

# Nursing Notes

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of MSU-Bozeman College of Nursing



Vol. III No. 2

Spring 2000



## MSU Nursing Grad Offers Hope in the Balkans

Charlotte J. Knaub (BSN '67)

I am an MSU Nursing alumna with areas of expertise in health promotion, disease prevention and primary health care. For the past 15 years, I have been involved in international health in Southeast Asia, Oceania, East Africa and now the Balkans with a variety of organizations - church-based and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations' World Health Organization.

My current assignment is with the International Medical Corps (IMC), a California-based NGO committed to cooperating with other relief organizations to bring the best possible health care to populations affected by crisis. During fighting in the Balkans, Macedonia (FYROM- The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) accepted more than 250,000 Kosovos (Albanian) refugees; most in camps, although 30,000 were taken into private homes in the villages. Macedonia is one of the poorest countries in the Balkans with an average annual income per person of roughly US \$500, and an unemployment rate of 30-50%. This new population influx has added great stress to an already inadequate system of health care.

I had recently "retired" for the third time but could not resist IMC's offer of assignment in an area I had hoped to visit. I arrived at Skopje's airport (smaller than Gallatin County's) on June 1, 1999. Skopje is a city of more than 500,000, and combined with troops and hundreds of relief workers, another "crisis" was created. From Skopje, I moved on to Struga, about 2 1/2 hours south on Lake Ohrid near the Greek and Albanian borders. This relief operation was different from my previous experiences as refugees were not in camps but in private homes. My assignment was to organize mobile medical units to provide services to these refugees scattered around an area equivalent to the size of four of

Montana's largest counties in a terrain similar to the Gallatin Valley but with narrow, poorly maintained roads.

My "team" of 15 included two Americans, as well as Kosovo doctors and nurses, drivers, and translators, conducted eight clinics per week spread across six sites. The numbers were staggering with our team often seeing 120 patients at just one clinic. We supplied pharmaceuticals and transferred acutely ill refugees to area designated hospitals.

When the refugees returned to their homes in late July, I was transferred to Skopje to direct the MOH/ UNICEF EPI Program for refugee children remaining in the camps. One Camp was opened exclusively for Roma refugees, who now number 2,100. Romas are the poorest, the least employed, the least educated and the most unwelcomed peoples in Europe. IMC also received funding at this time to implement a tives - to empower the women so that they may function independently of IMC— and me!

This work has been one of the rare professional opportunities I have had where I am gratified every day with such positive results of our efforts.

If you would like to learn more about the author's experiences, her email address is: [charjknaub@hotmail.com](mailto:charjknaub@hotmail.com).



### In This Issue:

Dean's Message

New Marketing Materials

Calling All Alumni

Alumni Updates

Helen Lee makes provision for future rural nursing research

Faculty Updates

Making a Difference

Thank you to our donors

Support Nurse Practitioners



## From the Dean Lea Acord, PhD, RN

Welcome to the second issue of the *NURSING NOTES*. When this copy hits your mailbox, the semester will be beginning to wind down culminating in the College's Recognition Ceremony on May 5 followed by Commencement exercises the next day. If you are celebrating your 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion from the College this year, we hope to see you at the Alumni festivities during Commencement weekend!

The MSU - Bozeman College of Nursing has banded together with the other nursing education programs in Montana in an exciting program to help shape the future of our profession in this state. The statewide program - the Montana Initiative for Nursing Transformation or "MINT" - was funded in March, 1999 by the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation. This project is part of a national endeavor of the RWJ Foundation to assist states in a program entitled "Colleagues in Caring" (CIC). The purpose of the CIC cooperative effort is to develop and utilize models to assess and predict the current and future nursing workforce nationally. What makes this effort unique is the collaboration that is occurring in CIC states bringing together educators, employers, regulators, students, consumers, and professional nursing organizations.

The first projects (Phase I) were funded in July 1996 and have developed models that can now be used by those states who are entering Phase II. Nineteen states were funded in Phase I including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. Three states were added in 1999 for Phase II - Montana was one of those states.

The \$150,000 grant cycle began in July 1, 1999 and will last through June 30, 2002. Dr. Suzanne Lockwood, a nursing faculty member at MSU-Northern, is the Project Director with responsibility for coordinating the work of the statewide effort. In Montana, the work will include (1) assessing nursing workforce supply and demand in Montana; (2) assessing the current nursing education programs and facilitating the educational progress of students with minimal repetition; and (3) recommending a structure that defines roles and functions of nurses according to education, experience and competence.

The MSU - Bozeman College of Nursing faculty not only are heavily involved, but are committed to the work of MINT. Should you have any questions about the MINT project, or anything else at the College, please do not hesitate to contact me at 406/994-3783 or lacord@montana.edu.



## New Marketing Materials Unveiled

In January, 2000 the College of Nursing received newly-minted brochures hot from the presses. The brochures have been designed for use in student recruitment and include insert pages describing both the baccalaureate and graduate programs. Former and current students are featured prominently in the new look. Anyone interested in receiving a copy for prospective students may call the College at 406/994-3783 for a copy.



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Dean Lea Acord has announced an exciting new way to stay in touch with the College of Nursing. It's called the "Dean's Alumni Newsroom" and is available for all Nursing graduates and special friends. For those alumni members with access to email, Dean Acord will send regular updates and announcements on issues of interest to nurses across Montana and beyond.

"The Newsroom will be another avenue for us to communicate with our thousands of graduates and friends about timely news or topics of concern to nursing," Dr. Acord explains. "The communication will be interactive and I encourage recipients to ask questions or offer comments as they see fit."

The Dean's Alumni Newsroom is a service of the College of Nursing and costs subscribers nothing. To access this exciting opportunity, simply follow these instructions:

All subscription requests should be sent to: [listserv@listserv.montana.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.montana.edu)  
In the body of message, type: **subscribe nursalum Firstname Lastname**

For example, for Jane Bozeman to subscribe to the NURSALUM list, she would send this command: **subscribe nursalum Jane Bozeman**  
The rest of the message should be blank.

A successful subscription request will be confirmed by an e-mail reply from the list server with additional instructions including how to remove oneself from the list.

## Alumni Updates

**Brenda Lekse Brockett, BSN '93**, recently returned to Kalispell from Boise and practices critical care nursing at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. In June, 1999 she married Bill Brackett.

**Alice Cassidy, BSN '55**, is retired from Kaiser Permanente as a wound, ostomy and continence specialist. She now volunteers her time in Concord, Calif., for the American Red Cross, American Cancer Society and Westley Youth Homes.

**Colette M. Fish, BSN '98**, is a staff nurse at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Violet Higgins, BSN '86**, received the "Recognition for Outstanding Efforts in Furthering Quality Health Care for American Indian and Alaskan Natives" award from the National Council of Nurses of the Indian Health Service. She works at the Blackfeet Community Hospital in Browning.

**John Honsky, BSN '87, RNC, MA**, currently serves as President of the Montana Nurses Association. He works at both St. Patrick Hospital Mental Health Unit in Missoula and at Salish Kootenai College Department of Nursing.

**Theresa Hopkins, BSN '69**, works home health nursing for Benefis Health Systems in Great Falls.

**Diane (Bodek) King, BSN '74**, serves as COO of three Community Health Centers in a System of Primary Care in Maryland. She also works part-time for Hospice of the Chesapeake in home health and hospice care. She spends much time with her two grandchildren who live nearby.

**Carolyn M. Lockett, BSN '87**, recently graduated from the FNP program at Westminster College in Salt Lake City. She currently is working as a nurse practitioner in Bone Marrow Transplant at the Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City.

**Bill Pawlyshyn, MN '94**, recently has retired after 22 years in the US Army. During his service, he completed an Adult Nurse Practitioner certificate program and held positions in staff development and nursing administration. He and his wife, Joyce, are busy considering retirement location options.

**Liese Pessl, BSN '95, ANP**, works part time for the Community Health Center of Butte as a nurse practitioner. She lives in Bozeman.

**Susie Whittinghill, BSN '83**, is a staff nurse at UrgentCare in Bozeman.



## Welcome Back 1940 & 1950 Graduates!



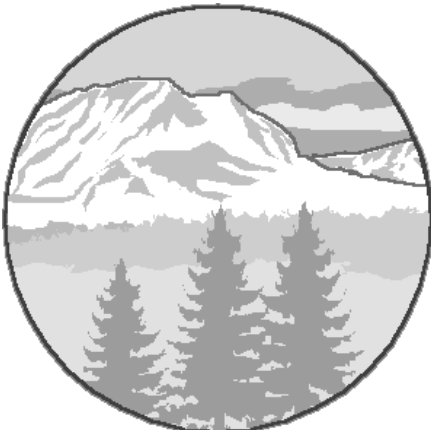
The College of Nursing, in conjunction with the MSU Alumni Association welcomes back our 1940 and 1950 graduates to their Diamond and Golden Reunions! The Alumni Association has many events planned for May 4-6, 2000 and invite you to join your classmates for fun, fellowship and hearing about MSU in the 21st Century. The College of Nursing will hold its annual Recognition Ceremony on Friday, May 5th at 1 p.m. All Nursing graduates are encouraged to attend this very special day! For any questions, call the Alumni Association at 800/842-9028.



## Helen Lee Makes Provisions for Future Rural Nursing Research

An endowment fund established in December, 1999 by professor **Helen J. Lee, PhD, RN**, (BSN '57, MN '60) Director of the College of Nursing's Missoula campus, seeks to encourage students or faculty to pursue the study of rural nursing theory. Dr. Lee has devoted much of her research career to this area and believes in its value for nursing students in a state like Montana. She also has edited a textbook on rural nursing theory - "Conceptual Basis for Rural Nursing" - and plans to use royalties to help fund the endowment.

"I am pleased to help continue the fine tradition of rural nursing research supported by many of my colleagues over the years," Dr. Lee said. "Thanks to the efforts of many faculty and students, the MSU- Bozeman College of Nursing is synonymous with rural nursing theory in its teaching and research."



## Faculty Updates

**Jean Ballantyne, MN, RN**, Campus Director at the Billings Campus will complete a second 4-year term as a member of the Montana Board of Nursing in June, 2000. Jean was originally appointed to the Board in 1992 by then Gov. Stan Stephens. In 1996 she was reappointed to a second term by Gov. Marc Racicot. During her terms of service, Jean served two years as President (1995-1997) and represented the Board as a delegate to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. As the nursing education member of the Board, she served 8 years as the Chairperson of the Education Committee. A major achievement of the Board during Jean's tenure was the revision of nursing school standards. A collaborative effort between the Board and nursing educators in Montana, the work resulted in differentiated standards for professional nursing programs at the baccalaureate and associate degree levels.

**Pat Butterfield, PhD, RN**, helped initiate a statewide town hall meeting in January to address the public health ramifications of methamphetamine use in Montana. National Drug Czar, Ret. Gen. Barry McCaffrey, led the proceedings in Billings which were televised to Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Havre, Kalispell and Miles City. Butterfield was quoted in the "Billings Gazette."

**Jan Buehler, PhD, RN**, Adjunct Associate Professor, announced her retirement effective in May, 2000.

**Kay Chafey, PhD, RN**, has returned from her 12-month sabbatical in Oregon. She conducted a study titled: "Conversations with Mothers and Daughters about Self-reliance in Aging." The study used intensive interviewing to gather personal experiences of aging, specifically, responses to gains and losses in self-reliance of older women living at home or in community-assisted living, and the experiences of their support-providing daughters.

**Barbara Derwinski-robinson, MSN, RN**, an Associate Professor and **Carolyn Wenger, MSN, RN**, an Assistant Professor on the Billings campus, received a Big Sky Institute Grant: "Revising the Nursing Curriculum for Health Care in the 21st Century." The grant was used to facilitate discussions on curriculum revision and cultural considerations in nursing education.

**Judith Flynn, MSN, RNCS; Susan Luparell, MSN, RN, CS, CCRN; and Debbie Peterson, MS, RN**, Adjunct Assistant Professors on the Missoula, Great Falls and Billings campuses respectively, each won the Annual MSU Alumni - Chamber of Commerce Awards for Excellence. The awardees were nominated by students for the prestigious awards.

**Janice Hausauer, MS, RN, FNP, Deborah Kern, MSN, RN, FNP**, Adjunct Assistant Professors, passed the American Nurses Credential Center certification exam to be licensed as Family Nurse Practitioners in November, 1999.

**Vonna Koehler, PhD, RN** completed her family nurse practitioner work at Gonzaga State University in December, 1999 and passed the certification exam

**Liz O'Connor, MSN, RN, CCRN, FNP**, has begun practice as a nurse practitioner in the cardiology offices of Drs. Highfill and Wilson in Great Falls.

**Therese Sullivan, PhD, RN**, Campus Director of the Bozeman campus, has been appointed to the Sigma Theta Tau Heritage Committee for 1999-2001.

**Clarann Weinert, SC, PhD, RN, FAAN** was elected to the Sigma Theta Tau International Board of Directors and also selected as a Sigma Theta Tau International Distinguished Lecturer and Distinguished Writer.



## Making a Difference

Diane and Dick Cromer, Butte, Montana

*This is the second article in our series highlightin Nursing graduates who are making commitments to support valuable programs in the College of Nursing.*



The decision to attend Montana State College in the fall of 1963 was one of the best we have ever made. The College, as it was called at that time, equipped us with the knowledge to establish our careers in Montana. That certainly has been important to us both because we have been lucky enough to make a good living in our home state and to raise our children here also. But, for the sake of full disclosure, we must admit that the most important thing we gained from MSU is each other ....its where we met, and found that libraries are not exclusively useful for cultivating knowledge.

Diane attended the College of Nursing and Dick the College of Engineering. We left MSU in 1967 with BS degrees and confidence that we would find jobs that would test our learning and maybe even produce positive cash flow...a concept we had, up to that time, only heard about. Indeed, we were right. Diane has had a rewarding career in many facets of nursing, including hospitals, clinics, school nursing, and as a clinical instructor at the college level. She has also helped with community service projects through the years, and while her interests are still focused on

nursing education, she has retired to take time for home projects, one being, taking care of our draft horses. Dick has had an interesting career of nearly 33 years with the Montana Power Company. He is currently an Executive Vice President with responsibility for several unregulated businesses in the Energy Supply Division.

We place high value on the education and experiences we were privileged to have at MSU, and now, as we can, we are trying to find ways to give back for what we were able to take away. Dick has served a term on, and is a past President of, the President's Advisory Council and now is Chairman of the MSU Foundation Board. Diane remains interested in the role of the College of Nursing and its long established history of excellence affording a broad base of nursing students the opportunity to pursue a challenging nursing career. In addition, we are committing financial resources to advance higher education in Montana, particularly through MSU.

Both of our children were able to attend MSU. Our son graduated in 1989 with a Computer Science Degree, and our

daughter attended MSU for two years and finished in Missoula with a Paralegal Degree. Our children were able to carry on a family tradition of strong ties to MSU. Dick's two brothers, their wives, and his father all graduated from MSU. (Dick's Dad graduated from MSC nearly 66 years ago, and remains an avid supporter yet today.)

Our observation is that MSU continues to supply competent, well-educated professionals from programs that not only are state-of-the-art, but which place heavy emphasis on research that has significantly contributed to the quality of life on the planet. We take great pride in our continuing association with such a great institution.



*If you would like information on making a gift to the College of Nursing, please call Buck Taylor at 406/994-2710.*

## Bozeman Campus Faculty Give Back to Their Community

As part of a new faculty practice effort in Bozeman, four family nurse practitioner faculty members are spending their Tuesday evenings tending to patients and teaching students. Bev O'Doherty, MSN, RN, FNP; Lilian Helwick, MSN, RN, FNP; Janice Hausauer, MS, RN, FNP and Deb Kern, MSN, RN, FNP, began their duties at the Gallatin Community Clinic in February. The clinic serves the low-income uninsured and working poor.

# Special Thanks to All Those Who Made Gifts to the College of Nursing from October 1999 through February 2000

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## Be the First on Your Block to Support Nurse Practitioners!

Catchy new blue and gold bumper stickers have been seen on the interstates and back roads of Montana. No they don't warn other drivers that there's a "Baby on Board," but they do promote Nurse Practitioners. Product of a joint venture between MSU and the Montana Nurses Association, the stickers have been a big hit. Two versions exist and they are \$2 each or three for \$5. Discounts are available for quantities over 50.

Keven Comer, MN '97, RN, FNP, bought more than 100 to give out free to her patients to show their support. "I think the bumper stickers are a great way to help get the word out about our profession," Comer said. "Anything we can do to promote APRNs helps us all gain continued recognition."

Bumper stickers in the MSU colors of blue and gold can be ordered through the College's Development Office by calling 406/994-2710, or sending a check (made out to the MSU College of Nursing) in care of Buck Taylor at MSU - CON, PO Box 173560, Bozeman, MT 59717-3560.



**We would like to hear from you.** Please fill out the information below and return to Buck Taylor, Development Officer, MSU-Bozeman College of Nursing, Sherrick Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717-3560.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

My comments or information for MSU Nursing Notes "Alumnotes"

\_\_\_\_ I would like information on joining the MSU Alumni Association.  
\_\_\_\_ Please send information on \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my contribution:  
\_\_\_\_ for the FNP Endowment \_\_\_\_ in support of the Dean's Fund for Excellence.  
Please credit my gift \_\_\_\_ to me individually \_\_\_\_ jointly with my spouse \_\_\_\_ anonymously.

**Thank you for supporting the MSU-Bozeman College of Nursing**

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