

The Bobcat Nurse



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3



Dean's Welcome

4



Student Nurses in Honduras

7



Focus on Research

12



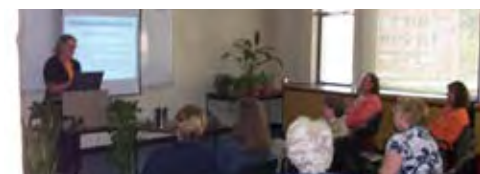
Focus on the College of Nursing

16



Focus on Nursing Students

18



Focus on Nursing Faculty

19



Focus on Alumni and Donors



Greetings from the MSU College of Nursing –

This year has been an exciting and successful year for the College of Nursing! We launched an accelerated post-baccalaureate BSN program that attracted more applicants than we ever expected. Our total student enrollment increased from 851 to 948. Our faculty have continued to excel in teaching, research, and service. Dr. Kathleen Schachman was awarded MSU's first "Excellence in Online Teaching Award." Dr. Laura Larsson joined Dr. Sandra Kuntz as a Robert Wood Johnson Nursing Faculty Scholar making the MSU College of Nursing one of only two schools in the nation that has two such scholars. Our students continued to make us proud. A junior student from our Great Falls campus, Joe Twitchell, was elected President of the National Student Nurse Association, an organization with over 56,000 members. Two of our students traveled to a national safety focused interdisciplinary conference and brought back ideas on how we can better implement those concepts into our curriculum. Three students participated in the AACN Second Annual Policy Summit where they had the opportunity to meet with Congressional aids and leaders in the profession. Two faculty and ten students traveled to Honduras to provide service in that impoverished country. As you read this publication you'll learn more about these accomplishments and read of many others.

This past year brought the publication of a landmark report titled *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health* from the Institute of Medicine and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This report culminates with four major recommendations:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training through an improved education system that promotes seamless academic progression.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other healthcare professionals, in redesigning healthcare in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policymaking require better data collection and an improved information infrastructure.

Faculty and administrators in the College are taking that report seriously and engaging in dialogue to answer the question: "What should the MSU College of Nursing be doing in response to these recommendations?" Several faculty in the College are participating in discussions at the state level that explore what should happen statewide in response to those same recommendations. Health care is changing and we will continue to be a College that prepares nurses who are able to meet the unprecedented challenges of that complex system.

I've now served as Dean of the College of Nursing for almost two years. I've met many of you, but am eager to meet and get to know more of you – our alumni, supporters, advocates, and friends. Until we do meet, I want to hear from you. Please stop by or send me comments or questions at helen.melland@montana.edu. I look forward to the coming year as we work together for the betterment of the College and also as we prepare for our 75th anniversary in 2012!

Helen
Helen Melland, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor



“It was back to basics...the focus was on prevention.”



HONDURAS

FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE FIELD

Montana State University nursing student Paula Trembath is trained in using advanced nursing skills, but the highlight of a recent MSU-sponsored trip to Honduras involved simply helping an elderly woman manage pain.

Trembath hiked with another nursing student and a Honduran health care worker to the home of a woman in her seventies who had a dislocated hip.

“Because there were no roads and she couldn’t be transported, there was little we could do for her,” said Trembath, 23. “But we gave her some Tylenol and a muscle relaxant. We talked to her and she was so happy we came....We do come from completely different worlds, but at the same time, there is a basic human connection.”

Trembath was one of 10 MSU nursing students who recently traveled to Honduras as part of a senior-level nursing course. While there, the students provided health care in dozens of homes, distributed water filters, conducted health education fairs, provided education about clean water, held adult clinics in remote villages and covered calls in a central clinic. In the process, the students experienced the challenges and rewards of delivering health care services in a rural environment with scarce resources.

Different Environment

That the environment was so different from what students were accustomed to was precisely what made the experience so valuable, said trip leader Martha Arguelles, an adjunct nursing professor on the MSU College of Nursing’s Billings campus.

“The students visited rural homes to make assessments,” she said. “They talked to people about their daily concerns. Many individuals were barefoot and malnourished. The roads are steep and rocky, with no pavement and few vehicles. Home visits often meant climbing steep trails, climbing fences and occasionally crossing streams. Once at the home, the visit was conducted amongst feral dogs, roosters, chickens, cows

and an occasional scorpion. It was very far removed from a hospital or clinic setting.”

Difficult Getting Health Care

“The students saw how difficult it is to get health care if you have to walk two hours,” Arguelles added. “They saw how the villagers there have few resources to take care of themselves. Even a toothbrush is a prized item.”

Through their experiences in Honduras, the MSU nursing students addressed difficult questions about providing care, such as “How do you tailor health care to specific needs in a resource-poor environment? How can you deliver quality nursing when there isn’t a hospital and resources are scarce? How can nurses make a difference in the world?”

Jan Ostermiller, 36, an MSU student on the Billings campus who traveled with the group, said she has an underlying desire to serve others.

“There are people who are in need in our own communities, and I believe it’s absolutely necessary to take care of those people,” Ostermiller said. “But traveling abroad also gives students a broader perspective about what’s happening in areas of the world that are underdeveloped.”

Focus on Prevention

Ostermiller, who grew up in Glasgow and Billings, appreciated the focus on prevention in Honduras.

“It was really back to the basics,” she said. “We went to a community where they don’t necessarily have all of the treatment measures we have here, so the focus was on prevention. We really need to remember that the best treatment is prevention.”

Before traveling to Honduras, the students did research about what to expect.

“One thing that really got me was how little infrastructure there is,” Trembath said. (continued on next page)



“...it gives us a more wordly view of health care...”



(Honduras - continued from previous page)

“Access - including access to education, clean water, transportation and health care - is a big part of the issue.”

And, the students applied a great deal of what they learned from previous MSU courses while they were in Honduras.

An Extremely Valuable Experience

“This trip was extremely valuable because we got to use all of the skills we’ve gained so far,” Trembath said. “We used our skills in obstetrics, pediatrics and psychiatric assessment. The trip was really a culmination. We couldn’t have done it without the rest of the nursing program.”

Now, Trembath looks forward to applying what she learned in Honduras to her future work.

“Some of the things I learned down there I can apply here. We went down with the impression that we’re going to teach them everything, but they taught us a lot,” she said.

Ostermiller holds a similar view. “Any sort of experience that takes you out of what you’re used to, out of your element, helps you become less biased when you look at people and the situations they come from,” she said. “It gives us a more worldly view of health care as opposed to our isolated views of the world.”

Eighteen students representing MSU’s five nursing campuses in Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls, Kalispell and Missoula applied for the trip’s 10 available spots, Arguelles said. Students from three campuses were selected to go. The students who participated were part of a larger group of approximately 45 people, including translators and individuals from several other universities. The trip was also affiliated with Shoulder-to-Shoulder, a Honduran non-profit organization.

In addition to the nursing care the students provided, faculty from MSU’s College of Nursing donated funds for more than 50 ceramic water filters to distribute in southern Honduras. Ceramic water filters are a low-cost method of removing bacteria that causes sickness from drinking water, Arguelles said.

Another Trip Planned in November

Arguelles is planning to take another group of students to Honduras in November and hopes to establish the trip as a permanent option for MSU nursing students in their senior year.

“This was a very transformative experience,” Arguelles said. “Students came back energized by this experience, and they saw the impact that they could make as nursing students, and often despite language limitations....They could see the deeper meaning in the trip.”

Trembath noted that the students’ presence in the remote locations was one of the “greatest gifts” they could give.

“The nursing knowledge we have is very valuable,” she said.

Written April 04, 2011 -- Anne Cantrell, MSU News Service



Fibromyalgia in the Resilient Older Adult

Fibromyalgia is a disabling condition in which people experience long-term, body-wide pain and tender points. Some evidence suggests that older adults who have lived longer with the disease tend to report less impact from it than do middle-aged people. Dr. Linda Torma is determined to find out why these older adults seem to be so resilient.

“Having a lot of resiliency allows a person to recover from hardships easier,” said Torma. “Resilience increases with age and is linked positively to physical function. I want a complete picture of what resilience looks like in older adults living with fibromyalgia. I want to know how they develop and maintain this resilience.”

To collect these data Torma will be interviewing older adults with fibromyalgia. She will look for patterns or repeating themes in the data she gathers which will allow her to develop a broader understanding of resilience.

“Fibromyalgia impairs everyday living. This project is an important first step to developing a health care program designed to promote health in older adults living with fibromyalgia in Montana.”

Patient and Family Perceptions of Care

Americans are living longer and as a result often live for years with chronic illness. Chronic medical conditions are associated frequently with distressing symptoms, yet the incurable nature of chronic and debilitating illnesses may cause distressing symptoms. The alleviation of symptoms, without curing the underlying medical condition, is what we know as palliative care and the quality of this care is the focus of Dr. Dorothy “Dale” Mayer’s most recent research project.

“During the last several years tremendous strides have been made in raising awareness that palliative care is not, and should not be, limited to end of life care,” said Mayer. “Professional organizations have endorsed clinical practice guidelines that identify the essential elements of quality palliative care. However in spite of this increased attention, the voices of the patients, and their family members, remain absent from the palliative care arena.”

Mayer hopes to change this. Her research project will involve comparisons between the perspective of patients and families who received care versus the current standards of palliative care. She will use the information to develop a community based palliative care program across in-patient and out-patient settings that could be used in Montana.

Developing Plans to Improve Health Care



Possessing Talent, Skill and Potential

These three words are used often to describe the recipients of the prestigious **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars** (RWJF NFS) award. The goal of this program is “to develop the next generation of national leaders in academic nursing through career development awards for outstanding junior nursing faculty. The program aims to strengthen the academic productivity and overall excellence of nursing schools by providing mentorship, leadership training, and salary and research support to young faculty (<http://www.nursefaculty scholars.org/about>).

“Dr. Sandra Kuntz and Dr. Laura Larsson are both recipients of this prestigious award,” said Dean Melland. “The Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars program is a highly competitive process and we are privileged to have two College of Nursing faculty members who exceeded the Foundation’s rigorous criteria. Both are already strong leaders in academic nursing; this award will help to strengthen and solidify their expertise.”

Support for Leaders in Nursing Education

The Nurse Faculty Scholars program provides up to 15 awards of up to \$350,000 each over three years. The award supports a recipient’s development as a leader in nursing education and research. The support of the RWJF NFS program is aimed at curbing the shortage of nurse educators by providing support for mentoring, leadership training and networking opportunities.

Dr. Sandra Kuntz, PhD, RN
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Nurse Faculty Scholar 2009-2012

Dr. Kuntz's RWJF NFS research project is adapting previous research methods to look at **potential and actual exposure to methylmercury** in American Indian women of childbearing age on the Fort Peck reservation, specifically women who are attending WIC clinics. Kuntz's study builds on preliminary and continuing studies conducted on the Flathead reservation to evaluate fish advisory awareness, fish consumption patterns, preferred risk communication messages, and exposure biomarker data.

"Although the two reservations are similar in proximity and access to a major waterway, significant ecosystem, fish advisory, and tribal policy differences exist that could lead to an improved understanding of the risk and protective factors characteristic at each site," said Kuntz. "By layering nutrition risk, risk awareness, and biomarker data from women living on two reservations adjacent to the largest freshwater ecosystems in the Inland Northwest, we will be able to directly test the risk exposure hypothesis for inland tribal populations."

Dr. Laura Larsson, PhD, MPH, BSN, RN
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Nurse Faculty Scholar 2010-2013

Dr. Laura Larsson's RWJF NFS research **focuses on radon**. She is working on increasing home radon testing among rural, low-income people. Larsson's ultimate goal is to influence housing policy and reduce lung cancer rates.

"I'm delivering educational messages about radon in WIC clinics using digital signage. Digital signage is similar to the moving messages you see on a bank or grocery store sign," said Larsson. "I want to evaluate this type of delivery system for its effectiveness in empowering vulnerable community members with the knowledge they need to protect their family's health. Testing the usefulness of this type of nursing intervention also will promote radon knowledge and is a good first step towards increasing health outcomes related to radon exposure."



"The College of Nursing is one of two schools in the nation to have more than one RWJ Nurse Faculty Scholar" Dean Melland - 2011



Health Literacy - More Than Just Reading

Health care consumers, particularly those with chronic health conditions, have to make numerous decisions about their health care every day.

Have you ever walked out of your health care provider's office carrying a prescription slip, a medical procedure brochure, or a doctor's instruction sheet? Most of us have. Did you read them when you got home? Most of us do. Did you understand all of the information contained in those little pieces of paper? Most of us struggle with that part.



Understanding and Evaluating Information

Health literacy refers to how individuals obtain, understand, and evaluate information about health services and make informed decisions. Dr. Jean Shreffler-Grant has focused her research on rural residents' use of complementary and alternative therapies, such as vitamins, herbal products, and/or dietary supplements. Recently, she has investigated the relationship between health literacy and use of these complementary therapies.

"Health care consumers, particularly those with chronic health conditions, have to make numerous decisions about their health care every day," said Shreffler-Grant. "Adding to the complexity of that decision making is the popularity and availability of complementary and alternative therapies."

Being "literate" about health as it relates to traditional or alternative therapies is more than just reading health related information. People need a complex set of skills to negotiate the health care arena.

"Reading about your health condition and treatment options is important," said Shreffler-Grant. "But to really be able to make informed health decisions a person must be able to combine reading, listening, comprehension, analysis, and decision-making skills and apply them to their specific situation."

Using complementary and alternative therapies

Many people use complementary and alternative therapies without really knowing much about the specifics of that therapy.

"Adequate health literacy as it relates to the use of complementary and alternative therapies is very important," said Shreffler-Grant. "The use of these therapies can improve health and provide additional illness management options. But without adequate health literacy, people may not know of all the appropriate choices and may fall victim to scams or unscrupulous sales practices, ingest potentially harmful substances, or take something they shouldn't."

Shreffler-Grant is working on an instrument to assess how Americans obtain, understand, and evaluate information about complementary health practices. This work will contribute to better understanding of health literacy as it relates to complementary and alternative therapies. Dr. Shreffler-Grant also plans on developing an educational intervention to help people improve their health literacy.

In the mean time, don't feel too bad about struggling with those little pieces of paper from your health care provider - you're not alone.



Nurses Combat Pressure Ulcers

Most pressure ulcers are preventable.



For many years Dr. Karen Zulkowski has been involved in a national research effort to reduce pressure ulcers. She is passionate about educating health care professionals and bringing them up to date with the latest research in wound care. Dr. Zulkowski has made great strides in pressure ulcer education and patients across Montana and the country have benefitted directly from her efforts.

“Over \$11 billion dollars are spent annually treating pressure ulcers in the United States. This is unfortunate because most pressure ulcers are preventable,” said Zulkowski. “During the course of our research my colleagues and I have found that regardless of a nurses’ level of education or the number of years of practice as a nurse there are knowledge deficits among nurses regarding pressure ulcers.”

Interesting Research Results

Zulkowski’s research has uncovered some interesting facts. Nurses scored about at a “C” level on a knowledge pre-test related to pressure ulcers, Certified Nursing Assistants scored lower than a “C”, and physician residents’ scores were between those two groups.

“My colleagues and I provided four educational sessions to these three groups. These sessions were deliberately not related to the pre-test. We found that after just four sessions there was a 70% decrease in the incidence of pressure ulcers in our intervention organizations. This was exciting,” said Zulkowski. “Providing continuing education, a relatively simple intervention, had a huge impact on pressure ulcer prevention and care.”

Zulkowski’s passion for and expertise in wound care has taken her across the United States. She provides wound care lectures, hands on demonstrations, and advising for a variety of organizations. She has assisted in the development and testing of a toolkit designed to reduce pressure ulcers in acute care settings. The toolkit is available for free on the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality website for all facilities.

Providing Quality Care

“I mostly want to help small, rural health care organizations that struggle to provide quality care with limited staff and resources,” said Zulkowski. “The toolkit will be very useful for these organizations. Right now, and usually at no cost, I have started advising these organizations on wound care. They e-mail me the history and picture of a pressure ulcer and I provide input on a care plan. The toolkit will definitely fill an educational gap.”

Zulkowski is a dedicated and experienced advocate for prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers. She and her colleagues are champions for pressure ulcer prevention and are on the frontline of taking their research to the bedside.

Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence in Nursing

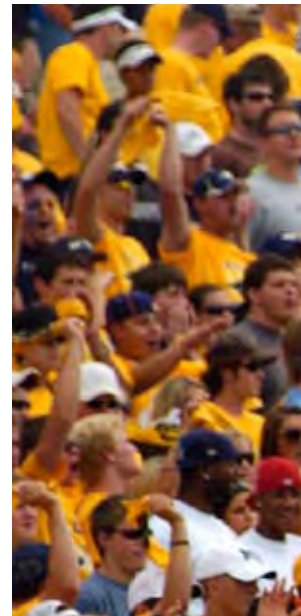
Education The College of Nursing will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in the year 2012. As part of that celebration, each distance campus (Billings, Great Falls, Missoula and Kalispell) will host a reception for alumni and friends early in the year. The College's diamond anniversary celebration will culminate during the 2012 Homecoming weekend with a gala dinner and a tailgating event prior to the football game. Save the date and watch the College of Nursing website for specific details of the celebration at www.montana.edu/wwwnu/.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree Program

Being Planned The College is planning a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, pending Board of Regents approval. Students who have a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a master's degree in nursing will be eligible for admittance to this program. This new program is congruent with the recommendation of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) who voted in 2004 to support moving the current level of preparation necessary for advanced practice nurses (nurse practitioners, midwives, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse anesthetists) from the master's degree to the doctorate by the year 2015. Graduates of DNP programs are prepared as expert clinicians having completed 1,000 clinical learning hours as students. Additionally they will have skills in the areas of organizational and systems leadership, clinical scholarship, information systems/technology and patient care technology, health care policy, interprofessional collaboration, clinical prevention and population health. These competencies will result in highly educated practitioners who can not only provide expert direct primary care, but also be leaders in the improvement and transformation of health care – both of which are desperately needed in a rural state such as Montana. The College plans to admit students to the DNP program beginning in fall 2012. The current master's nurse practitioner options will no longer be offered, but will be moved to the doctoral level.

College of Nursing Now Offers Accelerated

Degree Option The first cohort of 16 students entered the College of Nursing's new accelerated BSN option in May 2011. This option is available exclusively to students who have already earned a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than nursing. Because these students already have a degree and have demonstrated success as college students, they are able to progress at a faster pace through the intense program. The curriculum for the accelerated program is identical to that offered to traditional students but is offered in a condensed fashion.





First Cohort of Students in the New Accelerated Degree Option





Campus Highlights

Billings The College's largest upper division campus successfully delivered another year of high quality nursing education and expanded simulation lab capability, adding maternity-obstetrical simulation to existing medical-surgical and pediatric simulation experiences. The Billings campus also has excellent outreach leaders. Carolyn Wenger, an assistant professor on the Billings campus, takes a group of senior students enrolled in the Population Based Nursing Care in the Community course to a community homeless clinic on a weekly basis. They do blood glucose screening, hematocrit measurement, BP screening, health teaching, referrals to other providers, and listening. This initiative is in cooperation with HealthCare for the Homeless. The campus also is proud to be the leader of the student project in Honduras (faculty member Martha Arguelles). This year we also gave happy retirement wishes to Carol Moore, Laura Rodriguez, and Carolyn Collis.

Bozeman The faculty and students on the Bozeman Campus focused on the health concerns of Montana citizens through outreach activities. Faculty members, Barb Prescott, Glenna Burg, and Janice Hausauer, planned an open house for pre-nursing students taking classes on the Bozeman campus. The event was to help undergraduate students establish a connection with the College of Nursing. The open house provided them with an opportunity to meet faculty and upper division students and to see a demonstration in the Bobcat Clinic Simulation Lab.

Mr. Kenneth Smoker, Jr., MBA, Fort Peck Health Program Specialist, from Fort Peck Reservation, invited College of Nursing students to Fort Peck to work in the school based clinics on the Fort Peck Reservation. Julie Ruff, faculty member for NRSG 348, and 12 junior nursing students, spent a week in these clinics. The students found the experience to be valuable through great clinical experiences and exposure to American Indian history and culture. One student commented "I loved this experience ... it has been the highlight of my nursing experience". Another student said, "I gained confidence in my assessment skills" and "It was great to see traditions first hand ... artwork and the PowWow."

Great Falls The Great Falls Campus has witnessed continued growth in each area of the college's mission. Teaching has been augmented by the addition of Tracy Richman in the maternal child curriculum and the return of Nancy Rowell to assist with the sophomore fundamental course instruction. The campus has received donor support for the simulation center and now has varying levels of simulated learning in nearly every clinical course. Faculty members have provided service to the community through practice at the University of



Recognized nationally for innovation, discovery, excellence, and leadership

Great Falls Health Services Clinic and the Great Falls Rescue Mission, as well as through participation on various community boards and councils. In addition to faculty success, the campus has full cohorts of both undergraduate and graduate students. Two last semester senior students, Jessica Ewald and Kristine Thom, were chosen to travel to Honduras for a global health experience in the spring, and second semester junior, Joseph Twitchell, was elected the new president of the National Association of Student Nurses.

Missoula and Kalispell Students and faculty have collaborated successfully in another year of high quality nursing education, research and service. We were pleased to have a full complement of undergraduate students in Missoula, a growing number of undergraduate students in Kalispell, and also a growing number of graduate students at both sites. Clinical nursing opportunities were expanded

in agencies throughout the Missoula and Flathead Valley communities as well as surrounding rural areas. On-campus college or skills labs were enhanced by a growth in the campuses' simulation lab capabilities – this year particularly in the maternal-child and family child courses. Nearly all of the undergraduate and graduate courses delivered from Missoula and Kalispell have online (Internet) components with some courses offered all online.

Faculty member Teresa Henry serves as a member of the Missoula City/County Board of Health and Laura Marx provides integrative health care in her new private practice in Missoula. Faculty member Angela St. John practices at Kalispell Regional Medical Center providing diabetic and other primary care services and Michele Sare donates her time to teach community health courses in a nursing program in Leogane, Haiti.



Joe Twitchell Elected NSNA

President: Montana State University nursing student Joe Twitchell was elected president of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) during the organization's 59th annual convention held in Salt Lake City.

Twitchell, a Montana native, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing at MSU and served previously as president of the Montana Student Nurses' Association. He also has a bachelor's degree in communications from Dickinson State University in Dickinson, N.D., and a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from MSU.

Mr. Twitchell has stated that "Education has always been encouraged by my grandmothers, Nadine Long and Jenny Kawasaki. Their support has been unwavering and wonderful."

As President of the National Student Nurses' Association, Twitchell would like to promote the use of evidence-based practice as a standard in nursing education. He also hopes to bring further awareness to the role that nurses play in healthcare as well as the global community. "Nurses must demonstrate that we are not the stereotypes," he says. "We are aware of many fields, including but not limited to politics, economics and social awareness."

...IT MADE ME
REALIZE HOW MANY
OPPORTUNITIES
EXIST FOR
NURSES...

Sarah Balian Honored as

Student Athlete: Nursing student and Bobcat basketball team member, Sarah Balian, was named to the All Big Sky conference Second-Team and Big Sky Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. Balian averaged 8.9 rebounds per game and 13.1 points. She led the Bobcats with 48 blocked shots last season to become MSU's all-time leader for blocked shots. Balian was a four-time All Big Sky Conference Academic selection.

**Nursing Students Present at MSU's 2011 Spring Research Celebration**

• **Amber Dubay:** "Development and Testing of a Survey to Measure the Stressors Experienced by the Spouses of Firefighters"; Mentor: Kathleen Schachman

• **Anne Hansen:** "Participant Observation and Field Notes of Focus Group Dynamics Among Tribal and Local Health Care Providers"; Mentor: Sandy Kuntz

• **Heather Lytle:** "Creating Sustainable Palliative Care Programs for Critical Patients in Nkomazi South Africa"; Mentor: Beth Rink

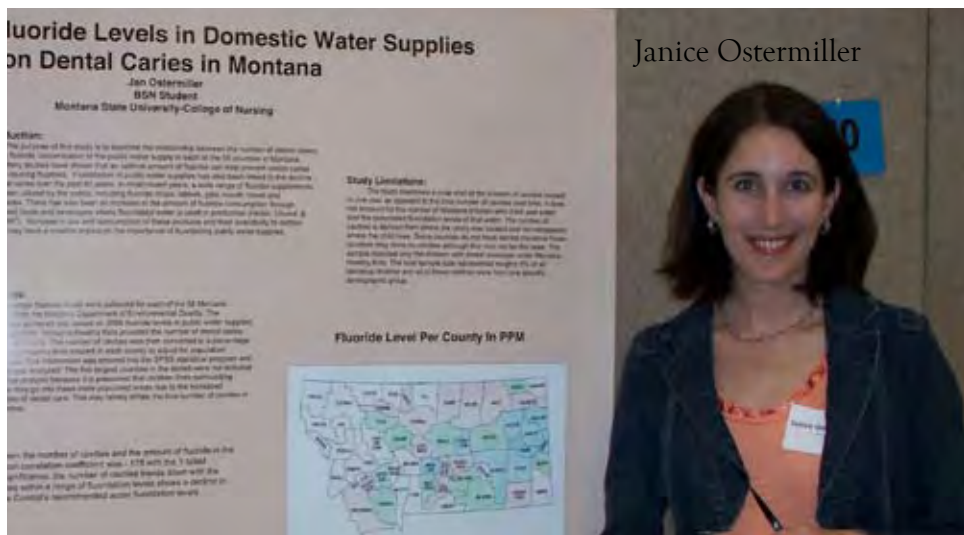
• **Lauri McCarthy:** "Parents' Knowledge of Healthy Dental Habits for Pre-schoolers"; Mentor: Elizabeth Kinion

• **Janice Ostermiller:** "The Effect of Fluoride Levels in Public Water Supplies on Dental Caries"; Mentor: Karen Zulkowski

...EDUCATION
HAS ALWAYS BEEN
ENCOURAGED...

AACN Policy Summit: The College supported three students to attend the second American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Policy Summit, which occurred during the AACN spring meeting in Washington, DC. Students had the opportunity to hear Dr. Mary Wakefield, Director of the Health Resources and Service Administration, speak and also visit Montana's congressional offices. Below are statements from the students about their experiences:

• **Elizabeth Luehder:** The AACN summit was a transformational student nursing experience. Initially, I was interested in this experience because I felt strongly about the importance of nurses contributing to national healthcare policy, and I was excited to learn more as an undergraduate student. One memorable moment from the conference came when the key note speaker, Mary Wakefield, Director of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the highest ranking nurse in government, advised us to continuously strive for higher education for the nursing profession and advocate for patients as healthcare reform is implemented. I learned not only that advocacy is an important component of



Janice Ostermiller

• **Mariya Couch** was selected to represent Native nursing students at the Alumni Brunch and the Council of Elders meeting with MSU President Waded Cruzado. Later, Mariya and her daughter, Avery, were invited to President Cruzado's home for dinner.

Phi Kappa Phi - Cynthia

Kempf: A senior nursing student from the Bozeman Campus, has been selected for Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline honor society. Because Phi Kappa Phi is so highly selective, membership is a stamp of excellence that is recognized by graduate and professional school admissions committees and employers alike. Admission is by invitation and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Seniors must rank in the top 10 percent of their class (university wide).

our profession, but is an underutilized responsibility of nurses.

• **Sarah Langlois:** I was incredibly honored to attend the AACN Student Policy Summit on behalf of MSU. I was thoroughly impressed with the attendees and the presenters. My fellow students from MSU also were impressive and I was honored to be in their company to represent our state. One presenter discussed how simply by volunteering for committees in his state, he helped to word legislation so that nurses could practice to the full extent of their training. It made me realize how many opportunities exist for nurses to be "at the table" where crucial decisions are made.

• **Jeanne Conner:** Attending this summit felt like an engraved, personal invitation to the "policy table". I really felt like these incredible nursing leaders were personally inviting each of us, as individuals, to take the next step in becoming nurse leaders. The recent IOM report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, with its call to nurses to step forward as leaders in health care and health policy called for nurses to deliver care that realizes the full scope of practice for their

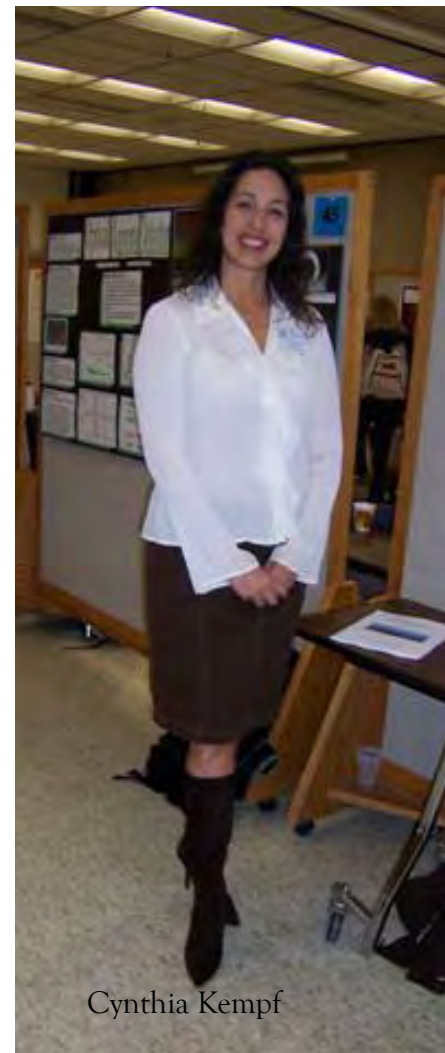
education and preparation, and the critical importance of strengthening nursing education provided the overall theme of the conference. It was wonderful to meet and network with nursing students from all over the country.

Caring for our Own Program Highlights

• **Shannlyn Spotted Elk** is this year's Miss Indian MSU. She replaces Kendra Wabaunsee. Three of the last four



Miss Indian MSU's have been nursing students enrolled in CO-OP. Miss Indian MSU is expected to represent MSU's more than 500 Indian students as she travels across the country to other pow wows and therefore maintains the highest code of conduct as an exemplary student and human being.



Cynthia Kempf

...STRIVE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION...



Dr. Clarann Weinert Retires Dr. Clarann Weinert, SC, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati retired after 30 years of service at Montana State University, College of Nursing. Weinert received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the College of Mount St. Joseph on the Ohio, a Master of Science (in nursing) from The Ohio State University, and a Master and Doctorate in sociology from the University of Washington. Weinert's 30 year program of research was focused on the management of chronic illnesses and she was published widely in the areas of social support, rural health/theory, and chronic illness management. For the last 15 years her research concentrated on the use of telecommunication technology to provide support and education to help rural women better manage their chronic illness. Dr. Weinert was an inaugural inductee into the Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame, a life time achievement award. The Hall of Fame recognizes STTI members who are nurse researchers; who have achieved long-term, broad national and/or international recognition for their work; and whose research has impacted the profession and the people it serves. Additionally, she is a Fellow in of the American Academy of Nursing. Her research expertise has earned her numerous national honors.

**Congratulations
to all of the fine
faculty who
retired this year.**

The College of Nursing has been awarded a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to support The Caring for Our Own Project (CO-OP). The three year grant for \$940,405 will increase nursing education opportunities for individuals from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, specifically American Indian students from rural Montana. CO-OP students will be prepared to deliver better access to high quality, culturally competent health care for underserved populations.

The project is consistent with the goals of *Healthy People 2020* in that a better prepared health care work force committed to serving a disadvantaged population can work toward the elimination of health disparities and to help increase life expectancy and improve the quality of life. CO-OP is designed to provide the needed support to students as they progress through the undergraduate nursing curriculum thus increasing retention through graduation by providing pre-entry preparation, retention activities, and stipends to eligible students.



Teaching Award: Dr. Kathleen Schachman, Associate Professor of Nursing, received MSU's inaugural Excellence in Online Teaching Award. She received a \$2,000 cash award. Schachman has reorganized and updated content to fully adopt the online format in several graduate-level nursing courses. To assist her online instruction, Schachman uses creative online tools such as Web cams, which allow her to observe and provide feedback to students as they perform advanced nursing skills. Schachman's interest in the online environment has extended to her research, which focuses on postpartum depression in military wives. With the help of a grant from the College of Nursing, Schachman is developing an online intervention program to prevent and treat postpartum depression in this at-risk population. Students from both the graduate and undergraduate nursing programs have contributed to this effort. <http://www.montana.edu/cpa/news/nwview.php?article=9291>



Providing better access to nursing education.



Elizabeth Wick
(1912-2010)

Donor Recognition We would like to thank all those alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who generously donated to the College of Nursing. Your support is vitally important to the college.

Ways to give:

1. To contribute to the College of Nursing, please send your check (payable to MSU Foundation, Inc.) and letter designating the gift to: MSU Foundation, PO Box 172750, Bozeman, MT 59717-2750.
2. Use MSU Foundation's easy online giving option at www.montana.edu/foundation/giving.
3. Contact Stacy Stanislao, Director of Development for the College of Nursing, phone 406-994-7906, PO Box 173560, Bozeman, MT 59717-3560.

Size of MSU's Kalispell Nursing Program Doubles, Thanks to \$500,000 Gift

A five-year pledge totaling \$500,000 was given on behalf of **Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC)** by the Northwest Healthcare Foundation for the purpose of expanding the nursing workforce in the Flathead Valley of Montana. This generous gift allows the College of Nursing program in Kalispell to double its size over nine years; increasing the number of annual graduates to sixteen. This gift is helping the college to meet growing demand in Kalispell where many students are place-bound and would not have access to baccalaureate nursing education without the support of KRMC.

Recognizing the Value of Education

Elizabeth Wick was a 96-year-old retired school teacher with no connection to Montana State University or nursing when she was inspired to make a gift to the College of Nursing that will benefit students on the Great Falls campus for years to come. She was at a meeting of the Great Falls branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) where nursing faculty members were giving a presentation on patient simulation. Wick, a lifelong educator, immediately recognized the value of patient simulation in nursing education and donated more than \$53,000 to MSU to provide better access to this advanced training tool on the Great Falls campus.

The Elizabeth Wick Simulation Room

Wick's donation was used to create the Elizabeth Wick Simulation Room, a patient simulation lab outfitted with medical equipment, hospital-grade furniture and an adult patient simulator. Wick was humbled when over 100 students, faculty and friends celebrated her donation in a dedication ceremony on the Great Falls campus. Her relationship with the college grew from there as she made regular visits to campus and enjoyed getting together with faculty and students for meals and fun. Faculty and students would even help her with household chores and yard maintenance.

Wick was born in Nebraska and moved to central Montana with her family while in her teens. She attended college in Dillon, Montana and received her master's degree in Evanston, Illinois. Wick was married to Edwin Wick for over 40 years and they were very active in ballroom dancing, Sons of Norway, the First Presbyterian Church and much more. After Edwin's death a few years ago she remained active in Sons of Norway, her church, AAUW, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and attending community concerts. Wick had a spirit of fun adventure and was always willing to go, do, see and experience life.



College of
NURSING

Sherrick Hall
P.O. Box 173560
Bozeman, MT 59717
409-994-3783
www.montana.edu/nursing

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 69

Bozeman, MT 59715

