Fall 2008

RAIN
RHYTHMS
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Graduates

From top left are the Fall 2008 graduates Stacey Davis, Wendy Blair-Melton, Ashley Albertson, Ismelda Lucio, Johnette Gillis, & Tara Drapeaux. Pictured bottom from left are Leslie Tincher & Jamie Kopperdahl.

After three and one-half years at UND, CON Dean Chandice Covington (left) resigned her position at UND as of December, 2008, to pursue research as the Florence Thelma Hall Endowed Chair for Nursing Excellence in Women’s Health with the Laura Bush Women’s Health Institute at Texas Tech University Health Center School of Nursing in Lubbock, Texas. We thank Dean Covington for her continuous and strong support of RAIN and wish her the very best in her new endeavor.

Dr. Helen Melland (right), Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, will serve as Interim Dean during the search process for a new CON dean.

Inside This Issue:
Graduates***Alumni Reunion***Where Are They Now?***WIND Orientation***EARTH Advisory Board Meeting***Sigma Theta Tau International***Recruitment & Travel***RAIN Students at Work
Closing A Chapter: We Honor Our Graduates December 17, 2008

Rain appreciated UND's new first family who participated in the festivities.

President Robert Kelley (far right) and first lady, Marcia Kelley (center), joined us at the Honoring. Also pictured above (from left) are Deb Wilson, Dean Chandice Covington, and Doreen Yellowbird, who gave the opening prayer (second from the right).

Fall 2008 graduates: Leslie Tincher, Johnette Gillis, Stacey Davis, Tara Drapeaux, Ashley Albertson, Ismelda Lucio, & Wendy Blair-Melton (Jamie Kopperdahl not pictured)
Several RAIN pre-nursing and nursing students (pictured above) attended the WIND/RAIN “No Excuses” Orientation at UND, August 6 to 14, 2008. The RAIN staff provided sessions on CON and UND requirements and expectations, math and science overviews, writing workshops, and practical applications that pertain to nursing. Not only did the students tour UND and the Grand Forks area, but they also heard presentations on Board of Nursing regulations, professionalism, test taking skills, campus safety, relaxation techniques, and mental health, and were able to spend some time in the CON’s Learning Resource Center, experiencing the simulation lab. Allen Demaray of Fort Berthold provided the morning prayers and conducted talking circles in the evening. The Orientation was funded by HRSA and IHS.

New Admits to CON Nursing Program:

RAIN students Challsey Lawrence (left) and Chenoa Peterson were admitted to the UND’s College of Nursing, starting Spring 2009.
Glenda Good Bird, Hidatsa Mandan, has the distinction of being the second American Indian to graduate (Fall, 1977) with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from UND’s CON. While she was working as an RN in Dickinson, ND, Glenda decided she wanted to join the Air Force so she enrolled at UND, graduated in less than three years, joined the army and then the Commission Corp, where she spent 18 years. At the RAIN Alumni Reunion in October, 2008, Glenda told us: “If I hadn’t come to UND, I wouldn’t have accomplished what I did. Life is short. If you want to do something, go do it. Because you can.”

Glenda has been employed as a nurse in a variety of health care settings, from a single physician clinic to large medical centers, giving her the opportunity to live in a number of states and enjoy traveling. Currently, Glenda works part time at the New Town Health Center at Fort Berthold.

Deb Wilson, Johnette Gillis (pictured on right) and Charity Clukey (left) attended the NANAINA Conference in Branson, MO, the last week of October, 2008. Charity said it was “an informative and unique experience to be able to meet native American nurses from all over the country.” The nurses were from a diversity of healthcare facilities, from small reservation IHS clinics to urban center hospitals. The RAIN students had the opportunity to meet Audrey Koertyvelessy (center) of the Commission Corps, who was instrumental in establishing the IHS Section 112 nursing programs in the early 1990s.

The EARTH (Educational Advocates Recruiting to Healthcare) Advisory Board met at UND’s College of Nursing on October 16, 2008. Held in the new Northern Plains Behavior Research Building, those present heard the Dean’s report (RAIN Vision), updates on students, an overview of the No Excuses Orientation, grant reports, the latest on recruitment and travel, funding efforts, the RAIN survey report, and board members’ reports and priorities. Members also attended the Clinical Simulation Center Grand Opening in the CON building.
Mark your calendars—Coming soon: RAIN’s 20th Anniversary Celebration Reunion, October 2, 2009. A good time will be had by all. See you there!

On October 17, 2008, the RAIN program hosted a luncheon for the College of Nursing American Indian Reunion at the Ramada Inn and an open house at the new RAIN facility in the College of Nursing building. Eight American Indian College of Nursing graduates attended, along with around 40 CON faculty and the RAIN staff and their families. Allen Demaray provided flute music before the meal, and River’s Edge Drum provided celebration rhythms and an honor song after special presentations. The Invocation was delivered by Doreen Yellowbird. The alumni shared memorable moments from their years at UND in the RAIN program. All expressed gratitude for the support and friendship of Deb Wilson and the staff of RAIN. The event concluded with a traditional Round Dance, a social and kinship tradition.

Left to right are alumni Kristina (Davis) Smith (BSN, 05); Alona (Davis) Jarmin (BSN, 05); Ella Richards (BSN, 92); Mary Lynn Eaglestaff (BSN, MS, 96); Glenda Good Bird (BSN, 77); Gloria Belgarde (BSN, 98); Diana LaFontaine (BSN, 98); Crystal Peltier (BSN, 02; MS in progress).

Left to right are alumni Kristina (Davis) Smith (BSN, 05); Alona (Davis) Jarmin (BSN, 05); Ella Richards (BSN, 92); Mary Lynn Eaglestaff (BSN, MS, 96); Glenda Good Bird (BSN, 77); Gloria Belgarde (BSN, 98); Diana LaFontaine (BSN, 98); Crystal Peltier (BSN, 02; MS in progress).

Deb Wilson presented Alumni and Development Coordinator Becky Cournia with a gift in appreciation for all she has done for the RAIN program alumni fund.

Deb Wilson received a satin star quilt from the RAIN staff in honor of her 25+ years at UND, half of which has been as Coordinator of the RAIN program. Deb also received a crystal honor plaque from Mary Lynn Eaglestaff and the Aberdeen Area IHS nurses.

Former RAIN directors, Chris Burd and Lavonne Russell Hootman, and Dean Chandice Covington were given gifts of shawls sewn by Lizz and Doreen Yellowbird to honor them for their many contributions and ongoing support of the RAIN Program.

CON professor Glenda Lundseth and RAIN alumna Mary Lynn Eaglestaff.

CON faculty and alumna: Cec Volden (retired faculty), Helen Melland (Associate CON Dean), Alona Davis Jarmin, Kristina Davis Smith, Bette Olson (faculty), Marlys Escobar (staff).
Four RAIN Students Inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International

In November, 2008, Matthew Lorenz, Jennifer Good, Kelly McCloud (all Turtle Mountain Chippewa) and Brenda Wolf (Leech Lake Ojibway) were inducted into UND’s Eta Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nurses. Based on inductees' contributions to the nursing profession and their GPA eligibility, this induction is an honor in recognition of academic excellence.

Matthew Lorenz with his sister Marissa at the ceremony and below in the new College of Nursing’s Clinical Simulation Center

Jennifer Good (right) with her sister Rebecca

Kelly McCloud

Brenda Wolf

Students at work in the new RAIN facility

Semester 3 students at work in the RAIN computer area

Vicky Hicks, Jodi Hajek, and Terilyn Poitra

Semester 4 students Laura LaRocque, Kelly McCloud, Robin Belgarde, and David Azure studying in the quiet room.

Semester 1 students Angel Dubois and Chenoa Gipp

FNP students Brenda Wolf and Crystal Peltier
UND’s College of Nursing Faculty & Staff Tour North Dakota Reservations with RAIN Staff

In July, 2008, RAIN’s director Deb Wilson, RAIN staff LoAnn Hirsch, Lizz Yellowbird, and Mary Monette, along with CON faculty Liz Tyree, Tracy Evanson, Cheryl Stauffeneck and staff Val Krogstad traveled throughout North Dakota, visiting the state’s four reservations and Indian Health facilities. Of the trip Val Krogstad said, “If you want the best guided tour of Indian Country in North Dakota, Deb Wilson and Lizz Yellowbird are the experts. The trip was educational, enlightening, informative, fun, and you get to know your co-workers even better than before. It was great to see so many of our graduates at work and so successful in their nursing careers.”

Gloria Davis (BSN, 97) and David Azure (RAIN nursing student) were working in the ER at the Belcourt IHS facility at Turtle Mountain.

While we were visiting the Fort Yates IHS hospital, Lizz Yellowbird (in red above) received some nursing care from Alyssa DeCoteau (MS, 03; BSN, 96), left, and Valerie EagleShield (BSN, 88).

CON’s Professor Tracy Evanson explains some UND nursing graduate programs to Jennifer Thomas (BSN, 96) who works at the Belcourt IHS.

Wyoming Indian High School College Day

Suse Mesteth (BSN, 97), Wind River Service Unit, WY

Brenda Hoverson (BSN, 97) White Earth Career Fair, MN

Lodge Grass High School students (above and below) at the Little Big Horn College Career Fair

Fall 2008 Recruitment Travel

September 22-24: National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Conference in Temecula, California


October 24-29: National Alaska Native/American Indian Nurses Association (NANAINA) in Branson, MO (see page 4)


December: In Minnesota—White Earth in Mahnomen. In North Dakota—United Tribes in Bismarck

Shannon LittleWolf (BSN, 02), Crow IHS Hospital

Ian Greybull, right, (BSN, 01; Current FNP student)