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The School of Nursing envisions a world where nurses lead collaborative efforts to attain optimal health for all people.

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The School of Nursing hosted the 2016 Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science Conference, which included a panel with Minnesota State Rep. Erin Murphy, American Nurses Association President Pamela Cipriano and American Association of Colleges of Nursing CEO Deborah Trautman discussing advice for integrating nursing data into health policy with Dean Connie White Delaney.
Lifelines in rural communities

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on recent conversations with our students, alumni, clinical partners, staff, faculty and other colleagues, I hear a universal longing for more time for deeper relationships. As members of the most trusted profession in the country, nurses continuously seek to expand that trust through patient relationships.

At a time when health systems continue to grow larger and more fragmented, the authentic patient/provider relationship remains strong in small rural communities. Patient-centered care is a hallmark of rural health care, where providers are able to listen well, understand patient goals, family and community contexts, and work together to optimize health and well-being.

The greatest challenge for rural health today is access. Provider shortages, an aging population, geographic barriers and lower patient volumes all converge to create well-documented health disparities.

In this issue of Minnesota Nursing, we share three poignant examples of how our school is building the health care capacity of rural providers in 2016, while honoring patient/provider relationships.

A new $3.3 million National Institutes of Health grant is making possible the design, implementation and study of a prevention program for childhood obesity in a rural community that has among the highest obesity rates in the nation.

In northern Minnesota, our Doctor of Nursing Practice students will be learning interprofessionally in a network of clinics to gain a better understanding of how to serve the pressing needs for mental health care in remote communities.

Our cover story, Pain on the Prairie, describes an initiative being led by Professor Diane Treat-Jacobson, PhD, RN, FAAN, a nation-leading researcher on peripheral artery disease. Her team of clinicians and investigators is partnering with rural communities to improve the diagnosis and treatment of this often undiagnosed and debilitating disease.

In sparsely populated areas, nurses often serve as a lifeline to people in need of information and care. Nurse-midwives support expectant mothers through pregnancy and birth, public health nurses address community health crises, and gerontological nurse practitioners care for people with multiple complex conditions so they can stay safely in their homes and communities.

In Minnesota, nurse anesthetists provide well over 60 percent of all anesthesia care outside of our largest metropolitan center. Our tri-mission of research, education and service is improving health in large and small ways in rural areas around the world.

Connie White Delaney
Professor and Dean
Without a cure, people with Parkinson’s disease can only treat their symptoms. A School of Nursing researcher is investigating if yoga can provide relief and help people manage their disease, which is a neurodegenerative condition that causes tremors and other uncontrolled movements.

As a nurse, Assistant Professor Corjena Cheung, PhD, RN, FGSA, is constantly exploring options she can give patients that don’t always involve medication. She naturally turns to integrative therapies, like yoga, as one of those options. “Growing up in Hong Kong, I was familiar with both Western and Chinese medicine and experienced how the dual system worked,” said Cheung. “I’m interested in how this ancient philosophy can be used for treatment.”

Cheung knows that without research it’s hard for health care providers to recommend the use of integrative therapies. “We need to have the research to provide the science foundation,” said Cheung.

Previously she examined using yoga to manage knee osteoarthritis symptoms in older adults. Her research showed yoga significantly improved joint pain, stiffness and the quality of life of those with osteoarthritis while reducing their sleep disturbance.

“Then I thought, if it worked on osteoarthritis, a musculoskeletal condition, perhaps it could help with a neurodegenerative condition like Parkinson’s,” said Cheung.

Her current feasibility study is explaining the effect of a 12-week Hatha yoga program on people with Parkinson’s disease. She suspects that, much like it did for people with osteoarthritis, yoga will improve motor function and psychological well-being of people with Parkinson’s disease. She is most interested in learning whether those participating in the yoga program will have a decrease in oxidative stress. Oxidative stress is toxic to the body and has been shown to play a role in the progression of Parkinson’s disease. Typically, the body can protect against oxidative stress through the production of antioxidants. However, people with Parkinson’s disease have less ability to produce antioxidants.

Can yoga help patients manage Parkinson’s disease?
A biomechanical assessment was conducted on participants before and after the 12-week yoga program.

by Brett Stursa

Sue Henly, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor emerita and editor of Nursing Research, understands the saying in the academic world that if your research isn’t published it’s like it was never conducted. “It’s so true. If your research ends up in a file cabinet and nobody knows about it, the ideas don’t get out there and they can’t be used,” said Henly. “In our field it means it can’t be used to inform care.”

As editor of Nursing Research, Henly’s career is dedicated to ensuring research is being disseminated to other nurse scientists, scientists in related fields and practicing nurses. “What matters the most is that we are publishing content that is pushing the envelope in the field,” said Henly.

Nursing Research, first published in 1952, was the first journal with a dedicated mission to publish original nursing research. All of the early seminal papers in nursing research were published in Nursing Research. Its editorial office is now hosted at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing.

Henly reads all 300 submissions the journal receives annually and leads the process of selecting 50-60 papers to publish. “I ask myself is it an important problem? Does it matter? Is it a new idea? Will it make a contribution? Is it within the domain of nursing? All of that matters,” said Henly.

The most stressful issues as editor, she said, pertain to maintaining the integrity of the scientific record. Duplicate or overlapping publication issues can be difficult to investigate, while other issues, like plagiarism, are easier. "The work that we do is used as the basis for providing care to people and if there is something that is really lacking in the work it can compromise life or health," said Henly.

While metrics like the impact factor, which measures the number of article citations from a journal, are notable, Henly is more concerned about the quality of the papers being published. “We’re pushing new areas of science and it’s going to take time for people to be able to take advantage of the ideas as they think about their own research,” said Henly.

Faculty serving as editors, on editorial boards

Professor Jayne Fulkerson, PhD, is an associate editor of the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity.

Professor Ann Garwick, PhD, RN, LMT, LP, FAAN, is on the editorial board of the Journal of Family Nursing.

Professor Joe Gaugler, PhD, is editor of the Journal of Applied Gerontology, which is the official journal of the Southern Gerontological Society.

Professor Mary Jo Kreitzar, PhD, RN, FAAN, is a co-editor-in-chief of Global Advances in Health and Medicine.

Associate Professor Wendy Looman, PhD, APRN, CPNP, is on the editorial board of the Journal of Family Nursing.

Associate Professor Carolyn Porto, PhD, MPH, RN, is on the editorial board of the Journal of Forensic Nursing.

Clinical Associate Professor Teddie Potter, PhD, RN, FAAN, is executive editor of Interdisciplinary Journal of Partnership Studies.

Clinical Assistant Professor Samantha Sommerness, DNP, RN, CNM, is on the editorial board of the Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Nursing.

Associate Professor Bonnie Westra, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI, is an associate editor of Applied Clinical Informatics.
Expectant parents are increasingly turning to the internet and apps on their phones to navigate the transition to parenthood. While there are many options for parents expecting healthy babies, currently there are no apps designed specifically for parents who also need to prepare to care for their medically complex babies.

Each year, about 40,000 infants are born with heart defects in the United States and about 25 percent of the conditions are significant enough to be diagnosed as critical congenital heart disease requiring surgery and ongoing management. Parents in these situations often minimize their own needs, focusing instead on the fetal diagnosis and the uncertainties related to their infant’s health. Yet, the distress they feel can develop into chronic conditions, like depression or anxiety, that can potentially worsen the pregnancy and infant outcomes as well as threaten family functioning.

Assistant Professor Anne Chevalier McKechnie, PhD, RN, IBCLC, is working to give those parents a new tool to help them address their psychological distress and support them as they face changing demands as caregivers. “This is a population that is transitioning to parenting in a very different context than we have traditionally thought,” said McKechnie. “Preparing Heart and Mind will support these at-risk families during a vulnerable time, beginning with helping expectant parents feel more confident and competent as they transition to parenthood—a transition that can involve a range of feelings, require difficult conversations and crucial decision-making.”

The app focuses on the needs of expectant parents during the prenatal time, helping them identify needs and access resources for effectively managing frequently changing circumstances. After developing the preliminary prototype, the app will be evaluated with feedback from users at three hospitals. “We’re bringing the app to health care providers and expectant parents who recently went through the experience to learn from their feedback,” said McKechnie.

McKechnie received a $50,000 seed grant for conceptual development from MN REACH, a joint effort between the University of Minnesota and the National Institutes for Health to fund health care projects with commercial potential. McKechnie is exploring additional funding to develop a full prototype. She is developing the app with co-investigators Karen Pridham, PhD, RN, from the University Wisconsin-Madison who specializes in parenting development with medically at-risk infants; Lana Yarosh, a human computer interaction researcher at the University of Minnesota; and Tom Clancy, associate dean for faculty practice, partnerships and professional development at the School of Nursing, who will assist in guiding the research through the commercial process.

There isn’t an app for that

Investigator works to create app for parents expecting infants with heart disease
Program targets child obesity in rural Minnesota

by Barb Schlaefer

Children in rural communities are particularly at risk for obesity due to poor access to healthy foods, poverty, limited physical activity and more screen time. That’s why Jayne Fulkerson, PhD, professor and lead investigator, is partnering with a major health system and a non-profit research organization on an initiative to study the most effective means for preventing children and their families from gaining excess weight. Her team will offer and assess a new family-based program to boost healthy eating habits in a rural farming region, New Ulm, Minnesota. Partners in this effort are Allina Health and the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation.

The program builds on Fulkerson’s body of research and will target 7 to 10-year-old children and their families. “If families are having trouble finding time to have meals together, we want to help them identify strategies to increase the number of family meals per week,” Fulkerson said. “If they are already eating family meals, we want to help them focus on making the meals healthy.”

Project lead: Professor Jayne Fulkerson, PhD
Funding: $3.3 million from the National Institutes of Health

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Carrie Neerland, MS, APRN, CNM, sees being a nurse-midwife as a balance of art and science. The art involves listening to patients, staying present and knowing when or when not to intervene. The science of midwifery is equally important. Supporting a physiologic birth, which is staying true to the hormonal physiologic and biologic processes of birth, is at the heart of midwifery.

“Research provides the opportunity to examine care practices in pregnancy and childbirth and learn how we can better support the normal physiology of pregnancy and birth,” said Neerland, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the School of Nursing. As a practicing nurse-midwife, Neerland decided to return to school and earn a PhD degree to deepen that clinical knowledge. “I realized that there were many childbirth care practices and interventions that were performed either out of the interest of the provider or because of the belief that “it is the way we have always done things,” said Neerland.

Now a PhD candidate, Neerland is developing and testing an instrument to measure women’s prenatal confidence for physiologic birth, which is when labor starts and progresses on its own, ending in a vaginal birth without an epidural or other interventions. Current evidence suggests that physiologic birth offers significant benefits, like decreased need for surgical intervention, easier transition for the newborn, enhanced bonding and lactation, and decreased intensive care admissions. Along with completing an in-depth analysis of the concept of confidence and how it relates to childbirth, she conducted a data analysis of interviews with women who experienced physiologic birth to understand how they developed confidence. She used that information to develop a preliminary survey, which was reviewed by midwives, OBs, family medicine physicians and women who birthed physiologically. After she recruits women to take survey, she will conduct additional interviews to determine how good the survey is at measuring confidence for physiologic birth.

Neerland has garnered the support of various organizations for her PhD work, including the March of Dimes, American College of Nurse-Midwives and the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare. After earning a PhD degree, Neerland hopes to become a professor at a research-driven school of nursing. “I hope to educate the next generation of health care practitioners to provide ethical, respectful and evidence-informed care,” said Neerland.

“Research provides the opportunity to examine care practices in pregnancy and childbirth and learn how we can better support the normal physiology of pregnancy and birth.”

– Carrie Neerland, PhD Candidate
Students gain experience in mental health care at rural clinics

by Barb Schlaefer

A $2.1 million award from the Health Resources and Services Administration will enable the School of Nursing to expand its educational and clinical experiences for Doctor of Nursing Practice students to prepare them to provide mental health care to underserved populations in rural and urban communities.

The project involves creating team-based models of care for people with mental illness that unites diverse health care professionals around optimizing outcomes for each patient.

Partners in this endeavor are Touchstone Mental Health in Minneapolis, the Wilder Foundation in St. Paul and Northern Pines Mental Health Center, which has facilities in six rural communities in northern Minnesota.

Students, preceptors and faculty in the school’s psychiatric mental health and family nurse practitioner DNP specialties will bring their expertise to and family nurse practitioner DNP the school’s psychiatric mental health practice students to prepare them for Doctor of Nursing Practice plans to expand its educational and clinical experiences for Doctor of Nursing Practice students to prepare them for the School of Nursing’s clinical placements.

Students, preceptors and faculty in the school’s psychiatric mental health and family nurse practitioner DNP specialties will bring their expertise to underserved populations in rural and urban communities.

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Joyce Meyer noticed she was slowing down.

Just as a cramping pain in her calf began interfering with her ability to walk longer distances last year, Meyer noticed an ad in the local newspaper announcing a free screening event for peripheral artery disease. Today she is grateful she took the time to go to the screening and is back to her active routine.

At 78, Meyer lives on the 200-acre farm where she grew up and later raised four children with her husband. She tends a vegetable garden, mows the lawn, keeps a freezer stocked with baked goods, checks on neighbors in need and is raising a rambunctious puppy.

“I enjoy being self-sufficient and independent. I like to hassle people,” she said with a grin. “I don’t baby myself. I never have.”

The screening event Meyer attended was one of several held in west central Minnesota as part of an outreach program to improve public awareness, diagnosis and treatment of peripheral artery disease. PAD causes blockages in the arteries that feed the legs, depriving leg muscles of oxygen. This blockage can cause pain that often limits a person’s mobility.

“The pain is a hard ache when I walk,” says Meyer. “If I stop for a few seconds and turn around a little bit, it lets up.”

PAD affects 20 percent of adults over 70 yet it is often undiagnosed, misdiagnosed and undertreated, especially in underserved and rural areas. If untreated, PAD can lead to debilitating pain, foot ulcers, cardiovascular disease, amputation, heart attack and stroke.

Launched in 2015, the PAD Prairie Initiative is led by a team of clinicians and researchers at the School of Nursing working in partnership with providers in rural west central Minnesota. The team seeks to raise public awareness of the signs and symptoms of the disease, facilitate earlier diagnosis and institute treatment plans that address the problem earlier, before it becomes more serious.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS ESSENTIAL

“Patients and clinicians alike often mistake the leg pain for arthritis, lower back problems, hip and knee issues or just the aches and pains of aging,” said Diane Treat-Jacobson, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor and project lead who is a pioneering researcher in non-invasive treatments for peripheral artery disease. “Improving assessment and diagnosis of PAD is the first and most essential step to improving care and outcomes for patients.”

In the first year of the project, Treat-Jacobson and her team established partnerships with hospitals, clinics and rehabilitation facilities in four communities. More than 50 providers have been trained to recognize PAD symptoms and test for it when indicated.

Screening for PAD is typically performed by comparing the blood pressure in the arms with the blood pressure in the ankles, using a hand-held doppler device. This measure is called the ankle brachial index, or ABI. Three public screening events have tested hundreds of people like Meyer for PAD. These events have given local clinicians the chance to practice their diagnostic skills alongside the University of Minnesota team.

Bringing this expertise to the front lines of primary care is a key goal of the project, according to Treat-Jacobson. “The patient who eventually finds their way to a cardiac or vascular specialist will be diagnosed and treated appropriately,” she said. “But that is a small percentage of PAD sufferers, especially in rural areas. It’s better for the patient and the health care system to catch the disease early, before quality of life is impacted and before expensive procedures are needed.”

In an effort to build the capacity of primary care providers to diagnose and...
treat PAD, the initiative provides its rural partners with the latest diagnostic equipment and funds exercise rehabilitation for people diagnosed with PAD in existing local rehabilitation centers and fitness facilities.

“We are benefiting from community awareness and training for nurses,” said Joan Lunzer, MD, with Stevens Community Medical Center. “As a physician I am more likely to think about PAD when patients at risk tell me they can’t and don’t exercise. Then I delve into the questions about leg pain with exertion.”

THE RURAL FACTOR
Project coordinator Rebecca Brown says the team is learning a lot from its partners about how best to improve diagnosis and treatment of PAD in rural communities. “We have excellent champions in each town who know their patients, their communities and their systems,” she said. “So much of it is about relationships. We are learning to be flexible, listen well and be physically present in the community as much as possible.”

The ability to refer patients to exercise therapy and rehabilitation close to home is a major plus for both patient and physician in rural Minnesota. “We are isolated from specialists by distance and by patient resistance to travel to ‘the big city,’” said Lunzer. “As a result, we take care of a lot of medical problems that might be referred to a specialist if the patient was living in a city. The PAD initiative is equipping us to make these interventions.”

ENLIGHTENED OUTREACH
Early on, the project team identified problems with inconsistent insurance reimbursement for PAD diagnoses and treatment, and an electronic health records system that does not allow clinicians to easily order a PAD diagnostic test. While addressing these barriers locally, Treat-Jacobson is also looking at ways to collaborate with her national colleagues to establish consistent Medicare reimbursement for PAD diagnosis and exercise intervention treatment.

“As a researcher who has worked for decades on testing interventions in highly controlled environments, it’s incredibly enlightening and humbling to see the barriers to evidence-based practice in rural Minnesota,” said Treat-Jacobson. “We are methodically working through the snarls to create a model that can work in many communities.”

Joyce Meyer says the health monitoring and coaching she has received so far enabled her to walk progressively longer distances pain free. She dons a wide-brimmed hat, walking shoes and a walking stick and takes about a half-mile walk around her property three or four times each week. She tracks her steps throughout the day with a wearable fitness monitor she received from the program. “It motivates me,” she said. “I look to see how many steps I have done and if it isn’t enough, I’m up doing more.”

The three-year PAD Prairie Initiative is funded by a $1.6 million grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

PAD Prairie Initiative partners
• Lake Region Healthcare, Fergus Falls
• Otter Tail County Public Health, Fergus Falls
• Stevens Community Medical Center, Morris
• Prairie Ridge Hospital and Health Services, Elbow Lake
• Glacial Ridge Health System, Glenwood

“In improving assessment and diagnosis of PAD is the first and most essential step to improving care and outcomes for patients.”
– Diane Treat-Jacobson, PhD, RN, FAAN

Professor Diane Treat-Jacobson instructs a nursing student from Minnesota State Community & Technical College how to screen for PAD as Project Coordinator Rebecca Brown educates the patient about the test.
Building healthy communities

The Next System Project is a national movement aimed at thinking boldly about what is required to deal with the systemic challenges the United States faces now and in coming decades. Working with a broad group of researchers, theorists and activists, the Next System initiative launched national debates and dialogues on the nature of “the next system” using the best research and strategic thinking, on the one hand, and community engagement on the other hand. The Katherine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership hosted a Next System Project teach-in April 27, 2016, in partnership with the Minnesota Next System Project. Dialogues continued in the months of June, August and September.

The dialogues link the University of Minnesota Grand Challenges with Next System aspirations. Specifically, participants are invited to contribute ideas about reframing and defining health and what the essential elements of a healthy community are likely to be in the future. The dialogues advance the academic community conversation about the Grand Challenges of advancing health through tailored solutions, fostering just and equitable communities, assuring clean water and sustainable ecosystems, feeding the world sustainably and enhancing capacities for a changing world.

Check out the Minnesota Next System Project Facebook page @MinnesotaNextSystemProject. People connect monthly and are forming a community of practice, learning and research related to aspirations, actions and next practices that support the development of healthy communities. Join us as we create the next practices for building healthy communities of the future.

New center focuses on collaboration

The Center for Aging Science and Care Innovation combines two former school centers, the Center for Gerontological Nursing and the Minnesota Hartford Center for Gerontological Nursing Excellence. The new center’s vision is to empower all aging adults to optimize their health and well-being. The expanded mission focuses on improving the health and well-being of aging adults through nursing science, education, practice and collaboration. This mission will be accomplished by several goals:

1. Convening nursing and interprofessional faculty and community partners to advance science, education and practice related to the health and well-being of aging adults and their caregivers.
2. Leading clinical and community-based research to improve aging health, independence, and well-being of diverse aging adults and their caregivers.
3. Mentoring the current and future workforce of nursing scientists, educators and practitioners pursuing careers in aging.

Led by Director Jean Wyman, PhD, APRN, GNP-BC, FAAN, FGSA, professor, and Co-Director, Kristine Talley, PhD, APRN, GNP-BC, associate professor, this re-envisioned center is already engaged in research, education and practice projects led by center faculty in collaboration with other health disciplines and community partners. Examples include the Ready-Steady Wellness Intervention (Siobhan McMahon), the eNeighbor Program for caregivers to monitor a family member with dementia (Joseph Gaugler), the Minnesota Memory Care Center (Joseph Gaugler, Siobhan McMahon), the Memory Loss Exercise Specialist Certification program (Fang Yu), the PAD Prairie Initiative (Diane Treat-Jacobson) and Defeating Urinary Incontinence in Frail Older Women initiative (Kristine Talley). These projects demonstrate the center’s focus on collaborative efforts to empower aging adults.

Passing the baton

In 1990, I met Renee Sviing at a public health clinic where she worked as a pediatric nurse practitioner during her adolescent post-master’s fellowship at the University of Minnesota. Over the next five years while Sviing completed her PhD degree, we secured federal funding from the Maternal & Child Health Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support tuition and stipends for students and post-doctoral fellows in adolescent health. More than $3 million of support from these training grants helped 150+ adolescent-focused MS, DNP and PhD students and post-doctoral fellows complete their programs and move into leadership positions in health services, public health and academic settings.

In addition to federally-funded training programs, in collaborative efforts with Minnesota Departments of Health and Education, a youth-serving non-profit and other University partners, the Center for Adolescent Nursing has hosted 23 adolescent health summer institutions involving nearly 1,500 participants in a host of disciplines from all over the world. Our center’s initial aim—to improve the health of young people through access to health providers equipped to address the needs of adolescents—is ongoing and, in the decade to come, we hope our impact will continue to be far-reaching.

On Aug 31, 2016, I ended my 32-year career as faculty in the School of Nursing and Medical School’s Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health and began retirement. With great thanks and admiration for my adolescent health colleagues, I passed the baton to the new director of the Center for Adolescent Nursing, Professor Renee Sviing, PhD, RN, FSAHM, FAAN.

Creating sharable, comparable data

The center collaborates with community partners locally to internationally to transform nursing, health and health care. One way this is accomplished is through the Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science Conference, which was held June 1–3, 2016. Following opening remarks by Dean Connie White Delaney, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI, 11 work groups presented major milestones from the national action plan achieved during the year. They also provided their top three priorities for having one voice to support a national agenda for sharable and comparable nurse-sensitive data that is useful for implementation, quality reporting and research. National experts on two panels presented their insights for integrating nursing data into research, finance and health policy. Panelists included the Hon. Erin Murphy, deputy minority leader, Minnesota House of Representatives; Pamela F. Cipriano, president, American Nurses Association; Deborah E. Trautman, chief executive officer of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing; Norma M. Lang, professor and dean emerita of nursing, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing; Maryan Zinkle, program officer on the Research Infrastructure, Patient-Centered Outcome Research Institute (PCORI) and Dave Anderson, data engineer and fellow at UnitedHealth OptumLabs.

Examples of insights included:

- Nursing generates a massive amount of data that can add value to big data science, if it is standardized for aggregation and comparison.
- Big data can be used to shape health policy to improve health, support evolving models of care delivery, achieve better outcomes, decrease costs, lead innovation and build strategic partnerships.
- We need to make sure nursing is at the table in big data and big data analytics.
- There continue to be critical gaps in some nurse scientist education programs in areas of software programming, data modeling, data visualization and evaluation methods.

The 2017 Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science Conference is June 7–9, 2017, in Minneapolis. More information can be found at http://z.umn.edu/bigdata.
Two faculty receive CTSI grants

Two of the five University-community research teams receiving funding from the Clinical and Translational Science Institute were awarded to members of the Center for Child and Family Health Promotion Research. The CTSI’s Community Health Collaborative Grant program aims to stimulate high-impact research that ultimately leads to health improvements using academic/community partnerships. Assistant Professor Sarah Hoffman, a recent PhD graduate, and Associate Professor Barbara McMorris, PhD, both received funding.

Hoffman will lead Parenting Adolescent Refugees Post-settlement in Minnesota: A Pilot Intervention Targeting Karen Family Cohesion with community partner Alexis Walstad, co-executive director of the Karen Organization of Minnesota. They will conduct a community-based mixed methods pilot study to assess the feasibility and acceptability of engaging Karen refugee mothers and fathers (n=20-30) in a seven-week culturally-adapted Karen Family Cohesion intervention program on the Family Talk Time curriculum.

McMorris will lead Fostering ‘Healthy Habits’ for Youth Participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities Community-Based Monitoring Program with community partner Brian Hisong, director of Match Support. Their research will promote healthy habits to diverse children and mentees (n=300) participating in a community-based mentoring program. Participants will be offered a menu of activities focused on physical activity, nutrition and wellness over a 12-month period.

Lindeke’s legacy continues

Although Linda Lindeke, PhD, APRN, FAAN, officially retired from the University of Minnesota in May 2016, her impact continues. Since the center was founded in 1993, Lindeke has taught more than 235 pediatric graduate leaders with a specialty in children with special health care needs and engaged pediatric leaders in education, practice and policy at local, state and national levels.

Lindeke is an internationally and nationally known scholar in the area of advanced practice nursing and family-centered, coordinated health care for children. Her seminal, longitudinal clinical research on the growth and development of high-risk and low-birth weight infants resulted in practice guidelines being adopted by nurses in the U.S., Japan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Lindeke continues to effectively advocate for advanced practice nursing and child health through education, practice and policy. Her groundbreaking studies on barriers to advanced practice nurses have provided the evidence needed to change policies and improve systems of care delivery. Her compelling testimony, her consultations to credentialing organizations and policy makers, and her leadership on legislative initiatives had a significant impact on national policy development related to the credentialing and reimbursement of advanced practice nurses.

Nationally, Lindeke has shaped child health policy and health care reform through her leadership roles on advisory panels, the Institute of Medicine and national nursing organizations, including her presidency of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. The center continues to be inspired by Lindeke’s commitment, passion and contributions.

BRIEFLY

Graduate program ranked 12th in nation

The 2017 Best Graduate Schools rankings published by US News and World Report ranked the University of Minnesota School of Nursing 12th best in the nation among schools offering the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

INFORMATICS RANKED 2ND, MIDWIFERY 4TH

The school’s Doctor of Nursing Practice specialty in nursing informatics was ranked second in the nation by US News and World Report. The school’s nurse-midwifery specialty of the DNP program was ranked fourth in the nation by US News and World Report.

Professor co-authors book on care coordination

Professor Dan Posut, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN, co-wrote Clinical Reasoning and Care Coordination in Advanced Practice Nursing with RuthAnne Kuper PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, and Tamatha Arnsen DNP, PMHNP-BC, NP-C. It was published in April 2016.

MNRS comes to Minneapolis

The Midwest Nursing Research Society’s 2017 annual conference will be held in Minneapolis. The School of Nursing is the primary host school for the conference, which will be April 6-7, 2017.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Clinical Assistant Professor Jane Anderson, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, was appointed to be a national learning facilitator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.

Assistant Professor Corjena Cheung, PhD, RN, FGSA, received the Midwest Nursing Research Society Dissertation Research Grant award.

Professor Mary Chesney, PhD, APRN, CPNP, was inducted into the Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She also received the American Association of Nurse Practitioners State Award for Nurse Practitioner Excellence in Minnesota.

Associate Professor Cynthia Peden-McAlpine, PhD, ACNS-BC, was named a national accreditation evaluator by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Mpls.St.Paul Magazine named Clinical Assistant Professor Judy Pechacek, DNP, RN, CENP, the 2016 outstanding administrative leader, Associate Professor Cheryl Robertson, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, the 2016 outstanding nurse in public health/activism and Professor Diane Trout-Jacobson, PhD, RN, FAAN, the 2016 outstanding nurse researcher. Clinical Assistant Professor Mary Stoffers, DNP, RN, ACNS-BC, was named a finalist for the 2016 outstanding nurse educator.
AWARDS AND HONORS

Professor Jayne Fulkerson, PhD, was awarded the Best Randomized Controlled Trial article in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity in 2015.

Professor Mary Jo Kreitzer, PhD, RN, FAAN, was awarded the Minnesota Women’s Health Leadership Trust Health and Wellness Innovation Award.

Assistant Professor Siobhan McMahon, PhD, MPH, APRN, GNP-BC, received Midwest Nursing Research Society’s annual Hartford Foundation Award.

Karen Monsen’s abstract Social Determinants Documentation in Electronic Health Records with and without Standardized Terminologies was named an Abstract of Distinction by the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Professor Christine Mueller, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN, was selected for the 2016 John A. Hartford Foundation Change AGEnts for the 2016 John A. Hartford Foundation Change AGEnts.

New Appointments

Melissa Bond, BA, joined the school as a program/project specialist for the school’s centers. She earned a bachelor’s degree in clinical psychology from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Prior to joining the school, Bond was a clinical nurse instructor and a registered psychiatric nurse.

Curtis Coffer, PhD, CPA, joined the school as chief administrative officer. Most recently, Coffer was vice president of operations and chief financial officer for the Alumn Association. He earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a PhD degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Lindsay Grude, MPH, joined the school as an evaluation lead for the SNAPSH0T study. Previously Grude was a research coordinator for the School of Public Health. She earned a master’s degree in public health nutrition from the School of Public Health and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan.

Ann Hayden, MSN, MA, APRN, FNP, joined the School of Nursing as a clinical instructor. Hayden earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, a master’s degree from the Carlson School of Management, and a master’s degree in nursing from the University of San Diego. Previously, she was a faculty member at Metropolitan State University, an education and research manager for Medtronic and a family nurse practitioner in cardiology at the St. Paul Heart Clinic/Allina Health.

Sarah Hoffman, PhD, joined the school as an assistant professor. Hoffman earned a PhD degree from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing and master’s degrees in nursing and public health from Johns Hopkins University. Her research focus is centered on the health of people at the intersection of human rights and forced migration.

Jenna Lachinski, BA, joined the school as a cooperative assistant for the Child and Family Health Cooperative. Lachinski earned a bachelor’s degree in communication from the University of Minnesota.

Jiwoo Lee, PhD, RN, PHN, joined the school as a research associate for the SNAPSH0T study, which is a school nurse-directed weight management program targeting overweight 8 to 12-year-old children and their parents. She earned a PhD degree from the University of Minnesota School of Nursing and bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing from Seoul National University.

Mike Lotzke, BS, joined the school as a grants/contact professional in the business office. Lotzke has worked at the University of Minnesota since 2007, most recently at the College of Veterinary Medicine. He earned a bachelor’s degree in finance and accounting from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Sharon McGill, DNP, RN, joined the school as a clinical assistant professor. She previously worked as an adjunct instructor for the School of Nursing, teaching BSN and RN students in the Rochester campus. McGill earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree in transcultural leadership with a focus in complementary therapies from Augustana College. She earned a master’s degree from Augustana College and a bachelor’s degree from Viterbo University.

Lisiane Prunelli, PhD, RN, joined the school as an assistant professor. Prunelli earned a PhD degree from the School of Nursing and master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. She was a multi-organ surgery coordinator and acute care nurse in Brazil. Her research focuses on the application of nursing informatics and data science to facilitate research and improve patient outcomes.

New Appointments

William Rudolph, BA, joined the school as an administrative manager/executive assistant to the dean. Rudolph earned a bachelor’s degree in anthropology from Loyola University in Chicago. Most recently, he served as administrative lead at a tax accounting firm in Minneapolis.

Kristin Trautman, BA, joined the school as a data analytics manager. Previously, Trautman was a project manager/analytics in the Medical School and worked in the Technological Leadership Institute. She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Minnesota.

Stephanie Pott, DNP, APRN, WHNP, joined the school as a clinical assistant professor. Pott earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the School of Nursing. She has experience as a registered nurse in labor and delivery and postpartum units, a trauma and life support unit and as a patient care coordinator at the U of M Maternal Fetal Medicine Center.

Ryan Mays, PhD, MPH, joined the school as an assistant professor. Previously Mays was a research assistant professor at the University of Montana. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, a master’s degree in public health from the University of Colorado School Public Health, and a PhD degree in clinical/research exercise physiology from the University of Pittsburgh.
A MESSAGE FROM THE NURSING ALUMNI SOCIETY PRESIDENT

Building on the new

On behalf of the School of Nursing Alumni Society Board of Directors, welcome to our new alumni and to a new academic year. It is an honor and a privilege to share in the legacies of countless alumni nurse leaders and to play a role in advancing the future of nurses and nursing education at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities and Rochester. I thank Past President Deb Cathcart for her service, generosity and steadfast commitment to the school.

Dan Millman wrote that, “the secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but building on the new.” The wisdom of those words is evident in the life-changing findings of nurse-led research and our expanding role in health care organizations and communities. I can confidently say that your alumni society has its eyes focused forward!

Our goal is simple: Ensure that the Alumni Society, in partnership with the school’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations, provides programs, services and networking opportunities that further enrich the personal and professional lives of its members. We want to be accessible, reflective and responsive to all our alumni and demonstrate to current students that ours is a network worth joining.

Building on the new cannot be done in a vacuum—your voice is critical. Regardless of whether you completed your BSN, MN, PhD or DNP degree, we all are U of M nurses. I encourage you to stay connected.

Look for the School of Nursing on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. See what’s happening at the school and keep in touch with fellow alums, friends and faculty. Attend events. Join us at local and regional events designed to advance your education, share relevant information and celebrate your participation.

Share your Class Notes. We’d love to hear about your promotion, publications, professional honors or word of a new member of the family. Visit nursing.umn.edu/alumni.

Update your profile. Your current information will ensure the alumni magazine and other communication reaches you, and helps us determine where we should host regional events. You can do that at www.nursing.umn.edu/alumni.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be your Alumni Society president and partner. I am excited about the coming year and what we can build together.

Alice Nagle Sanders, MSN ’09, BSN ’05
President, Alumni Society

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Professional development events

Lillehei Symposium: Progress in Cardiovascular Care Oct. 24-25, 2016 Minneapolis, MN
Internal Medicine Review and Update 2016 Oct. 27-28, 2016 Minneapolis, MN
5th Annual Integrative Approach to Psychiatric Mental Health Care Nov. 4, 2016 Plymouth, MN
2016 Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care Fall Forum Nov. 4, 2016 Brooklyn Center, MN
Florence Schorske Wald Lectureship on Palliative Care and Hospice Care April 2, 2017 Minneapolis, MN
2017 Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care Annual Conference April 3-4, 2017 Minneapolis, MN

American Nurses Credentialing Center contact hours offered. University of Minnesota Interprofessional Continuing Education is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, and the American Nurses Credentialing Center, to provide continuing education for the health care team. See www.nursing.umn.edu/continuing-professional-development for more information.

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If you are the nurse who often asks why? then it’s time to consider the PhD in Nursing program at the University of Minnesota. The program prepares students for leading roles in research, academia, corporations and health systems. Our graduates discover innovative ways to improve clinical practice and health locally and globally.

The University of Minnesota School of Nursing is leading important discoveries in prevention science, health promotion, symptom management, nursing informatics and systems innovation.

Learn more about the PhD in Nursing nursing.umn.edu

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University of Minnesota School of Nursing

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CAFE CERTIFICATION

Professional development events

Lillehei Symposium: Progress in Cardiovascular Care Oct. 24-25, 2016 Minneapolis, MN
Internal Medicine Review and Update 2016 Oct. 27-28, 2016 Minneapolis, MN
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2016 Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care Fall Forum Nov. 4, 2016 Brooklyn Center, MN
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The privilege to care
Hope Ukatu, a DNP grad, talks about how she aspires to be an outstanding NP

by Brett Stursa

Hope Ukatu, DNP ’12, says it was her father’s example of serving his community that inspired her to find a career where she could help people. “As a nurse practitioner, I work hard to ensure patients feel they are cared for,” said Ukatu. She now balances her work as a nurse practitioner serving older adults with raising five children and serving as vice president of the Anambra State Association in Minnesota, a nonprofit organization for Nigerian immigrants. We asked her what she likes about working in gerontology, what it takes to be an outstanding nurse practitioner and how her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree helps her patients.

Q You’ve practiced with HealthPartners Geriatrics since 2002. What do you enjoy about working with older adults?

Older adults are national treasures, each uniquely made. They possess a wealth of knowledge, wisdom and grace, so I consider it a privilege to care for them. In them, I see my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Through their past medical histories and procedures, I can gain insight to our past medical practices. Their present state of health is a testimony to the advancement of our modern medicine. For instance, older patients in their late 80s-90s are now able to undergo major surgeries, as long as they are medically stable. Age alone is no longer a reason to preclude surgical procedures. Working with them gives me joy, a sense of pride and fulfillment.

Q There is a well-documented shortage of practitioners specializing in gerontology. How does that affect you as a practitioner specializing in gerontology?

The shortage of practitioners in gerontology has not really affected my practice, but it is a trend that should raise concern. As the baby boomers grow older, we will need even more providers. I believe that the current shortage is an urgent matter that needs to be addressed by all stakeholders, who should provide leadership and incentives for potential providers who are willing to consider specializing in gerontology. Doing so will help decrease the shortage and hopefully, over time, eliminate the shortage altogether.

Q You earned your post-master’s DNP degree from the University of Minnesota in 2012. How has the degree affected the way you practice?

The degree has undoubtedly influenced my practice positively in so many ways. It sharpened my analytical skills working with research findings and their applications in my daily practice. The application of sound scientific knowledge has appreciably facilitated procurement of better clinical outcomes for my patients. It has made me a better health care resource steward, as I now order tests, treatments and procedures that are evidence-based. Finally, it gives me some sense of accomplishment.

Q You are a mentor to DNP students here at the University of Minnesota. Why is that important for you?

Vary simply, when I reflect back on my journey as a nursing student, I tend to appreciate the mentorship that I received. My mentors left indelible positive impressions on me, hence giving me the strong desire to help mentor and prepare others to be their best. I believe it is the right thing to do and hopefully will inspire others to follow suit.

Q In addition to being a nurse practitioner, you are a wife and mother with five children and you are the vice president of the Anambra State Association in Minnesota. What do you do and hopefully will inspire others to follow suit.

Managing my time between family, work and community involvement has not been easy, but being creative brings me happiness and a sense of balance, which gives me the energy to keep going. With personal commitments in balance, there is no room for a burnout.

Q You recently were named a finalist for the Outstanding Nurse Practitioner category by Mpls. St. Paul Magazine. What do you think makes an outstanding nurse practitioner?

I was surprised to read about the nomination in the first place. I only keep doing my job the best way I know how and the nomination activities never crossed my mind. However, one thing I will tell you is that I am humbled and very thankful to God who makes all good things happen. In my opinion, an outstanding nurse practitioner is the provider who honestly treats patients and families with love, respect and dignity. The provider must be dependable, productive and a team player.

Q How do you feel when you have the support and love of your family, you are balanced and driven by clearer purpose in life.

“Older adults are national treasures, each uniquely made. Working with them gives me joy, a sense of pride and fulfillment.”

– Hope Ukatu

www.nursing.umn.edu
Honoring nurse leaders

Alumni Society names award recipients

Outstanding Undergraduate Nursing Student Award
This award recognizes an undergraduate student who demonstrates leadership and commitment to service, competency in the delivery of nursing care that reflects sensitivity to diverse and underserved populations, and consistent use of critical thinking skills to evaluate knowledge and advance nursing practice.

Bryan Polkey, BSN ’16, was honored for his research work as a McNair Scholar evaluating the ability of health care providers to assess patients’ needs for legal services and his work in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to evaluate the experience of primary care patients receiving legal services through a clinic. He served as a project assistant to help start the Upper Midwest Healthcare Legal Partnership Learning Collaborative. As a BSN student, he was accepted into the School of Nursing Direct Entry Doctor of Nursing Practice program, and he will specialize in health innovation and leadership.

Outstanding Graduate Nursing Student
This award recognizes an exceptional graduate student who contributes knowledge to the profession of nursing through research and explicates nursing’s social mandate to respond to the health concerns of society.

Mary Whipple, BSN ’14, was honored for her commitment to pursing a PhD degree focused in gerontological research. As a research assistant, Whipple is an integral part of the research team for several research grants related to exercise and its applications. In her role as a user-friendly Moodle site, recording voice thread lectures, drawing diagrams/flow charts and having review sessions.

Rising Star Award
The award recognizes a recent graduate of the School of Nursing who is achieving noteworthy success. The recipient is recognized for career accomplishments, entrepreneurial endeavors and scholarly work.

Laura Sandquist, DNP ’13, APRN, ANP-C, GNP-C, was honored for her work to help build an integrative health clinic for underserved people in Minneapolis. She created the system infrastructure for clinical care and was able to demonstrate superior health outcomes for people with complex dual diagnoses. She is a national leader in integrative health and she has served as a mentor to DNP students at the University of Minnesota.

Distinguished Alumni Humanitarian Award
The award recognizes a graduate of the school for exceptional humanitarian service in a health care environment. The recipient provides distinguished service that brings honor to the nursing profession, the School of Nursing and to the University.

Scott Harpin, PhD ’10, MS ’03, BS, was honored for his continued dedication to serving homeless youth as an assistant professor at the University of Colorado by partnering with a shelter for youth. As a result of his passion for community-engaged research, and with a grant from the Colorado Clinical and Translational Services Institute, Harpin improved the shelter’s screening process. His research focuses on effective ways to promote resiliency among children and young adults who exhibit risky behaviors and experience traumatic environments.

Edna Franks, BSN ’27
Anna Miller, BSN ’39
Eleanor Narioong, BSN ’41
Patricia Pats, BSN ’44
Meryl Tabner, BSN ’44
Gladys Hughes, BSN ’46
Ruth Leininger, BSN ’46
Marceline Marsh, BSN ’46
Catherine Monyn, BSN ’46
Margaret Nordstog, BSN ’46
Eva Reed, BSN ’46
Audrey Scheidin, BSN ’46
Dorothy Reinarz, BSN ’47
Helen Sell, BS in Nursing Education ’47
Effe Svenson, BSN ’47
Barbara Smith-Rochtmann, BSN ’48
Ruth Elvig, BSN ’50
Francois Novalny, BSN ’50
Bennita Staff, BSN ’50
Arline Backer, BSN ’51
Betty Curtis, BSN ’52
Shirley Elesfson, BSN ’54
Less Waring, BSN ’55
Martha Svitro, BSN ’55
Gertrude Schaller, BSN ’57
Elise Guldeeth, BSN ’58
Ruth Lanson, BSN ’58
Valatricia Nordin, ’58
Margaret Peterbaugh, BSN ’59
Ida Johnson, MSN ’62
Joan Kalski, BSN ’62
Jane Intress, BSN ’67
Karen Shoget, BSN ’63, MSN ’70
Janice Hanson, BSN ’74
Jennie Lee Giere, BSN ’78
Gretel Keanne, BSN, ’78
Rabekiah Valdez, BSN ’79
Dolores Wirttlien, MSN ’83

ALSO REMEMBERED
Elaine Esther Carlson Marsfield Emeritus faculty member and fellow of the American Academy of Nursing shared her knowledge in the field of psychiatric nursing at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing and held positions of leadership at Veteran Administration Hospital (Omaha) and Nebraska Psychiatric Institute. Her lifelong commitment to nursing education lives on through The Elaine Esther Carlson Marsfield Nursing Scholarship Fund.

Donald Sime A longtime friend of the school and the broader University of M community, Sime and his wife, Elaine, established the Sime Family Endowed Nursing Fellowship.
The School of Nursing received nearly $4 million this year from over 800 donors—we are grateful for every one of them, especially knowing that our alumni and friends continue to support the key priorities of the school—students, faculty and research/outreach. Special thanks to our School of Nursing Foundation Board of Trustees for its efforts to inspire our donors to support the school by committing to match all gifts at the end of the fiscal year. The board’s commitment of $40,000 helped encourage hundreds of people to support the school and we are grateful.

NEW ALUMNI LEADERSHIP
This Spring, the School of Nursing community bid a fond farewell to Laurel Mallon. Most recently serving as the school’s director of alumni and donor relations, Laurel’s career at the University spanned 29 years and touched many nursing and pharmacy students and benefactors. We are grateful for her dedicated service and the contributions she made to the University community.

I am pleased to announce that Barbara Mullikin is now leading our alumni relations, stewardship and annual giving initiatives. With input from Alice Sanders, the school’s Alumni Society Board President, and other members of the school community, Barb was selected from a strong pool of applicants for this role after having served as the program administrator for our alumni and development efforts for the last five years. Barb brings significant volunteer management and fundraising experience to her new position having served in public and private sectors—including the Tubman Center, Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Pax Christi Catholic Community, UnityHealthCare and the U of M School of Dentistry—prior to joining the school in 2009. We celebrate Laurel’s service and Barb’s new role on our team. We are grateful for all of our benefactors, alumni, friends and volunteers! Thank you for your part in helping make our mission possible.

SCHOOL NAMES NEW CHAIR AND PROFESSORSHIP
by Brett Stursa
The School of Nursing announced a new chair and professorship.

SIEVING RECEIVES CHAIR
Professor Renee Sieving, PhD, RN, FAAN, FSAHM, was named the inaugural holder of the Pauline A. Vincent Chair in Public Health. This chair honors the legacy of Pauline A. Vincent, who was a public health nursing leader and a 1956 alum of the University of Minnesota master’s degree in public health nursing program. This endowed chair focuses on the health of the public and is awarded to a faculty member who is a nationally and internationally known leader in the field. Sieving’s research focuses on healthy development among vulnerable populations of young people.

Gaugler Receives Professorship
Professor Joe Gaugler, PhD, was named a holder of the Long Term Care Professorship in Nursing. Holders of this professorship must be tenured faculty members who are nationally recognized as a scholar in the nursing care of elders or children requiring long term care, have National Institutes of Health funding and a record of service. Gaugler’s research focuses on the longitudinal implications of family care for chronically disabled adults. “At the School of Nursing, professorships and chairs allow us to create a focused and enduring legacy while supporting the work of those whose achievements and discoveries contribute to the transformation of nursing and health care,” said Dean Connie White Delaney.
Every gift is important, although space limitations only allow us to list donors who have made gifts of $100 or more. The Dean’s Circle recognizes donors who invest in the University’s mission through leadership gifts of at least $25,000. Lifetime gifts or pledges of at least $25,000 are noted. Special Designations include: * Indicates Deceased Donors (H) Heritage Society (B) Builders Society (P) John Sargent Pillsbury Society

**HONOR ROLL OF GIVING 2016**

**SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS**

President’s Clubs
Members are honored for listing their gift to the School of Nursing and including the following recognition level.*

* Indicates Deceased Donors

**MINNESOTA NURSING**

Marilyn J. Simonds

**DEVELOPMENT NEWS**
The school’s Densford Center hosted Minnesota Sen. Kathy Sheran, who has been an unwavering advocate for nursing during her 10 years in the legislature.

To celebrate Nurses Week, the School of Nursing asked students what drives them to pursue nursing. Melissa Kuhlman, left, shares what drives her. Check out the school’s Facebook page @ UofMNursing to see more responses.

The BSN class of 1966 celebrated its 50-year reunion at the Spring Celebration in April. From left, Donna Filson, Marcia Neely, Carol Shukla, Miriam Cameron and Mary Ellen Berman.

Students in a University Recreation and Wellness program got hands-on experience at the School of Nursing over the summer.

The school’s Densford Center

The power to Positively Impact the lives of Patients

Laurie Bentson Kauth and members of the Bentson Foundation Board of Trustees pose with Doctor of Nursing Practice Bentson Scholars and school officials.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar delivers the spring commencement address for the school.

Yumi Izumi, an MN student, talks about her research at Nursing Research Day in April.

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Oct. 20-22, 2016</td>
<td>Homecoming Weekend</td>
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<td>Oct. 21, 2016</td>
<td>School of Nursing reception at the American Academy of Nursing conference</td>
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<td>Oct. 25, 2016</td>
<td>Nursing Scholarship Reception</td>
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<td>Oct. 26, 2016</td>
<td>Alumni Society Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Nov. 7, 2016</td>
<td>Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Webinar</td>
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<td>Dec. 16, 2016</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
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<td>Dec. 15, 2016</td>
<td>Planting Seeds of Innovation: A Workshop for Health Professionals</td>
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<td>Jan. 11, 2017</td>
<td>Alumni Society Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Feb. 4, 2017</td>
<td>Florida Minne-College in Naples</td>
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<td>Feb. 25, 2017</td>
<td>Arizona Minne-College in Phoenix</td>
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<td>March 29, 2017</td>
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<td>April 27, 2017</td>
<td>Nursing Alumni Reunion and Spring Celebration</td>
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<td>April 28, 2017</td>
<td>School of Nursing Research Day</td>
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<td>May 12, 2017</td>
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<td>June 3, 2017</td>
<td>Caring for a Person with Memory Loss Conference</td>
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<td>Nursing Knowledge: Big Data Science</td>
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For more information
[www.nursing.umn.edu](http://www.nursing.umn.edu)