INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

GRADUATES 1
HONOR CEREMONIES 2-3
PINNING CEREMONIES 4
RAIN STAFF 5
AMERICAN INDIAN ALUMNI SEMINAR 6
WIND ORIENTATION 6
CAMPUS ACTIVITIES 6-7
HRSA FUNDING 8
RAIN RECRUITMENT & TRAVEL 8
CON/RAIN GRADUATES AT WORK 9
NURSE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 10
NEW FACILITIES 11

Fall 2007 Graduates
(Top, left to right) Beth Mittet, Gerald Brown, Jennifer LaRock Blevins
(Front) Laura Short, Joy LaFromboise, and Amanda Kalis
(not pictured is Shawna Baker-LeBeau)

Beth Mittet, Shawna Baker-LeBeau, Joy LaFromboise, and
Gerald Brown

Deb Wilson and family, along with the RAIN staff, celebrated Deb’s
25th year of service to UND at the University’s annual Founder’s Day
Banquet. Pictured below is the plaque Deb received in honor of her
outstanding service.

Spring 2008 Graduates

Michelle Crosby

Danielle Berg
RAIN Honor Ceremony: December 2007

Joy Latromboise Family

Laura Short Family

What would an honor ceremony be without the drum?

December 2007 graduates with honor robes: Laura Short, Joy LaFromboise, Amanda Kalis, Jennifer LaRock Blevins, Gerald Brown, and Beth Mittet

Amanda Kalis Family with CON Dean Chandice Covington

Jennifer LaRock Blevins at the traditional meal with her husband

RAIN RHYTHMS 2
Dr. and Mrs. Rory Trottier and Nadine Trottier (right)

For information on UND’s College of Nursing and the RAIN Program, go to www.nursing.und.edu/rain/ OR call 701-777-3224
Since its inception in 1990, the RAIN Program has provided support for and graduated 129 nurses at the baccalaureate level BSN degree. Twenty-nine BSN graduates have gone on to complete a Master’s degree and 20% of Master’s graduates have pursued a PhD. UND currently has its first three American Indian nursing students enrolled in its PhD program.
In October, 2006, LoAnn Hirsch joined the RAIN staff as the administrative secretary. For 17 years, she worked as the administrative secretary for Archeology Research in UND’s Anthropology Department.

Pictured here with Dean Chandice Covington (left) is Marlene Buchner, nurse mentor for the RAIN program for seven years. Marlene retired from the program in October 2007 to pursue other interests.

Barb Anderson, RAIN’s new assistant coordinator, joined the RAIN staff in August, 2007. Prior to RAIN, she worked for the Indians Into Medicine Program (INMED) at UND for 22 years.

Mentoring and tutoring are essential components of the RAIN program and contribute to the retention of students and to their successful completion of the UND College of Nursing requirements.

Jessica Lynnes, student office assistant, started working for the RAIN program in November, 2006.

Heather Baerwald, mathematics and statistics tutor, graduated in May, 2008, with a B.S. in Economics and is leaving to pursue her career.

The mentors are available to students full-time, Monday to Friday, for academic tutoring and support. They are (from left to right) Amy Fiala (nurse mentor), Neha Patel (science mentor), Jackie Davis (writing mentor), Mary Black (nurse mentor) & Mary Monette (writing mentor).
In the RAIN sponsored American Indian Nursing Alumni Seminar, four College of Nursing graduates returned to campus in April to talk with students and faculty about their experiences. In a stimulating and enlightening discussion, they talked about why they went into nursing and about the challenges and rewards they have encountered in their profession. Misty Wilkie-Condiff, a Turtle Mountain enrollee, is currently finishing her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. Anthony Agard, a Standing Rock enrollee, is Director of Nursing for the Standing Rock IHS Hospital. Mary Lynn Eaglestaff, a Fort Berthold enrollee, is a nurse consultant for the Aberdeen Area IHS office, and Madonna Azure, a Fort Berthold enrollee, is a retired nurse from the PHS Commissioned Corp.

Pictured (top right, left to right) are Misty Wilkie-Condiff, Mary Lynn Eaglestaff, Madonna Azure, Anthony Agard, and Doreen Yellowbird, panel moderator.

Pictured above at the WIND (Working for Indian Nurse Development) “No Excuses” Orientation, August 8 to 16, 2007, are (from left) Jodi Hajicek, Vicki Hicks, Loretta Jeanotte-Leith, Robin Belgarde, Terilyn Poitras, Sherie Zupan, Vonnie Bush, Tracy Charboneau, and Johnette Gillis. Loretta Jeanotte-Leith, a Turtle Mountain Chippewa currently living in MN, acted as a consultant, doing an opening prayer ceremony each morning of the orientation and conducting the “Talking Circle” each evening. The pre-nursing and nursing students who attended the workshop at UND’s College of Nursing toured the campus and Grand Forks, learned the requirements of RAIN, CON, and UND, and attended work sessions on nursing, mathematics, anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and writing.
In November, 2007, RAIN students Ismelda Lucio (right), Fort Berthold, and Wendy Blair Melton, Fort Peck, were inducted into UND’s Eta Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing.

Started in 1922, STTI is named for the words, Storge, Tharsos, and Time, which mean “love,” “courage,” and “honor.” The founders believed these to be the enduring values that are at the heart of the nursing profession. In order to be selected for induction, students must meet a GPA eligibility and are nominated by peers who consider the inductees’ contributions to the nursing profession.

(from www.und.edu/org/sttnursing)
Thanks to the funding from a HRSA grant renewed during the summer of 2007 for the next three years, RAIN has expanded the recruitment area and has been able to include nursing students (allowing them to network with American Indian nurse leaders) and CON faculty on some of the trips. To recruit students, Deb Wilson and the RAIN staff spend many hours on the road, traveling to reservations (more than 30), schools, and IHS facilities in ND, SD, MT, MN, WY, and NE.

The RAIN staff received the following email from Liz Tyree after a RAIN recruitment trip: “Bette Olson, Bette Ide, Marlys Escobar and I joined Liz Yellow Bird and Deb Wilson on a 1600 mile recruiting tour of SD June 2 – 6. Deb shepherded us well by driving the whole distance, through torrential rain a good part of the time. The trip was very educational for us. I can’t say enough about the nurses and individuals we met who want to enter nursing. Conditions are difficult in some of the working environments, with understaffing and high demand. The nurses show a great commitment and courage in carrying on. It is a tribute to them that other workers around them want to enter nursing. We met an ER clerk and a compliance manager, among others, who are determined to enter nursing. Most of the staff we encountered were highly spirited in their compliments of UND and the Indian educational support programs here. At Rapid City we met an RN who will celebrate her 60th anniversary of graduating from her nursing program at Incarnate Word in San Antonio, TX. Sixty years and still working! The offer is still open for faculty to join RAIN on trips. Everyone should seriously consider doing so. It is an eye opener and an important effort.” (June 9, 2008)
CON/RAIN Graduates at Work in Indian Country

It is absolute pride and joy when I am out traveling in Indian Country and I get to see our graduates at work caring for our people.

--Deb Wilson

Alumni nurses at Fort Berthold in New Town: Nicki Baker (BSN, 02), Debbie Jeanote (BSN, 94) & Holly Taft (BSN, 88)

At Standing Rock IHS in Fort Yates, ND, Angie Larocque (BSN, 07); Anthony Agard, (RN, BSN, 88), Director of Nursing; Valerie EagleShield (BSN, 88), Assistant Director of Nursing

At IHS facility in Belcourt, ND, Michelle Loing (BSN, 95)

Karey Lyon-Good, (MS, FNP, 02)) at White Earth Tribal Health Programs

Alumni nurses at Belcourt: Seated is Jessica Malaterre (BSN, 03) and, from left to right, are Nicki Lenoir (BSN, 03), Aleta Poltner (BSN, 02), and Shanon Marion (BSN, 01).

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS) SCHOLARSHIPS

The IHS Loan Repayment Program has been helpful in attracting professionals and retaining them. The IHS Scholarship Program contributes to the recruitment and retention effort by supporting the education of Indian health professionals. Its success is indicated in several ways: Since 1981, the number of federally employed Indian health professionals has increased by 272% and the proportion of the professional Indian staff has increased by 138%, while the total professional staff has grown by 61%. Many scholarship recipients have gone on to work in tribal and urban Indian health programs after completing their service obligations, thus increasing the overall positive impact of the program.
“New Directions in the New Frontier: Education, Evidence, and Empowerment” was the theme of the 2008 Nurse Leadership in Native Care (NLNC) Conference held May 12–15 in Anchorage, Alaska. Two RAIN students, Ashley Albertson and Wendy Blair-Melton, along with assistant RAIN program coordinator Barb Anderson and RAIN nurse mentor Amy Fiala, attended the conference, where they displayed two posters: “Creative Use of Low and High Fidelity Simulation to Augment American Indian Students’ Nursing Experience” and “Working for Indian Nurse Development (WIND): Creative Use of Nurse Mentors and Other Supports for American Indian Students.”

With these posters, they were able to discuss RAIN/WIND with other conference attendees, who included Sandra Haldane, Indian Health Services director, UND’s College of Nursing Dean Chandice Covington, and many others in the nursing field, including CON RAIN alumni Mary Lynn Eaglestaff and Anthony Agard. The keynote speakers included Phyllis Beck Kritek, RN, PhD, FAAN, Marita Tifler, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Greg Crow, EdD, RN.

In addition to the educational and motivational lectures, the RAIN students and staff had the opportunity to tour the Alaska Native Medical Center, often referred to as “the museum that houses a hospital,” evident by the enormous displays of art and heritage that were scattered on every floor of this “Magnet” status Medical Center.

The conference ended with the Awards Banquet, held at the Alaska Heritage Center, that included entertainment by the Lepquinn Gumgit Gagoadim (Our Own Dance in Our Hearts) Tsimshian Dancers.
New Facilities

In early January, the RAIN staff moved into expanded, remodeled offices. They are now enjoying a much larger space with new furniture, desks, carpet, and paint. The student computer count in the lab increased from six computers to twenty, and the new space includes a Quiet Room, where students can study, work on computers, or just take a time out from their hard work.

Upcoming Events

WIND/RAIN’s “No Excuses” Orientation will be held August 6-14.

The RAIN Alumni Reunion will be held October 17.

New Admits to Nursing Program:

The following pre-nursing RAIN students were admitted to UND’s College of Nursing starting Fall 2007: Shannon Behnkie, Tracy Charboneau, Jennifer Good, Jodi Hajicek, Matthew Lorenz, Terilyn Poltra and Lacey Tramley.

Michelle Peltier was admitted to the College of Nursing starting Spring 2008.
RAIN RHYTHMS

Quentin N. Burdick Indians into Nursing
RAIN Program

Phone: 701.777.3224; Fax: 701.777.4558
www.nursing.und.edu/rain/

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