Greetings, Nursing alumni and friends! Since I joined the College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines last summer, I have had the pleasure of meeting regularly with students, staff, and faculty throughout the undergraduate and graduate programs, and have been deeply impressed by their commitment to excellence.

When I first joined the College, I asked that every department help me address five priorities that would be critical to our success this year, including identifying and leveraging our strengths to advance our mission, vision, and values; strengthening relationships with our various partners at UND and in the community; creating new leadership and team-building opportunities; and charting a roadmap for our future. Nursing gravitated towards these priorities without hesitation, and has been especially productive in ensuring that the College is inclusive, invested in collaborative governance, and focused on teamwork.

This fall, the inaugural class of Doctor of Nursing Practice students began their study here at UND. This new program will offer all advanced practice nursing students an opportunity to reach the pinnacle of nursing practice preparation. Maridee Shogren, Chris Harsell, and Jackie Roberts have been invaluable in establishing and running the DNP program. I am proud to work with such faculty—and the many others in Nursing who create such an exceptional teaching and learning environment for our students, advance the state of
knowledge in healthcare prevention and delivery, and serve our communities through ongoing practice.

Nursing faculty and students have also embraced a sense of shared identity and interest with the other departments of the College by organizing and hosting College-wide events, including picnics, student socials, and wellness activities. These collaborative initiatives lay the foundation for a future CNPD where interdisciplinary research, service, and learning provide our students with the professional experiences and knowledge necessary to have successful, productive, and meaningful careers.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and we'll look forward to updating you in the new year!

Dr. Steve Light
Interim Dean
College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

Message from the Undergraduate Chair

Greetings from the Undergraduate Nursing Department! I am now beginning my second year as the Department Chair of the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines. Classes are well underway and students are working hard on their journey to becoming professional nurses. The undergraduate nursing program at the CNPD includes the traditional BSN, LPN to BSN, Accelerated BSN and RN-BSN programs. These programs are guided by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's Essentials of Baccalaureate Education as well as the vision and mission of the CNPD and UND.

Our graduates provide high quality patient care and are leaders in the profession. They are highly regarded by our clinical partners and continue to be strong ambassadors for our nursing program. The dedicated undergraduate faculty members continue to provide quality educational experiences for our students.

We continue to be sensitive to the nationwide nursing shortage and are particularly concerned with the nursing workforce needs in the state and underserved areas. We have strong numbers of qualified applicants for our undergraduate programs. Following the revision of the RN-BSN program, students were admitted on either a full time or part time basis. They began course work fall 2013. We are looking forward to working with group of students to meet their educational goals.

Fall 2013 also includes expansion of our acute pediatric clinical experiences to Sanford Health in Fargo, ND. This provides students with increased exposure to acutely ill pediatric experiences. Students have spoken very highly of this experience.

Beginning spring 2013, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) raised the passing standard for NCLEX. This was done due to the changes in healthcare delivery and nursing practice which have resulted in higher level acuity of patients being cared for by entry level RNs. This requires the undergraduate faculty to proactively engage in conversation and educational strategies which will prepare our students to be strong nurses. We continue to explore ideas about new curriculum development to meet the challenges anticipated in health care.

Please visit our website for information on the activities at the CNPD. We would love to hear about your nursing experiences! Consider a visit to the CNPD to see the changes in our building and educational resources. We are eager to share the good work of our students, faculty and staff!

Stephanie Christian
MS, RN
Undergraduate Program Chair

Message from the Graduate Chair

Greetings! I hope this semester finds you well. This fall I have assumed new duties as Chair of the Graduate Nursing programs within the CNPD. The graduate nursing department at the CNPD includes seven masters programs and two doctoral programs. These programs seek to fulfill the mission and vision of the CNPD as well as the mission of UND. I am amazed every day at the accomplishments of our Alumni, the determination of our students and the dedication of our great faculty and staff.
College Holds First Annual Scholarship Reception

The College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines held its first annual College wide reception to honor students who had received scholarships for the 2013-2014 academic year. Students, faculty and staff from all three departments were in attendance as were several persons who have donated to the scholarship funds.

During the reception, the audience was able to hear from Dean Light and Director of Development Andrew Bjerke about the importance of giving back to the College. For Mr. Bjerke, honoring our scholarship winners was an excellent opportunity to show the ties between current students and our alumni. “At homecoming this year we had an opportunity to celebrate our passionate students and our amazing alumni and friends in the first annual CNPD scholarship reception. The scholarship award ceremony, highlighted the amazing impact that investors have on students’ lives and the future of the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines. To our amazing students we say “Congratulations” and to our donors we say a heartfelt “Thank You” Several nursing students were also granted the opportunity to speak about how the scholarships had personally influenced their lives as well as their ability to attend UND.

Among those invited to the reception were Kris & Bob Solberg, both UND graduates. Kris received her BSN in 1969 and has been committed to UND throughout her entire career. Kris Solberg reflected on her lifetime as a nurse, noting that she still remembers the first patient she ever had. She pointedly reminded all that nurses often bookend our lives by being the first and last person many of us see in our lives.

Fall 2013 brings an exciting time for our graduate programs. This fall we implemented a post masters DNP (Doctorate of Nursing Practice) program. We admitted an inaugural class of 7 students and are excited about our new curriculum and the important role of the clinical doctorate in nursing. The role of the DNP will be to demonstrate expertise in quality improvement, systems leadership, influence policy and outcomes for individuals and families.

All of our graduate programs continue to see an increase in applications and the need for advanced skills in rural and underserved areas of North Dakota and the Midwest are great. As we prepare for admissions this spring all of our track directors are evaluating the needs of our state as well as rural and underserved areas. We are keenly aware of the impact all our students have on health care in North Dakota.

Our graduates have many opportunities to influence health care outcomes. In 2010 the IOM (Institute of Medicine) report recommended that nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training and subsequently practice to the full extent of their education and training. They also summarized that nurses should be full partners will ALL professionals. As we embark on this historical time in healthcare the nursing profession has many opportunities to influence health care outcomes. We realize this will be difficult and challenging times, however, graduate nurses with advanced skills are in a prime position to influence health care policy, create leadership opportunities and work inter professionally to assure affordable, quality, safe patient outcomes.

I wish you great success in your nursing career! I hope you are passionate about your nursing career and promote nursing at UND!!

Jackie Roberts
DNP, FNP-BC, AOCNP
Graduate Chair
College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines Faculty/Staff Retreat:  

Renewing Our Spirit, Charting Our Vision, Advancing Our Priorities

The College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines held its annual fall retreat for faculty and staff on Monday, August 19th at the Gorecki Center. The retreat offered a chance for many staff and faculty to offer updates on their respective program areas. Over 80 faculty and staff participated in the daylong event.

The morning began with a statement from Provost Thomas M. DiLorenzo, who addressed the faculty and staff of the College and asked that they spend the day reflecting on several priorities for the upcoming year. Three specific issues were mentioned, including collaborative governance, faculty workloads, and ensuring that the mission and vision of the CNPD aligned with those of the University. Provost DiLorenzo placed extra emphasis on self-reflection, noting that healthcare providers are very good at offering assistance to others, but need to be encouraged to improve their own lives. “We owe it to UND & ourselves to evaluate and improve our own careers & self-progression.”

Dean Light echoed the sentiment of Provost DiLorenzo by stating that the inclusion of all employees at the College is critical. To that end, Dean Light is encouraging more collaborative governance by faculty of each department. Dean Light also mentioned that it is important to maintain mental and physical wellness, and that finding and engaging in enjoyable activities outside of work has helped him to accomplish this for the last several years. He encouraged all faculty and staff to find their own way of self-reflection.

Although the College heard from multiple program and department areas, the time limit of the retreat prevented faculty and staff from hearing from every program area. Dean Light stressed that more opportunities would be available in the coming weeks and months for everyone in the College to exercise their voice and participate in moving the College in a new direction. Areas that offered updates included the undergraduate and graduate programs from Nursing, Social Work, and Nutrition & Dietetics. Operational updates were provided by the Research, Business, IT, Instructional Design, and Dean's Office’s. Updates included practical information for staff and faculty to consider for the upcoming semesters, as well as announcements of births, weddings, and educational achievements of the College Employees. The daylong event had an upbeat and energetic vibe to it, as multiple persons commented on the palpable excitement of the staff and faculty.

For the second half of the retreat, faculty and staff from all three departments joined together in small groups to reflect where the College had come from, and where they wanted to see the College in the coming years. Each group was assigned a separate priority for the fall to consider. The priorities included (1) Revisiting and reaffirming our mission, values, and vision, (2) Reinvigorate relations within the College:
Kris & Bob Solberg Receive Sioux Award

The Sioux Award tradition goes back to 1949 when it was known as the Service Award. It is the highest honor given by the UND Alumni Association for achievement and service. Previous winners have included business leaders, government employees and alumni who have served their community and UND. This year Kris and Bob Solberg were amount the recipients for this prestigious honor. Both graduates of 1969, Kris received her BSN from the College of Nursing and Bob received his from the College of Engineering & Mines.

Kris and Bob have remained active in the advancement of UND and their respective Colleges. Both have served on the UND Alumni Association & Foundation Board, the National Campaign Steering Committee for North Dakota Spirit | The Campaign for UND, and the College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines Advisory Board. Their support to UND and our College has been immeasurable, and we would like to congratulate them both for being recognized for their contributions to our institution.

In 2011, Bob and Kris established the Shirley Solberg Aarthun Nursing Endowment in honor of Kristine’s mother, who worked as a nurse for 37 years. “To have a scholarship in her honor is special to both of us. She instilled that you should work hard and have a job of your own.” The scholarship benefited its first student this fall.
Fall 2013 Picnic Review

This fall, students, faculty & staff from all three departments gathered for the annual picnic. Meaghann Graber, the President of the Nursing Student Association, noted that “The fall picnic for the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines is a great way for all students and faculty to be able to come together to reflect on the summer events before the fall semester really kicks in gear. It is always fun to talk with professors about summer internships, and talk with friends about things we have done over the summer while eating great food and raising money for great causes.” Laurel Striegel, a Nursing Student Council member agreed, adding “I love attending the picnic to get together with our semester III classmates outside of school. It’s a great “stress-free” environment that allows us to get to know each other better and meet nursing students from other semesters as well. Pieing a professor: It’s a fun way to get to know professors better and keeps things light-hearted.”

Since 2009, the students of the Nursing Student Association and Student Council have raised money during the picnic by soliciting donations for “pieing” a professor. All guests are encouraged to donate to the professor they would most prefer to see pied, the winner of which is honored to join a limited group of prestigious winners.

Students and faculty work together in the beginning of the semester to plan for the event. They spend a great deal of time prioritizing the picnic over other responsibilities (such as homework) and begin planning months in advance. In the past, only one professor per year was pied. Previous recipients of this honor include Liz Sandberg, Lucy Heintz & Roxanne Hurley. This year, both Tracey Enger and Interim Dean Steve Light were chosen to receive the students affection. To be pied is sort of like joining a club, and is an honorable event in that it raises funds for the student organizations. The Nursing Student Association and the Student Council raised over $175 in total donations. Proceeds will be directed toward funding the trip to Jamestown ND for the state convention as well as the NSNA Annual Convention being held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Marlys Escobar, Academic Advisor for the Nursing Department, was instrumental in bringing everyone together for this year’s picnic. She began organizing the event in 2000.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Accepting Applications for Fall 2014

This Fall, the Nursing Department began its new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program here at UND. This clinical practice doctorate is the highest level of preparation for the practice of the nursing discipline. The College is accepting applications from advanced practice nurses for the Fall 2014 DNP class. The application deadline is January 15th, 2014. Prospective students should visit CNPD’s DNP website at https://www.nursing.und.edu/programs/doctor-nursing-practice/index.cfm or they may contact Dr. Maridee Shogren DNP, CNM, and DNP Track Director with any questions at 701-777-4529 or maridee.shogren@und.edu
In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994. (website, Native American Heritage Month). In recognition of American Indian Heritage Month, the College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines would like to acknowledge and honor our Recruitment/Retention of American Indians Into Nursing (RAIN) Program.

The CNPD celebration of American Indian Heritage month will feature displays of American Indian culture by the RAIN program throughout the college; specifically a display of our North Dakota tribal nations. Also, posters of the UND “More Than Beads and Feathers” campaign will be displayed.

The RAIN Program has been an integral part of our college since 1990 and has contributed to the success of our American Indian students; 167 have obtained BSN degrees and 43 AI nurses have earned masters. Five of the RAIN alumni have attended other institutions and earned a Ph.D.s in Nursing and one has earned her Juris Doctorate.

Interim Dean Light and the College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines wish to thank the RAIN Program staff and students for contributing to an exceptional college and university.
Learn How Your Investment Can Make a Difference For You and Your College:

North Dakota Taxpayers Credit for Gifts to Endowments

Giving to endowments through the University of North Dakota Foundation will help UND better meet the needs of the students and programs that benefit North Dakota communities.

Businesses and financial institutions (C corporations, S corporations, estates, LLC’s and trusts) which make gifts to qualified endowments may qualify for a state income tax credit which amounts to 40% of the value of the gift, up to a maximum credit of $10,000 per year. Any unused credit may be carried forward for up to three taxable years.

Planned gifts by individuals qualify for an income tax credit of 40% for gifts up to $10,000 per person, $20,000 for a married couple with any excess unused credit to carry forward for three years. An individual may receive a 40 percent tax credit for contributions of $5,000 or more (lump sum or aggregate in one year) to a qualified North Dakota endowment. If a donor is in a 28 percent federal tax bracket, the tax benefit may look like this:

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North Dakota Charitable Match Legislation

NDCC 15-10 is a catalyst for private charitable giving to the University of North Dakota Foundation, furthering UND’s educational mission of creating an Exceptional UND. Through Dec. 31st, 2014, the State of North Dakota will match $1 for every $2 raised by the Foundation on gifts over $50,000 to endowments. For Example, an endowment of $50,000 could grow to $75,000 through this legislation. Matched funds are limited, so act quickly.

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For additional information on how to best structure your investment to benefit the College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines, please contact:
Andrew Bjerke
Director of Development
701.777.1428
701.610.1112
andrewb@undfoundation.org
Founder’s Breakfast

Cheryl Gunvalson, a clinical instructor at the UND College of Nursing and Professional Disciplines, recently spoke at the Founders Breakfast at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Center at the University of Minnesota along with her son, Jacob.

The event focused on research support and the progress that has been made on muscular dystrophy in the past ten years.

Prior to 2001, muscular dystrophy research was not well funded. Thanks to the help of the late Senator Paul Wellstone efforts, the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education (MDCare) act was authorized in 2001. The act established the Muscular Dystrophy Center and since then much research has been performed regarding muscular dystrophy and potential cures for the disease.

Jacob Gunvalson, 22, is a student studying social work while battling Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Senator Wellstone took an interest in Jacob that inspired him to author legislation for muscular dystrophy. Wellstone quoted Jacob on the senate floor saying, “My only wish in the world is a cure for muscular dystrophy.”

After Jacob was diagnosed, Cheryl became an activist for the care and treatment of individuals with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Cheryl contacted Minnesota Congressional delegation and traveled many times to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the MDCare Act. Since then, Cheryl has encouraged muscular dystrophy research at National Institute of Health (NIH) and helped review muscular dystrophy proposals with NIH.

At the event, Cheryl thanked the researchers, talked about new breakthroughs in muscular dystrophy research, and shared her personal experiences she and her family have shared battling Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Current research has shown ways to improve muscle function and various new therapies for muscular dystrophy have been suggested. Joseph Metzge from the University of Minnesota Medical School Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology developed a therapy that protects degenerated muscles in the heart caused by muscular dystrophy. Metzge hopes to begin research on humans soon.

Information was gathered from the Tri County Canary article published October 23, 2013 titled, “Celebrating ten years of Research Support at the Wellstone Center” and the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Center Founders Breakfast pamphlet.
Would you like to reconnect with other alumni? Do you want to contribute to the Department, but are unsure how? Are there events or stories you would like to see included in the Spring & Fall Newsletters? Then contact us! We are always happy to hear from our alumni and want to highlight your professional developments as much as possible!

Department of Nursing
Nursing Building, Room 363
430 Oxford St. STOP 9025
Grand Forks, ND 58202
Phone #: (701) 777-2539
Fax #: (701) 777-3268

Our Director of Development is often on the move across the nation reconnecting with Alumni from our College. Andrew Bjerke remains committed to serving our College and Alumni in any and all capacities. If you would like to speak with Mr. Bjerke about alumni events, donations to the college, or meeting with him when he is in your area, you can contact him at:

UND Alumni Association and
UND Foundation
3501 University Ave. Stop 8157
Grand Forks, ND 58202-8157
Phone #: (701) 777-1428
(800) 543-8764
Fax #: (701) 777-2416