Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing faculty standing in front of the Health Sciences Center, left to right: Connie Diaz-Swearingen, Carrie Deselms, Norma Wilkerson, Jo-Ann Ginsberg, Lois Pine, Susie Hager, Gloria Stoddard, Mary Beth Stepans, Susan Christman, Pamela Clarke, Margaret Casken, Sherrie Rubio-Wallace, Ann Marie Hart, Holly Miller, Virginia Conley, Fatu Foster, Susan McCabe, Linda Williams, Pamela Larsen, Carol Macnee.
2007 Distinguished Alumna

Read the full story on our Web site: www.uwyo.edu/nursing
Click on “Alumni” in the right side bar

Janice E. Stephens, R.N., Ph.D., received the school’s 2007 Distinguished Alumna award at the convocation ceremony on Saturday, May 5. Stephens is a 1988 graduate of the school’s master’s program. She has distinguished herself through outstanding service in employment as a health educator and nursing faculty member in associate and baccalaureate degree programs. She also served as dean and director of nursing baccalaureate programs in South Dakota and Oklahoma.

Currently, Stephens is chief executive officer for Wholistic Health Educator Services in South Dakota. She has authored Wholistic Health: Self-Management Program: Core Content (2006). She has demonstrated a commitment to lifelong learning and personal wellness while building a distinguished record of publications and scholarship. Visit our Web site to read about her contributions to nursing.

Accelerated B.S.N.—Experts predict that these graduates will change rural health care

The Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing leads other universities of its size in educational innovations following national trends. Our newest innovation is the accelerated program track that provides the same undergraduate content but that is taught in an intense compressed format. This year the school graduates its first class of students who have a bachelor’s or master’s in another field and now will graduate with a bachelor’s in nursing. The theme of rural nursing is embedded in all our programs and is particularly strong in the accelerated track with students placed throughout the state in rural hospitals and clinics. The program uses every hospital in the state, which is a new challenge for planning and clinical coordination.

The demand for these graduates is high in a “small” state like Wyoming.

Simulation—Nationally, simulation is the new vision for safer clinical training

Using the model of training airplane pilots, health care laboratory simulation provides an environment for students to practice and make mistakes safely. The school is preparing a critical mass of faculty to move the new simulation area into a state-of-the-art model for clinical training. Students now begin their initial clinical training using simulation with direct faculty supervision. Six faculty members attended the latest simulation conference and have expanded their vision for simulation training. They form the core team for the school and college at the University of Wyoming.

Doctorate of Nursing Practice—School working toward new program

Advance practice nursing is moving to the doctoral level and the school has a unique curriculum for the doctorate of nursing practice (D.N.P.) that we are presenting to the college and university this year for approval. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is recommending that all advance practice nursing move to the doctoral level by 2015. Here in the West, we are developing a regional collaborative with other schools (Colorado, Oregon, and Washington) as we move toward implementation. The plan is for courses to be available from a number of different schools so that we build depth and breadth in the program. The faculty at UW is well prepared to move into a new century for nursing.

Letter from the Dean: A New Century for Nursing

Janice E. Stephens, R.N., Ph.D., received the school’s master’s program.

In this issue...

- Accelerated B.S.N. Track
- Commencement/Convocation 2007
- Donations/Scholarships
- Psychiatric Mental Health
- Nurse Practitioner Advisory Board
- Research, D.N.P.
- R.N./B.S.N. Expansion with LEAP
- Senior Residency, SIM Lab
- Whitney Foundation Endowment
- Willow Ceremony
- Claire Hitchcock, editor

Nursing Advisory Board

The purpose of this board is to advise the school about practice in the state, and to discuss curriculum issues and how they impact state stakeholders. The semiannual meetings are held on campus with teleconference access for those who are unable to come to Laramie.

Meeting in Conjunction with Nightingale Tea

This year the advisory board meeting was held in conjunction with the Nightingale Tea, an annual event sponsored by the school’s Nightingale Center for Nursing Scholarship, at which Toni Decklever, M.A., R.N., Educator/Consultant, was honored with the Nightingale Award for Distinguished Service to Nursing.

Top: The nursing advisory board met in April. Attendees included, top row, left to right: Janice Beeken, Veterans Administration Hospital, Cheyenne; Mary Behrens, Westside Women’s Clinic, Casper; Connie Diaz-Swearingen, faculty. 2nd row: Kathy Green, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center; Dianne Kirkbride, Senator Enzi’s Cheyenne office; Gloria Stoddard, faculty. 3rd row: Mary Kay Goetter, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center; Pamela Clarke, dean; Norma Wilkerson, associate dean; Dana Murphy-Parker, faculty. Bottom: Toni Decklever.
Online courses can be accessed from the students’ homes and hybrid courses are a mix of face-to-face and online delivery. Faculty are strategically located around the state to provide clinical experiences in health care agencies for students. This accelerated program allows the school to bring baccalaureate nursing education to the most isolated health care agencies and communities in Wyoming.
The LEAP (Leadership Education to Advance Practice) Project offers rural students in Wyoming the opportunity to address significant health care needs on a local level by developing community health leadership skills. In 2004, the school of nursing received funding from a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Nurse Retention and Recruitment–Career Ladders Grant to enhance and expand our online R.N./B.S.N. completion track. The LEAP (Leadership Education to Advance Practice) R.N./B.S.N. project initially targeted the southwest region of the state, selected because of the low percentage of registered nurses (RNs) in these areas who eventually complete a BSN (9.5 percent) as compared to 14 percent in the rest of the state.

HRSA grant funding has been critical in providing in-person visits to rural areas of the state. Partnerships with the UW Outreach School, community colleges, local hospitals, and public health agencies allow students in the LEAP R.N./B.S.N. project to benefit from a streamlined admission process, on-site mentoring and advising, newly developed courses, and service-learning projects focused on local needs. Interest and demand from health professionals has resulted in early expansion of the project to nursing students in west central and northeast regions of the state.

Through campus-community partnerships and an innovative B.S.N. curriculum built on the public health nursing competencies, the project improves access to B.S.N. education for site-bound rural Wyoming students and better prepares them to address local health needs in their home communities.

Whitney Foundation Endowment

Whitney Benefits, Inc. has generously provided a $1 million gift to the Sheridan College Foundation to offer a collaborative bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) degree to Sheridan-area students. The Whitney gift expands the LEAP R.N./B.S.N. degree completion program through creation of the Whitney Endowed Chairperson. This newly funded University of Wyoming school of nursing faculty position will be located at Sheridan College and will provide on-site mentoring, advising, and instruction to Sheridan-area nurses and nursing students who desire their B.S.N. This unique partnership with Sheridan College will enable us to evaluate delivery systems of our current R.N./B.S.N. program with a potential of expanding course delivery methods to include a combination of on-site, video conferencing, and online learning opportunities for students from northeast Wyoming areas. Janice E. Stephens, R.N., Ph.D., (see Distinguished Alumna article inside front cover) has accepted this new position and will begin offering on-site faculty support at Sheridan College in fall 2007.

Dale Asks for Your Memories!

Marcia L. Dale, Ed.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., former dean of the school of nursing, is writing the story of the first 50 years of the school. Dale is soliciting “memories” that any graduate of the school during those years (1951–2001) would be willing to share. Please e-mail your story to marcia@uwyo.edu or mail to:

Marcia L. Dale, Ed.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
827 Evergreen Street
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Call for Nominations for 2008 Distinguished Alumnus!

Please consider submitting a nomination for the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus. You can easily submit your nomination online at www.uwyo.edu/nursing

Click into “Alumni” in the right-hand sidebar menu and choose the Distinguished Alumni link. The nomination deadline is February 1, 2008.
School of Nursing Faculty Scholarship

The school of nursing faculty has been busy with a variety of research projects:

- **Pamela Clarke** and **Carol Macnee**: working on a controlled randomized study of a nurse-pharmacist clinical prevention service in partnership with private industry (Human Capital Management System, Inc.). This state-supported study has yielded positive initial results in terms of cost and quality of life; a second larger study has been approved and funded.
- **Susan McCabe**: working with Wyoming Health Council to implement a statewide study of women’s health.
- **Diane Kempson** (Social Work) and **Virginia Conley**: completing a study of effects of massage training on caregivers of chronically ill.
- **Mary Beth Stepans**: co-investigator on a grant with Rodehorst (PI) and Wilhelm of the University of Nebraska, entitled “Screening for asthma among children in Northern Plains tribal communities.” This study is funded by the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH).
- **Carol Macnee** and **Susan McCabe**: the second edition of their textbook *Understanding Nursing Research: Reading and Using Research for Evidence-based Practice* was published in January 2007.

Examples of Publications


Please visit our Web site at www.uwyo.edu/nursing and click into “Faculty/Research” for an extensive listing of each faculty member’s research.

Addressing the Nursing Shortage

The school of nursing has collaborated with the Wyoming Community Foundation and the Wyoming Nurses Association in an application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for support for a nursing work force initiative titled “NEW” for “Nursing Excellence in Wyoming.” A preliminary proposal was submitted in October and was approved for a full submission. That submission was completed in February. Though not funded, the ideas and collaborative effort will serve to strengthen future efforts to address the nursing shortage in the state. Grant objectives were the results of the Nursing Summit meetings (see back cover).
Senior Residency...using regional resources

The philosophy and focus at our Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing is to educate nursing generalists with a rural focus. Our senior nursing residency for the basic and accelerated B.S.N. program tracks is a 500-clinical-hour capstone course integrating all previous educational work and focus into an intensive practice experience. It provides the students with one-on-one preceptor practice, often situated in a rural acute-care setting. The residency is team-focused with faculty, students, and preceptors working together to assure individualized education for the students. The ultimate goal for the residency is to mature the student nurses into their future role in the registered nursing profession and to prepare them for successful completion of the state board of nursing exam.

This year 65 students out of our three B.S.N. program tracks were placed in Wyoming for their senior residency. Of the 51 basic track students placed throughout Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Minnesota, 31 were placed in rural settings all across Wyoming. The accelerated track boasts 19 students, 16 of whom are placed throughout Wyoming this summer; and the R.N./B.S.N. completion track, which is offered online nationally, had 40 students enrolled in senior residency, 18 of whom are Wyoming residents also placed in Wyoming clinical sites. Our plans are to continue building relationships with hospitals throughout Wyoming providing consistent yearly student placements.

In placing students, we consider individualized student goals, desires, and logistical needs. Those include a variety of experiences, available housing, and supportive preceptors. The faculty is consistently pleased and encouraged by the high quality practice experiences and the competency and compassion of the preceptors. Dreams for the future include available affordable housing for all students. Several facilities teamed with the university are working toward this goal.

Simulation Supplements Clinical Experiences

You enter the room and the patient says, “I don’t feel well.” This isn’t your usual patient environment or your usual patient. This patient room is the critical-care room in the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing, and this patient is SimMan. He is the newest addition to the simulation family at the school and one of the most sophisticated manikins on the market with a price tag of approximately $30,000. SimMan is a full-body, anatomically accurate patient simulator that can be programmed to simulate a wide range of illnesses as well as signs and symptoms. He can even react to the medical interventions performed by the students. Mistakes can be made and the students can see the consequences of their actions without harming a human patient, but SimMan makes the students feel like they are in a real-life situation. He can enhance the critical thinking and assessment skills of the students.

Simulation has been a part of nursing education at the school for many years by using numerous full-body baby, child, male, female, and geriatric manikins and also by utilizing specific simulators for such skills as urinary catheterization, tracheostomy care, and the list goes on and on. However, high-fidelity simulations are the latest trend in nursing education and the school is using this trend to supplement the clinical learning experiences in the actual clinical settings. Manufactured by Laerdal Medical, the high-fidelity simulators in the school’s simulation family other than SimMan include Nursing Anne and Nursing Kid, run from handheld controllers and a Vital Sim device. They have programmable vital signs; lung, heart, and abdominal sounds; and fetal heart tones. Preprogrammed scenarios are available. Clinical learning has never been so lifelike, safe, or fun! Visit the school Web site for a full description and pictures of the Learning Resource Center facilities (soon to be renamed the “Clinical Simulation Center”).
List of Donors

The faculty, staff, and students are grateful for the generosity of so many who have enriched our program through their donations to scholarships, student research grants, equipment, and the dean’s discretionary fund that enable the school to support students and school projects which enrich the program and the state of Wyoming.

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Scholarships for 2007–08
Many thanks to our generous donors for continuing their support of nursing education through scholarships!

Accelerated Nursing B.S.N. Track Scholarship
Daryl Braga, Chianna Goodoff, David O’Keefe
Alumni Nursing Scholarship
Erin Pennington, Ashley Shriver
Polly Chase Memorial Scholarship
Patti Gardner, Kathryn Heimer, Patricia Walker
Marcia L. & William G. Dale Nursing Scholarship
Sarah Davison, Erica Nelson, Ashley Shriver
Frank R. & Dorothy M. Gruden Scholarship in Nursing for Sophomore, Junior, Senior
Kerra Cowper, Jill Hartwell, Kimberly Perry
Mildred Agnes Kimball & Adele Colling Memorial Scholarship
Lauren Konkel
John V. Leino Memorial Nursing Scholarship & Gertrude Gould Scholarship
Kerra Cowper
John & Lois Malmquist Nursing Scholarship
Bethany Ingle, Jessica McBroom, Elise Overstreet, Kimberly Perry
Carolyn Bennett Miknis ’59 Nursing Scholarship
Victoria Schlagr
Bonnie M. & George E. Nugent Nursing Scholarship
Lindsey White

Pearl Crossley O’Kieffe Memorial Scholarship
Kimberly Perry
Jana Leigh Pruitt Memorial Scholarship
Bethany Ingle
Mabel G. Sargent Scholarship
Cody Bates, Destiny Engle, Sara Otte, Rachel Smith, Alison Smyth, Kristen Winager
Dorothy Tupper Nursing Scholarship
Camlyn Dampman, Jill Hartwell
Clayton Unger Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Melanie Neuman, Caitlin Novotny
West Nursing Scholarship
Levi Bell
W. K. Wolff, MD, Memorial Scholarship
Melissa Christensen, Katie Schumacher
Wyoming Loan Scholarships for 2006–07 for undergraduates in the nursing major and graduate students in the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner option. Twenty-six students have taken advantage of these programs that will benefit both the state of Wyoming by providing health care providers and the students with educational funding.
Scholarships funds used to help students relocate for the professional practicum:

Basic B.S.N. program track students participate in health promotion poster presentations in lieu of a final exam. The students combine concepts learned so far about health and wellness, choose their own topics, and design their presentation to teach other nurses. They must relate their project to the goals set by “Healthy People 2010” to show their project to be relevant. Rachel Smith, a recipient of the Mabel G. Sargent Scholarship, is shown with her project on night terrors.

Transition Practicum Scholarship for 2006–07 donated by Albert and Carolyn (Gates ‘58) Carollo Jr., with additional funds from Andra (Spieles ‘93) Cousins:
- Calla Hopeman, Aleha Martin, Jennifer Oiler, Jessica Vendela
Nursing Summit Highlight

The Third Annual Nursing Summit was held last fall in conjunction with the Wyoming Nurses Association (WNA) annual convention in Casper. Pictured is Linda Mink (left), outgoing WNA president, and Linda Simmons (right), nursing director, Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County, Rock Springs, Wyoming.

The purpose of this third summit...

...was to convene nurses across the state and stakeholders across the health care delivery continuum to address nursing work force issues. Sean Clarke, Ph.D., R.N., C.R.N.P., C.S., from the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, served as the keynote speaker the first day, providing the audience of almost 80 attendees with information regarding the nursing shortage. Representatives from the board of nursing, school of nursing, rural health committee, WNA, Wyoming Organization of Nurse Executives, and Wyoming Department of Employment provided updates regarding their work throughout the past year.

Dennis Sherrod, Ed.D, R.N., professor and chair of recruitment and retention for Winston–Salem State University, North Carolina, updated attendees on status and current efforts at retention and recruitment across the nation. Round table discussions were held to develop and formally agree on objectives and for the proposal to be submitted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in order to establish a center for nursing work force development.

Fall 2007 Fourth Nursing Summit...

Location: Sheridan, Wyoming  Date: September 20–21, 2007

This summit will be followed by the WNA annual convention.

We Want to Hear from You!

Submit this form online through our Web site—or e-mail nurs.inq@uwyo.edu—to tell us where you are and what you are doing. Let us know about awards you have received, articles published, presentations made, or degrees earned. Tell us about your families or anything else you want to share with your classmates and other alumni. We will put your submission up on our new alumni updates page on the nursing Web site at www.uwyo.edu/nursing.

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Discovery Days

Nursing students Tom Shandley (left) and Brett Skattum (right) relax after presenting an upbeat, informative look at the nursing major to the UW Discovery Days students and parents this spring. Discovery Days is an invaluable experience for high school students as they explore the different career options open to them in college.