The College of Nursing Adds “Click” to “Brick”

As our alumni know, the College of Nursing has used teleconferencing since the 1970s and interactive video since 1994 for delivery of our graduate program in order to make the program more accessible to students across the state. As technologies unfold, the College continues to expand its venues and is now incorporating online (Web-based) components into some courses.

During the fall semester of 2000, several professors in both the graduate and undergraduate programs began using an online discussion board as part of their courses. The response was positive and the professors found that students generally responded more in-depth in the online discussion setting than they did in face-to-face settings. Students could log on to their class discussion board on the Internet at any time of day or night to read postings by their professor and fellow students and post their own responses. The discussion boards also allowed students more interaction with each other and gave them greater access to their professors.

Creating online course components is getting easier, and its prevalence is growing. Montana State University has chosen to use WebCT (World Wide Web Course Tool), an online tool that allows faculty to create fully functional online courses or course components from anywhere with Internet access. Having found initial experiences with online course components to be successful, the College of Nursing will begin migrating lecture components of classes that lend themselves to online presentation onto WebCT this year. The first nursing WebCT courses will be active this coming fall.

“Online course presentation is the wave of the future,” said Dr. Gretchen McNeely, the College’s associate dean. “Students and faculty both benefit from the technology because it allows access to course materials and discussion whenever it is needed.”

As a demonstration of the commitment to technology-enhanced instruction, the College of Nursing has a full-time information technologist specializing in assisting faculty with their technology needs. Dean Acord has mandated that lecture components of the graduate program courses be Web-based and is encouraging all College faculty to incorporate technology into the classroom as much as is feasible for individual courses.

“To stay competitive with other nursing programs nationwide, we must provide students with the tools necessary to meet the demands of their busy lives,” Dean Acord said. “Combining technology with traditional instruction will continue to be a priority for the College of Nursing.”

Mexican Nursing Professors Visit MSU

Under an exchange program examining the environmental effects on public health in the United States and Mexico, two nursing educators from the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in Mexicali, Mexico, spent three days in Bozeman with colleagues from the College of Nursing. In October 2000, professor Patricia Butterfield, PhD, RN, played host to Andrea Verdugo, dean of the nursing school and Dalel Cuevas, a professor. The intent of the visit was to begin discussion on how to incorporate environmental health and nursing into their curriculum.

“It was an enriching experience for the participants from both sides of the border,” said Dr. Butterfield of the exchange. “Mexico and the U.S. are greatly affected by both pollution and unstable fresh water resources, and nursing will increasingly play an important role in helping to understand and mitigate these problems.”

A delegation from MSU will travel to Mexicali in the spring to repeat experiences similar to those enjoyed by their Mexican counterparts. The only difference may be that the MSU contingent probably will not have the need to tour the Gallatin Canyon to see snow for the first time.

Professor Dalel Cuevas, and Dean Andrea Verdugo of the School of Nursing at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in Mexicali, Mexico, visiting the MSU–Bozeman campus.
To assist in staying on top of statewide nursing issues that may affect the College of Nursing, Dean Lea Acord named 15 nursing leaders from across Montana to her new Dean’s Advisory Council. The group meets twice per year with the next meeting scheduled for April 12, 2001, in Bozeman.

“It is imperative for me to have the most current pulse of the healthcare sector in our vast state,” Dr. Acord explained. “By forming this important group, I know the broad range of experience sitting at the table will help me make more informed choices for the College’s interests.”

An added bonus has been the participation of several College of Nursing graduates on the Council. Current members of the Council are:

- **Jack Burke**, RN, MS, vice president nursing and patient care services, St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula
- **Diane Cromer**, RN, BS (MSU ’67), retired school nurse, Butte
- **Pauline Deines**, RN, registered nurse, Sidney Health Center, Sidney
- **Milly Gutkoski**, RN, MN (MSU ’66), president, Montana Nurses’ Association, Bozeman
- **Julie Hickethier**, RN, MAS, vice president for acute care services, Benefis Healthcare, Great Falls
- **Violet Higgins**, RN, BS (MSU ’86), RNS, director of nurses, Blackfeet Community Hospital, Browning
- **Robert D. Jones**, MD, medical/mental health director, Montana Dept. of Corrections, Helena
- **Sue Justis**, PhD, medical biologist, Flathead Valley Community College, Kalispell
- **Deb Kern**, MSN, FNP, adjunct assistant professor and faculty president, MSU–Bozeman College of Nursing, Bozeman
- **Susan Kerschen**, MS, RN, vice president of patient services, Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
- **Mary Munger**, RN, BS (MSU ’64), retired public health nurse, Helena
- **Karen Pollington**, BSN, vice president patient care services, Northern Montana Hospital, Havre
- **Michelle Reed**, RN, MN (MSU ’85), director of operations, Yellowstone City/County Health Department, Billings
- **Mike Weber**, RN, BSN (MSU ’93), assistant director of nursing, St. John’s Lutheran Home, Billings
- **Pat Wilson**, RN, MN (MSU ’76, ’97), education manager, Kalispell Regional Medical Center

To help keep the best people in the College of Nursing, this past semester saw the updating of a more than 50-year tradition within the College. As you all undoubtedly recall, students had to come to Bozeman for their sophomore year (lower division) course work and then had to move to an upper division campus for their remaining tenure with us. In order to better serve our student body, the College now will offer lower division courses on all three upper division campuses, pending adequate enrollments. Personally, I am excited about this change in long-standing policy to better accommodate our students.

My hopes are that you enjoy this edition of *Nursing Notes*. I look forward to staying in touch and chatting in person at a reunion or other function here on campus or out in your community. I can always be reached at 406/994-3784 or at: lacord@montana.edu.
Pioneering Nursing Instructor Dies

On August 18, 2000, the College of Nursing was saddened to learn of Margaret Antoinette “Sue” (Mundt) Barkley’s death in Ashland, Oregon. She was 80 years old. Many students will remember Sue fondly from their psychiatric nursing rotations at Warm Springs State Hospital from 1957 to 1972.

From 1972-1974, Sue served as the Assistant Director of the School of Nursing on the Bozeman Campus. In 1974, upon the resignation of the Director, Dr. Laura O. Walker, Sue became the Acting Director of the nursing program at Montana State College until Dr. Anna M. Shannon accepted the position in 1975. Sue then continued to work with Dr. Shannon as the Assistant Dean in the School of Nursing until Kathleen Chafey assumed that position in 1977. Sue played an important role in the “Roving RN” program that took baccalaureate nursing education to nurses in the rural areas of the state (Lewistown, Havre, Kalispell, Miles City and Sidney) from 1980-1983. She continued to work in the College of Nursing on a part-time basis after her “official” retirement in 1984. She was honored by the Montana Board of Regents with the title of “Professor Emeritus” in 1988.

Sue always was active in the professional nursing organizations of the state and was particularly interested in nursing history, serving on the History Committee of the Montana Nurses’ Association for many years. She was a charter member of the Zeta Upsilon chapter of Sigma Theta Tau and was appointed to the Montana State Board of Nursing for two terms (1980-84; 1984-88). In 1993, Sue was selected as one of Montana State University’s most distinguished alumni as a representative from the College of Nursing for the University’s centennial celebration.

Former College of Nursing Dean, Dr. Anna Shannon, commented that “Sue gave her all to the College.” Though the College of Nursing was a most important part of Sue’s life and she continued to come to the office every day after her retirement for many years, her family and a number of hobbies occupied a significant part of her life outside the College.

College Hosts Environmental Health Nursing Summer Course

The College of Nursing is pleased to announce its second annual summer institute—Moving Upstream—addressing environmental health and nursing. The institute will be held in Bozeman, May 18-22, 2001, and will explore clinical and educational issues in environmental health through a variety of case studies, classroom and field activities. Experts from around the nation will discuss topics such as acute and chronic disease consequences of lead exposure, asbestos contamination, asthma, drinking water and public health. Case studies of environmental health issues will be used to translate the Institute of Medicine’s core competencies into the mainstream our profession. Please visit the institute’s Web site at www.montana.edu/upstream to review the highlights of the course as well as topics and presenters.

The summer institute offers 24 contact hours for continuing education credit and is open to all nurses of any specialty. Academic credit from MSU also is available. The registration fee of $275 (early registration March 30, 2001) includes the full course and admission to the opening night reception. An optional guided bus tour of Yellowstone National Park on May 22 will be available for an additional fee. Lodging arrangements in the new dormitories on the MSU campus have been reserved. Registrations can be made online or by contacting the Moving Upstream Project Office at 406/994-5098.
1950s

Sue (devault) Gore, BSN ’58, MSN ’61, is a full-time faculty member of Delta College, University Center in Michigan. She and her husband, Bob, (MSU ChE ’59) reside in Midland, Michigan.

Jennie (Pemble) Ladenburg, BSN ’50, is retired from nursing and living in Columbia Falls, Montana.

Lois Landis, BSN ’59, has found work in the computer area after 30 years of nursing. She is now a systems analyst for High Desert Hospital—one of the six Los Angeles County hospitals. She is the Information Systems Coordinator for the installation of the nurse-charting portion of the hospital information system.

1960s

Candee Baker, BSN ’68, teaches at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Missouri. She lost her husband to a heart attack four years ago and then two years ago started a Ph.D. program in Computer Technology in Education through NOVA Southeastern University in Florida.

Judy Christiansen, BSN ’68, has spent most of her working career in Illinois. She currently is the Vice President of Patient Care at Community Hospital of Ottawa, Illinois.

Kathleen Rotert, BSN ’66, spent several years in the Navy Nurse Corps caring for Vietnam wounded. She has not been employed since her release from the military but remains an active volunteer nurse with the Red Cross and maintains interest in the profession through continuing education.

1970s

Dan Ellis, MN ’76, is working as a patient access coordinator at the Univ. of Utah.

Terri James, BSN ’75, spent two years at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Billings following graduation. From there, she enjoyed a 20-year career in the Air Force as a certified nurse-midwife and nurse executive. Her “new” career is as a researcher since successfully defending her doctoral dissertation on June 1, 2000, at the Univ. of Texas Health Science Center.

Mary Jo Roath, BSN ’75, is working on the Women’s Health Team for the Weld County Health Department in Greeley, Colorado. She most recently spent 15 years as the school nurse for the Eaton, Colorado, school district. Her son, Dan, is a range management major at MSU—Bozeman.

Nancy Sowan, BSN ’72, PhD, teaches the graduate track in community/public health nursing, graduate quantitative research, and occasionally the undergraduate community health course at the University of Vermont in Burlington.

1980s

Sybil Ishman Cochran, BSN ’88, works as a community health nurse on the Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation in Sells, Arizona. She completed her Masters in Public Health degree from the Univ. of North Carolina in 1989.

Karen (Ohls) Eads, BSN ’86, graduated from the family nurse practitioner (FNP) program at South Dakota State Univ. in December, 1999. She soon will retire from the Air Force and begin working as an FNP in the Rapid City area.

Carlene Irion, BSN ’80, spent many years as the Nursing Care Coordinator (Head Nurse) in the Operating Room at North Colorado Medical Center in Greeley. She now is the Utilization Management Director for United Physicians of Northern Colorado in Fort Collins.

Jeru Schneider Payne, BSN ’80, currently is working as a family nurse practitioner at the Big Sandy Medical Center in Big Sandy, Montana.

Mary Arnone Peterson, BSN ’83, is a certified childbirth instructor and doula. She is starting her own business as a doula and would love to hear from anyone else doing the same.

Lynn A. “Pete” Peterson, BSN ’83, received his MSN in nurse anesthesia from the University of Texas in 1995. He presently is the chief nurse anesthetist at Shriners Burn Hospital for Children in Galveston, Texas. Pete married fellow 1983 alum, Mary Arnone, in 1989 and they have two children.

Nola D. (Rohde) Vollmer, BSN ’82, currently is working in the NICU at Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah, Wisconsin. Her husband, Mike, passed away in March, 2000. Nola and her stepson farm organically on the family farm in Hilbert, Wisconsin.

1990s

Leslie Ashley, BSN ’98, lives in Columbus, Ohio where she works on a vascular floor at Ohio State University Hospital.

William Berko, BSN ’97, currently works in the pediatric ICU of Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle.

Anissa Scifres Hickey, BSN ’95, is pursuing her new career as a stay-at-home mom to her new son, Ethan. She previously had spent five years in critical care and cardiac rehabilitation nursing.

Brandi Sampson, BSN ’99, has moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. No wedding bells yet. She would love to hear from classmates. E-mail Brandi at: regnursb@aol.com.

Student Highlights

Christian Madsen, a student on the Great Falls campus, was invited into Septemviri, an MSU honor society made up of the seven top seniors selected on the basis of grades, activities and contributions to the University.

Three undergraduate students, Molly Harrington and Gina Nelson of the Missoula campus, and Jessica Peterson of the Great Falls campus, were chosen to...
complete summer internships at the prestigious Mayo Health System in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Faculty Highlights**

**Ardella Fraley**, MN, RN, FNP-C, an associate professor on the Missoula campus announced her retirement from the College of Nursing following the 2000–2001 academic year. Ardie has been with College since 1979.

**Sharon Kiely Howard**, MS, RNCS, an adjunct assistant professor on the Great Falls campus, recently was certified as a Certified Correctional Health Professional (CCHP) by the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare. Howard coordinates the College of Nursing’s nurse-managed clinic within the Cascade County Adult Detention Center in Great Falls.

**Helen Lee**, PhD, RN, associate professor and campus director on the Missoula campus, will retire from the College of Nursing at the end of the 2000-2001 academic year after 25 years of service.

**Marlene Tocher**, BSN, RN, a psychiatric nurse clinician on the Great Falls campus, has completed the requirements for Full Mental Health Professional certification with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

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**Development Spotlight**

**Hurry – The Clock is Ticking!**

The Montana Nurses Association (MNA) has voted to match donations from any MNA member who contributes to the MSU-Bozeman College of Nursing’s Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) endowment fund. Gifts made to the FNP endowment help to ensure future funding for the only graduate nursing program in Montana. Simply make a gift and designate the FNP fund on your check or in an accompanying note and for the next three years, the MNA will match your gift dollar for dollar! A special thanks to the MNA Board of Directors for this wonderful program!

**The Montana Tax Credit for Planned Gift to Endowment: A unique opportunity available to Montana Taxpayers.**

A 1997 law enacted by the Montana Legislature allows Montana taxpayers who make certain charitable gifts to take a credit against their Montana income tax. Through December 31, 2001, Montana taxpayers that make a qualifying gift to endowment may be able to take a credit against their Montana income tax liability.

**How It Works:**

The gift must be to an endowment (e.g. the gift is held and invested in perpetuity and only the income can be used to support the endowed purpose, such as the Family Nurse Practitioner Program Endowment) held by a qualified charity, such as the Montana State University Foundation, to benefit Montana citizens or groups. The gift can create an endowment or it can be made to an existing endowment. The credit may not exceed the taxpayer’s Montana income tax liability and is limited to 50% of the value of the charitable gift. The maximum an individual taxpayer may take from gifts to all sources is $10,000. The taxpayer may take a tax-credit or a tax-deduction for the amount being claimed, but not both. The credit must be applied in the tax year in which the gift was made. There is no carry back or carry forward provision, but a gift can be made in each year the law is in effect.

**Gifts From Individuals:**

A gift from an individual must be made through a planned gift. These are gifts generally used by individuals and families to make an irrevocable commitment of an asset for the future benefit of a charity while retaining the lifetime use or benefit of the asset. Planned gifts that qualify for the credit are:

- Paid-Up Life Insurance
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Life Estate Agreement
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

For further information about the Montana Tax Credit or other charitable giving options, please contact the College’s Development Director Buck Taylor at 406/994-2710. Excellent information also is available on the MSU Foundation’s web page at: www.montana.edu/wwwulf/
The following individuals and corporations provided donations to the College of Nursing since May 2000. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list, and the College welcomes any additions, deletions or corrections. Thanks to all the College’s repeat donors whose commitment means a great deal to all students, faculty and staff. In addition, a special note of thanks to new donors this year—welcome to our donor family!

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Marita and Jim Wittkopp
Robin and Richard Wolf
Shirley E. Wood
Sharon and Duane Woodward
Veletta and Richard Wornath
Louise and Byron Worster
Lloyd and Mae Yonce
Michael and Rosemary Youderian
Donald and Darleen Young
James and Carla Young