MESSAGE FROM DEAN JOSEPH STEINER

Dear Friends,

Vital Signs is the UW College of Health Sciences Annual Report and I know you will enjoy reading about the tremendous accomplishments from the past year. I just read the report in preparation to write this letter and all I could think of was “WOW.” We have started two new programs, the Bachelor’s in Medical Laboratory Sciences and the Masters in Health Services Administration, we have excellent students and faculty members doing great things. We have distinguished alumni who are providing excellent health care and leaving their mark on society. It has been an outstanding year at the college and we continue to aspire to excellence. Indeed, that is the reason we named the College’s student success and honor’s program “Aspire!”

This program encourages, promotes, and nurtures scholarship, leadership, and professionalism in our future health care professionals through mentorship and professional development. The faculty, staff, and students at the college continue to excel in all the areas that contribute to the high quality healthcare education. I know that has been your expectation and it remains mine. We are proud of the college’s past and have great expectations for its future. As you can see, this has been another banner year for accomplishments.

During the last year we said goodbye to several long serving faculty members including my colleague, Dr. Linda Martin. Linda spent over 40 years with the UW School of Pharmacy and retired from the dean position in January. We also welcomed a number of new members to the college including Dr. Kevin Murray as the Director of Medical Education. Dr. Murray will oversee the WWAMI undergraduate medical education and the graduate programs at the two family medicine residency programs. He comes to us with a strong background in family medicine academics having practiced and taught in Tacoma, Washington. We have also had transitions in leadership with Dr. Mark Guiberson taking over as director of the Division of Communication Disorders from Dr. Teresa Ukrainetz. Dr. Ukrainetz was division head for seven years and has now decided to devote more time to her research.

You will see mentioned on page 16 the report on an economic survey we conducted. Please follow the link and review the report. Depending on how you count, Health Care is either the second or third largest employment sector in the state and has a major impact on the state’s economy. The College of Health Sciences follows this with its own major impact on the state’s economy. This is seen robustly, as would be expected, in Albany, Laramie, and Natrona counties but also impacts every other area.

Please visit the College of Health Sciences
http://www.uwyo.edu/hs/
of the state. The major finding was “The operations of UW Health Sciences generate $85 million in economic impact and sustains 859 jobs throughout the state on a per annum basis.” This is important information as we address state budget decreases to the university.

I hope you enjoy reading this report. As a member of the college, you share in these accomplishments. The tradition of excellence continues and grows with our current students and graduates, something of which I hope you too are proud. A big “Thank You” to all those who provided professional and financial support; they continue to make an important difference in the lives of the students and will become even more important as the state makes substantial decreases in its financial support.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss any of the report contents or any concerns regarding the college.

Best wishes,

Joe

Joseph F. Steiner, Pharm.D.
Dean and Professor
NEW PROGRAMS

M.S. DEGREE IN HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

In addition to the on-campus Pharm.D. degree, the School of Pharmacy is starting a master of science online degree in health services administration. The master program targets new and mid-career pharmacists and other health care professionals who want to become department directors, patient safety coordinators and/or directors, regulatory compliance officers, clinical research associates, health outcomes researchers, or advance practice pharmacists.

The program also benefits health care workers in fields such as management positions, pharmaceutical sales representatives, medical science liaisons, and pharmacy technician educators as well as new clinical faculty at newly established pharmacy colleges.

Available nationwide—excluding students in Massachusetts—the master’s program is delivered via a mix of online self-study and online project-based coursework.

The program can be completed in two years of part-time study. Students must travel to the UW Laramie campus for two weekend seminars during the two-year program. Graduates will be expected to complete 30 credit hours of coursework and a comprehensive final exam. Coursework will be completed over five consecutive semesters.

A prospective student should have earned at least a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution and submit a completed application, a current CV or résumé, and a letter of interest describing why he or she wants to pursue a graduate degree in health services administration.

MLS AT UW–CASPER: UNDERCOVER, BUT SAVING LIVES

Have you ever wondered which healthcare professional performs blood cell counts, chemistries, and identifies the most effective antibiotic to treat your infection? Have you ever been curious about the processes and procedures involved in diagnosing hereditary disorders, cancer, or diabetes?
In the realm of medical professionals, a medical laboratory scientist is a vital, behind the scenes team member, who uses state-of-the-art equipment and methodologies to develop, perform, and evaluate laboratory testing, while assuring quality and accuracy. A medical laboratory scientist utilizes academic and applied science education to expedite the identification of abnormal human cells, ensure safe blood transfusion practices, as well as culture and identify bacteria, fungi, and viruses. In the U.S., 60–70% of all decisions regarding patient admittance, treatment, or discharge are based off of laboratory results.
STUDENT NEWS

CHANGING MINDS. CHANGING LIVES. LEADING THE WAY.

Four years ago, as a freshman in the communication disorders introductory course, I had no idea that I would one day have the opportunity to sit in a room with over 13,000 innovative professionals from around the world who had made careers out of the very subject matter I was beginning to study. I still had no idea that there was even a difference between speech and language, what phonetics were, or the magnitude of the impact speech-language pathologists and audiologists have on individuals’ lives. Attending the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association Conference (ASHA) 2015 in Denver, Colorado, as a part of the University of Wyoming’s ASPIRE! program was one of the most educational and beneficial experiences I have had during my undergraduate career.

As my project for the ASPIRE! program, I have worked as a facilitator for the Laramie Stroke Support Group under the mentorship of UW Clinic Director, Lynda Coyle, for the past two years. This experience has given me countless insights and learning opportunities including the creation of the presentation for ASHA on support groups in rural settings. Presenting my experience at ASHA allowed me to meet other professionals throughout the country who also lived in rural settings and had similar demographics and therefore struggles in developing effective support groups.

While presenting a poster during one of the many poster sessions was inspiring, it also served as a humbling experience. As a presenter, I felt as though I put a significant amount of time and effort into the creation of my presentation; however, when I got to the convention I realized there were thousands of other poster and oral presentations that covered similar and more complex topics. It was amazing to look through the day’s schedule and see how many different sessions I had the opportunity to attend and how many innovative individuals I had the chance to meet.

Overall, ASHA 2015 was unlike anything I have attended before and I am incredibly grateful I had the opportunity to attend with the students and faculty of the University of Wyoming. I believe the theme of the convention, Changing Minds. Changing Lives. Leading the Way., will continue to impact me throughout my journey and future career as a speech-language pathologist and professional in the world of healthcare.

—Written by Anya Tracy

WILDERNESS NURSING SIMULATION

As a make-up for clinical time lost due to snow days this past year, nursing faculty member Ann Wislowski decided to implement a “wilderness nursing” simulation for the students. She mocked up a scenario on campus outside the Student Health Building. In the picture at the top of the next
page, Wislowski shows the volunteer patient/actor (David Wells, doctor of nursing practice student and graduate assistant) what he needs to do and say once the students arrive at the mocked-up scene, following her artistic but realistic painting of blood and bruises on his face.

Once the students arrived, they found a bicycle wrecked atop one of the boulders strewn about the Student Health Building and the biker stunned and sitting nearby.

Wislowski has an article in press with the Journal of Emergency Nursing titled, *Nurses gone wild: the role of nursing in wilderness medicine*. She is a volunteer for Albany County Search and Rescue Association and is studying to complete a Ph.D. in nursing, with a focus on high altitude pulmonary edema.
CHS FALL-SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

The College of Health Sciences held its fall 2015 Commencement Ceremony on December 12, in the West Yellowstone Ballroom in the Wyoming Union. Dean Joseph Steiner welcomed thirteen bachelors and four masters of science graduates and their families to the ceremony before introducing Dr. David Jones, Vice President of Academic Affairs, who encouraged the graduates in their continued pursuits of their education and careers. Spring Commencement, held May 14, 2016, in the Arena Auditorium, welcomed 231 graduates as new alumni of the college. Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, internationally known brain specialist was the keynote speaker.

PHARMACY ON PARADE


Left: After the ceremony, graduates and their families enjoyed a reception outside the Yellowstone Ballroom. Right: the Pharmacy float in the Homecoming Parade.
22ND ANNUAL RESEARCH DAY

The College of Health Sciences Research Day, or Grand Rounds, was held in the Wyoming Union Family Room on April 15. Dr. Rex Gantenbein, the college’s Associate Dean for Research, opened the speaker sessions, followed by students and faculty from varied disciplines.

The college was fortunate to have two distinguished keynote speakers. Diane Damiano, Ph.D., discussed *Activity-based Neurorehabilitation in Children with Cerebral Palsy*, asking the question: How well are we doing? Nigel Paneth, M.D./M.P.H., spoke on the topic *The Epidemiology and Prevention of Cerebral Palsy*.

In addition to the speakers, 38 posters by both Health Sciences faculty and students were on display. Students outlined their research during poster sessions and then took questions from faculty members and students viewing the presentations.

STUDENT MENTORS HELPING KIDS

Healthy Pokes, launched in 2014, is a program designed to address childhood obesity and improve the health of at-risk youngsters in Wyoming.

The program, for children ages 7–14, has four components: nutrition, physical activity, mentoring by college students, and behavioral health. The Wyoming Department of Health, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, and Ivinson Memorial Hospital fund the program.

Director Karen Gaudreault, an assistant professor in the UW College of Health Sciences’ Division of Kinesiology and Health, says a team of faculty members, along with both graduate and undergraduate students from the Division of Kinesiology and Health and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources’ Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, leads the program.

Part of the program’s success, Gaudreault says, is how much the children enjoy working with their college student mentors. Most children say working with the mentors is the most enjoyable part of the program.

“The kids tell us they love coming here, and we are seeing some positive results in both lifestyle habits and body size,” she says. Health Pokes was featured in the December 17, 2015, edition of *Briefing in Childhood Obesity*. 

[Children with Healthy Pokes program enjoy a break with one of their student mentors]
DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS
Simalee Smith-Stubblefield, M.A., received her bachelor of science in speech pathology and audiology at the University of Wyoming in 1976. She later went on to get her master’s degree at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. She worked in a wide variety of settings and with clients across the lifespan. In 1991 she returned to the University of the Pacific’s Department of Speech-Language Pathology as faculty where she worked until May of this year.

FAY W. WHITNEY SCHOOL OF NURSING
Josh Hamilton, D.N.P., R.N.-B.C., P.M.H.N.P.-B.C., C.N.E., is currently Dean of the Engelstad School of Health Sciences at The College of Southern Nevada. Hamilton’s nominators for the Distinguished Alumni award laud Hamilton for his effectiveness through his many roles. He is dean, president and chief clinical officer; he has experience as a clinical professor, contributing professor, psychiatric nurse practitioner, and associate medical director. He has achieved honors as outstanding educator, doctoral scholar, and Phi Theta Kappa ‘terrific learning coach’; he is a published author and a team player.

SCHOOL OF PHARMACY
Jennifer Nevins, R.Ph., graduated from UW with a B.S. in pharmacy in December of 1976 and was a recipient of a four-year UWAA scholarship. While attending UW she was active in the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, Kappa Epsilon pharmacy honorary, Spurs, and Chimes, holding offices in
all of the organizations. Since graduation, Nevins has retained her close connection with UW and the School of Pharmacy, serving on the Dean’s advisory council, acting as a preceptor for P4 students, organizing class reunions which sponsor scholarships for pharmacy students, being a Cowboy Joe member, as well as serving on the UWAA Board of Directors. She and her husband Zane (B.A. ’76) have two children, both with degrees from UW, and one grandson. She “bleeds brown and gold”! Go Pokes!

**WWAMI MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Wyoming-native, Dr. Valerie Lengfelder, is a member of the inaugural WWAMI class. In 1997, Wyoming entered into a cooperative program with the University of Washington’s School of Medicine (UWSoM) along with the states of Montana, Idaho, and Alaska, resulting in “WWAMI,” the acronym for the partner states.

“In terms of selection of the WWAMI Outstanding Alumnus, we look for a WWAMI physician that has a long history of teaching our WWAMI students and who has demonstrated continued excellence in their teaching evaluations. Dr. Lengfelder obviously fits that mold,” stated Dr. Timothy Robinson, Director of the Wyoming WWAMI Medical Education Program. “Dr. Legnfelder is the type of physician that the legislators envisioned when they began funding the WWAMI program in 1997. As a member of the first WWAMI class, we are exceptionally proud to call Dr. Lengfelder one of our own.”

**DIVISION OF KINESIOLOGY AND HEALTH**

Gideon Ariel, Ph.D., is a world-renowned authority in biomechanics (the science linking physics to human movement) and computer science integration, founding Computerized Biomechanics Analysis, Inc., and Ariel Dynamics, Inc. Ariel was a University of Wyoming track and field athlete while obtaining his undergraduate and graduate degrees at UW and he went on to be a two-time Olympic athlete and chairman of the U.S. Olympic Biomechanical Committee.

**DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK**

Jenadene Gray, M.S.W., A.C.S.W., P.C.S.W., has been selected by the Division of Social Work in recognition for her contributions to education and giving back to the social work programs at UW, and also because of her career-long involvement with child welfare issues and services in her community. Gray is a 2010 graduate of UW’s M.S.W. program. She is also a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society, the honor society for the social work profession. Prior to that, she had completed the undergraduate social work program, receiving her B.S.W. with a minor in psychology in 2001. Gray has been an adjunct instructor for the Division of Social Work for the past four years, sharing her expertise in child welfare and, more recently, human behavior and the social environment.

**FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE**

Paul Lerwick graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1975 with a degree in petroleum engineering. In 2004, Lerwick and his wife Judy donated $50,000 to the Steve Elliott Scholarship in Communication Disorders, which was matched by the state. This year they donated an additional $50,000 and again, the state matched this donation. In Lerwick’s words “Judy and I count it a privilege to continue to support the Steve Elliott Scholarship in memory of a life well lived that continues to be an inspiration to others.” Lerwick was named Friend of the College for his generosity in supporting the Steve Elliott Scholarship in Communication Disorders.
MARY BEHRENS: RESPECTED AND HONORED INTERNATIONALLY

Casper’s Mary Behrens (M.S., F.N.P. ’98) testified on the national nurse shortage at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. She established an education pathway for nurses in Vietnam through the Friendship Bridge Humanitarian Teaching Project. She received the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners’ International Humanitarian Award. She is one of only three Wyoming nurses recognized as a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. And fittingly, in 2015 she was honored with the Wyoming Nurses Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Wyoming State Senator John Barrasso writes, “Mary’s extensive activity in shaping public policy truly stands alone, as few people possess such a wide breadth of policy knowledge, leadership skills, and passion for the nursing profession.” Barrasso lauds Behrens as “an innovator, leader, and mentor for many nurses in Wyoming, across the nation, and around the world.” All of Behrens’s qualities are modeled in person for students and peers at UW. Her expertise is generously shared as she participates on the school of nursing’s development board, the UW Health Science Advisory Board, and with an illustrious assortment of Wyoming leaders on the BRAND program’s Health Policy Discussion Panel.

Nursing Dean Mary Burman says, “Mary’s impact on nursing and nurses is tremendous. We are lucky to have her in Wyoming, involved with our school and students!”

Behrens, in partnership with the Friendship Bridge Humanitarian Teaching Project, works to educate Vietnamese nurses.
FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

PHARMACY DEAN
LINDA MARTIN RETIRES

After serving as Dean of the School of Pharmacy for three years, Linda Gore Martin announced her retirement. Dean Martin has a long and rich history with the School of Pharmacy. She developed the Drug Information Center in 1975 and ran it until 2000, when she accepted a position as assistant professor of social and administrative pharmacy.

Throughout her career Dean Martin was active in service to the university and the community, in her research and contributions to the pharmacy profession, and in teaching and mentoring students. The quality of her work in these areas is reflected in the many awards she received, including the Daniel Klein Spirit of Volunteerism Award from the Laramie Downtown Clinic, the Wyoming Pharmacist of the Year Award, the University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences Lifetime Achievement Award, the Mortar Board “Top Prof” Award, the University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences Outstanding Researcher Award, and the University of Wyoming Excellence in Advising Award (twice).

During her tenure as dean, Martin was instrumental in leading the school’s re-accreditation efforts, which resulted in the school’s continued accreditation through June 2021. Looking back at her years as dean, she says “I am so proud of where the School of Pharmacy is today. I took it over in a good place, but my team (faculty, staff, and students) has moved it to a much higher level. It was all done with a great working relationship—that sense of community that is so important.”

Dean Martin will be greatly missed. Her retirement plans include spending the winters in Ft. Mohave, Arizona, and looking forward to the great summers and falls of Laramie, Wyoming.

COMMUNICATION DISORDERS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

The Division of Communication Disorders welcomed Dr. Mark Guiberson as its new director this year. Guiberson has taught in higher education for the last ten years, and worked as a speech-language pathologist prior to that. His main line of research combines behavioral measures and technology for screening and prevention purposes, mainly with Spanish-speaking populations. He recently completed a study that evaluated the use of a digital novella to teach Spanish-speaking farm workers about noise-induced hearing loss. This research was presented at the 2016 National Hearing Conservation Association Conference. He also has completed a number of studies in Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico that are developing screening measures for young Spanish-speaking children at risk for developmental language disorders.

THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE

In furthering the University of Wyoming’s goal to internationalize social work fundamentals to “enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable,” (Code of Ethics of National Association of Social Workers, 2008) Dr. Neely Mahapatra and Dr. Valerie Thompson-Ebanks in the Division of Social Work, shared their research findings at the 12th Biennial Conference of Caribbean and International Social Work Educators (ACSWE), July 6–10, 2015, in Grenada, West Indies.
Mahapatra presented the results of her study that examined for the very first time the extent of intimate partner violence (IPV) in heterosexual relationships among one of the immigrant groups of women, South Asian women (from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh) living in Dubai/United Arab Emirates (UAE). The study’s purpose was also to better understand sociocultural factors associated with informal and formal help-seeking among victims of intimate partner violence. This paper presentation discussed the policy implications and proposed recommendations that could improve the lives of all migrant/expatriate women experiencing domestic violence or IPV in Dubai/UAE. The findings may be used to develop culturally specific intervention and/or prevention programs/services for not only South Asian women victims of IPV but also other immigrant groups of women in Dubai/UAE. With better understanding of the perspective of the victim, improved policies and plans can be implemented with the goal to reinstate basic human rights for all victims of violence including women in the South Asian and Caribbean diaspora and all expatriate women in Dubai/UAE. The session was not only well attended but spurred important thought-provoking discussion afterwards.

Informed by her research with youth and adults with disabilities, Thompson-Ebanks conducted a workshop entitled Destigmatizing disability: The role of social work in addressing social justice and human rights within the Caribbean region. The workshop focused on understanding the complexities of stigma and how it impacts people with disabilities and identifying practical strategies to reduce disability stigma and promote social justice for this population. Workshop participants represented a good cross-section of local and international educators and practitioners. The workshop on disability stigma was well received by participants, indicated by their willingness to engage with and learn from each other. As one practitioner remarked, “I work in an agency with adults with disabilities and this information is very helpful to me.”

**TAKING THE LEAD IN STUDENT ADVISING**

Craig Vaske, Coordinator of Student Advising for the College of Health Sciences, has just begun his two-year term as president of the Western Association of Advisors of Health Professions (WAAHP). As president, he will provide leadership to advisors of health professions in the west. Vaske is particularly interested in increasing communication and connections between the organization and community college advisors. He is also taking an active role in the planning of the next (2017) WAAHP meeting, their first stand-alone conference. As president of WAAHP, he has a seat on the advisory board of the National Association of Advisors of Health Professions (NAAHP) and will
FACULTY PROMOTIONS

Kim Broomfield, associate clinical professor with the UW Family Medical Residency in Cheyenne.

Zach Deiss, associate clinical professor with the UW Family Medical Residency in Casper.

Ann Marie Hart, professor with the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing.

John P. Healey, associate clinical professor with the UW Family Medical Residency in Cheyenne.

Michael Miller, associate clinical professor with UW Family Medical Residency in Casper.

Pamela Oiler, associate lecturer with the UW Family Medical Residency in Cheyenne.

Douglas B. Petersen, associate professor with the Division of Communication Disorders.

Beth Robitaille, clinical professor with the UW Family Medical Residency in Casper.

Marci Smith, senior lecturer with the Division of Kinesiology and Health.

serve simultaneously in a separate four-year term as assistant treasurer.

INCREDIBLY REWARDING RESEARCH

Dr. Evan Johnson, the Division of Kinesiology and Health’s new assistant professor of exercise physiology, has recently received a research grant from Danone. Danone is one of the world’s largest producers of bottled water, and a company that Johnson has conducted research with for five years, producing ten journal publications in the process. Johnson’s research focus explores the links between individuals’ water consumption and their overall risk for disease, especially those related to the metabolic syndrome.

With twenty-eight journal publications to his name, Johnson describes seeing his findings in print, where others can put them to use, as “incredibly rewarding” because all the research planning, approvals, data collection, and data analysis add up to “an hour of work . . . if not more” behind each sentence. Johnson aspires to also use his research on hydration and heat acclimation to assist Wyoming athletes in becoming better prepared to perform when they need to travel to significantly warmer climates for regional or national competitions.

Left to right: Tucker Readdy, Faculty Senate President; Marci Smith; David Jones, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Marci Smith is honored for her Spring 2015 promotion to Senior Lecturer in the Division of Kinesiology and Health of the College of Health Sciences.
COLLEGE NEWS

TRADITIONS VITALIZED BY CEREMONIES

Each fall, the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing prepares students for the road ahead, welcoming them into a new profession through ceremonies: Nightingale Ceremony for Basic BSN/BRAND students and Willow Ceremony for DNP. There are many reasons for ceremonies in addition to encouragement—to inspire students with peer and alumni speakers; to introduce agencies/preceptors through presentation of Community Partner, Preceptor, and Advanced Nursing Practice awards; to familiarize students with generous supporters who fund countless numbers of scholarships. In the Nightingale Ceremony, students are introduced to the ethics of the profession and sign pledges to uphold those standards.

A reception following the Willow Ceremony allows for intermixing of the generations, for students and others to link up with such pillars in the nursing field as Fay W. Whitney, namesake for the school of nursing.

But there is something more to ceremonies. Dr. Loretta C. Ford, co-founder of the national nurse practitioner movement, conveys the essence of the ceremonies’ effect: “Traditions vitalized by ceremonies . . . help socialize new generations of professional nurses as they reach and respond to changing health care needs. These events build a sense of community solidarity and bind individuals to institutions for life. As nurse practitioners come of age, they need rites of passage . . . to mark the occasion.”

Undergraduate student Corina DuCharme agrees: “Ceremonies build in tradition; and when they continue through the years, they help unify the generations, building alliances as new nurses enter the work force.”
WyCOA BUILDS STATEWIDE CAPACITY OF GERIATRIC KNOWLEDGE

The rural/frontier situation in Wyoming is not unfamiliar. We’re accustomed to personally traveling miles in often poor road conditions, working to find resources for others to do the same, or reducing the burden and expense of travel through means of technology. Bridging these literal gaps between communities requires tedious planning and often at a great cost.

Specific to the healthcare industry, a key challenge in Wyoming is recruiting and retaining providers, many of whom may be the only one practicing within their service area. This challenge adds another layer of complexity in the rural/frontier landscape as we seek to support our isolated providers.

The Wyoming Center on Aging (WyCOA) works to address the shortage of limited geriatric specialists within the state through the bi-weekly meetings of the UW ECHO in Geriatrics. This ECHO network consists of a ‘hub’-team of members who consult on cases submitted by ‘spoke’ sites throughout Wyoming; spoke sites connect remotely to the hub team who is sitting together in a central location. The hub team is comprised of a geriatric psychologist and psychiatrist, geriatrician, physical therapist, geriatric pharmacist, social worker, and other subject matter experts who consult on presented cases from an evidence-based, interprofessional perspective.

The added value provided by ECHO networks allows for providers to connect throughout the state on a central issue and support one another through the informed discussion of patient cases. For example, when only one pharmacist works in a rural critical access hospital, the pharmacist can now engage an interprofessional team of knowledge for patient treatment and healthcare strategy through the ECHO network. Participants at spoke sites continually express the ECHO community of practice provides significant benefits to the need of developing and building support.

Currently, the WyCOA is able to offer free continuing medical education credits (CME’s) to anyone attending an ECHO. As the ECHO network continues to expand, sites are invited to join as a spoke site by contacting wycoa@uwyo.edu. The ECHO in Geriatrics is conducted every other Thursday from noon–1 pm.

Further, the WyCOA actively provides research, service, knowledge, support, and programs throughout Wyoming. Visit www.uwyo.edu/wycoa for more information.

AN EXCITING YEAR FOR WYOMING WWAMI

With a brand new curriculum rollout from the University of Washington School of Medicine, this has been an exciting year for the Wyoming WWAMI program. Previously, the first two years of the WWAMI curriculum focused primarily on discipline specific science courses such as anatomy, biochemistry, pharmacology, virology, etc., with little application to the practice of medicine. The new WWAMI curriculum follows the nationwide trend (75% of all medical schools in the country) of integrating science with medical practice. Whereas before the instruction in the first two years was done primarily by Ph.D. scientists, the new curriculum is jointly delivered by Ph.D. scientists and clinicians. One result of the new clinical emphasis is that Wyoming WWAMI now utilizes over 25 health professionals for instruction in the first year (over a dozen of whom are physicians) versus the use of only two clinicians in the first year. In addition to the physicians that teach didactics and clinical skills, Wyoming WWAMI is fortunate to have 20
physicians (10 in Laramie and 10 in Cheyenne) who serve as preceptors for our students.

Much of the success of the delivery of the new clinical curriculum can be attributed to the work of our clinical curriculum coordinator, Yvette Haebler, M.D. Haebler graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1990 and did her residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Internal Medicine and Family Practice from 1994–1997. Haebler has worked to help develop the new Foundations of Clinical Medicine course and is responsible for the recruitment and coordination of physician preceptors from Laramie and Cheyenne. In addition, Haebler has been involved with interprofessional education endeavors in the College of Health Science.

Dr. Alison Doherty, WWAMI clinical anatomist, continues to grow in her WWAMI role and she is certainly a pillar of the program. Doherty not only oversees the anatomy and histology instruction, but she has been tapped by the University of Washington School of Medicine to be the anatomy lead for the entire WWAMI five-state region. Doherty has worked tirelessly in curriculum development and forming her team for the circulatory, pulmonary, and renal course. She also runs the WWAMI cadaver lab and has worked closely with colleagues from the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing for anatomy instruction to the doctor of nurse practitioner students.

**MAKING AN IMPACT ON WYOMING**

The University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences is Wyoming’s gateway to the health professions. The College of Health Sciences believes that cultural, social, economic, and geographic diversity is of the utmost importance and strives to fill the shortage of healthcare providers within Wyoming. Visit: www.uwyo.edu/hs/ to view the complete report.
MEDICAL EDUCATION CONTINUES ADVANCEMENT

The Department of Medical Education is adjusting to the new budget realities in the state of Wyoming and seeking to advance programs simultaneously. The Cheyenne residency has added two faculty members and undergone a staff reorganization. The Casper residency program has achieved accreditation for geriatric fellowship and is a partner in an announced grant, which will help support that role, with the Wyoming Geriatric Education Center (WyGEC). A search is underway to recruit the first fellow in geriatrics. Dr. Cynthia Works has been teaching geriatrics in the residency for many years and is now also successfully spearheading the adoption of the POLST form into Wyoming-wide medical practice.

As of this writing, both residencies have had 100% successful fill rate in the most recently completed intern and residency match nationally. Since family medicine usually has more openings than applicants in the match, this is a tremendous accomplishment and a compliment to their programs. As a certified Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), the two residencies are combined under one organizational structure called the Educational Health Center of Wyoming (EHCW). In what is known as the co-applicant model, the University of Wyoming remains the main sponsor although all FQHC rules apply to operations of both residency sites.

The FQHC emphasis on Patient Centered Medical Homes, as well as on meeting nationwide service objectives, has helped propel the residencies toward greater community service and increased quality of care.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION EFFORTS EXPANDING

Interprofessional practice and education (IPE) efforts in the College of Health Sciences (CHS) are expanding as a result of our 3rd Annual IPE Retreat, IPE Committee work, and collaborations with the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, the Wyoming Center on Aging, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School Chapter at UW and the Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County. Two such expansions are the commitment to provide regular “co-curricular” (outside of class) learning opportunities and the use of ECHO to introduce interprofessional practice to students. A collaborative, interprofessional co-curricular event: The End-of-Life: A Vital Healthcare Discussion was held on February 25 with nearly 100 students, faculty, professionals, and community members attending. The event was planned and implemented by student leaders of the IHI Open School Chapter, college faculty, and a fantastic team of quality specialists from Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County: Clayton Radakovich, Director of Regulatory Compliance; Amanda Molski, Director of Quality; Stephanie Mlinar, Administrative Nurse Director; Kristy Nielson, Director of Education; and Kallie Mikkelsen, VP of Nursing. Feedback from this event was overwhelmingly positive. When asked what was learned, one student wrote, “I think hearing all of the disciplines’ opinions and feelings is very eye-opening and can add to my education.”
GRANTS

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATION DISORDERS


Ukrainetz, TA. Seed Grant College of Health Sciences, $3750. Speak-and-sketch note-taking intervention to improve expository text comprehension and writing for children with language-related learning disabilities.

DIVISION OF KINESIOLOGY AND HEALTH


Christine M. Porter (PI), Growing Resilience Phase II: Albany County Redesign and Wind River Expansions. UW INBRE, NCRR (5P20RR016474-12) and NIGMS (8 P20 GM103432-12) at NIH. $224,687. 9/15–4/18.

Christine M. Porter & Tarissa Spoonhunter (co-PIs), Developing people and plans for biomedical research with Wind River Reservation. UW INBRE, NCRR (5P20RR016474-12) and NIGMS (8 P20 GM103432-12) at NIH. $15,000. 4/15–12/15.

Evan Johnson (PI), Urine Color as a Marker of Change in Daily Water Intake. Funding Source: Danone Research, $279,650, 1/1/2016–12/31/2018.


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SCHOOL OF NURSING


Kooienga, S. (PI) (2015–2016), *Ethnographic Exploration of New Zealand Primary Care Practice and Use of Patient Portals*. Project funded by UW International Programs Office—Travel Grant, $2,000.

Purtzer, M. A. (PI) and Thomas, J. (Co-PI) (2015), *Native American Perceptions of Qualities of Effective Nurse Leadership within the Context of Health Promotion Services*. Project funded by Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing Humenick Award, $5060.50.


Thomas, J. (Principal investigator). *Diabetes in San Jose Tecoh, Yucatan: Research project development and collaboration*, University of Wyoming International Programs Office, International Travel Grant, 12/01/2015–6/30/2015, $2,000.

DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK


2015–2016, Mahapatra, *N. South Asian youth and their perception of gender violence*. College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming; Seed Grant, $6,410.


Thompson-Ebanks, V. (2015). *Destigmatizing disability: The role of social work in addressing social justice and human rights within the Caribbean region*. Project funded by the University of Wyoming’s College of Health Sciences: Faculty Travel Grant, $750.

**WYOMING INSTITUTE FOR DISABILITIES**

Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship.


Wyoming Department of Education, *UW ECHO in Educational Leadership*.

Wyoming Department of Education, Division of Individual Learning, *Accessible Educational Materials, Next Step Assessment Clinics, UW ECHO Special Education Networks*.

Wyoming Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division, *Inventory for Client and Agency Planning, Supports Intensity Scale*.


Also: Fees for assessments, trainings and technical assistance in education, employment, and health.
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