



The Bobcat Nurse 2014

A publication of Montana State University's College of Nursing

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Front Cover: Kenny Smoker (top left) from the Assiniboine Tribe on the Fort Peck Reservation shares a moment with Accelerated BSN students.

Note from the editor: Please send photos and ideas for the *Bobcat Nurse* to kay.lafrance@montana.edu



Greetings Bobcat Nurses and Friends of the College of Nursing:

This past year I have become particularly impressed with the commitment of our faculty to make a difference in the health of the people of Montana and beyond. It is clear to me that the mission of the College that focuses on “*enhancing the health of the people of Montana, our nation, and the global community*” continues to be a touchstone for our work. As I look around at what’s going on in the college I see so many examples of that commitment...

- Our faculty are doing research that focuses on, for example, oral health in Native American children, decreasing the exposure of vulnerable families to toxic agents, health literacy among rural residents about complementary care, and promoting physical function in older adults living with chronic pain.
- Many of our faculty are involved in Montana’s Robert Wood Johnson Action Coalition with the goal of transforming health care by increasing the proportion of nurses prepared at the baccalaureate level to 80% by 2020.
- Our students reach out to vulnerable populations as they participate in suicide prevention initiatives, volunteer in homeless shelters, screen children in Head Start settings, or travel to Central America to provide primary care services.
- Our partnerships with professionals from other disciplines continue to strengthen - a pediatric dentist from Bozeman now travels with our students to the Ft. Peck Indian Reservation where he provides free dental services. Together we make a bigger difference!

As you read this edition of *The Bobcat Nurse* you’ll see many examples of the accomplishments of our faculty and students who truly are making a difference in people’s lives. You’ll also read about the new DNP program that was launched last September when our first group of students enrolled. This “new nurse,” educated at the doctoral level with the clinical expertise of a nurse practitioner and also an in-depth understanding of systems, policy, and leadership, will be well prepared to step into our complex, rapidly evolving health care system armed with the skills to ultimately improve the health of all.

Thanks for supporting us and please do stay in touch.

Helen Melland

Dean, College of Nursing

Celebrating Our New DNP Program

College Launches New DNP Program

From an article by Anne Cantrell, written for the Collegian.

Montana State University's College of Nursing is making history this year as the first and only institution in the state of Montana to offer a doctoral degree in nursing.

The first class of 24 students in the College of Nursing's new doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree program began coursework last fall with those students slated to graduate in spring 2016. Classes are taken primarily online, with teleconference and videoconference used to supplement content. In addition to 83 credits that are needed for graduation, the degree requires students to complete 1,125 hours in clinical settings. Students in the program choose from one of two options: family and individual nurse practitioner or psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner. Mirroring a national trend, the doctoral program will replace several master's-level nursing programs that have been offered at MSU since 1957.

Offering the degree is an important step for health care in Montana, according to Donna Williams, associate dean for research and graduate education in the MSU College of Nursing. Williams calls the new doctoral program a "degree for the times," and said that addressing health care needs, particularly in rural areas, is a huge challenge—one that the College of Nursing is tackling head-on.

"All of Montana is considered a medically underserved state," Williams said. "The beautiful thing about nursing is that most nurses tend to stay in the community, so essentially, these nurses will be able to bring an advanced level of education back to their neighbors." Statistics show, Williams added, that approximately 85 percent of nurses educated in Montana will stay in the state to work.

The number of students who applied to the program is evidence of its demand. Williams said the College of the Nursing received 110 applications for admission to its graduate-level programs this year, which include the doctoral degree as well as a master's-level clinical nurse leader program. Only 30 students were admitted to the two programs, with the vast majority being admitted to the doctoral program. "It's safe to say there is a huge demand," Williams said. She added that there has been overwhelming support for implementing the doctoral program, from potential students to nursing faculty to university leaders and hospital administrators in the region—several of whom had requested a program of the kind to help meet their community's needs.



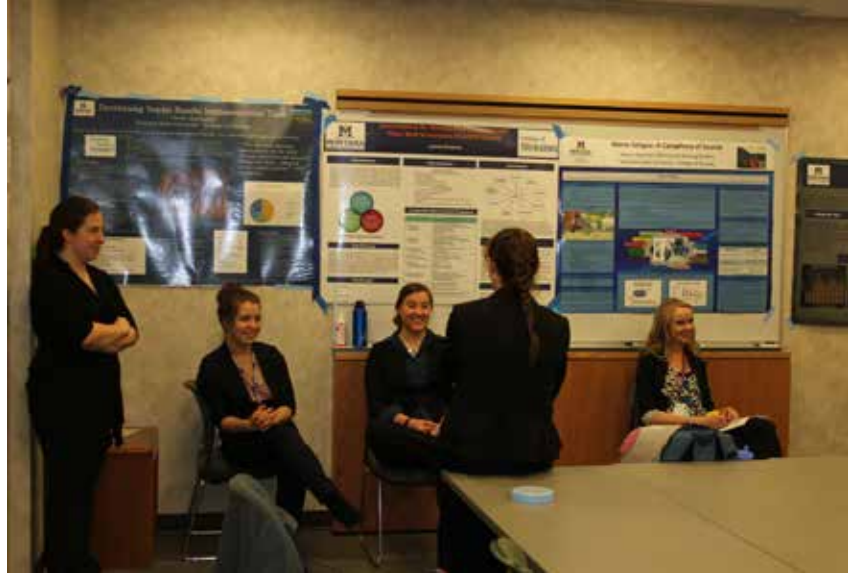
Terryn Martin (pictured at right), 27, is one of the students who enrolled in the doctor of nursing practice program. She said the program's online course offerings provide a great deal of flexibility, and she credits the nursing faculty for delivering course content in a creative, effective way.

Originally from Billings, Mont., Martin received a bachelor's degree in nursing from MSU in 2008. She then began working in a neonatal intensive care unit in Billings and, later, as a mentor through the MSU College of Nursing's Caring For Our Own program. She said she has loved her work as a nurse, and she sees the doctoral degree as a step toward additional opportunities.

"Nursing in general opens up a ton of different avenues, and the DNP program opens up even more," Martin said. "After finishing the program, I'm excited to be able to work as a nurse practitioner, or to teach."

Celebrating Students

Senior nursing students presented their research projects with a poster presentation at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital at the end of the academic year. The students displayed their posters and were available to answer questions from employees of the hospital, the community and the college. Nursing students also presented at the annual Undergraduate Research Celebration.



The College of Nursing was pleased to have five nursing students receive degrees from the Honors College. Hannah Combs, Helen Cornwall and Brielle Jeziorski (Billings campus) and Larissa Donahue and Emilie Kuster (Bozeman campus) managed to fulfill the requirements for the nursing curriculum *and* the requirements for the Honors College. Congratulations to our Honors students!



Three nursing students and their most influential mentors received Awards for Excellence at the annual university recognition dinner this spring. They were : Leann Dorvall with Kimberly Peterson (faculty), Jill Pennington with Jeannie Osellame (faculty), and Noel Yelvington with Susan Luparell, (faculty). Nursing student Emilie Kuster also received the Honors college nomination and the Torlief Aasheim Award for service. Laura Larsson was her faculty mentor.



Back L to R: Jeannie Osellame, Laura Larsson, Kim Peterson (Susan Luparell not pictured)
Front L to R: Noel Yelvington, Jill Pennington, Leann Dorvall



Dean Ilse-Mari Lee (Honors College) & Emilie Kuster

Nursing is a Family Tradition



Larissa Donahue graduated from high school in Great Falls, enrolled in Biochemistry at MSU, then tried a semester of teaching, but ultimately felt the College of Nursing was her destiny. Her parents, Jan and Will, are both advanced practice nurses and MSU graduates. Larissa's maternal grandmother was a nurse as well. Larissa remembers many dinner conversations that revolved around nursing. We are happy Larissa is keeping the Bobcat nursing tradition alive! (at left, Will, Larissa and Jan Donahue)

MSU Students Share Stress Management Techniques

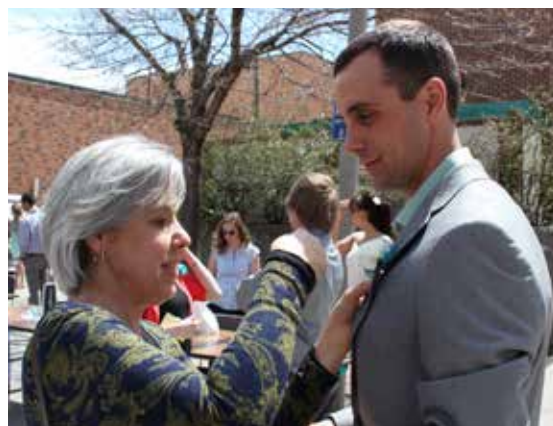
MSU Nursing students KyleLee Hall and Mitch Yoder, both from the Kalispell campus, educated younger students on signs and symptoms of good and bad stress, negative and positive coping skills and relaxation techniques through breathing, muscle tension release and visualization. Hall and Yoder presented the stress management techniques and demonstrated power poses to students at Flathead High School as part of a project in "Population Based Nursing Care in the Community," an upper level nursing class taught by Cary Heskett, Assistant Teaching Professor.



KyleLee (in photo at left with wife, Laura) may have found a bit of stress relief at home and certainly some empathy for the academic demands of MSU's nursing curriculum. He and his wife, Laura, were nursing students together. Laura was chosen as the Kalispell campus speaker at the spring 2014 Pinning Ceremony.

Celebrating Pinning

The College of Nursing now celebrates a Pinning every season. Our traditional BSN students are pinned in Bozeman in early May and mid-December on the Friday before MSU's Commencement Ceremony. Our Accelerated BSN students are pinned in early August in a ceremony held in the Procrastinator Theatre.



Faculty Return to School...

The College of Nursing continues to grow in all ways. In recent years, we've added an accelerated BSN program in Bozeman and then in Great Falls. Last fall, we launched the Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree. MSU's College of Nursing is proud to be a leader in nursing education and proud to have twelve faculty members pursuing doctoral education.

Faculty members Shelly Banta, Janice Hausauer, Stacy Stellflug, Julie Pullen, Emily Tesar, Jane Scharff, Julie Ruff, Sheila Matye, Sally Rappold, Susan Raph, Paul Krogue and Kathy Damberger are both teacher and doctoral students. The college is thrilled to be surrounded by life-long learners.



Bonding & Boxing...

One of the great challenges for both students and faculty in the College of Nursing is the distance between upper division sites.

In order to gain clinical access and deliver the best education for our students, we have established MSU nursing campus sites across the state of Montana in Billings, Kalispell, Great Falls, and Missoula in addition to Bozeman.

Twice a year the faculty gather in one place to get to know each other through faculty development meetings and activities. This year, Susan Myers-Clack, CON Office of Research & Scholarship Program Manager, led the group in a Pink Gloves Boxing session. It was a “think outside the box” event and created a true sense of togetherness among faculty.



At left: S. Myers-Clack & Jane Scharff, Bozeman Campus Director

Celebrating Research

September 2014 will mark the start of the fourth annual Research Seminar Series in the College of Nursing. These one-hour seminars showcase some of the exciting research being conducted at MSU and beyond. The seminars are announced on MSU Today and each seminar is broadcast to our distant sites in Montana via interactive video.

2014-2015 Research Seminar Series **Research Across the Lifespan**

Sep. 15, 2014: 12:15-1:15 PM

Oct. 20, 2014: 12:15-1:15 PM

Nov. 17, 2014: 12:15-1:15 PM

Mar. 16, 2015: 12:15-1:15 PM

Apr. 20, 2015: 12:15-1:15 PM

2013-2014 Seminar Series Included:

September 16th: Dr. Elizabeth Kinion, MSU College of Nursing
“Enhancing an American Indian Community’s Understanding of Early Childhood Caries with Baseline Data: Be Happy When You Smile/Beautiful Smile”

November 18th: Dr. Karen Zulkowski, MSU College of Nursing
“Nurses’ Pressure Ulcer Knowledge: What Don’t We Know”

March 17th: Dr. Marilyn Rantz, University of Missouri, Sinclair School of Nursing
“The Engaged Leader’s Research Trajectory”

April 21st: Dr. Nic Ward, MSU College of Engineering
“The Role of Safety Culture, Social Ecology and Personal Agency in Traffic Safety”

Increasing Access to Oral Health Care: Evaluating the Outcomes of a Community Health Worker Program

The Fort Belknap Community and Elizabeth Kinion



Recently the Fort Belknap American Indian community confirmed what they had suspected, that the prevalence and severity of early childhood caries in their children was unacceptably high. By utilizing a long established research technique that includes the Fort Belknap community and MSU's College of Nursing this project will, in part, address the goal of reducing early childhood caries on the Fort Belknap Reservation. The team will test whether a community oral health worker model will reduce the incidence of new and untreated dental decay and have a positive impact on caregiver-reported child oral health practices. The project will allow the team to create and test a sustainable and effective Community Oral Health Worker program to reduce the burden of early childhood caries. The team also will train community members to be Community Oral Health Workers so they can deliver culturally sensitive health behavior change counseling and case management. In addition the project will assist and support the Aaniiih Nakoda College to develop the systems and infrastructure necessary to establish an accredited Community Dental Health Coordinator training program. The long-term goal is to attract and and retain qualified Community Oral Health Workers on the reservation. If successful this model could be adapted and adopted by other tribes in Montana and beyond.

Dr. Karen Zulkowski Attends Premiere in Sweden



Dr. Karen Zulkowski is the Executive Editor of The World Council of Enterstomal Therapists International Ostomy Guideline. In June of 2014 this guideline was unveiled in Gothenburg, Sweden during the World Council of Enterstomal Therapists biennial Congress. This resource was designed to be used by both resource abundant and resource scarce countries. In addition, this guideline contains evidence for ostomy practice and includes suggestions related to care for specific cultures and religions. Two American Indian nursing students who were enrolled in Dr. Zulkowski's undergraduate nursing research class contributed to the culture-specific section as part of their research experience. The Journal of the World Council of Enterstomal Therapists (JWCET) is distributed to 1000 members in over 55 countries.

Celebrating Research

Bio-Energy and Breast Cancer: A Pilot Study

Alice Running and Jeannine Brant

Dr. Alice Running (College of Nursing) and Dr. Jeannine Brant (Billings Clinic Cancer Center) are investigating whether bio-energy healing therapies decrease cortisol levels over time for women receiving chemotherapy for stage 1-3 breast cancer. Cortisol is viewed as a physiological marker of stress and chronic stress and cortisol deregulation can negatively influence inflammation and immune function in ways that promote fatigue, depression and the risk of cancer recurrence. Bio-energy healing therapies are recognized as an approved treatment modality that may potentially support immunity and slow cancer growth, but there is a need for more rigorous study to further the evidence in this field and establish specific protocols. Specifically, evidence is needed to develop the timing and length of bio-energy health interventions. The study proposed by Drs. Running and Brant will test a timed bio-energy intervention (30 minutes) and a prescribed dosing interval (every two weeks) for four weeks. The researchers hypothesize that cortisol levels and depression will decrease over time and that quality of life will increase for the women who receive the treatment compared to a usual care group.

Statistical Revision of the Sieloff-King Assessment of Group Empowerment within Organizations

Christina Sieloff and Jeannine Brant

The next step for Dr. Christina Sieloff's research is a quantitative psychometric examination of an existing instrument called the Sieloff-King Assessment of Group Empowerment within Organizations© [SKAGEO]. This instrument has been used widely to assess the capability of teams (rather than individuals) to achieve goals. Drs. Sieloff and Brant are focusing on how teams of registered nurses can reduce hospital medical errors. The reliability and criterion-related validity of SKAGEO© has been supported consistently when used in research, both nationally and internationally. A statistical revision of the SKAGEO© will be completed by combining data sets related to the SKAGEO© from 16 research studies (2097 subjects). This research should validate that the SKAGEO© continues to demonstrate high reliability and validity across settings and populations and can continue to be used in both national and international nursing research efforts focused on the RN work environment. The researchers will examine the empirical factor structure of the SKAGEO© in light of the theoretical subscale structure of the instrument and perform reliability, sensitivity and validity studies on the SKAGEO© using the combined data base.



Pictured left to right: Alice Running Jeannine Brant and Christina Sieloff

Celebrating Leaders & Legends



Leaders & Legends Awards from the College of Nursing were presented by Dean Helen Melland (far left) to: Anna Dennis (Honorary Alumna Award), Charlene “Charlie” Winters (Distinguished Faculty Award), Susan Myers-Clack and Wendy Minster (Distinguished Staff Awards), and Jeannine Brant (Alumni Achievement Award).

Montana State University’s Alumni Foundation held the first Leaders & Legends Award ceremonies across campus in conjunction with Homecoming 2013. The College of Nursing event took place in the Black Box Theatre on the MSU campus with flowers, special desserts and iced coffee plus *five outstanding women*. This year’s ceremony will take place in the Herrick Hall Lounge at 3 PM on Friday, September 26th, 2014.



Celebrating Leadership



Julie Hickethier Honored with MSU Leadership Award

Julie Hickethier, chief clinical officer at Benefis Hospitals, is the recipient of the Montana State University Dean's Award of Nursing Excellence. Hickethier was nominated for her professional nursing leadership throughout her tenure with Benefis. She is an advocate of baccalaureate nursing education and the MSU College of Nursing, Great Falls. As the chief clinical officer, she has been a driving force at Benefis, which prides itself as being an outstanding contributor to the success of nursing students throughout the state.

"Julie's leadership strength lies in her ability to blend the nuances of health care administration and financing with the philosophic and holistic needs of patients and their caregivers," said Susan Raph, a member of the Benefis Health System board of directors and campus director of the MSU Great Falls campus. Raph described Hickethier as a voice for nursing on the hospital floor and within management. The award was part of the Year of Engaged Leadership at MSU.

Hickethier began her career at Benefis Health System as a staff nurse in the emergency department. She has held other positions, including flight coordinator, department manager and vice president of nursing. As the chief clinical officer, Hickethier oversees several ancillary services and is responsible for quality improvement initiatives, accreditation processes and patient satisfaction at Benefis Hospitals.

Shalala Receives Honorary Doctorate in Nursing

Donna Shalala was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Nursing during MSU's morning commencement ceremony held May 3rd, 2014. Dr. Shalala received her A.B. degree in history from Western College for Women and a master's degree and a Ph.D. from The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She has held tenured professorships at Columbia University, the City University of New York (CUNY), and the University of Wisconsin - Madison. She served as President of Hunter College of the CUNY from 1980 to 1987 and as Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1987 to 1993. Since 2001 she has served as president of the University of Miami, a private university in Coral Gables, FL.

Dr. Shalala served in the Carter administration from 1977-80 as Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1993 President Clinton appointed her U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) where she served for eight years, becoming the longest serving HHS Secretary in U.S. history. At the end of her tenure as HHS Secretary, The Washington Post described her as "one of the most successful government managers of modern times."

A predominant theme throughout Dr. Shalala's career has been her advocacy for the disadvantaged in society. She served as one of our country's first Peace Corps volunteers in Iran in the early 1960's and later (1992-1993) as chair of the Children's Defense Fund.

On March 6, 2007 President George W. Bush named Dr. Shalala and Senator Bob Dole to head the President's Commission On Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors. Her years of reaching out to vulnerable populations was recognized in 2010 when she was awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights in recognition of her dedication to advancing access to health care in the U.S., helping disadvantaged people around the world, and her special commitment to ending apartheid and developing democracy in South Africa.

Dr. Shalala made a significant contribution to the profession of nursing in 2010 when she chaired the 18 person committee that led in the writing of the landmark report: *The Future of Nursing Leading Change Advancing Health*. This report represented a partnership between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Institute of Medicine. With health care reform came the question "what roles can nursing assume to address the increasing demand for safe, high-quality, and effective health care services?" The recommendations from that report are changing the landscape of nursing education, nursing care, and ultimately leading to improved patient outcomes in Montana – and throughout the nation.



Celebrating Our Partners

North Valley Hospital in Whitefish – A Long-Standing Supporter of MSU's College of Nursing

This summer North Valley Hospital (NVH) celebrates 28 years of collaboration with Montana State University's College of Nursing. Since 1986, NVH has been a site for numerous MSU nursing students who are completing clinical and leadership classes and clinical rotations. Students and staff have appreciated the exchange of energy, experience and knowledge that is the hallmark of excellence in learning. Currently, NVH employs 30 MSU College of Nursing graduates including 15 who did student rotations at the hospital and 16 who preceptor MSU students. NVH also supported the college with financial contributions in the amount of \$80,000 over the last 10 years for scholarships and educational support of the nursing program.

Maura Fields, RN, Chief Clinical Officer at North Valley Hospital and MSU College of Nursing Advisory Council member, noted that the students have made significant contributions to the policies and clinical practice at NVH including contributing to formulation of legislation that protects nurses and other health professionals from frivolous civil liability during a declared state disaster. A central benefit of the collaboration has been the hiring of students as they become registered nurses. Many of these MSU nursing graduates have themselves become mentors at NVH. The primary preceptors at NVH over the years have been Maura Fields, Kathy Rea, Cindy Walp, and Steven Zwisler (MSU, 1980). Multiple other staff including pharmacists, physicians and administrators have provided mentorships, allowing students to participate in the full breadth of organizational practice and decision-making.

NVH and MSU look forward to continued cooperation and the mutual benefit of sponsoring nursing education and professional mentorship.

The College of Nursing extends sincere congratulations to Maura Fields on her retirement. Thank you, Maura, for your dedication and commitment to MSU and for your many years of support to our students.



Benefis Surprises Accelerated Students with Scholarship Gifts

The Great Falls Accelerated BSN students received a surprise at the beginning of their pediatric lecture last fall semester when Benefis Health System's Chief Clinical Officer Julie Hickethier and Chief Nursing Officer Rayn Ginnaty showed up to present each student with a \$2000 scholarship. Benefis Health System is the primary clinical partner for MSU College of Nursing Great Falls Campus. The students were overjoyed with the donation and immediately expressed their appreciation to the Benefis administrators.



Celebrating our CO-OP Program

MSU College of Nursing Caring for Our Own Program Wins Grant

Excerpt from a story by Anne Cantrell, MSU News Service

BOZEMAN – Charlene Healy chose to enroll in Montana State University’s College of Nursing, in part, because it provided a high level of both academic and personal support to American Indian students through a unique program known as the Caring for Our Own Program (CO-OP).

Healy, an enrolled member of the Assiniboine tribe who grew up on the Fort Belknap Reservation in northern Montana, said the connections she made and support she received through the CO-OP were invaluable. Healy graduated from MSU in December. “I always call CO-OP my family away from home,” Healy said. “All of us Native nursing students are very close.”

Now, the MSU College of Nursing has won a three-year grant totaling more than \$1 million that will enable it to continue providing support to American Indian and Alaska Native students through CO-OP. The \$1.08 million grant from the Indian Health Service is intended to increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native students in the College of Nursing, provide scholarships for those students, increase their leadership skills, and help Native graduates succeed early in their careers.

The funds will be used to provide scholarships to students and to support staff members in the College of Nursing who serve as advisers and mentors to students, according to Brian King, associate director of CO-OP. King (pictured below left) added that as part of the grant, CO-OP students will also begin mentoring their peers in a more formal way. “This year we officially matched together upper division nursing students with new or lower division students to help them be aware of what to expect as a nursing student, and also to provide a social connection with another student who has already successfully experienced navigating the rigorous academic environment,” King said.

The grant also enables MSU to continue supporting CO-OP graduates as they prepare to take the NCLEX- RN, the licensing exam for entry into professional practice, and look for employment. “As part of this grant, we will continue to track and support alumni for up to two years, and we can continue to provide support and offer training during this time,” King said. The grant provides important resources to help further the mission of CO-OP which is designed to develop a highly skilled and culturally competent nursing workforce within American Indian and Alaska Native communities, according to Helen Melland, dean of the MSU College of Nursing.



“The Caring For Our Own program at MSU provides crucial support to our American Indian and Alaska Native students,” Melland said. “We’re thrilled to have been awarded this grant and look forward to continuing to help these students succeed.”

CO-OP was launched at MSU in 1999 after Dr. Kay Chafey, now an MSU professor of nursing emerita, observed a need for culturally competent and sensitive care on American Indian reservations, King said. Dr. Chafey recognized that educating American Indians who could return to their own communities was a powerful way to help change health care for American Indian people.

According to King, American Indian and Alaska Native nurses are under-represented in nursing, making up less than one percent of the professional nursing workforce. By increasing the number of nurses who can provide clinically excellent and culturally competent care to their people, King and other CO-OP administrators believe health-care for, and ultimately the health of, American Indian and Alaska Native people will improve.

Kay Chafey's Commitment and Caring Continues



Kay Chafey started informal efforts to help Native students by assuming responsibility for advising about 10 American Indian nursing students. She sequenced their schedules so that they took classes they tended to be most successful in first. She worked to arrange a childcare cooperative, so that Native American students helped look after each others' children when they weren't in class, later working with the ASMSU Day Care to meet CO-OP (Caring for Our Own Program) childcare needs. Chafey also worked to be open to cultural differences.

Chafey (pictured at left) quickly noticed that students who received even a small amount of help were more successful than those who didn't. In 1996, she and a colleague submitted a grant proposal to the federal government's Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Division of Nursing to create a formal program to support American Indian nursing students, and CO-OP began receiving funding in 1999. HRSA and the Indian Health Service now both support the program.

Chafey retired in 2009 but her commitment to the College of Nursing and the CO-OP continues. She has established an endowment in the College of Nursing that will provide scholarships with CO-OP students receiving first priority. Chafey said, "Within about two years of my retirement all graduates of the CO-OP program had taken and passed the NCLEX exam. This would be a strong indicator of the success of the program and also a measure of the potential that CO-OP graduates have to make a significant contribution to the health of Native American people in the years to come. There is much anecdotal evidence that, even as students, our CO-OP nurses are received with great enthusiasm and pride by Native American patients, thus providing an essential platform of acceptance for much needed health care change."

Chafey continues to serve on the Nursing Dean's Advisory Council, a community-based group that meets twice a year to offer insight and support for the work of the college. She was recently elected to the Board of Governors of the MSU Alumni Foundation, evidence that her commitment and caring continue.



May 2014 CO-OP Graduates from L to R: Brooke Lewis, Noel Yelvington, Molly Murray

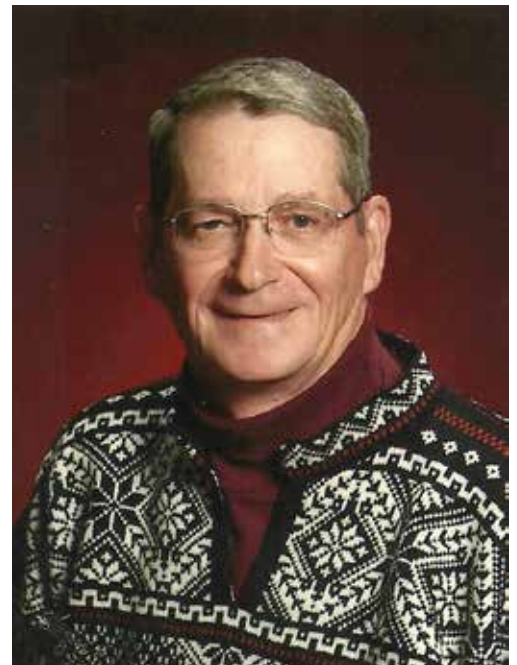
Celebrating Our Donors

New Scholarship Memorializes Jim Hill and Montana's Pioneer Nurses

Jim Hill made a financial commitment to his alma mater because he felt a strong sense of commitment to MSU and because he wanted to pay homage to Montana's pioneer nurses, a group of strong and compassionate women that included his mother, Mildred Bucklin Hill (pictured at right). Mildred graduated from the Kennedy Deaconess School of Nursing in Havre in 1931. Jim's aunt, Anne Hill Ward, graduated a few years later - about the same time MSU's nursing program was founded. Mildred held various positions at Kennedy Deaconess and was in charge of the newborn nursery when her grandson, Rick, was born in 1959. Later, Mildred worked for two physicians in Dillon, MT and as the duty nurse at the Montana Children's Home in Twin Bridges before she retired.



Jim (pictured bottom right) grew up in Montana, graduated from MSU with a degree in General Studies and understood the importance of an education. He also understood the financial burden students could incur. While attending MSU, Jim worked at the Coca Cola plant and rode his bike to and from the Sigma Nu fraternity all year long. Jim married his favorite nurse, Cheryl, in 1967 and went to work for McDonnell Douglas in Denver before moving to Pullman, Washington where he earned a Master's in Computer Science from Washington State University (WSU). Jim enjoyed a long career in the Computer Science and Information Technology department at WSU. Through the years he remained a loyal Bobcat and an advocate for nurses. Jim was especially concerned about the nursing faculty shortage and the expense associated with students pursuing a college degree. Jim served on the College of Nursing Advisory Council and shared his enthusiasm and support for nursing education by establishing a scholarship to honor his mother.



Pat Oriet, BSN, RN-C, WHNP, a long-time friend of the Hill family and current Nursing Advisory Council member said, "During my high school days I was 'family helper' for the Hills. Mildred and several of her nurse friends shared many of their nursing experiences with me and became my nursing role models. Jim was surrounded by nurses his entire life-his mother, his wife and me. Jim and I were life-long friends."

When Jim died in October 2013, his wife Cheryl, daughter Cherie, son Eric and their families continued his legacy by permanently endowing the Montana Pioneer Nurses Memorial Scholarship Fund generating scholarships for dedicated nursing students at Montana State University.

Celebrating Our Donors

Every effort has been made to ensure that all names are listed correctly. This list represents donations given from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or misspelled, please contact Jessica Welles at 406-994-4134 or jessica.welles@msuaf.

A

Ms. Regina Albohn
Mrs. Dorothy Alden
Mrs. Kay Alexander
Ms. Mary Alexander
Mr. Duane & Mrs. Kitty Alexenko
Ms. Joni Anderson
Mrs. Susan Anderson RN & Mr. Wm Anderson
Mr. Terry & Mrs. Ardell Angvick
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Ms. Wanda & Mr. David Brown
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Mr. Wesley Apo & Ms. Presentation Butac-Apo
Ms. Sharon & Mr. Stanley Bye

C

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Karen Matsuda, MSU Nursing Class of 1964, plants a commemorative tree near the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse to celebrate her 40th reunion.