



Department of Nursing Newsletter Vol 1(2) December, 2007

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### JUNE 26, 2007

The Department of Nursing learned on June 26th that our grant application for the Federal Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention (NERP) program had been selected for funding beginning the summer of 2007. The grant award totaled \$750,000; \$250,000 annually for three consecutive years. Dr. Ranae Womack is the principal investigator and Ms. Gwen Verchota is managing the grant which focuses on the expansion of our program (both RN to BS track and 4-Year Track). Great work on the grant – now the real work begins!

### OCTOBER 23, 2007

Jeanine Gangeness successfully defended her dissertation. She has now completed all requirements for the PhD, with a major in Nursing. Congratulations Dr. Gangeness!

### NOVEMBER 13-15, 2007

The CCNE site evaluators came to Bemidji State University for the National Accreditation survey of the nursing program (both RN to BS and 4-Year Tracks). The visitors provided preliminary feedback stating that we met all standards with no identified deficiencies. Final approval will occur during the April 2008 CCNE Commission meeting.

### Outstanding team effort!

## *Message from the Chair*

**SEASON'S GREETINGS** from the Department of Nursing and everyone at BSU! The Department has been bustling all semester with a vigorous RN to BS Track and new activity that is almost palpable in the 4-Year Track!

During this season, I typically take time to reflect on events that have occurred throughout the year and this year I am considering the tremendous accomplishments of our department. I began my service as Chair of the department one year ago in January. At that time, we were celebrating a successful Board of Nursing approval process, writing the HRSA grant application, and planning for our National Accreditation visit. Today I look back and am thankful for the many areas where we have experienced success including the awarding of the HRSA grant which will help to provide resources for faculty hires in order to fully develop an innovative curriculum for the new 4-Year Track as well as support the expansion of our RN to BS Track. I am pleased to report that our November CCNE National Accreditation visit was extremely positive and we look forward to the final 'stamp of approval' and subsequent report. The accreditation visit provided us the opportunity to truly recognize the value of the collaborative relationships we have with North Country Health Services and Northwest Technical College (NTC). We found both agencies to be great examples of community partners and supporters of the expansion of our nursing program. The Administration and Support Services at BSU provided the Accreditation Team with an honest appraisal of how together, we provide top quality nursing education for the region. I am humbled as I reflect on the commitment of excellence in our partners in the industry, sister institution (NTC), administration, faculty, support services, alumni, and current students. Thank you for your continued support!



**JEANINE GANGENESS**

**LOOKING FORWARD**, the Department has an emerging 4-Year Track with many students coming into the university system, over 100 at last count! It is great fun to see all of the faces of interested individuals who have identified nursing as their career goal. As you know, with an emerging program comes emerging needs... we are planning to begin deconstruction and reconstruction of Memorial 9 (the old bookstore area) for the new Clinical Resource Center (a high-tech nursing skills and performance laboratory). This is an exciting project for BSU and the Department of Nursing. We hope very soon to secure partners who will 'sponsor' the suites contained within this lab that includes a critical care suite, a pediatric suite, an obstetrics/newborn suite, medical-surgical suite, home-care suite, and "Command Central" (where a network of computers will be contained for the purposes of student learning and mastery of health care information systems such as the electronic medical record and medication administration record). Your support for this new development is essential. Please give me a call if you are interested in making a donation or would like to inquire about sponsoring a suite.

We indeed have much to be thankful for as we reflect on the past year and much to look forward to as we venture into new, uncharted waters. Thank you so much for all you do to support nursing in our region. You are truly the ambassadors for professional nursing in this region, and for this we are most grateful.



# BUILDING ON A STRONG HISTORY AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BRIGHT FUTURE:

We interviewed a few of our students who have pursued the nursing field. We asked them a few questions and the following passages include their responses.

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



**ROSEMARY (DOLLY) DAHL:** I was a young child when I decided on a career in nursing. I was diagnosed with rheumatic fever in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and spent six weeks in a small community hospital. The nurses let me “read” the charts; at the age of seven, that meant vital signs! This was long before HIPPA! My father was hospitalized at the same time and we were allowed to be room-mates. Holistic nursing in the late 50s. Wow!

**BSU NURSING DEPARTMENT:** Why did you choose Bemidji State University for your education?

**ROSEMARY (DOLLY) DAHL:** I felt BSU could meet my needs as a working registered nurse and my needs as an adult learner. I was looking for a program that offered me distance learning with a classroom component. I knew I needed the student and teacher contact to provide feedback and motivation.

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

**ROSEMARY (DOLLY) DAHL:** The people. The people who have shared this journey, never knowing the lasting impact they have made. My patients, fellow nurses, physicians. The mentors I had in my first OR job in Virginia, MN who taught me to treat every patient like they were my parent, sibling, child or grandparent. Thirty-three years later, I still follow their advice. My instructors and fellow students who have taught me you are never too old to return to academia, the value of collaboration. The respect I have witnessed at BSU is amazing. The colleagues I have met through my involvement with Minnesota Nurses Association at the local, state, and national level who continue to impact the welfare of nurses and our patients, have shown me the importance of being involved politically, guided me to be a better leader, and supported education and training.

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



**ANDREW POULIOT:** In the Army I worked at a clinic at Camp Mackall, NC near Ft. Bragg. While on assignment there I worked as an EMT. This involved driving ambulance, evacuating patients/soldiers to the main post hospital or assisting injured soldiers to the flight line for air evacuation. I also assisted the Physician Assistant who was in charge of the clinic. I started IVs when needed and helped to stabilize soldiers who had most often sustained major trauma or heat stroke.

**BSU NURSING DEPARTMENT:** Why did you choose Bemidji State University for your education?

**ANDREW POULIOT:** I picked BSU because it is in Northern Minnesota. Also I had friends in the area. It was the first and only campus I looked at when being discharged from the service.

**BSU NURSING DEPARTMENT:** What are your career aspirations?

**ANDREW POULIOT:** To become a flight nurse in either the Bemidji area or move back to Colorado and be a flight nurse in the mountains where I lived before.



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**YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FUTURE IS APPRECIATED!**

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