As I write this greeting to all of you, I sense a lot of positive energy and enthusiasm around the College of Nursing. This feeling of excitement is present, I believe, because we have:

- An outstanding group of faculty who are back from Christmas break and ready to again do what they do best – teach our students at the baccalaureate, master's and doctoral levels to be caring, knowledgeable and skillful nurses.
- A committed staff in the College who support our mission on a daily basis.
- Motivated, energetic students eager to learn and become the best nurses they can be.
- A facility that is up-to-date with a newly renovated simulation center, space for research in the newly dedicated Northern Plains Center for Behavioral Research and state-of-the-art technology in several classrooms so we can deliver our "goods" to students at a distance.
- A dedicated group of alumni and friends who not only provide financial gifts to the College, but also share advice and give of your time and energy to support our work.

Once again, I am serving as the Interim Dean of the College of Nursing. Having served in that role in 2004-2005, I feel confident and excited that the College will flourish during this interim period. Dr. Chandice Covington resigned from the College as dean effective December 31, 2008 to pursue a position at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Her new position will be that of Professor and Florence Thelma Hall Endowed Chair for Nursing in the Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing. Even though Chandise's term at UND was relatively short, in that time she accomplished a great deal. Her success at attaining external funding for the College was amazing and we now are reaping the benefits of her labors and outstanding leadership as we have:

- Provided additional scholarships for students and taught students in our newly renovated simulation center.
- Expanded our mission to offer more classes and even programs to students at a distance.
- Increased the number of master's specializations offered by our graduate program.
- Developed an accelerated post-baccalaureate program for students who already have a degree in a discipline other than nursing.

Chandise's vision, energy, and enthusiasm will be greatly missed but we wish her well as she embraces new challenges.

This upcoming year will be a very special one for the College as we celebrate having had a presence on campus for 100 years, and 50 years as a College. Watch for announcements of plans for our gala to be held on October 2. We hope to see as many of you there as possible! I also hope to "meet and greet" many of you in the months ahead. Visiting with you and finding out what your nursing career is, or was, like is one of the greatest pleasures of serving in this role for me.

Best wishes.....

Helen Melland, RN, PhD
Interim Dean

Greetings Alumni and Friends!
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October 2008 saw the culmination of two exciting projects at the UND College of Nursing: the Northern Plains Center for Behavioral Research and the Clinical Simulation Center. Grand openings were held for these new facilities, both of which will provide unique learning opportunities for our students and faculty.

On October 9, guests assembled to be a part of the dedication and grand opening of the new Northern Plains Center for Behavioral Research building, one of the first in the nation built with National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding to serve scientists in nursing and psychology, as well as interdisciplinary colleagues in the behavioral sciences. This state-of-the-art behavioral research center includes nearly 30,000 square feet of research space, offices for funded researchers and the federally-funded RAIN (Recruitment and Retention of American Indians into Nursing) and INPSYDE (Indians into Psychology Doctoral Education) programs.

“The Northern Plains Center for Behavioral Research will be a shining example of what happens when world-class scholars, representing diverse research backgrounds, such as nursing and psychology, work side by side under one roof to solve important questions about nutrition, addiction and human behavior,” said UND President Robert Kelley. “The Behavioral Research Center greatly enhances UND’s capacity to conduct cutting-edge research and to develop innovative answers to scientific questions that directly impact the people of North Dakota, the United States and the world.”

Some of the biggest obstacles to improving health care revolve around behavior, including life-style issues, nutrition and other habits such as smoking and exercise. This Center will promote research in both nursing and psychology that can improve the health and quality of life for many people. This Center will also allow UND to attract more research funding in the future and build on currently existing research capacity.
Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the College of Nursing was able to open its new Clinical Simulation Center to provide an invaluable resource for student learning. The grand opening took place on October 16.

The Clinical Simulation Center houses three new high-tech simulators to educate nursing students at UND; Pat, the Human Patient Simulator (HPS), Taylor, the pediatric model, and Kelly, the infant simulator. The virtual patients are capable of simulating nearly any possible human medical emergency including allergic reactions, the effects of nerve gas or weapons of mass destruction, drug overdoses, a severed limb, and other traumatic injuries.

“These simulators help to improve the lives of every patient our graduates care for,” shares Helen Melland, interim dean of nursing. “Patient safety is the overriding issue in healthcare today. This equipment will provide students with real life, complex nursing clinical experiences prior to working with live patients. Students will become more effective and efficient in their approach to patient care.”

The key to successful nursing education is clinical simulation models. In an ideal world, students would be educated in the healthcare setting, hands-on, with real patients. However, healthcare has progressed to the point where prevention of disease and serious illness is the focus. Very few patients stay in hospitals for an extended period of time and, as a result, clinical rotations offer few opportunities for care.

Students have been immersed into the simulations and are providing positive feedback. “I feel that the simulation learning will remain with me more so than reading about it in a text book or discussing it any lecture. It is an opportunity to consolidate learning,” shares Sue Payne, ‘08. “I have experienced it, I have had to actively perform in the scenario and that is a huge difference. I am confident that these experiences will stay with me and when I find myself in that situation again, this time with a real patient, my initial reaction will be tempered by my recollections of the simulations at the College.”
Receiving a scholarship makes such a huge impact on our students. Often times it is the difference between staying in school to get their degree, or having to leave school due to financial hardship. “Without this scholarship, paying for my education would be extremely difficult,” shares one recipient. “There are no words to express my gratitude for allowing me to have this wonderful helping hand.”

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the College was able to award $44,000 in scholarships this past year. However 75% of North Dakota students graduate with an average debt load of over $21,000! It often feels like we’re moving backwards in the support we can offer students. In 2009, the College is looking to remedy this situation. As part of our anniversary year, we are dedicated to increasing the dollars available for scholarships, but we need your help. On page 13 you will find an exciting match grant opportunity that can have a significant benefit for nursing students at UND. We ask you to please consider making a difference in the lives of tomorrow’s healthcare leaders.

Your gifts DO make a difference! Thank you to all of our donors for making these scholarships possible!
Across America, patients rely on nurses for personal, quality care delivered in their own communities – which is threatened when there is a nursing shortage. In fact, the nursing shortage has become so severe in some communities that it is affecting patient care and safety, health care costs and patient outcomes. Experts say the causes of the nursing shortage are complex and range from rapid population growth in several states, to an aging nurse workforce, to poor working conditions.

The UND College of Nursing has partnered with Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF) of Fargo, state nursing programs and healthcare facilities to address the nursing shortage in North Dakota. DMF was one of 11 foundations nationwide to receive funding in the second year of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Partners Investing in Nursing’s Future (PIN) grant, a national initiative to develop and test solutions to America’s nursing shortage.

Led by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Northwest Health Foundation, the program encourages local foundations to act as catalysts in developing grassroots strategies to establish a stable, adequate nursing workforce. To help develop solutions and lead efforts within the region, DMF has been awarded a two-year grant of $250,000, and will match it with $125,000 of their own funds.

“This generous opportunity is affecting nursing on all levels,” said Cheryl Stauffenecker, project coordinator. “For students it has meant an online resource library to enhance their personal and academic learning; graduate nursing student numbers are at all time high in North Dakota and set the stage for excellence; and faculty are being mentored and provided with training of cutting-edge technology for nursing student education. North Dakota healthcare is being empowered to provide the best patient care possible. Nursing leaders came together for dialogue and are developing a shared vision and one voice for North Dakota. It is an exciting time for nursing.”

Grant partners include the two-year RN programs at North Dakota State College of Science and the Dakota Nursing Program (Lake Region State College, Minot State University – Bottineau, Bismarck State College, and Williston State College), North Dakota State University, North Dakota Healthcare Association, Altru Health System, Trinity Health, St. Alexius Medical Center, Medcenter One Health System, Quentin Burdick Memorial Healthcare Facility, Standing Rock Service Unit, Elsevier Publishing, Job Service North Dakota, and the North Dakota Workforce Development Council.

"Not having enough nurses affects the quality of care that patients receive here in North Dakota.”

Pat Traynor, president, Dakota Medical Foundation
We are Family...

...here at the UND College of Nursing we believe that alumni, faculty, staff, and current students are all part of the success of this great educational institution.

This fall, the College of Nursing will be turning 100 and it’s time to celebrate our achievements!

We are planning a College of Nursing “family reunion” for Homecoming 2009 and we want you to attend!

The committee is hard at work planning an event that will be an opportunity to reconnect and reminisce with old friends, to get reacquainted with beloved professors, and to visit the new and improved College of Nursing and UND campus.

Our theme for the event is, “Celebrating a Century: UND’s Legacy of Nursing.” We hope you will come and join us for a variety of fun-filled events to be held October 1-3, 2009. See you there!

Members of the Gala Planning Committee. Front row: Renee Axtman, ’83; Roxanne Hurley, ’80, ’85; Bette Olson, ’86; Carma Hanson, ’88; and Terry Watne, ’82. Back row: Sue Hall, ’75; Judy Johnson, ’75; Darla Adams, ’84, ’95; and Becky Cournia.

Top 10 Reasons to Attend the College of Nursing 100th Anniversary Events!

10. See how the University and College of Nursing have changed
9. Practice your nursing skills in the new Simulation Lab
8. Buy some Chippers at Widman’s
7. Visit your sorority, dorm or fraternity
6. Check out the great hairdos on the 2nd floor nursing class photos
5. Celebrate the achievements of students, faculty & alumni
4. Attend the UND Homecoming football game & CON tailgate party
3. Be part of the Homecoming Parade with current students
2. Eat at the Red Pepper, Italian Moon, Whiteys or Mexican Village
1. Have fun with your college buddies!

Visit www.nursing.und.edu for all the details.

Contact Becky at 701-777-4526 or beckycournia@mail.und.edu with questions.
Thanks to the following alumni, faculty and friends for their continued support of the nursing program. Your generosity allows us to provide the best possible education for our students. Thank you for giving back! We recognize gifts received between Jan 1, 2007 – Oct 31, 2008.

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Mary Ellen McKnight
Mary L Bush
Mary L Dahl
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Mary M Adkins
(continued on page 9)
Alumni Profile

Brenda Jo Gillund, ’92, ’97
This College of Nursing alumna has been selected as one of Ten Outstanding Young Americans by the National Jaycees organization!

The Ten Outstanding Young Americans (TOYA) project exists to recognize and honor ten Americans each year who exemplify the best attributes of the nation’s young people, aged 18 through 40. It is one of the oldest and most prestigious recognition programs in America.

As an oncology nurse at the Altru Cancer Center, Gillund co-founded Filling the Gap, a grant program designed to help lower income families with the financial and travel difficulties of their stay at the Cancer Center. The program works to “fill the gap” between what insurance, personal finance, and other methods of financial support can provide. She received a $50,000 grant for the program and worked to raise another $150,000. She received a scholarship to attend the Oncology Nursing Society Congress in 2007 to present information about the Filling the Gap program to other nurses internationally.

She is the first North Dakotan to be recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans. Gillund was recognized as an Outstanding Young North Dakotan by the North Dakota Jaycees in 2007.

Gillund is also active in the American Cancer Society (ACS), and co-chaired the annual Relay for Life. She is the media liaison for the ACS Cancer Action Network in North Dakota, and also helped set up the ‘Look Good…Feel Better’ and Road to Recovery groups in Grand Forks. Gillund also coordinates with the Cancer Center Adopt-a-Family campaign every Christmas to provide gifts for cancer patients and their families.

Gillund has received many awards, including twice receiving Altru’s Organizational Excellence Award, the American Cancer Society St. George Award, the Lane Adams Quality of Life Award, the Altru Health System Legend Award, and being named Outstanding Nurse of the Year by the North Dakota Nurses Association. She was also a member of the 2006 Celebration on the Hill Ambassador Team.

During UND’s 2008 Homecoming celebration Gillund was honored with the UND Alumni Association’s Young Alumni Achievement Award. The award is given to those who have demonstrated high levels of achievement early in one’s chosen career or profession, who have demonstrated leadership ability or the potential for leadership and distinction in the long term, who have shown support of the University of North Dakota, and who have shown a substantial commitment to the service of others.

Gillund and her husband, Brent, have 6-year-old twins, Benjamin and Anastasia.
Alumni Submitted Updates

1950s
Janice Berg, ’58 BSN, is a full-time imaging transcriptionist at Boulder Community Hospital. In her free time she enjoys traveling abroad and bicycling, most recently in the Czech Republic. Janice resides in Broomfield, CO.

1970s
Gail Ryba, ’77 BSN, is a staff nurse on the orthopedic trauma unit at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, MN. She is also a member of the National Association of Orthopedic Nurses. Gail and her husband, Gary, have two sons and reside in Rochester, MN.

1980s
Lori Horner, ’89 BSN, is a CRNA with Anesthesia Medical Group. Lori and her husband, Randy, have a son and a daughter and reside in Nashville, TN.

1990s
Shannon (Stoddard) Duerr, ’97 BSN, is a health care coordinator at Sunrise Assisted Living of Buffalo. She coordinates and supervises the care of 70 plus seniors. Shannon and her husband, Nick, reside in Buffalo, MN with their daughter, Madeline, son, Alex, and their two dogs.

Rob Schmieg, ’97 MS, is the director of anesthesia services at Lakewood Health System. He recently completed a course in interventional and chronic pain management in Chicago. Rob resides in Staples, MN.

2000s
Mary Froehlich, ’02 MS, is a Gerontology Nurse Practitioner with Inspiris, inspired care for the frail elderly, in Phoenix, AZ. Mary resides in Scottsdale, AZ.

Jeffrey Lembke, ’07 BSN, is working in the emergency room at Parkland Health and Hospital System. Jeffrey resides in Dallas, his email is Jeffrey.lembke@und.edu

To submit your update, visit www.nursing.und.edu and look under the Centennial Gala information for the form. Or you can send an email to beckycournia@mail.und.edu

Order CON tote bag

“UND College of Nursing” totebags are available for purchase! Order one today to support the College of Nursing and expand your collection of UND apparel.

This essential tote bag is handy and versatile. Made out of high grade polyester, there is a large main section with a small fabric pocket inside. Bags are available in pink for $15.00 each, plus $5.00 for postage. Measurements: 14” tall x 12.25” wide x 6.5” deep.

Only cash and check are accepted. Please make checks payable to “UND.”

Please visit www.nursing.und.edu or contact Becky to place an order: beckycournia@mail.und.edu or (701) 777-4526.

Thank you for your support!

(Donor Honor Roll continued)

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Due to space constraints, donors under $100 were not listed. We value each and every gift made to the College as they all combine to make a dramatic difference in the support we offer students and the opportunities we can incorporate into our programs. THANK YOU!
ND Obesity Summit held

Three UND College of Nursing alumni and Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Executive Nurse Fellows organized a one day conference focused on overcoming obesity this past September. “Obesity in North Dakota: Finding Solutions” organized leaders from across the state and across disciplines to address the obesity epidemic in North Dakota with a special focus on the areas of practice, education and research, and public policy. Dr. Brian Wansink, executive director, USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, and author of “Mindless Eating,” was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Loretta Heuer, ’91, ’95, Jonelle Burdick, ’96, and Debbie Swanson, ’80, are all College of Nursing alumni and RWJ Executive Nurse Fellows. They invited health care professionals, researchers, educators, parents, policymakers, and community members to discuss how we can reverse the rising obesity trend in North Dakota. Obesity rates in the U.S. are soaring, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Between 1980 and 2000, obesity rates doubled among adults. About 60 million adults, or 30% of the adult population, are now obese. Similarly since 1980, overweight rates have doubled among children and tripled among adolescents – increasing the number of years they are exposed to the health risks of obesity. Sponsors of the summit were the RWJ Executive Nurse Fellows Alumni Association, Dakota Medical Foundation, USDA Human Nutrition Research Center, UND College of Nursing, Grand Forks Public Health Department, and Meritcare Health Systems.

Students

For Rhianna Ghents, ’08, nursing education is more than essays, case studies, and tests. It’s about the families. “For me, this is about the human side of nursing,” said Ghents. “Helping people puts a face to all the numbers and procedures we learned in school.”

A native of Rapid City, S.D., Ghents had not always wanted to go into nursing. When she first came to UND, she was a psychology major. But after watching several hospital labor scenes on television’s TLC and Discovery Health channels, Ghents switched majors. “I had always liked medicine,” she said, “but knew I wanted to try nursing when I saw the woman on one of the cable programs leading the labor process with several other nurses in the room.” Nursing turned out to be the right choice for her. Ghents was named North Dakota Student Nurse of the Year for 2008 by the Nursing Student Association of North Dakota (NSAND).

“The award is an honor designed for a student who exemplifies greatness and demonstrates an exceptional philosophy of nursing,” said Kristen Hesby, Jamestown College student and NSAND president.

To compete for the title, Ghents completed essays and interviews. It paid off: she received the award at the North Dakota State Student Nurse Convention in March.

“She was very focused, bright and engaged,” said Cindy Anderson, assistant professor of nursing. “Her active involvement and the way she represented issues and articulated concerns on behalf of her peers made her stand out.” Tracy Evanson, another assistant professor of nursing at the college, added, “I am glad that we are able to support and produce a student with Rhianna’s level of leadership and scholarship.”

After graduation, Ghents plans to work and then go back to school to become a Certified Nurse Midwife. Eventually, she hopes to work to reduce the instances of teenage pregnancy. “I want to do this,” she said, “because young girls may think that bringing a child into the world will solve their problems, or fill a void in their life, when it actually brings responsibility.”
$1.6 million gift awarded to nursing students across North Dakota

More than 950 North Dakota nursing students (LPN to PhD) received an early Christmas present in late 2008. Through a partnership with Elsevier Publishing, these students now have free access to a Personal Online Library, consisting of reference books, journals and materials to aid them in their nursing education. The retail value of this online library is greater than $1,700 per student, or $1.6 million total.

Elsevier Publishing is a business partner on the Partners Investing in Nursing (PIN) grant, a project funded by a partnership between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Dakota Medical Foundation and the UND College of Nursing.

Nursing students have the ability to access material from multiple educational sources and have the advantage of that information being portable. In today’s mobile society, with an increase in online/distance education, this feature will be extremely beneficial to students. The Personal Online Library service will also provide huge cost savings to nursing schools across the state, especially the small rural schools, who cannot afford subscriptions to multiple nursing journals.

According to Cheryl Stauffenecker, PIN project coordinator, “this tremendous gift allows students access to nursing resources for the next 28 years. It will be an invaluable tool to enhance nursing students’ personal learning and ultimately meeting the healthcare for our state.”

Students attend 34th annual Transcultural Nursing conference

With financial support from the UND Provost Office, the College of Nursing, and the RAIN program, four UND nursing students attended the 34th annual Transcultural Nursing conference in Minneapolis in September 2008 as an optional learning experience in a nursing course.

Joining Dr. Donna Martin were Jenny Gietzen, Breanne Loesch, Michelle Peltier, and Christine Seames, who chose to attend the conference to broaden their scope of knowledge about providing nursing care to culturally diverse individuals, families, and communities.

Gietzen notes that “this conference couldn’t have come at a better time in our educational experience. We are new to the nursing world but it is a great opportunity to begin young and have experiences like this to add to our knowledge and professional careers.”

Loesch was motivated to attend the conference because she is interested in traveling around the world while working as a nurse and wants to be better prepared to care for individuals, families and communities from diverse cultures. “The conference was an eye-opener. Coming from a small rural community we don’t see how diverse the outside is,” observed Peltier. “As nurses we need to be culturally competent to understand what the patient is going through and what the patient needs to get better.”

Through attending the plenary and various concurrent sessions at the conference, Seames felt that she was exposed to global health care issues. “I really think that people forget how different healthcare is around the world. The United States is very lucky to have the advanced technology and education that we do.”

The highlight of the conference was meeting Dr. Madeleine Leininger, a famous nurse theorist and founder of the Transcultural Nursing Society. Peltier commented, “A week prior to attending the conference, we were talking about Dr. Leininger’s Sunrise Model. Meeting and seeing her at the conference was unbelievable. “A week prior to attending the conference, we were talking about Dr. Leininger’s Sunrise Model. Meeting and seeing her at the conference was unbelievable. The students were impressed that Dr. Leininger “always questioned things and challenged herself to find out ‘why’.” Hearing about Dr. Leininger’s journey as a nurse helped the students revisit the concepts of critical thinking and reflection as important traits of being a great nurse.
CONNECTIONS

Awards

Faculty

Dr. Cindy Anderson, assistant professor, was selected to receive the coveted 2008 Harriet H. Werley New Investigator Award from the Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS). This highly prestigious award is given to only one nurse researcher in the nation annually.

Dr. Anderson is also one of 15 junior faculty nationwide to receive an inaugural Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar award. The three-year, $350,000 grant began September 1. Both awards will support Anderson’s research to study vitamin D deficiency in pregnant women from the rural, northern plains. In addition to consumption of vitamin D fortified foods, one of the main ways of obtaining vitamin D is through exposure of the skin to sunlight. However, sunlight exposure for women in the northern plains is seasonally limited, contributing to an increased incidence of vitamin D deficiency.

Dr. Glenda Lindseth, professor, has been awarded the prestigious National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) Ada Sue Hinshaw Award given by the Friends of the NINR. The award focuses attention on significant nursing research and contributions made by a nurse scientist to improve health care. The award is funded by Friends of the NINR in honor of Ada Sue Hinshaw, the first permanent director of the NINR. The award includes an unrestricted grant that supports outstanding work of a nurse researcher.

Jackie Roberts, co-director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program, has been certified as an Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse Practitioner (AOCNP) by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC). This is in addition to Roberts’ certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Roberts is one of 409 certified AOCNP nurses internationally and is the first one in North Dakota.

Dr. Lek Seal, assistant professor, was selected to participate in the Summer Genetics Institute (SGI) 2008, sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health (NIH).

SGI is an intensive, two-month summer research training program designed to provide a foundation in molecular genetics for use in research and clinical practice. The purpose of SGI is to develop and expand the research capability among graduate students and faculty in schools of nursing, and to develop and expand the basis for clinical practice in genetics among advanced practice nurses.

Dr. Eleanor Yurkovich, associate professor, was awarded the 2008 Education Award from the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses (ISPN).

The Education Award acknowledges exceptional creativity and effectiveness in curriculum development, teaching strategies, student recruitment and support, educational outreach and/or other activities by a psychiatric-mental health nurse educator who is viewed as a mentor and role model by colleagues and students.

New PhD Faculty - the College of Nursing welcomes two new PhD prepared educators who completed their programs in 2007-08.

Dr. Darla Adams is the director of the Nurse Anesthesia program at the College of Nursing. She completed a PhD in Higher Education from the UND College of Education and Human Development. Her dissertation was entitled “Adequacy of Labor Epidural Information for Informed Consent.” Dr. Adams’ research interests include obstetrical anesthesia and difficult airway.

Dr. Liz Tyree is the co-director of the Family Nurse Practitioner program and chair of the Department of Family & Community Nursing. She completed her PhD in Nursing from Loyola University in Chicago with a dissertation entitled, “Culture Care Values, Beliefs and Practices Observed in Empowerment of American Indian Community Health Representatives.” Dr. Tyree’s research interests include primary health care, community empowerment for health, nurse oral histories and river dams in indigenous areas.
Make Twice the Impact!

The UND College of Nursing is grateful to be the recipient of two exciting match grants. Would you like to see your charitable contribution have twice the impact? Thanks to the generosity of Dakota Medical Foundation (DMF), the College has several opportunities for you to make that a reality. Both match grant challenges below are contingent on the College of Nursing raising matching dollars.

**Clinical Simulation: $10,000 match**

Gifts to this match grant challenge will allow for the purchase of an Emergency Care Simulator (ECS) for nursing student education.

The ECS simulator will be a part of the newly opened Clinical Simulation Center, which provides an educational approach using sophisticated hardware aimed at preparing students to be nurses for the 21st century health care environment.

The simulator will be used by undergraduate nursing students to supplement their clinical learning experiences to help them become more confident and competent in their delivery of nursing care. The ECS simulator will be an addition to existing simulation models already purchased, including the Human Patient Simulator (HPS), pediatric simulator and infant simulator. For more information on our new Clinical Simulation Center please visit www.nursing.und.edu

**Scholarships: $15,000 match**

Scholarships for nursing students are in great need as rising tuition and fees make funding a college degree difficult. Students often take part-time jobs to finance college, all the while losing valuable study time. DMF has come forward with a match grant to support nursing scholarships in the amount of $15,000. This will have a tremendous impact for our students.

How to make a difference

DMF will provide a direct match, up to $10,000 for clinical simulation and up to $15,000 for nursing scholarships, for all dollars donated by alumni and friends. This unique opportunity allows one donor’s gift to have double the impact. If you would like to make a match grant contribution to the College of Nursing please contact Becky Cournia at (701) 777-4526. You can also mail your gift or contribute online.

www.givenursing.undfoundation.org/

UND Foundation
3100 University Ave., Stop 8157
Grand Forks, ND 58202
(Please indicate on your check, or with a note, if your gift is intended to support simulation or scholarships.)

“DMF is a true friend to nursing. Their leaders are clearly aware of the effect nurses have on the community,” shares Helen Melland, interim dean of nursing. “Scholarships help our students to finance their dream, and the simulators help students gain the confidence and competence they need to succeed.”

Dakota Medical Foundation, Fargo, ND, focuses its efforts on improving health and access to medical and dental care in the region, with a special emphasis on children. Since 1996, the Foundation has invested over $35 million to over 300 nonprofit organizations in the region. For more information, see www.dakmed.org

Would you like to make a gift to the College of Nursing, but you want to spread it out over time? We can work with you to set up monthly pledge payments, or have a specific amount deducted from your checking account each month with nothing to mail in. $10, $25, $50, or $100 each month all add up and can make a big difference for our students! For more information please contact Becky Cournia at beckycournia@mail.und.edu or (701) 777-4526.

Nursing students practice skills with Pat, the Human Patient Simulator (HPS), in our new Clinical Simulation Center.
ConNections  New Projects

Accelerated Degree Program

The College of Nursing is now offering an accelerated post-baccalaureate nursing (BAC2) program. The program is open to students who have completed a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing and will prepare them to become a registered nurse. The BAC2 accelerated degree option is an intensive 16-month program. The first cohort of 16 students, 13 female and 3 male, began studies in January 2009 and will graduate in May 2010.

Experience in healthcare is not required to be admitted into this program or to be successful in it. While some students admitted have a background in biology and kinesiology, others have first degrees in psychology, communications, business management, and interdisciplinary studies. Students will receive all the education they need as they progress through the curriculum.

Dr. Helen Melland, interim dean at the College of Nursing, shares that “we are excited about this program. Nurses who graduate from accelerated programs, such as the one we have developed, do an excellent job in the workplace. They have extensive educational and life experience beyond their basic nursing preparation resulting in a well prepared, highly skilled professional nurse.”

College of Nursing history book in the works


Remembering the CON

Stories and memories bring history to life. To help us celebrate the College of Nursing’s Centennial we are asking nursing students, alumni and friends to submit favorite memories, stories and photos. Submissions will be posted on the website and shared at the Gala for everyone to enjoy.

A few questions to get you started:

What do you think have been the biggest changes in nursing since you were a student?
What was your most memorable nursing class and why?
Who were the most challenging professors?
Do you have any unique clinical experiences to share?
How did the College of Nursing help prepare you for the real-world?
What did you enjoy most about your time at UND?

Send submissions to:
Becky Cournia
UND College of Nursing
430 Oxford St., Stop 9025
Grand Forks, ND  58202-9025
beckycournia@mail.und.edu

Tracing Our History

The UND College of Nursing is more than just a nursing program. It’s a family of nurses and healthcare professionals. And just like in any other family it is important to know your roots; where you came from and who came before you. Discovering details about the College of Nursing family is not just a fun hobby, it is a connection to our past. It is a way to stretch a hand back through the web of time and recognize those who came before us.

"Are you the second or third UND nurse in your family? If so, let us know about it!

We would love to do a feature on the number of multi-generation nurses in the history of the College. Put together a little background about who your fellow nurse relatives are and submit it to Becky at beckycournia@mail.und.edu
The College of Nursing has established an external advisory team to provide feedback and support to the College. The purpose of the Dean's Advisory Cabinet is to serve as an external advisory consulting body to assist the Dean in achieving the College's mission and to improve health through leadership in research, education, and professional and public service. Meet the newest members of the CON family!

Claire Erickson
After practicing law for two years with a Massachusetts law firm, Claire joined the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial attorney for the Tax Division in Washington, DC. Over a 33-year career, Claire held a variety of litigation, legislative and management positions. She received the President's Award for Meritorious Service in 2004. Claire retired in 2006, from the position of Deputy Assistant Attorney General. She is married to Robert, a native of Bismarck and a UND graduate (BA '71 and JD '74.) Bob is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the UND Alumni Association and Foundation. Claire and Bob reside in Alexandria, Virginia, and Ogunquit, Maine.

Julie Horter
Julie is a '75 College of Nursing graduate and has worked exclusively at St. Alexius Medical Center in Bismarck since graduating. She has worked in various departments in post-surgical nursing and as infection control coordinator. Most recent years have been dedicated to mental health nursing in the inpatient and outpatient setting. She and her husband Charles (UND '72, '78) have been active in the UND family and have raised three daughters who, incidentally, are all alumni of the University.

Jay Kleven
Jay is a '96 civil engineering graduate and is a full partner, specializing in structural/civil engineering, at EAPC Architects Engineers, a privately owned architectural/engineering consulting firm in Grand Forks. Many of Jay’s family have attended UND, including his mother, father, four brothers/sisters-in-law, both paternal aunts (nursing degrees), many cousins (one who has a nursing degree) and a younger sister. His aunt, LaVonne Russell Hootman, is a retired associate dean of the College of Nursing. Jay and his wife Miranda, ’94, live in Grand Forks with their three children, Norah, Madeline and Anne.

Patti Loeppke
Patti is a '79 College of Nursing graduate. She has worked in rural health in Thermopolis, WY; in surgical and intensive care in a large Minneapolis hospital, PACU in a Bismarck hospital, and is currently in both inpatient and outpatient PACU in St. Cloud, MN. Her children, Jayson and Jenna, are current students at UND. Patti and her husband, Jay (also a ’79 College of Nursing graduate) reside in Willmar, MN, enjoy traveling and visit UND often. “We have many fun memories of our times at UND! It’s the place we met!”

Patrick Maddock
Patrick is a ‘64 law graduate from UND. In more than 43 years as a trial attorney, he has practiced mostly in the areas of general and professional negligence and developed experience in hospital, physician and nursing professional negligence, as well as other areas of health care law, including license/disciplinary proceedings. Patrick worked his way through college as a night and weekend ambulance driver at a local hospital for 5 years, where he received room and board and also developed a deep respect for all nurses, be they aides, LPNs, diploma or degree RNs. Patrick is now semi-retired and lives in Grand Forks with his wife Susan, ‘62.

Rita Raffety
Rita was born and raised in Alberta, Canada and came to the USA in 1980 as a student, graduating from the University of Nebraska, Kearney. She met her husband at college and has been here ever since. Rita has been a nursing home administrator with the Good Samaritan Society for the past 11 years. She completed her internship in Osceola and Alliance, Nebraska and has served as an administrator for 1 ½ years in Parshall, ND, for six years in Arlington, MN and for the past four years in Larimore, ND. Rita and her husband Brian live in Grand Forks.

Kristine Solberg
Kristine, a ’69 College of Nursing graduate, continued her education to become a certified Lamaze childbirth educator. She currently teaches Lamaze privately and has done so since 1976. She has also worked at several healthcare agencies in Louisiana and Texas. Kristine is involved in many organizations including being chair of the New Friends Organization and a choir member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, both in Houston. Along with her husband, she was also an honorary chair for the 2008 American Diabetes Association Gala. Kristine is married to Robert Solberg, ’69. Bob is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the UND Alumni Association and Foundation. Kristine and Bob reside in Houston, TX.
Together Again

The College of Nursing hosted several events and class reunions to celebrate Homecoming 2008, held October 16-18 on the UND campus. Our alumni wine and cheese social was a big hit, especially with the returning class reunions. More than 80 alumni and friends joined us to meet, mingle and hear about updates at the College. Dean Covington shared a welcome from the College and recognized our 2008-09 student scholarship recipients who were in attendance. Kristin Larson, ’85, also shared a few words about her experience of teaching for the College from her home in Salt Lake City, UT. Kristin is our newest faculty member, teaching students online in our gerontology and family nurse practitioner master’s classes.

The classes of 1958 (50th), 1973 (35th), 1983 (25th) and 1998 (10th) all held class reunions during Homecoming 2008. Many of the alumni attended the wine & cheese social and had such fun catching up and reminiscing. The class of 1958, who had all but one of their classmates in attendance, proved to be the life of the party! Members of the class of 1973 brought copies of their class photo and shared many laughs as they tried to identify all of their classmates from 35 years ago. Following the social, many classes met up for class dinners to continue the fun. A great time was had by everyone in attendance; it was so enjoyable to catch-up with old friends and make new ones.

Above: the nursing class of 1958 came back to UND to celebrate their 50th reunion during Homecoming 2008.

Left: Stephanie Helmick, Julie Manly and Lizz Sandberg, all ’98 graduates, attended the College of Nursing alumni social to celebrate their 10th reunion.

Below: The nursing class of 1973 had a great turnout to celebrate their 35th reunion. They all attended the College of Nursing alumni social and held a class dinner after.
Above left: 1973 graduates try to identify classmates in their class photo.

Above center: Attendees enjoy the alumni wine and cheese social.

Above right: Jacklene Salwei, Jessica Brunner and Ken Nash, nursing students and scholarship recipients, enjoyed the alumni social.

Right: It’s a Larson Family Reunion! Nursing alumni Libby (Larson) Kroeber, ’88 and Kristin Larson, ’85 attended the social with their parents Omer, ’54 and Pat, ’58.

We hope that you will consider joining us for Homecoming 2009 as the College will be celebrating a milestone anniversary: 100 years of nursing on campus (1909) and 50 years of being a College of Nursing (1959). Please mark your calendar for October 2, 2009 and plan to return to UND and Grand Forks to help us celebrate this remarkable occasion. For more details on this event please go to our website at www.nursing.und.edu or contact Becky Cournia at (701) 777-4526.
March 27-30
Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Conference
Minneapolis, MN

March
UND College of Nursing Minneapolis Alumni Gathering
More information to come soon!

April 1-3
Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health
Mandan, ND
www.ruralhealth.und.edu/dakotaconference

May 15
Spring Pinning Ceremony

May 18-20
Midwest Nurse Educator’s Academy
A conference on simulation and educational innovation for nurse faculty and hospital, long-term care, and public health-based nurse educators. The Academy will be held at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.
Contact: conferences@mail.und.edu

October 2
UND College of Nursing Centennial Gala
www.nursing.und.edu