nora C. and Thomas J. Gerrity, Gail M. Griffin, Anna Gruden, Diana and R. Jack Haker, Irene M. Hansen-Peters and Bruce A. Peters, Vicki L. Hess, Valeria L. and Charles M. Heyneman, Louise I. Hoback, Sue Justis, Betty Lou Kelly, Page D. Kenck, Helen Lee, Kathleen A. Long, Mary D. and Edmund R. Munger, Helen M. Murphy, Marla K. Patterson, Barbara A. Pedersen, Dena S. and Delbert Richter, Edith M. and Robert L. Sanks, Marian Jean Setter, Katherine M. Shevlin, Frances E. Thomas, May Janice Treml, Judy A. and Michael S. Wagner, Teresa Wicks, Sandra E. and Bruce T. Wilkins, Margaret Wynn

Please consider making MSU and the College of Nursing part of your legacy.

To learn more contact the Estate, Trust and Gift Planning team at the MSU Alumni Foundation, (406) 994-7099 or email plannedgiving@msuaf.org.

“What it Takes” Priorities

In the Fall of 2016, the MSU Alumni Foundation officially launched MSU’s first comprehensive campaign. Fundraising to support work in the college will focus on:

Endowed Chair

Privately funded support for the endowed chair in the College of Nursing will enable MSU to recruit and retain more nationally and internationally recognized faculty, increase curricular experiences for students that integrate learning, discovery and engagement, plus raise the percentage of graduates pursuing advanced degrees and expand the number of graduate students presenting at national symposiums.

Scholarships: Ensuring Access for All

Private funding will help the College of Nursing recruit the best and brightest future healthcare providers into our programs, including undergraduate scholarships (especially for students enrolled in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science program) and graduate fellowships.

International and Domestic Outreach

Privately funded donations will increase the number of students and faculty involved in outreach activities for underserved populations, grow the the nursing outreach program on Montana Indian reservations from 32 to 80 students annually, allow more nursing students the opportunity to travel abroad, and ensure that all students have a curricular experience that integrates learning, discovery and engagement.



JoAnn Paterson Memorial Fund



JoAnn Gayle Pinnow Paterson passed away on Sept. 8, 2015. JoAnn was born May, 6 1974, in Billings. She graduated from Skyview High School in 1992 and went on to nursing school at Montana State University. Nursing was her passion and she loved it so much that she went on to a fulfilling career as a professor at Montana State University. Not only was JoAnn a leader inside the classroom, she helped to cultivate nurse leaders through her efforts with Sigma Theta Tau International, an organization which recognizes nurses and nursing students who contribute to nursing excellence, leadership, and service.

JoAnn was a champion for all who met her. Her colleagues, friends, and students at Montana State University are devastated at the loss of such a kind, intelligent, and generous spirit. However, we gather strength knowing that she lives on through the lives of nurses, patients, colleagues and friends that she touched.

JoAnn's friends, family and colleagues in the College of Nursing are building a scholarship endowment fund in her memory.

Donate in JoAnn's memory at msuaf.org or call Sofie at 406-994-7671.

Donors and Friends in the News

Narotzky ABSN Scholarship

Dr. Robert & Mrs. Theresa Narotzky have established an endowed scholarship fund to support students enrolled in the Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program (ABSN) at MSU. Dr. Narotzky is a semi-retired Board Certified Neurosurgeon and prior to retirement, Mrs. Narotzky was a nurse. Applicants will be required to submit an essay response to the question: "Why do you wish to enroll in the accelerated nursing program?" Preference shall be given to an applicant who has demonstrated compassion or has experienced compassionate care that further encouraged their decision to become a nurse.

Adeline Ueland Memorial Nursing Scholarship

The Ueland family of Sheridan County (Montana) recently established a scholarship endowment in memory of Adeline Ueland, a long-time County Nurse who graduated from MSU's College of Nursing in 1952. The first scholarship will be awarded in fall 2016 to a Montana high school student (first preference given to a student from Sheridan County) enrolled in nursing. Adeline's husband, Kurt, and her children, Keith Ueland, Kathy Ueland Tangedal and Kendal Ueland Tangedal were instrumental in creating the scholarship.

Colonel Frances Thomas Memorial Fund

Frances Thomas attended high school in Wolf Point, Montana and received a scholarship to Montana State College in 1945. She joined the Air Force in 1951 and was stationed at Travis Air Force Base in California during the Korean War. After the war, Frances served as a flight nurse and helped open the medical clinic at the Air Force Academy before serving several tours of duty around the globe. In retirement, Frances settled near the Missouri River near Cascade, MT and eventually moved to a retirement home in Great Falls when her eyesight faded. After a lifetime of service and philanthropy, Frances established an endowed scholarship fund to support nursing students in their junior or senior year of study with demonstrated financial need (preference given to students who are not receiving federal grants or significant scholarships).



College of Nursing Advisory Council

Martha Arguelles spent 17 years teaching psych-mental health nursing on the Billings campus. The pride and joy of her college service was to partner in creating an international service learning program for undergraduate and graduate students. She is a native of Boston, but has lived in Montana for over 26 years. In retirement, Martha travels to see grandkids and is an active volunteer and mentor at the Montana Women's Prison in Billings.

Kay Chafey grew up in Arizona and received her BSN from Arizona State University where she later returned to teach. After serving in the Peace Corps in Colombia, Kay pursued a Master of Science in Public Health Nursing at the University of Minnesota and later earned her Ph.D. there. Kay is a Professor Emerita from Montana State University where she served in teaching and administrative roles for thirty two years. She is passionate about MSU and the College of Nursing and now serves as Chair of the Deans Advisory Council and also as a Governor of the Montana State University Alumni Foundation.

Elaine Couture, Executive VP/Chief Executive, Eastern WA/MT for Providence Health Care, has lived in Washington for 29 years. She earned her BSN from MSU in 1977 and completed her MBA in 1994 from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. Elaine feels compelled to serve on the Dean's Council to help influence the nursing workforce of the future as we go through a dynamic change in the way healthcare will be delivered.

Joyce Dombrowski, COO for St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, is a Montana native and graduated from MSU in 1981. She also holds a degree from the University of Minnesota. Joyce is honored to serve on the Dean's Council and is especially excited by the opportunities between academics and employer demands of the nursing profession. She is a proud Bobcat in the middle of adversary territory.

Sharon Erickson grew up in Bozeman, receiving her BSN from Montana State College (now University). After practicing in pediatric nursing, she went laterally into mental health, receiving her MA in Marriage, Family, child Counseling from Chapman University and PhD in Counselor Education from Mississippi State University. A career in mental health counseling and university teaching illuminated the importance of medical knowledge in working with the mind and emotions. Returning to her roots in Bozeman, she is delighted to support the MSU College of Nursing and to sing its well-deserved praises.

Kathy Finney retired after a fulfilling 40 year career in NICU of 3 hospitals and in a pediatric ED in St. Paul, MN with the highest census of pediatric patients of any hospital in a 5 state region. It was an exciting time to be a nurse with the introduction of ventilators, improved monitoring, oximetry, increased collaboration with other medical professionals and families. Kathy is happy to be back in Montana and happy to "give back" to the College of Nursing and just co-hosted a nursing class reunion for the class of 1964-1968 (all were grateful for the quality education - not training!!!).

Vickie Groeneweg, Chief Nursing Officer at Bozeman Health, has been employed at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital for 28 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education in addition to an MSN and an MBA. Her clinical expertise is in critical care, emergency and trauma nursing. She is committed to assisting in the success of future nursing professionals.

Sue Justis is a long-term faculty member at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell. She is well-known for teaching Anatomy & Physiology and serving as an advocate for nursing students. Sue is also a long-term member of the Dean's Advisory Council and a member of MSU's 1893 Society.

Joyce Kamp divides her time between the Gallatin Valley and Northern California. She earned a BSN from MSU and an MSN in Administration & Education from the University of San Francisco. Her career focused on chronicity, from oncology in Denver to hospice in NW Montana. Joyce is committed to ensuring the MSU nursing program continues to deliver the highest level of education to the highest caliber of students. She is an avid fan of Bobcat Women's Basketball and a member of the Fastbreak Club.

Janice Ostermiller earned both her BSN and her MSN from the College of Nursing at Montana State University. She currently works as family nurse practitioner in Billings and joined the Dean's Advisory Council while finishing her graduate degree.

Dena Richter grew up in Geraldine, Montana and graduated with a BSN from MSU. She married an engineer who was transferred across the globe every three to four years. As a result, Dena held many jobs as an RN, from school nurse to health fair volunteer. She is thrilled to be back in Bozeman and excited about all that MSU has to offer nursing students.

Joan Tierney grew up in California yet chose Montana to pursue her education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Nursing from Carroll College. While supporting her husband through medical school and residency and raising four children, her career has morphed from senior care to extended work with youth in the Guardian ad Litem program. Her daughter, Jaimee, a graduate of MSU nursing, is a clinical instructor at the Great Falls campus. As a family of avid Bobcats, and with tremendous admiration of the MSU nursing program, she hopes to bring her experiences as both a nurse and the mother of an MSU nursing graduate to the council.

Pat Wilson, Executive Director of Education Services at Kalispell Regional Healthcare earned both her BSN and MN from MSU's College of Nursing. She lives in Bigfork and is honored to advocate for the College of Nursing Kalispell campus and is proud to see that program grow from 8 to 16 graduates a year. She looks forward to the expansion of the Accelerated BSN in the Flathead area.





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