

The

Bobcat Nurse

2017



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A note from the Editor

We welcome your feedback and your input.

Please send photos and story ideas for the 2018 Bobcat Nurse to pam.schulz@montana.edu.

A parting message



Greetings Bobcat Nurses and friends,

Today I write with mixed emotions, including sadness that I am composing my last dean's message for the *Bobcat Nurse*, but also with anticipation of my upcoming retirement. I am pleased to announce that Dr. Sarah Shannon is the new dean of the College of Nursing. You may recognize that last name—Dr. Shannon is the niece of Dr. Anna Shannon, who served as dean of the college from 1975–1990. I am certain the college will be in good hands with Dr. Shannon at the helm, which makes it a bit easier for me to step away from this job I've enjoyed so much.

As I pack boxes with some of my favorite books and other memorabilia from my office, I find myself reflecting on the many accomplishments I've witnessed in the college during the last eight years.

- We've started a doctoral program and now have graduates who are not only prepared to provide quality primary care at the highest standards of the profession, but who also understand the complexities of our health care system in a way that allows them to be leaders and change agents as individuals and families maneuver through that system.
- Our accelerated BSN program is now offered on four of our five campuses. We know those graduates are welcome in the work place not only because of their strong educational background and critical thinking skills, but because of the maturity and life experience they bring.
- We've begun to offer an avenue for experienced nurses prepared at the associate degree level to matriculate through baccalaureate content and enter the Clinical Nurse Leader master's program where they learn to be leaders in a wide range of healthcare settings.
- Our commitment to diversity is evident as we continue to be the college at MSU with the highest percent of American Indian students. Our funding for the Caring for Our Own program has remained strong and steady allowing us to provide needed student support.
- More faculty than ever have research funding to explore answers to health related questions important to us all. And the rate of faculty publishing in refereed journals has tripled.

The College of Nursing is robust and everything we do supports MSU's land grant mission of serving the people of Montana. The world of health care is changing dramatically and we must also continue to change in order to prepare nursing leaders and make an impact in the world. I'm sure our new dean, Dr. Sarah Shannon, will confidently and competently lead the College into the future in ways that are hard to envision today.

As for me, I'm finding it hard to walk away from nursing, so I hope to find ways to remain engaged. I look forward to spending more time with our two daughters and their families (including five rambunctious grandkids) all of whom live in Bozeman. My husband and I have travel adventures planned as well as frequent retreats to our lake home in northern Minnesota. As I end this message, I would be remiss if I didn't offer a huge thank you for your support of the College of Nursing. Thank you for mentoring our students, for your generous financial gifts, and for helping us tell our story to all who will listen. I will miss you.

Helen

Go Cats!



New Dean to lead College of Nursing

A professor and experienced administrator currently at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) has been selected to be the next dean of the Montana State University College of Nursing.

Dr. Sarah Shannon, professor and senior associate dean for academic affairs at OHSU's School of Nursing, was named dean after a national search. Shannon will begin at MSU on July 24.

"I am pleased to welcome Sarah Shannon as the new dean of the College of Nursing," said Robert Mokwa, MSU Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. "We had many excellent candidates apply and interview for this position, and I thank the members of the search committee for their hard work and commitment to conducting a thorough search that involved all five MSU nursing campuses."

Shannon earned a doctorate and a master's degree, both in nursing science, from the University of Washington. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Arizona.

Shannon said she is honored to have the opportunity to serve the state of Montana as the next dean of the MSU College of Nursing. Former Dean Anna Shannon is Sarah's aunt. Upon Sarah's appointment as the new dean, Anna expressed delight and stated that "Sarah is very caring and visits me every year. During those visits we love to take a trip to Yellowstone together. I feel that Sarah is well prepared to assume the responsibilities of this position." Anna Shannon served as dean of the College from 1975-1990 and currently resides in Bozeman.

Dean's Advisory Council

Martha Mullaney Arguelles
 Kathy Finney
 Dena Richter
 Kay Chafey
 Vickie Groeneweg
 Joan Tierney
 Elaine Couture
 Sue Justis
 Pat Wilson
 Joyce Dombrowski
 Joyce Kamp
 Sharon Erickson
 Janice Ostermiller

Pinning 2017

A new pin for the Dean

President Waded Cruzado surprised retiring dean, **Helen Melland**, by designing a "Bobcat Nurse" pin and arranging for the dean's entire family to pin her during what became an emotional and sentimental moment at the May ceremony.



Two graduates commissioned as officers in the U.S. Army

Caleb Burger (right) and **Caitlin Dalzell** (left), two May 2017 graduates, were recognized at the May pinning ceremony as they were commissioned as officers in the U.S. Army the next day. MSU Army Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) provides scholarship opportunities, leadership training, upper division placement and a future career to college nursing students. In addition to the nursing curriculum, students enrolled in ROTC complete eight semesters or 31 credits of Army ROTC training,—including early morning physical fitness training.



Dean Melland with BJ Gilmore.



Dr. Julie Ruff with Kenny Smoker.

Clinical partners receive awards

BJ Gilmore, the Chief Nursing Officer and Vice-President for Patient Care Services at St. Vincent's Healthcare in Billings, received the Dean's Community Partner Award at the December pinning ceremony. BJ earned an associates degree in nursing from Weber State College, a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Utah and a master of science in management from Regis University. She also earned an Advanced Nurse Executive Certification and completed an Executive Leadership Fellowship from the Advisory Board Company in Washington, DC. One of the nominators for the award wrote about a time of sadness in the College when a faculty died unexpectedly, stating, "the students and I were left reeling both personally and logistically in the course as to how to carry on. The nurse managers at St. Vincent's Healthcare under the leadership of BJ provided much needed support and assistance during that difficult time by allowing additional students on the units and spending extra time assuring students were getting a quality learning experience." The nominator went on to say "When I personally thanked BJ, I was so touched by her response to me. She looked at me and in a very reassuring tone said to me 'We did it because it was the right thing to do.'"

Kenny Smoker was honored at the May pinning ceremony as he was presented with the Dean's Community Partner Award. Mr. Smoker is the director of the Health Promotion Disease Prevention Program on the Fort Peck reservation. He has been a key contributor to the multicultural education of undergraduate students from the Bozeman campus since 2011. Over the past six years, approximately 200 students have participated in a week-long cultural immersion service learning experience on the Fort Peck reservation.

While participating in this immersion experience on the reservation, students engage with the community providing acute and preventive health services to vulnerable and at risk children in six school based clinics. Students engage with community members to learn about the Northern Plains Indian culture and to formulate bonds of mutual respect. Mr. Smoker not only provides an opportunity for a unique and invaluable learning experience for each student, but also provides housing on the reservation for the nursing students at no expense to the college or the university. In alignment with the university's pledge to serve the citizens of Montana and to facilitate service learning experiences for the students of Montana's land grant university, Mr. Smoker's contributions and partnership with the College of Nursing embodies an exemplar of a rich collaboration between the university and the culture of the Northern Plains Indians.

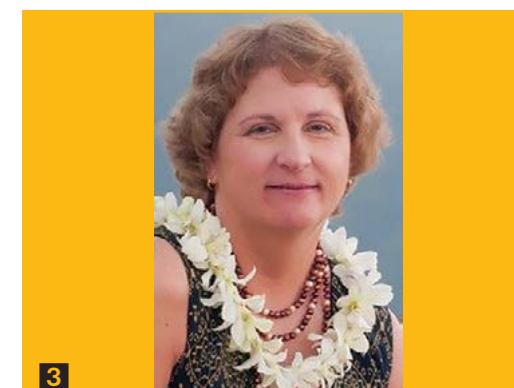
Homecoming 2016 College Awards

The college recognized two outstanding alumni and two honorary alumni during Homecoming week.

Outstanding alumni awards went to **Keven Comer** and **Marcia Ward**. Keven Comer is a graduate of the Family Nurse Practitioner program in the College of Nursing and has practiced for many years in Bozeman. Marcia Ward earned a BSN from the College of Nursing and has a long and distinguished career primarily in public health. Both Marcia and Keven have given of their time and talents through the years as they have precepted many College of Nursing undergraduate and graduate students. Thank you, Keven and Marcia!

Dr. Nora Gerrity and **Kris Juliar** were the recipients of the honorary Alumni awards. Dr. Gerrity is a pediatrician in Great Falls and she has been a strong advocate for nursing. She has collaborated with nursing faculty in Great Falls to design interprofessional learning experiences. Dr. Gerrity graduated from MSU in 1975 with a degree in pre-med and then continued her education through the WWAMI program. Kris Juliar is the Director of the Montana Office of Rural Health and the Area Health Education Center (AHEC). In that role she has been a long standing champion for nursing through her leadership in the Montana Center to Advance Health through Nursing (MT-CAHN) and through her work to improve healthcare across Montana. Upon receiving the award Kris stated: "A highlight of my career at the Montana AHEC/Office of Rural Health was receiving the Honorary Alumni Award from the MSU College of Nursing. Although I am not a nurse, I have been working to support nursing education at the state and national level for nearly 20 years, both here in Montana and during my time in Minnesota. I truly believe that a well-educated nursing workforce is the key to improving health, and the foundation for transforming healthcare in America."

[1] Dean Melland, Keven Comer and President Cruzado. [2] Dean Melland, Marcia Ward and President Cruzado. [3] Dr. Nora Gerrity [4] Dean Melland, Kris Juliar and President Cruzado.



Dr. Jennifer Sofie, Clinical Associate Professor

Committed to teaching, practice and international service

Doctoral Teaching

When I was young, around the age of 11, I used to gather all the neighborhood kids into the basement of my home for teaching sessions. I would have the kids all sit in rows and then I grilled them on various concepts and ideas. Fast forward about 30 years and it's no surprise that I am an educator. I am passionate about teaching future nurse practitioners. These adult learners quickly become colleagues and friends. These students are so committed to their studies. I had a student several years ago who insisted it was urgent to have a Skype meeting regarding her project. When we connected, I could hear cooing in the background and it did not take long to realize that this student had just given birth to her second child only hours prior. I take pride in knowing I got a first glimpse of this new baby and was just amazed at this student's devotion. While I have very committed students I too have unending devotion to my students. Day, night, weekend or holiday, students know that I am usually accessible. I have been known to have phone conversations with students when I have been hospitalized or from the tops of mountains.

One of my favorite activities each year is the graduate skills lab. Students come to Bozeman from all over for two days to learn how to suture, cast, remove toe nails, conduct pelvic exams and such. Nothing beats hands on learning and the students are like sponges enjoying every minute. Last year I decided to invite my husband, a professor in engineering, along with some of his Ph.D. students to be models so that the FNP students could practice their casting skills. What fun we had! I have been on faculty at MSU since fall 2006 and have taught a wide variety of courses. Each one of these courses has helped me grow as an educator and I look forward to what the future holds. We have such an exceptional DNP program and I am very proud to be a part of this.

International Service

Mother Teresa once said "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." I have found that we can have lasting impact by taking on small projects one at a time. I have had the privilege to travel the world providing health care to a variety of people all in dire need. The despair can be overwhelming but what a joy and gift to give people hope in terms of their healthcare. I have traveled deep into the bush of Ethiopia where there is no water and no food. These people have no resources and obviously have no healthcare. The devastation from HIV, tuberculosis, and malnutrition is severe, but our team was able to provide medications and consultation. High in the Andes mountains of Peru, I joined another team that hiked village to village. Trying to sleep at 13,000 feet and to think that these people do this their entire lives was mind boggling. In March of 2016, I was able to co-lead a trip to Ecuador with 17 nursing and DNP students. We traveled up to two and a half hours each way to villages high in the Andes mountains providing care to those in need. We nearly froze on this trip and we had a few close calls with our bus

on the narrow mountain roads, but it was worth it to travel with Timmy Global to provide sustainable healthcare to mountain communities.

During the summer of 2016 I traveled to Myanmar with my husband and our three teenage boys as helpers to set up a medical clinic in Yangon. This is an area of very poor, non-existent health care and what care and medications are available are dismal, fake and inaccurate. I can vividly remember a young patient of 14 or 15 who was brought by her parents with symptoms of weight loss and dyspnea (trouble breathing). They had chest x-rays with them and wanted me to review these as well. Upon further inquiry, they told me she was diagnosed with parasite in her lungs and that the doctors in Myanmar could not do anything for her. My husband overheard this conversation and came over saying, "I know all about this. I saw this on Animal Planet. It's called the Asian Lung Fluke and it's a parasite from eating under-cooked crawfish. The parasite travels from the intestines to the lungs where it grows and hatches babies." Long story short...I gave this family what supportive medications I had, even dipping into my own personal medication supply. We got her some steroids, a few inhalers, and did research to figure out what medications she needed for curative treatment. I had my contact travel to Thailand (where the medications are safe and available) and bring these medications back to the patient. I received an update three months later that she was thriving...gaining weight, breathing fine and cured! People often ask me if it's scary to travel to these places and how do I know what to do? I don't usually find it frightening to travel to help the undeserved, but yes there are some risks involved. One is never guaranteed their safety or health for that matter (we nearly lost my son at the end of the trip to Myanmar). I certainly don't have all the answers, but thank goodness for Google, medical and nursing friends and resources, the MSU Library, which can be accessed from anywhere in the world, and boy am I thankful for Animal Planet. It's all about changing one life at a time. And despite the risks, I hope to continue being able to travel around the world sharing my love and passion for people and healthcare.

- [1] Dr. Sofie with some DNP graduates at commencement.
- [2] DNP student applies a cast to Dr. Sophie's husband, Steve.
- [3] Dr. Sofie with two of her patients in Peru.
- [4] Dr. Sofie looking at the x-ray of a patient with a lung parasite.



Interprofessional education on the Missoula Campus

Faculty in health profession education programs are recognizing a need to develop opportunities that allow students in health education programs, such as physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing and medicine to learn together. According to the Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE, 2001), “interprofessional education occurs when two or more professionals learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care.” Learning together allows students to develop skills to help them work collaboratively as members of interdisciplinary teams in clinical practice settings.

On the Missoula campus MSU nursing students have two opportunities to participate in Interprofessional Education (IPE) activities under the direction of Dr. Dale Mayer:

Elective Course MSU nursing students in Missoula can enroll in an elective course with students from health profession programs at the University of Montana (UM).

In the fall of 2015 UM offered a one-credit elective course which was co-taught by UM faculty and Dr. Dale Mayer, an MSU nursing faculty member in Missoula. Students from UM programs including physical therapy, pharmacy, social work, speech language pathology, exercise science and athletic training enrolled in this course. MSU nursing students were invited to participate, 15 MSU nursing students enrolled. The course continues to be offered each fall, student comments have been overwhelming positive.

One student who took the elective course and participated in the simulation activity shared this comment, “I was a student who took the IPE elective last semester and one thing I found the class lacking in was hands-on participation and practice as IPE teams. This IPE [simulation] experience was exactly what was missing. It was wonderful to talk and learn about the various professions we will all eventually be working with, but to actually work together with each other in taking care of a patient was invaluable. I know it is a long process, but I hope this type of experience can be incorporated into each program’s curriculum. There are some things that cannot be taught, you simply have to experience them yourselves.” Future plans include: a) having IPE simulations each semester which include other disciplines; b) conducting larger simulations in classrooms w/increased viewing potential including live streaming; and c) allowing more students to participate by having simulation activities take place over the course of a full day or several days.



Students doing an in class activity with the elective course.

Simulation Activity MSU nursing students come together with UM students from other professions to collaborate on patient cases in the safety of a simulation laboratory setting.

The first interprofessional simulation laboratory activity on the Missoula campus brought together MSU nursing and UM pharmacy students with medical residents, to work together on two clinical cases in the simulation laboratory. The focus of this activity was on inter-professional communication while providing care in a realistic patient simulation.



Group of students who were involved with the simulation activity in March 2017.

Dr. Susan Luparell’s work in civility



A series of events led to Dr. Susan Luparell’s interest in civility, or the occasional lack thereof, in nursing and in health care. As a bedside nurse, she was well aware that working with some colleagues might pose unique challenges, but chalked it up to the fact that some people had difficult

personalities. Since these individuals often were viewed as clinical experts, poor behavior tended to be minimized. When she took a teaching role in the late 1990’s she began to hear stories of, and eventually witnessed herself, a rare student behaving poorly toward faculty. Her dissertation work, which is widely considered to be a seminal study, explored the impact of uncivil student behavior on nursing faculty and discovered that faculty experienced significant emotional trauma following such interactions, which at times included threats of physical harm. Not surprisingly, some faculty chose to leave teaching following such encounters.

Not long after her dissertation was completed, several important research studies began to establish the link between disruptive behavior in health care and poor patient outcomes, including death, and that’s when Dr. Luparell’s thinking about the topic began to broaden. She became interested in understanding the link between student behavior while in school and subsequent behavior in practice. Toward that end, in a large national survey of faculty, she and a colleague discovered that about a third of faculty could indeed identify a former poorly behaving student who went on to behave badly in their nursing practice. Dr. Luparell also began to explore strategies by which faculty could set the expectations for appropriate behavior in the classroom, help students remediate poor behavior as able, and address it more overtly as a part of learner assessment. As it turns out, nursing faculty across the country were in dire need of such assistance, and Dr. Luparell’s teaching style has resonated with her peers. In addition to having authored chapters on this topic in most of the leading nursing education texts, she has become a highly sought after presenter on how to cultivate civility in nursing education, having shared her ideas with well over 10,000 nursing faculty members over the years.

Improving access

The Montana AHEC Program, housed in the College of Nursing, is part of a national network of Area Health Education Centers, funded by the Health Resources Services Administration. Montana AHEC has five regional centers and partners with several organizations including the Montana Health Network, Riverstone Health, University of Montana and the Montana Health Research and Education Foundation of Montana Hospital Association.

AHEC is designed to increase the number of health professionals who practice in rural and underserved areas. The work of the Montana AHEC focuses on:

- In depth workforce planning through engagement of a broad range of stakeholders at the state and regional level.
- Pipeline programs including camps, school based programs, HOSA, future health professionals and career development.
- Supporting health professionals during their rural rotations.
- Continuing education programs for health professionals, with an emphasis on those in rural areas.
- Developing new education programs through projects including the Academic Progression in Nursing Program (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), HealthCARE Montana (Dept. of Labor), Community Health Workers (MT Health Care Foundation), and efforts at the state and regional program to expand medical residencies and dental education.

AHEC and the state Office of Rural Health work extensively with critical access hospitals (CAHs) across the state. They conduct community health needs assessments and implementation plans, and support efforts to develop and fund strategies to address local needs.



Embracing diversity and inclusion

“MSU is committed to fostering diversity in race, gender identity, age, language, socioeconomic status, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation and geographical background.” Those were the words of President Cruzado as MSU embarked on a year-long process devoted to developing a diversity and inclusion framework that could be infused into the updated strategic plan.

The College of Nursing embraced those campus efforts as it held a mini-diversity summit modeled after a summit held for the entire university community. College faculty, staff and students discussed ways to make the college a safer and more inclusive environment. Other ways the college embraced the diversity effort was through the use of guest speakers. Katie and Eric Lowe, both physicians in Bozeman, spoke to faculty on affirming health care for transgender youth and adults and Ariel Donahue from the Diversity Awareness Office spoke on best practices for working with LGBTQ students. The college remains committed to increasing the diversity of its student body through the CO-OP program, which provides financial support for Native American students as well as tutoring and mentoring services.



CO-OP Graduation Honoring Ceremony.



April 27, 2017 — by Anne Cantrell, MSU News Service

Nearly 50 students in Montana State University’s accelerated undergraduate program in nursing will receive financial support after the MSU College of Nursing won a grant from the Hearst Foundations.

The \$100,000 grant will provide all 48 students beginning this spring in the accelerated bachelor’s program in nursing with \$1,750 each for tuition, books and fees. It will also award a total of \$16,000 to students for additional living expenses and emergency needs through an application process.

“We are so grateful to the Hearst Foundations for this support, which will have a significant and positive impact on dozens of our students,” said Helen Melland, dean of the MSU College of Nursing.

Chooi Ying Sim Birdsong, a student from Malaysia who will begin the accelerated nursing program this spring, said she appreciates the grant, which will help lessen the financial challenges she faces while enrolled in the program.

“As the funding and time required to train future healthcare workers continues to increase, some applicants, once admitted, cannot enroll due to the cost of tuition and related expenses,” Birdsong said. “Receiving the Hearst Foundations Grant definitely helps to reduce that financial burden.”

MSU’s accelerated bachelor’s degree program in nursing is designed for individuals who have completed at least a bachelor’s degree in a discipline other than nursing. The 15-month program begins in May every year and concludes the following August.

Students progress through the accelerated nursing curriculum in four terms (summer, fall, spring and summer) and graduate at the conclusion of the second summer term. The curriculum, number of credits earned, number of clinical hours and degree are the same as the traditional BSN degree program. Upon graduation, the students are qualified to sit for NCLEX-RN®, the national licensing examination to enter professional nursing practice as a registered nurse. The degree is fully accredited and has received continuous approval from the Montana Board of Nursing.

Melland said the funds will make a significant difference for the program’s students—many of whom have circumstances that make funding their education challenging.

“Many of the students in this program have outstanding debt from prior loans, have used up financial aid eligibility from their first undergraduate degree and/or are unable to find additional resources to return to school,” she said. “In addition, many of the students in our accelerated program are married and have dependents, and thus they tend to have greater demands on their finances than traditional students.”

Melland said the first class of 16 students in the accelerated program began their studies on the Bozeman campus in the summer of 2011. The next year, the college accepted an additional 16 students—for a total of 32 students—onto the Great Falls campus.

Since then, demand has been strong, Melland noted. To help meet the demand, this spring the college is expanding the program to its Missoula and Kalispell campuses; eight students will be admitted to each of those two campuses. In all, a total of 48 students now are admitted to the accelerated program on the college’s campuses in Bozeman, Great Falls, Missoula and Kalispell.

“We are pleased that we have been able to grow this program to the point that we now admit 48 students per year,” Melland said. “With the actual and projected nursing shortage, we are always looking at ways to improve the number of professional nurses qualified to enter the work force.”

Melland also noted that the success of the program’s graduates is evidence of its quality.

“To date, the graduation rate of our accelerated nursing students is more than 90 percent, and the first time passing rate of those students on the NCLEX-RN® licensing exam is more than 95 percent,” she said.

Brooke Huffman, a student from Havre who will begin the accelerated nursing program this spring, said the grant will help her tremendously.

“The intensity of the accelerated program can make for lofty expenses as well as limited opportunities for income during that time,” Huffman said. “This financial assistance will reduce my stress greatly.”



MSU receives nearly \$1 million for program to help Native Americans succeed in nursing

October 14, 2016 — by Anne Cantrell, MSU News Service

A program at Montana State University that is designed to help Native Americans succeed in nursing has received a grant worth nearly \$1 million.

MSU's Caring For Our Own Program, or CO-OP, recently received a grant from the Indian Health Service worth \$332,715 a year for three years. The funds will enable the program to support several additional students: CO-OP was previously supporting 21 students over three years, and with these funds it will be expanded to support 27 students over three years.

Started in 1999, CO-OP aims to recruit and graduate Native American nurses who will work in Indian Health Service facilities on Native American reservations or in urban settings. CO-OP supports both undergraduate and graduate students with tutoring and advising help, and through the program students receive financial assistance with tuition, books, fees and supplies. Many students and graduates also say informal support from CO-OP peers and administrators is crucial to their success.

"We are just delighted to get continued funding for this program, which has been in existence for almost 20 years now," said Helen Melland, dean of the MSU College of Nursing. "We are extremely committed to Native American communities here in Montana, and we're proud to say that of the nearly 100 graduates of the Caring For Our Own Program, an overwhelming majority have returned to their reservations to provide care."

In the nearly 20 years since its inception, CO-OP has successfully eliminated the ethnic disparity within the MSU College of Nursing, according to Melland.

"A goal of this program has been to have the percent of Native American students enrolled in the College of Nursing to be the same as the percent of Native Americans in Montana — 6.5 percent," Melland said. "We have now reached that goal."

In fact, the College of Nursing has helped to more than double the enrollment of American Indian students at MSU in the last decade. In 2004, 268 Native American students were enrolled at MSU; this fall, that number was 650, according to data from the MSU Office of Planning and Analysis. Further, data shows the largest percentage of enrollment of Native American students is in the College of Nursing.

Melland added that while the College of Nursing's short-term goal for CO-OP is to create opportunities for Native American students in nursing, in the long-term its focus is on improving the health of Native American people in Montana by reducing health disparities. Studies have shown that a diverse health care workforce is critical to achieve health equity across populations, Melland noted.

"Ultimately, our focus is on improving the health of Native American people in Montana," Melland said. "Through CO-OP, the College of Nursing truly is committed to making a difference not only for our students, but also for our state."



MSU releases television spot about CO-OP nursing program

October 21, 2016 — by MSU News Services

Montana State University will debut its latest TV spot on Saturday, Oct. 22. The new ad highlights the MSU College of Nursing's Caring For Our Own Program, or CO-OP.

The ad tells the story of two Montana-born Native American students who want to pursue a career in nursing in order to return to their communities and serve their people, according to Julie Kipfer, director of marketing and creative services for MSU's University Communications.

"It follows their journey to enroll at MSU, their work in the CO-OP program and their hopes for the future of health care in their home communities," said Dennis Aig, professor in the College of Arts and Architecture's School of Film and Photography.

Started in 1999, CO-OP aims to recruit and graduate Native American and Alaska Native nurses who will work in Indian Health Service facilities on Native American reservations or in urban settings. CO-OP supports both undergraduate and graduate students with tutoring and advising help, and through the program students receive financial assistance with tuition, books, fees and supplies.

"MSU is a leader in training students in the health care professions. What makes this spot special is the focus on these two remarkable Montana students who are pursuing a career that will allow them to heal and strengthen their communities," Kipfer said.

The two students featured in the spot are Vonnda Lei, a senior from Lane Deer and member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, and Tate Lipscomb, a sophomore from Ronan from the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes.

"As a single mother, I needed to ensure a secure future for my son," Lei said in the ad. She also said she was determined to serve her people. Thanks to the program, Lei has already had some experience serving the people in her community. She spent time working this past summer in the Northern Cheyenne Public Health Clinic in Lane Deer as part of a summer internship opportunity.

In addition to his studies, Lipscomb also works as a resident assistant for Residence Life. He said that his desire to help save lives led him not only to enroll in the CO-OP program, but also inspired him to work as a wildland firefighter for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Division of Fire.

The production team for the ad, which includes MSU students, faculty, staff and alumni, traveled to both Lei's and Lipscomb's communities this past summer to see them in action at work, in their homes and with their families.

Kipfer, who along with Aig received an Emmy for work on a previous project, served as executive producer for the spot. Aig served as both director and producer. He also co-wrote the script with Alison Reidmohr, marketing strategist in University Communications.

Co-directors of photography included MSU alumni Jeff Dougherty (film and photography 2013) and Korey Kaczmarek (film and photography 2005), who was co-director of photography for the award-winning documentary "Unbranded."

"We're very proud that this spot was developed entirely in-house with our own people, including the talented team in University Communications," Kipfer said.

Other members of the production team include; Editor: Kyle Moriarty, Film and Photography 2013 (working in New York) · Sound design: Jeremiah Slovarp, adjunct faculty, MSU School of Music; president, Jereco Studios · Color correction: Logan Triplett, Film and Photography 2011 (working in Los Angeles) · Drone operator: Andy Hahn, Film and Photography student · Drone camera operator: John Sweeney, Film and Photography 2014 · Production assistants: Isaac Guy, Film and Photography 2015 and Vincent Bredemus, Film and Photography student.

To view the new commercial, go to: montana.edu/nativenurses.

Awards for Excellence

The MSU Alumni Foundation and the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the annual Awards for Excellence dinner that honored MSU's top seniors. Each student recipient selected a faculty or staff mentor who had a profound impact on them. The College of Nursing selected three awardees. This year's College of Nursing student recipients and their selected mentors respectively were:

- Catherine Coe and Dale Mayer, Missoula campus [1]
- Laura Owen and Dena Geiger, Kalispell campus [unable to attend]
- Sadie Sampson and Ronda Bales, Billings campus [2]

What are students doing?

Ski Mountaineering

College of Nursing students are not only successful in the classroom and in the clinical setting, but they are well rounded with a variety of interests. Michela Adrian, an accelerated student in Great Falls, competed in the World Championships for Ski Mountaineering held in Italy. Michela said "I have been trying to qualify for the U.S. team for years and it was a dream come true to be able to not only qualify but also to compete while in nursing school. Team USA ended up 6th overall, which is our best place ever. I placed 9th in the team event (where you ski with a partner over 5,000–8,000 ft.) and 24th in the sprint event. Although those don't sound like super amazing results, I was incredibly excited to place so well (i.e. not last!)." [3]

Leading

The former president of the MSU student body, Levi Birky, visited Kalispell and met with college students. He spoke to the students about his role as the past student body president, the Truman Scholarship and his role as student representative on the Board of Regents. [4]

Advocating

Maria Bernhardt from the Billings campus and Lauryn Byrne from the Missoula campus represented the college at the AACN Student Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. As part of that experience, they visited Senator Daines' and Senator Tester's offices to advocate for maintaining funding at current levels of the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development program and funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research. [5]



Opportunity scholars program

An endowment has been established in the College called the Opportunity Scholars Program. Funds from this program will assist American Indian students enrolled in the accelerated BSN (ABSN) program and provide them with support for living and school expenses. This opportunity provides a student \$15,000 per 15 month program and will start with one recipient and grow to support up to three by 2019.

Students in the ABSN program have already completed one degree in a discipline other than nursing. They return to school to complete a nursing degree in an accelerated time span of 15 months. Financial needs are usually high for these students as they have loans from their first degree program and part-time employment is discouraged due to the intensity of the program. Enrollment in this program is especially challenging for American Indian students as they often have child and family responsibilities. Their home communities and culture place a high value on taking care of family, so any disruption such as leaving their community to attend a university needs to be carefully evaluated against the odds of academic success and financial feasibility.

Brian King, the associate director of the Caring for Our Own Program (CO-OP) stated; "The CO-OP and College of Nursing are very grateful for the generous donor who established the Opportunity Scholars Program. This program may be the factor that determines if a student makes the decision to move forward into the ABSN program. It is a timely gift in a time of great need for American Indian populations and the ongoing efforts to address health disparities in our people, and it will continue to be for years to come thanks to the generous nature of the donation."



Alumni Reunion

Alumni returned to campus in May to celebrate their 50th, 60th and 70th reunions during commencement weekend in Bozeman. Nursing alumnae gathered at Anna Pearl Sherrick Hall for a visit with Dean Melland and shared laughs and stories over a cup of coffee about their time as MSU. Several attended the Pinning Ceremony later that afternoon.



Fun 'n' Facts



May 2016 DNP graduates with Dr. Donna Williams, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education.

The first class of eight DNP students graduated in May 2016. All passed the national certification exam on their first attempt. Here's what they are doing now:

Jessie Havens I am located in Helena, and I am currently doing home health assessments for Medicare Advantage members through EMSI.

Carly Hillenbrand I am living in Missoula and working as an inpatient psychiatric DNP at Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs.

Brenna Manion I am located in Helena, Montana. I am employed by Lewis & Clark Emergency Physicians. I work as a DNP full time in ER and Urgent Care at St Peter's Hospital.

Anna Nesovic I am located in Billings. I work at Billings Clinic in the Geriatric Services Department and work in the nursing home setting.

Jennifer Show After obtaining my DNP and passing the ANCC board certification, I chose to return back to my home town of Fort Belknap, Montana. Utilizing my degree as a Nurse Practitioner/Diabetes Coordinator I have been responsible for coordinating care for pre-diabetic/diabetic patients on the Fort Belknap Reservation with a focus on prevention and holistic diabetic care. I

have been working in conjunction with the Fort Belknap Indian Council to improve our revenue source through third party collections via Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance.

Kate Taubert After graduation I moved back to my hometown of Casper, Wyoming after being in Montana for 10 years. I currently work full time at Urgent Care of Casper. I am also working with my committee chair to publish my DNP research in a peer reviewed journal. I am also using my graduate degree to serve on an emergency preparedness committee for the 2017 solar eclipse.

Michelle Trost I am in Billings, Montana. I am working for St. Vincent Healthcare at Broadwater Family Medicine.

Cole Whitmoyer I am working as a DNP at the miCare Health Centers in the Billings area. Our clinic is unique in the fact that we are an onsite primary care clinic for the employees of businesses around Billings, Laurel and across the country. The great thing is that it is usually free, or a small copay, to the employee and hassle free with convenient online scheduling and hardly any wait times.



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.

5
CAMPUS
SITES

900+ STUDENTS
ENROLLED
IN PRE-NURSING AND NURSING

AVERAGE 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)
- Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSIN)
- Master of Nursing (MN-CNL)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP in PMH or FNP)

SIM LAB



The Simulation Laboratory enables nursing students to practice patient care in a safe environment.



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Heagney family

a nursing tradition

Ray Heagney, celebrates with his daughter, Carrie Heagney, at her graduation in December 2016. Ray shares a picture of his mother Frances Bleavens Heagney who graduated in the first Montana State College graduating class in 1940. Her diploma was signed by Anna Pearl Sherrick. The inset picture includes seven of her sisters, all of whom were nurses in Montana. Carrie's maternal grandmother, Jean Sullivan Boggs, was also a nurse, graduating from St. James Hospital School of Nursing (Butte), 1942.

Janice Hausauer, College of Nursing faculty member and her daughter, Lauren, both graduated from MSU on May 6, 2017. Janice earned her DNP (Family/Individual) and Lauren earned a degree in Elementary Education with Spanish Teaching and Hispanic Studies minors. Congratulations, Dr. Hausauer and Lauren!

A family affair

