



Department of Nursing December 2009

Season's Greetings!

Announcements:

The Department offices will be moving to *Sattgast 207* in January 2010.

NEW FACULTY -

View their biographies at:

<http://www.bemidjistate.edu/academics/departments/nursing/faculty/>

Noreen Reding, APRN-BC
(community health), PhD, RN

Mary Fairbanks, MS, RN

Tiffany Hommes, APRN-BC
(family nurse practitioner), MS, RN

Meet the lab coordinator:
Betsy Lyren, BSN, RN

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Season's Greetings to our emeriti, alumni, donors, and current students:

As we near the close of 2009 the Department of Nursing has continued to be a place of growth and innovation. We have been blessed with outstanding students and faculty who are dedicated to excellence. In the past two years our students and faculty have interacted with international groups to expand our minds and move us toward global awareness.

Growth has been rapid this semester as we experienced over 300% increase in our RN to BS population. This growth was predominately the result of a poor economy. Registered Nurses coming into our RN to BS program tend to be younger, technically savvy, and not employed in nursing. The RN to BS population continues to seek opportunities through education and has identified further education with a greater opportunity for employment. The Registered Nurse students are a dynamic, progressive group of future nurse leaders!

Our expected growth in the 4-Year Track program has been successful. Last year we admitted 36 students and this fall we admitted 45 students into the 4-Year Track. These students are admitted into the program fall semester of



Noreen Reding; Tiffany Hommes; and Jeanine Gangeness

their sophomore year. We continue our history of admitting outstanding students at BSU. Most of the students have second majors or minors and have maintained a 3.3 average GPA. Some of the second major and minors are in areas like biology, psychology, and chemistry. We are very proud of our new group!

In conclusion, we have had many global connections in the past 18 months. As you read this newsletter take a look at the connections to Russia and Western Samoa! We are globally connected and expanding our awareness!

I would like to extend a big thank you to our faculty, alumni, donors, and students for all that you provide to our growth and continued excellence!

Blessings to all of you!
Jeanine E. Gangeness, PhD, RN



◀ **Meet Emily Pippo:**
4 year track student

Q: *How did you decide on nursing for a career choice? What influenced your decision to become an RN?*

A: I decided on nursing because I know I want to do something in the medical profession and I want to care for others. Also, nursing is such a diverse and growing profession that it is just exciting to think of the possible careers within nursing that are available to me. I also came to choose nursing through seeing the nurses in my family and how much they enjoy the work that they do, which is truly something to aspire to.

Q: *Why did you choose Bemidji State University for your education?*

A: I chose BSU because of the beautiful atmosphere and the good reputation of the school itself. Also, the small class sizes appealed to me because I knew I would get the opportunity for one-on-one interaction with my instructors, which I definitely have.

Q: *In your opinion, what is the best part of being in the nursing profession?*

A: The idea that I will be able to impact other's lives in a positive way through caring and healing is amazing to me. I cherish that idea and hope to carry that through in my career.



COMING ONLINE IN *Samoa*

Over the past 9 months Dr. Jeanine Gangeness has been working with the Pacific Open Learning Health Net (POLHN), sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), providing eLearning opportunities to healthcare professionals in Western Samoa. In an effort to expand the number of learning opportunities offered through its online platform (Moodle), Dr. Gangeness has been working with Seward Inc. (Minneapolis) to offer a Bemidji State University graduate course; Qualifications for Online Learning. The overall goal of the program was to produce more individuals capable of creating and teaching online courses. The development and implementation of a workshop for Samoan nurse educators included 2 week-long intensive face-to-face workshops and augmented by online. The course focused on how to develop and teach online in Western Samoa and the rest of the pacific region.

The participating Registered Nurses have no access to continuing education once they have completed their initial university



education and are employed in the villages of Western Samoa. The WHO identified the lack of continuing education as a concern and proposed online and packaged courses as an option for providing continuing education to the island nurses.

Students were to develop an online course as the course outcome. Overall, participants judged the workshop to be a worthwhile

experience as noted by their rating of the course as "Excellent" (82%) or "Good" (23%). Overall, participants realized that although the workshop was challenging, the types of skills they were learning are valuable, especially in an increasingly technical society. The participants appreciated an opportunity to broaden their knowledge. Of the 22 original participants, 10 will be ready to offer an online (or hybrid – online/face-to-face) course spring of 2010.

The course provided an opportunity for BSU to connect to the pacific region and the WHO. Dr. Gangeness and Seward Inc. were invited to write a follow-up proposal to POLHN to continue service in Western Samoa and expand to Fiji.

This workshop would not have been possible without the welcoming spirit and willingness to collaborate from the Samoan participants, Fulisia Aiavao (Dean of Nursing at National University of Samoa), Nancy Hendrickson (Seward, Instructional Designer and Co-Instructor), Verlesh Singh (technology support), Seward Incorporated, and POLHN.



Samoan's in March 2009

Group Completing the course and receiving certificates from the World Health Organization. June 2009



REALIZING BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY'S *Signature Themes and Core Values*

Core Values and Signature Themes

- **International/multicultural understanding (Russian Educators, Samoan Connection)**
- **Civic Engagement (Student Nurses Association, page 4)**
- **Environmental stewardship (Student Nurses Association, page 4)**

Russian's **2ND VISIT TO BEMIDJI PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE**

(Bemidji, MN) – Open World leaders from Russia arrived in Bemidji, Friday, October 30th for a week long program to promote mutual understanding between Minnesota and Russian nurse educators. Bemidji area volunteers organized a citizen diplomacy program that

will continue the professional nursing exchange that was begun in 2008 and the visit by Bemidji nurses to Tomsk, Siberia in June 2009. Once again, educators of nurses from Balakova and Tomsk explored with Bemidji area nurses current issues in nursing and nurse education in the U.S. and Russia.

Managed by the independent Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, Open World is designed to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and free-market system.

Delegates met with nursing faculty and students at Northwest Technical College and Bemidji State University. BSU faculty hosted 3 days which included attendance in a Transcultural Nursing course, shadowing clinical experiences at North Country Health Services, Student Health, and St. Philip's School.

The Open World Program is a non-partisan initiative of Congress designed to build mutual understanding between the United States and Russia. Since 1999 more than 15,000 Open World participants from Russia and other former Soviet countries have been hosted in all 50 states. Delegates represent official government offices, private business owners, managers of non-governmental organizations, and citizen volunteers.

For more information about Open World, please visit www.openworld.gov.



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**WE'RE MOVING OUR OFFICE
TO SATTGAST HALL-207**

Professional Nursing **on the move!**



FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE *Student Nurses Association*

This year the Student Nurses Association has become very active both in the BSU community and the community of Bemidji. We started out the year by doing free blood-pressure checks at BSU's Community Appreciation Day. Our first big event was the blood drive with Memorial Blood Centers which was a big success. The Student Nurses Association also hosted a barbeque in Diamond Point Park for any nursing students, nursing faculty/staff, or friends who wished to attend and there was plenty food, fun, and beautiful weather! The Student Nurses Association acted as co-sponsors for this year's Peace Walk in the Bemidji community which is a walk to support awareness for domestic violence and the impact it has on our society. SNA collected 432 lbs. of food for the Bemidji Community food shelf in our "Trick-or-Treat" for the Food Shelf this year and we can't wait to do

it again next year. SNA is helping to clean up our environment! We have joined the Adopt-A-Highway program and have "adopted" a stretch of road across Lake Bemidji from BSU on Lake Avenue!

Some upcoming events include: Fundraiser stethoscope sale, T-shirt sales, visits from nurse specialists who will educate about their careers in nursing, and participating in this year's Relay for Life. SNA would like to thank the Bemidji and BSU communities for all of their support this semester!

-Emily Pippo, SNA President



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