



New Nursing Dean Sherrill Smith (left) has much to discuss with former Dean Mary Burman. The two have been in close communication as this important transition between nursing leaders takes place.

A Time of Transition

Also in this issue:
Cultivating respect for research and scholarship (pages 6-11)



LETTER FROM THE DEAN



“ It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as dean of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing. I thank the great faculty, staff, students, nursing colleagues, and others who have been with me through this adventure! ”

Mary Burman • PhD, FAANP, FAAN • Dean and Professor

I was thrilled in 1992 to come back home to Laramie—where I was born and raised—to start as an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming. My goal was to make a difference in nursing and health care in Laramie and my home state of Wyoming. I didn't think about being dean at that time, but was appointed interim dean in 2007 and became dean in 2008 after assuming other leadership roles in the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing (SON) and the College of Health Sciences.

The opportunity to be dean allowed me to do what I set out to do. Working in collaboration with a great faculty and staff, we were able to add new programs (the BRAND accelerated BSN option and the DNP program) and to enhance existing programs (new leadership curricula in the MS program). Perhaps one of my most satisfying experiences was to be involved in the development of ReNEW, the statewide BSN curriculum that has been adopted by all seven of Wyoming's community colleges and UW. What a joy to work with nurse educators, nurses and nurse leaders from Wyoming community college, hospitals and other health care organizations!

The SON has great support from across the country. I have also thoroughly enjoyed working with alumni and other supporters of the SON. The Friends of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing, made up of alumni and donors, has been a key source of support for me individually, but also for the SON. We've increased annual and major giving over the last decade, which has been important as we enhance our programs.

Finally, I have always enjoyed working with students—and we have great undergraduate and graduate nursing

students. The future of nursing in Wyoming is secure given the quality of SON graduates!

It's now time for the new dean to take the reins of leadership of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing. I welcome Sherrill Smith to UW as she starts her tenure as the dean. We've been working together to make this as smooth a transition as possible.

I am ready to return to my role as SON faculty, teaching in our MS program. As many of you know, I face health challenges, having been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in the summer of 2018. Fortunately, the rogue cells have stayed in my bones, allowing me to lead a fairly normal life, and we hope they stay there! I am truly excited to get back to teaching and writing.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as dean of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing. I thank the great faculty, staff, students, nursing colleagues, and others who have been with me through this adventure!

Mary E. Burman
Dean and Professor



Dean Burman enjoying backpacking with her husband and daughter in a special place and time. Ella (left) and Charlie DeWolf.

In this issue

During Dean Burman's tenure 4-5
Cultivating respect for research 6-11, back cover
School update, recognition, awards 12-13
Community partner awards 14-15

Distinguished alumni award 16
UWAANC update 16
Donors and scholarship awards 17-18
Making a difference: One gift at a time 19

INTRODUCING THE NEW DEAN



“I feel very honored to be part of a nursing program with a history of excellence, including a recent successful Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation visit,” Smith says. “As the new dean, I am excited to be part of continuing this tradition of excellence by working with our partners across the state to meet the nursing workforce needs of Wyoming.”

Sherrill J. Smith • RN, PhD, CNL, CNE • Colonel, USAFR, NC (Ret)

A hearty welcome to the new dean!

Sherrill J. Smith, tenured professor and retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserves from Wright State University (WSU) in Dayton, Ohio, is dean for our University of Wyoming Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing as of August 1. Prior to stepping into this position, Smith served as full professor in the College of Nursing and Health at Wright State University.

Bringing strong focus on nursing leadership

Smith’s academic and military background bring strong leadership to the school. She plans to bolster the school’s preparation of nursing students for taking on leadership roles in practice. “I have been expected to be a leader since my first RN position as a military officer and staff nurse,” she says. “I built my leadership skills through positions in practice and academia, and have shared those experiences in teaching leadership courses to both undergrad/grad students.”

“Because of my extensive leadership experience,” continues Smith, “I am able to help clarify theoretical leadership perspectives with real-life examples from my own practice. I am most proud of a daylong leadership activity I developed to help senior nursing students understand the leadership role of nurses in disasters.”

Proponent of simulation and technology in nursing education

Smith’s scholarly focus, as a researcher, is on the area of nursing education. “Specifically, in the area of simulation and technology in nursing education,” stresses Smith. “I believe this research trajectory will have an important impact as dean of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing.”

Smith is an associate member of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, and recognizes the importance of simulation: using robotic patients to interact with nursing students, as well as enabling faculty members to

increase their teaching involvement in these areas. “With this background,” she says, “I can provide guidance in best practices for use of simulation and technology, as well as for scholarly trajectory assistance for faculty interested in pursuing scholarship in the area of teaching and learning.”

Looking forward to continuing tradition of excellence

“I feel very honored to be part of a nursing program with a history of excellence, including a recent successful Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation visit,” Smith says. “As the new



dean, I am excited to be part of continuing this tradition of excellence by working with our partners across the state to meet the nursing workforce needs of Wyoming. To do this will require recruiting and sustaining a diverse faculty and student body.

While Dean Smith and her younger son Rhys are enjoying relaxing on the lovely UW campus, husband Jeff will soon join them after moving the family’s prized possessions from Ohio. The whole family looks forward to enjoying the great Wyoming outdoors together.

dean, I am excited to be part of continuing this tradition of excellence by working with our partners across the state to meet the nursing workforce needs of Wyoming. To do this will require recruiting and sustaining a diverse faculty and student body.

I would also like to facilitate development of inter-professional teams to support faculty in pursuit of whatever type of scholarship they choose to advance the discipline of nursing.”

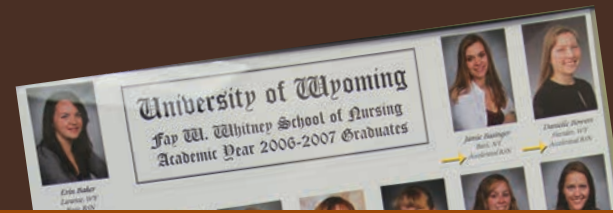
Sherrill J. Smith
Dean and Professor

TIMELINE: DEAN MARY BURMAN, 2007-2019 MAJOR EVENTS

2007

- ▶ First BRAND accelerated BSN students graduated

19 BRAND
Grads 2007



2008

- ▶ Marcia Dale named UW Distinguished Alumna
- ▶ Wyoming Center for Nursing founded



Dale named UW Distinguished Alumna

2009

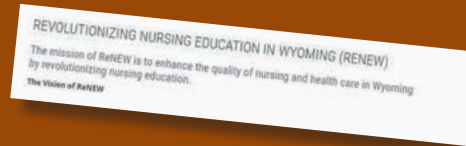
- ▶ “Friends of the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing” development board formed



First Friends Board (l-r): Veronica Taylor, Mary Behrens, Mary Burman, Marcia Dale, Gaurdia Banister, Fay Whitney, Ed Henry

2010

- ▶ Statewide planning for shared curriculum began: called ReNEW
- ▶ Full 10-year accreditation to the FWWSON granted by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)
- ▶ Dr. Marcia Dale gets book published covering the history of the UW School of Nursing



Burman joins Dale as she presents her book on UW Nursing history



2012

- ▶ \$1 million gift received from the McMurry Foundation to support nursing education
- ▶ First students admitted to DNP program
- ▶ Donna Diers, born and raised in Sheridan and faculty member at Yale University, honored with UW honorary degree



McMurry Foundation partnership with Wyoming Medical Center and UW Nursing supports nursing education



Donna Diers, named 2010 “Living Legend” by American Academy of Nursing, being given honorary UW degree

2013

- ▶ Marcia Dale Aspire Program developed
- ▶ Excellence Chair Diane Boyle hired
- ▶ Dr. Loretta Ford, co-founder of the nurse practitioner movement in the U.S., comes to campus to speak and meet the first UW DNP students



Instrumental Faculty/ Staff with first Aspire class of students.

Introducing Diane Boyle



Loretta Ford meets with first class of UWYO DNP students

2014

- ▶ First psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students admitted to DNP program
- ▶ DNP Program granted full accreditation by CCNE
- ▶ Gaurdia Banister named UW Distinguished Alumna



Gaurdia Banister
(BSN '80), UW
Distinguished Alumna



BURMAN ENDOWMENT

Mary Burman, dean of the University of Wyoming Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing since 2008, is an innovator in the profession of nursing. She is an enthusiastic advocate for higher education, which helps nurses build the skills they need in order to care for an increasing and increasingly complex population of patients.

Burman's development of inventive programs and her contributions to advancing health care in Wyoming have put her at the center of revolutionizing nursing education in the state.

In honor of her many accolades and accomplishments, an endowment is being established by Burman's many friends, family, and UW nursing alumni. The endowment, which will enhance the student experience outside the classroom with financial support, is an exciting new fund that will enrich the education and inspire the future careers of UW nursing students for generations to come.

The Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing—together with the University of Wyoming Foundation—is fundraising for this endowment with a campaign to grow the fund so student development opportunities can be shared with even more recipients.

To learn more, please contact Angela Ver Ploeg, director of development at the UW Foundation, at (307) 766-1939 or angela.verploeg@uwyo.edu. Or you can visit www.uwyo.edu/givetonursing to give directly to this opportunity.

Thank you!

2015

- ▶ Nursing Chapter of the UW Alumni Association formed



First board for UW Alumni Association Nursing Chapter (l-r): Johnna French, Emily Hill, Peter Skorcz



2016

- ▶ Direct freshman admission into the Basic BSN program began



Students are drawn to nursing program through new Freshman Admissions

2017

- ▶ First students admitted to the newly revised MS program focused on leadership



Advertising for MS Program brings in students for program on nursing leadership

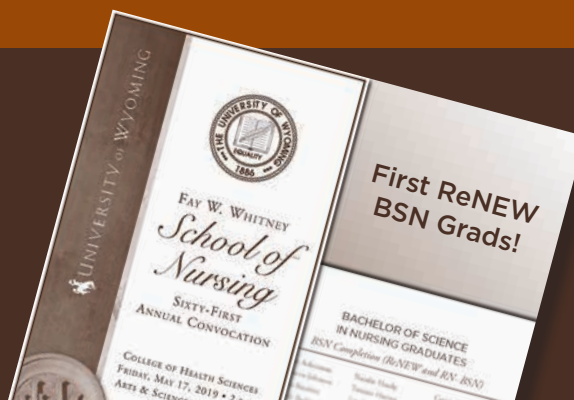
2018

- ▶ First ReNEW ADN students graduated from Wyoming community colleges



2019

- ▶ First ReNEW BSN students graduated from UW
- ▶ Burman Endowment Established



RESPECT FOR RESEARCH

Goal 1 in our school's current strategic plan is driving excellence: SIGNIFICANT, SUSTAINED SCHOLARSHIP to improve health outcomes

The number 1 step under that goal is to create a culture that values scholarship. That culture is thriving at the FWWSON! Enjoy reading pages 6-11 and the back cover.



Nursing Faculty Jenifer Thomas: "The Strategies for Risk Reduction Lab"

Jenifer Thomas wanted to include and mentor students in research, so she started a lab in 2011 with her research focus: type 2 diabetes prevention. Interviewing students annually to fill positions in her lab team, Thomas takes both undergrads and grads, and keeps the team interdisciplinary. This year's composition of the Thomas Lab: three nursing undergrads, one Doctor of Nursing Practice student, and one student each from kinesiology, pharmacy, and physiology programs at UW.

Jenifer Thomas • PhD

Undergraduate Basic BSN student and Thomas Lab team member Jenna Kindt:

One of the main draws to participating in the Thomas Lab for Jenna Kindt, Basic BSN student, was a fascination with Thomas' project: "Health-related concept in the context of lifestyle change and type 2 diabetes prevention":

"Since diabetes affects more than 24 million Americans and with numerous complications," says Kindt, "the need for research on diabetes prevention—particularly lifestyle change—is indisputable! My job in home health care involves assisting diabetic clients with monitoring and management of the disease. Therefore, as a member of the research team, I am enthusiastic to learn about the flip side of the coin—prevention!"

“#1 step under #1 school goal: to create a culture that values scholarship. That culture is thriving at the FWWSON! ”

These students—all Thomas Lab Team members—had the privilege of attending the Society of Behavioral Medicine Conference in Washington, D.C., where the team displayed their research poster. l-r: Sarah Clinkenbeard, Jenna Kindt, Bailey McCoy (all Basic BSN nursing students) and Avery White (physiology).





2019 Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates-elect present their quality improvement projects at the School of Nursing Research & Scholarship Day in April. The projects occur in collaboration with providers and administrators from partnering clinical agencies, addressing specific agency needs.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program: Research and scholarship culminate in Quality Improvement (QI) projects

“Clinical scholarship is a hallmark of DNP practice,” says DNP Program Director Ann Marie Hart, “and DNP students in nationally accredited programs are required to complete a DNP project prior to graduation. These projects provide an invaluable opportunity for students to integrate the science, theory, and practice skills they’ve learned, and to professionally disseminate their findings.”

Projects making a difference NOW

UW’s DNP program develops relationships with clinical agencies interested in partnering with UW Nursing regarding DNP education and practice improvement. Thus, DNP projects occur in collaboration with providers and administrators from partnering clinical agencies and address specific agency needs. Those needs varied widely this year, producing project topics such as “Increasing referrals to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in the veteran population: A trial of the drug and alcohol screening test” to “Restructuring Use of Urgent Care to Enrollment in Primary Care” to “Improving Access to Healthcare for the Homeless” and “Increasing Clinical Staff Suicide Assessment Confidence Through Training.”

As an example of the impact made by such studies, the latter project was completed at Ivinson Memorial Hospital (IMH), and the DNP students involved—Christina Cook and Timothy Barnes—were given the honor of writing the feature article for IMH’s *Iverson Vitals* June magazine regarding the project. Their article ends with this encouragement:

“With the growing rates of suicide within the US and the high rates in Wyoming, it is important for staff and community members to be able to identify and communicate with those persons experiencing suicidal thoughts. This collaborative improvement project . . . show(s) that brief interventions such as QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) can make a significant difference.”

FEATURED STORY

SUICIDE PREVENTION

WRITTEN BY CHRISTINA COOK AND TIMOTHY BARNES

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, and Wyoming has the third highest rate of suicide in the nation. Assessing patients for suicidal thoughts and ideation and securing timely professional help for those who are suicidal has been shown to save lives. Iverson takes suicide assessment seriously, and its clinical staff screen all hospitalized patients and patients who present to the ER for suicide. Although Iverson’s clinical staff routinely screen for suicide, in a survey conducted last year, Iverson staff indicated they lacked confidence in suicide screening and wanted more training. Thus, in the fall of 2018, Iverson’s quality

QPR-trained Department Staff from the Meredith and Jeanette Ray Cancer Center (pictured here) were part of the pilot project for QPR training.

IVINSON VITALS

Picture of title page for Cook and Barnes’ article for *Iverson Vitals*, used by permission from IMH.

RESPECT FOR RESEARCH

Basic BSN: Capstone clinical and EBP projects

Basic BSN students take an Evidence-Based Nursing course. They also have two practicum experiences in which they complete an Evidence Based Practice (EBP) project.



Sarah Clinkenbeard, planning to pursue a career in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, was placed at McKee Medical Center in Loveland, Colorado for capstone practicum in their Women & Infant Services Unit.

Clinkenbeard's EBP question:

In newborn infants, how does frequent pacifier use compared to restricted pacifier use affect feeding and other health outcomes in the first year of life?

Sarah Clinkenbeard • Basic BSN

The topic that intrigued Clinkenbeard:

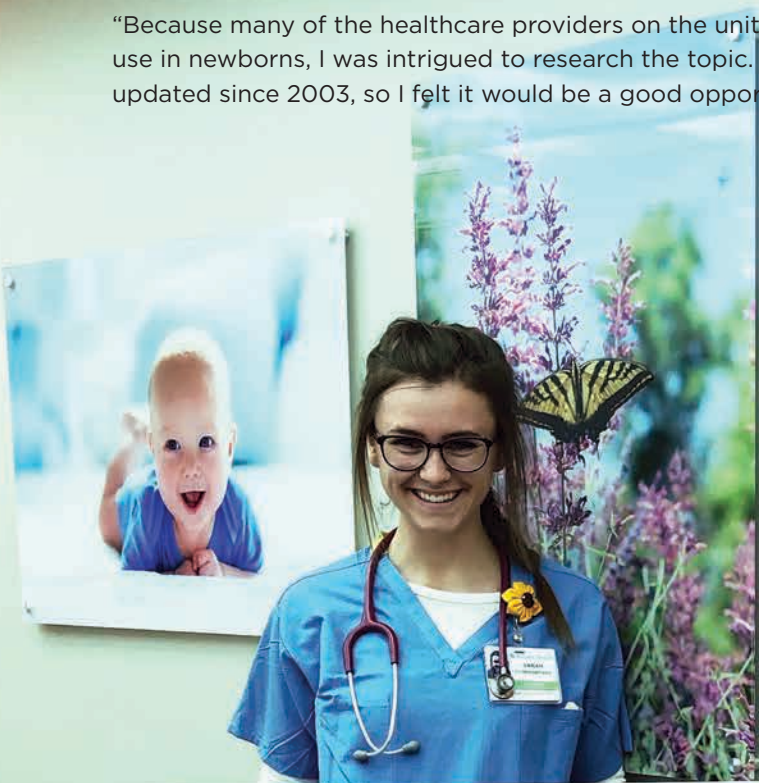
"Because many of the healthcare providers on the unit had very different perspectives and beliefs about pacifier use in newborns, I was intrigued to research the topic. The policy regarding pacifier use in my facility hasn't been updated since 2003, so I felt it would be a good opportunity to explore more up-to-date research."



What impressed her the most from the study/experience?

"When researching a topic so specific, I didn't think I would be able to find as much credible information as I did," shares Clinkenbeard. "There are actually thousands of peer-reviewed articles about pacifier use, providing valuable info for our unit-specific needs."

"It was also a neat experience to be able to discuss my project with a variety of healthcare professionals: nurses, unit managers, clinical education specialists, and lactation consultants. Everyone on the unit was passionate about implementing EBP. I learned the importance of staying current on nursing practice in order to provide the safest, most effective care for our patients and families."



ISSUE

- There is a **disconnect** between providers & parents on WIS for targeted use of pacifier.
- Currently pacifier use is discouraged for breastfeeding mothers, but upon discharge, mothers are given the option of pacifier use to prevent SIDS.
- This can confuse new parents on WIS and when they should give their baby a pacifier.
- For nursery babies, there is no formal education or documented parental consent for use of pacifiers (breastmilk, when and why they are used, etc.)

IN NEWBORN INFANTS, HOW DOES FREQUENT PACIFIER USE COMPARED TO RESTRICTED PACIFIER USE AFFECT FEEDING AND OTHER HEALTH OUTCOMES IN THE FIRST YEAR OF LIFE?

"IT WILL INTERFERE WITH BREASTFEEDING"

Some studies argue pacifiers have **no negative effect** on breastfeeding outcomes, but others argue they **negatively impact breastfeeding** in healthy newborns.

CURRENT POLICY

Our facility's current policy on pacifier use is based on the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines, which recommend against the use of pacifiers in the first year of life. This policy is based on the belief that pacifier use can interfere with breastfeeding and increase the risk of SIDS.

NURSERY BABIES

Our facility's current policy on pacifier use for nursery babies is based on the AAP guidelines, which recommend against the use of pacifiers in the first year of life. This policy is based on the belief that pacifier use can interfere with breastfeeding and increase the risk of SIDS.

WELL NEWBORNS

Our facility's current policy on pacifier use for well newborns is based on the AAP guidelines, which recommend against the use of pacifiers in the first year of life. This policy is based on the belief that pacifier use can interfere with breastfeeding and increase the risk of SIDS.

RESPECT FOR RESEARCH

Do students' capstone projects affect their practice post-graduation?

Yes! Here's one example:



Peter Skorcz, when in the Basic BSN program, was also in the UW Honors program and working at an assisted living/memory care center as well. Skorcz is currently working as an RN at that same center while concurrently enrolled in the MS Program's Nurse Educator focus.

Skorcz' undergrad EBP as well as honor's project:

. . . focused on challenges faced by caregivers of older adults: compassion fatigue, burnout, and caregiver role strain.

Peter Skorcz • MS Educator

Working with the dementia population

"Having a greater understanding of compassion fatigue while working with the dementia population was significant for maintaining the wellbeing of the family members and other caregivers involved with dementia care. Being better able to recognize the importance of caring for the family unit has been important in maintaining the quality of life of my clients. With the challenges of caring for this vulnerable population, this knowledge similarly has emphasized the importance of self-care practices, helping to maintain the quality of my nursing practice.

Skorcz' self-care practices revolve around "woodworking, my insect collection, and going on adventures with my world-traveling wife, Perry," says Skorcz.

Here Peter and Perry pose in front of a functioning replica of a Skuldelev ship in Roskilde, Denmark, where the couple went so that Skorcz could observe the practices of traditional Viking ship builders (and where he could enjoyably employ self-care, rest, and rejuvenation in order to be all he needs to be for his patients.)



RESPECT FOR RESEARCH

Faculty interdisciplinary team: Qualitative research in nursing and the health sciences

Exploring Institutional Ethnography (IE) as a collaborative endeavor

“Our professional collective goal is to enhance learning and further develop our IE skills—engaging with a global nursing scholar.”—Sarah Kooienga, PhD, Nursing



Erin Bush, PhD
Communication Disorders



Reshmi Singh, PhD
Pharmacy



Rebecca Carron, PhD
Nursing



Sarah Kooienga, PhD
Nursing



Janet Rankin, PhD, RN
University of Calgary

Most nurses understand research as a quantitative approach. Quantitative research is deductive and tends to analyze phenomena in terms of trends and frequencies, using experiments and surveys as a method. The data tends to be numerical, and statistical tests are applied to this data.

Qualitative health research, on the other hand, seeks to understand the meaning of a phenomena through description: emphasizing experiences and the need to understand diverse viewpoints. In health care research—most specifically in nursing research—these methods can be viewed as complementary and provide an in-depth understanding of the experience of illness, health, and the health care services both as a provider and a patient.

Three UW CHS researchers disseminating qualitative methods for health sciences research meet regularly to discuss, write, and support each other. At the invitation of nursing’s Rebecca Carron, the group works collaboratively to analyze online support group data for women living with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), a common endocrine disorder in which a woman’s ovary overproduces testosterone, resulting in stressful symptoms such as facial hair, menstrual dysfunction, and potential infertility as well as long time risks such as type 2 diabetes.

Through FWWSO funding, Professor Janet Rankin will be providing mentorship and analytic support in learning a new qualitative methodology: Institutional Ethnography (read more below). The group will meet regularly and work collectively through the process of data analysis. *(For your calendar: Dr. Rankin will be the keynote speaker, presenting her work in institutional ethnography, for School of Nursing Research and Scholarship Day on April 22, 2020.)*

Institutional Ethnography (IE)

- ▶ A critical form of sociological inquiry founded by Dorothy Smith, Canadian feminist sociologist.
- ▶ An alternative sociology—describing the social world (ontology), the knowledge required to understand our social world (epistemology), and how we go about collecting that knowledge (methodology).
- ▶ Key construct: our social world and everyday activities are controlled/coordinated by written texts and the discourse of the institutional or ruling relations of our society. (Adams, Carryer, & Wilkinson, 2015)

Janet Rankin

- ▶ Has done extensive supervision of graduate students who have used IE across a variety of disciplines (nursing, sociology, human geography, community health sciences, international development).
- ▶ Consults internationally, conducting IE workshops in Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, USA, Qatar
- ▶ Explores social organization of nursing work. Drawing on IE’s feminist origins, explores health information technologies with focus on electronic health record to find how knowledge works in contemporary nursing.

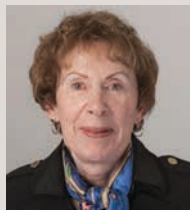
FACULTY RESEARCH/PUBLICATIONS

Rebecca Carron
PhD, RN, NP-C



Research Focus: Coping strategies and symptom management in American Indian and non-American Indian women with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). Faculty members working with Carron: Diane Boyle, Sarah Kooienga, Esther Gilman-Kehrer. **Key Publications:** Carron, R., Simon, N., Gilman-Kehrer, E., & Boyle, D. K. (2018). Improving rural health care for women with polycystic ovary syndrome through continuing education. *Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing*, 49 (4), 164-170/ Carron, R., Kooienga, S., Gilman-Kehrer, E., Alvero, R., & Boyle, D. K. (In press). Using the medicine wheel to study polycystic ovary syndrome in American Indian women. *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice/ Carron, R., Kooienga, S., Gilman-Kehrer, E., & Alvero, R. (In press). Cultural experiences, patterns, and practices of American Indian women with polycystic ovary syndrome: An ethn nursing study. Journal of Transcultural Nursing.*

Pamela Clarke
RN, MPH, PhD, FAAN



Research Focus: Nursing theory and innovations in nursing science; curriculum issues related to nursing knowledge and transformation; leadership in public health/health disparities. **Key Publications:** Clarke, P. N., & Berkland, D. (2019). Paradoxes in Healthcare Leadership: Being Nonbeing. *Nursing Science Quarterly*, 32(2), 116-119./Clarke, P. N. (2019). Envisioning a Virtual Future for Nursing. *Nursing Science Quarterly*, 32(1), 33-34./Clarke, P. N., & Esperat, C. (2018). Community Engagement: Transformation for Health Framework. *Nursing Science Quarterly*, 31(4), 343-345./Clarke, P. N. (2018). Transformative Relationships: Humans and Animals. *Nursing Science Quarterly*, 31(3), 237-238./Clarke, P. N., & Bleich, M. R. (2018). Holistic Leadership—Nursing's Unique Contribution to Healthcare. *Nursing Science Quarterly*, 31(2), 134-138./Clarke, P. N., & Shattell, M. (2018). Public Dialogue in Nursing and Healthcare. *Nursing Science Quarterly*, 31(1), 29-30.

Ann Marie Hart
PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP



Research Focus: Nurse practitioner (NP) transition into practice and evidence-based practice, particularly respiratory infections. has conducted national studies assessing NPs' preparedness for practice and transition into practice following formal NP education. Hart also conducted study w/Margaret Flinter, PhD, FNP, FAAN, FAANP, founder of the nation's first NP residency program in CT, demonstrating effectiveness of the residency program, as well as facilitators/barriers of the transition process. Hart has also written evidence-based articles on diagnosis and management of respiratory infections and invited to guest-edit special infectious disease editions of the Journal for Nurse Practitioners, most recently the June 2019 edition. **Key Publications/Presentations:** Hart, A.M. (2019) The Advanced Practice Registered Nurse in Chronic Illness Care. In P.D. Larsen (ed.). *Lubkin's Chronic Illness: Impact and intervention* (10th ed., pp. 391-422). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett./Hart, A.M. & Moore, K. S. (2019). When You Hear Hoofbeats, Think Horses—But be Prepared for Zebras. *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 15(6), 10./Hart, A.M. (2019). Influenza: A Clinical Update Following a Century of Influenza Science. *Journal for Nurse Practitioners*, 15(6), 429-433./Hart, A.M. (2018) State of NP Residency Programs. American Association of Colleges of Nursing Doctoral Conference, Invited presentation at Faculty Practice Pre-conference. Naples, FL.

Sarah Anne Kooienga
PhD, FNP, ARNP



Research Focus: Promoting excellence in primary care through enhancing RN roles in primary care, integrating behavioral health in primary care settings and implementing Health IT in rural primary care settings. **Key Publications:** Cox, A.M.; Kooienga, S. (2019) Development of a Hub and Spoke Model of Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) in rural communities of western Colorado for patients with opiate use disorder (OUD) podium presentation- NAPCRG PBRN conference, Bethesda, Md. June 24-26, 2019/Thompson, K; Kooienga, S. (2018) RNs in Primary Care: meeting the quadruple aim. Poster presentation at SNOCAP/AHEC conference, Breckenridge, CO, September 2018./Kooienga, S. (2018) Rural patients' and primary care clinic staffs' perceptions of EHR implementation: an ethnographic exploration. *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management* 41(1) 71-79.

Mary Anne Purtzer
PhD, RN FNP, ARNP



Research Focus: Exploring and fostering personal and collective growth through transformative learning. This focus is operationalized within the academic and clinical contexts with faculty, staff, students, nurses, and clients/patients. **Key Publications:** Purtzer, M. A., & Thomas, J. (2019). Intentionality in Reducing Health Disparities: Caring as Connection. *Public Health Nursing*, 36(3), 276-283./Hermansen-Kobulnicky, C. J., & Purtzer, M. A., Singh, R. L., Ross, C. L., McTigue, K. M., & Overstreet, L. (2018). Examining change in confidence: A unique approach to interprofessional education evaluation. *Health and Interprofessional Practice*. doi: 10.7710/2159-1253.1115.

Jenifer Thomas
PhD



Research Focus: Promote health behavior change by examining psychosocial and cultural factors. Special interests in risk perception and communication as related to type 2 diabetes prevention; health disparities associated with type 2 diabetes risk among Hispanic individuals in rural areas. **Key Publications:** Thomas, J., Lutes, L., Smirnova, E., Das, B., Huzurbazar, S., Aldrich, L., & Lee, M. (2019). Self-concept in the context of diabetes prevention: Development of the lifestyle health-related self-concept (Lifestyle-HRSC) questionnaire. *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 33(3), 452-456./Vincente, A., Candila, J., Thomas, J., Gomez Aguilar, P., & Oliva, C. (2019). Living with type 2 diabetes in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico: A phenomenological study. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 3, 214-221.

SCHOOL UPDATE

2019 Faculty and Staff Awards

David Bodily, Linda Williams, Elizabeth Goodwin: Wald Award to attend 2019 professional conference, “Education Reimagined: A Joint Conference Presented by OLC and MERLOT. Subtitle: “Moving Mountains in Digital, Blended, and Online Learning.”

Mary Burman: CHS Outstanding Career Award

Rebecca Carron and Sarah Kooienga: along with Erin Bush (UW Neurogenic Communication Disorders), Reshmi Singh (Pharmacy), and Ruben Alvero, MD, Professor & Division Director, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Sunnyvale, California. Sharron S. Humenick Award for their proposal, “An Institutional Ethnographic Analysis of Online Open Support Groups for Women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS).”

Esther Gilman-Kehrer and Candace Stidolph: along with Timothy Robinson, and Yvette Haeberle from WWAMI. Sharron S. Humenick Award for “Examining the Effectiveness of Teaching Sensitive Examinations and Sexual Health History Taking with Trained Teaching Assistants in an Interprofessional Student Setting.”

Paula Kihn and David Bodily: Sharron S. Humenick Award for their project, “Revolutionizing Nursing in Wyoming (ReNEW): Comparing Wyoming nursing programs’ curricula to determine effectiveness.”

Mary Anne Purtzer: CHS Innovation in Teaching Award

Jenifer Thomas: Sharron S. Humenick Award for her proposal, “Diabetes Prevention Interventionist Training Program for Pre-Professional Students in the Health Sciences.”

Rachel Thomas: Wald Award for Professional Development, to go to tuition assistance toward Certification for Healthcare Simulation Educator.

Student Convocation Awards

On May 17, 2019, 153 graduates were honored: 46 Basic BSN, 21 BRAND, 68 RN-BSN Completion, 12 DNP-FNP, and six DNP-PMHNP. **BRAND graduate-elect Jaclynn Barnes** delivered the Convocation message to graduates and their families. Awards were presented as follows:

2019 Basic BSN and Brand Awards

Emily Bishoff (BRAND) and Morgan Lu (Basic): Rudolph “Rudy” and Louise Anselmi and Jeri Kirk Family Trust Nursing Scholarship, *leadership, responsibility*

Devon Flaim (Basic): Gertrude Gould Memorial Award, *excellence in public health nursing practice*

Marysa Barton (Basic): Amelia Leino Memorial Award, *academic excellence, strong aptitude for family nursing*

Sarah Clinkenbeard (Basic): Carol Macnee Scholarship Award, *excellence in scholarship and/or research*



Mary Burman Honored with 2019 CHS Outstanding Career Achievement Award

College of Health Sciences Outstanding Career Award was presented to Dean Mary Burman by nursing faculty and CHS Award Committee member, Nancy McGee.

Allison Brown (Basic) and Laurie Heath (BRAND): Beverly McDermott Award, *leadership, public activism*

Kacie McCleary (BRAND): Passion for Nursing Award, *passion in nursing*

James Willox (Basic): School of Nursing Spirit Award, *exceptional spirit and enthusiasm*

Katharine Baldwin (BRAND) and Meghan Mercer (Basic): Dorothy Tupper Memorial Award, *caring, compassion, interpersonal communication*

Aaron Johnston (BRAND) and Emily Stanton (Basic): Lina Kennedy White Memorial Award, *interest in and aptitude for geriatric nursing*

2019 RN-BSN Completion Award

Heidi Smith: Professional Nurse Award, *excellence in practice, community, and professional service*

2019 DNP Awards

Randy Baxter: Rural Advanced Practice Nursing Award, *exemplary rural practice in nursing*

Jeff Shideman: Change Agent Award, *commitment to improving and changing health*

Meghan Pankey and Carolyn Pignataro: Dr. Patsy Hesen Haslam Leadership Award, *leadership and grace in the DNP program*

Sherra StClair: Susan McCabe Psychiatric/Mental Health Graduate Award, *academic excellence, passion for knowledge, superior clinical practice*



PRECEPTOR RECOGNITION

2018 BRAND Preceptor Award: Morgan Holz, RN

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center • Cheyenne, Wyoming

“Morgan Holz was the perfect match for me. She could see what I needed each day and became that for me—just like she does for her patients. I felt so encouraged and supported, gaining confidence to grow into my role as a nurse. Morgan’s endless positivity, inquisitive nature, and sharp wit provided the best hands-on nursing education I could have hoped for.”

—Molly Adami, *BRAND Student 2018*



PRECEPTOR RECOGNITION

2019 Basic BSN Preceptor Award: Scott Christensen, RN

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center • Cheyenne, Wyoming • ICU

“An ICU nurse for 21 years, Scott had great insight, advice, and support in every situation—including tough times in the ICU and in moments of uncertainty. He challenged me to be the best nurse I can be, focusing on patient driven care. His willingness to step up to help anyone needing assistance motivated all of the staff—and me!”

—Nichole Paulson, *Basic BSN Student 2019*



EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING AWARD

2019 Award: Jennifer Frausto, DNP-PMHNP

Peaceful Minds Wellness Center • Casper, Wyoming

Jennifer Frausto, UW BSN; U. of Colorado MS and DNP, has practiced with Dr. Steven Brown and Associates at Wyoming Behavioral Institute—specializing in mental health and chemical dependency treatment for children, adolescents and adults. Frausto was hired as medical director of WBI’s “Foundations for Success” program, where behaviorally challenged children from

kindergarten through second grade learn skills to be successful in local schools. Frausto started her own successful private practice, Peaceful Minds Wellness Center, continuing to serve the psychiatric needs of pediatric and adult clients in Casper. The DNP faculty chose Frausto for this award due to her commitment to providing excellent psychiatric care to individuals experiencing severe mental illness, as well as her commitment to educating the next generation of psychiatric nurse practitioners.



PETER K. SIMPSON ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING FAN AWARD

2019 Award: Wyoming Primary Care Association

Non-Profit Organization funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) • Casper, Wyoming

“The Wyoming Primary Care Association supports advanced practice nursing in Wyoming by encouraging health centers to hire NPs; by encouraging NPs to work at these safety net clinics; by working to locate project sites for students; by helping with grant applications and HRSA-funded projects; by learning about and expressing interest in post-graduate NP residency programs; and by being excited about contributions NPs bring to health care,” shares DNP Program Director Ann Marie Hart. “The WPCA staff live out their mission to ‘connect the people of Wyoming with quality health care: every person, every need, every neighborhood.’—a tall order for the rugged, sparsely populated state of Wyoming. But WPCA realized long ago that APNs are a critical part of their mission to connect the people of Wyoming with quality health care.”

Pictured l-r: Ann Marie Hart, Jan Cartwright, WPCA Executive Director; Scott Cheney, Clinical Project Manager

every person, every need, every neighborhood.”

COMMUNITY PARTNERS OF THE YEAR



Banner Health Western Division Hospitals

Basic BSN: Banner Health Western Division Hospitals

Banner Health includes Basic BSN students every year in the highly competitive process of placement in northern Colorado Banner facilities. Students chosen for this opportunity are very excited and thankful for such placements. “I am grateful that they allow our students to be part of the process,” says BSN program director Kimberly Raska-Miller, “and that many of our students are placed with Banner for their capstone clinical. Other Banner facilities in Wyoming and Colorado (Sterling) are willing to place our UW nursing students as well.”

Raska-Miller continues her praise for Banner Health: “All facilities provide a rich learning experience for our capstone students, who are given the opportunity to see a wide variety of patients in either a rural or more urban setting. Banner Health preceptors are professional and eager to help students transition into the role of RN. They push students out of their comfort zone and help them to grow confident in their abilities as a nurse. I am thankful for their part in the education of our students.”

BRAND: Wyoming Recovery—Casper

Wyoming Recovery in Casper partnered with the BRAND program to introduce students to behavioral health in a positive light and to decrease the common stigmas associated with behavioral health. Students were exposed to the many aspects of substance abuse, including group and individual therapy, harm-reduction techniques, medication-assisted therapies, and a comprehensive health care plan for each client. Students actively participated in group therapy sessions and witnessed the motivation and

striving for clients to improve their overall health and wellness.

Dr. Frank Del Real, Wyoming Recovery Medical Director, has graciously dedicated his time and shared his expertise with each BRAND student throughout the rotation. He took special care to explain the disease of addiction, treatment options, and how nurses can make a positive difference in the lives of any person struggling with a substance problem. Nurses are a strong voice in helping break the stigma of addiction, and can also educate their community that addiction can affect anyone and help is available.



Wyoming Recovery facility (above right, as pictured on their web site) “encompasses four converted residential homes that provide a cozy, homey atmosphere on an open campus,” states their site, “and is one block east of Wyoming Medical Center, which is an acute care comprehensive hospital. Residents are housed in a supervised, safe, and nurturing environment.” (See <http://www.wyomingrecovery.com/facilities/>)



Left: Pictured (l-r) Banner Health Wheatland personnel: Kim Schindler, FNP-C; Derrick Lockman, Practice Manager; Amy Johnson, DNP, FNP-C; Dr. Jeff Bacon, CMO; and Tanda Hicks, DNP, FNP. Above: Banner Health Clinic in Wheatland.

DNP: Banner Health Wheatland

The DNP Program is honored to present the 2019 DNP Community Partner Award to Banner Health Clinic in Wheatland, Wyoming.

For over 15 years this exceptional rural primary care clinic and their second-to-none team of nurse practitioners have provided an incalculable amount of clinical education to the UW nurse practitioner students. The experiences NP students receive at the Banner Health Wheatland Clinic represent the epitome of relation-centered, community-focused, team-based primary care, and students always receive individualized support as they explore the full gamut of providing care to a rural community—including acute, chronic, wellness, and mental health care.

“Additionally,” says Ann Marie Hart, UW DNP Program Director, “the Banner Health Wheatland Clinic administration appreciates the unique contributions of NPs: They have hired and retained a number of UW NP graduates through the years.”

Banner Health Wheatland Clinic recently collaborated with the DNP program on student-led quality improvement projects. “The Banner Health Wheatland Clinic goes above and beyond to partner with our program,” summarizes Hart, “and our faculty value this partnership more than words can express.”

BSN Completion (BSNC): Northern Wyoming Community College District

The BSN Completion Program (BSNC) has chosen the Northern Wyoming Community College District (NWCCD—Gillette College and Sheridan College) Nursing Program as the latest recipient of our Community Partners Award. The BSNC Program benefits from close relationship with NWCCD Nursing and from graduates

who choose Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing to complete their BSN degrees.

In the fall of 2018, the NWCCD Nursing Program fully implemented ReNEW nursing curriculum. This milestone set Wyoming off as the only state where all accredited RN programs share a curriculum.

The nursing faculty and administrators at NWCCD have brought fresh eyes and enthusiasm to ReNEW at an opportune time. Professional collaboration and curricular refinement are enhanced, and the influx of NWCCD Associate Degree students into ReNEW BSN coursework energizes the work. The ReNEW collaborative as a whole—and the BSNC Program specifically—are stronger with the full partnership of the NWCCD nursing program in ReNEW.

We salute the NWCCD Nursing Program for embracing not only the hard work of implementing a new curriculum, but of delivering a smooth transition for students already looking toward the FWWSON for BSN Completion education.



Picture taken by NWCCD showing nursing students in a NWCCD nursing simulation lab and posted on their web site at <https://www.sheridan.edu/academics/programs-a-z/nursing/>.



2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



Joan Moon ('96), EdD, CNM

Joan L. Moon, EdD, CNM, is the FWWSON 2019 Distinguished Alumna. She will receive her award for excellence in leadership, education, and innovation during Homecoming festivities in October.

Education: Moon's UW education (1979 BSN, 1987 MS [Parent-Child Nursing]) prepared her as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Certified

Nurse Midwife and university faculty. 1999: Frontier School of Nurse-Midwifery graduate; 2003: Medical and Health Education certification, Medical College of Ohio; 2007: EdD in Leadership/Policy Studies, Bowling Green State University.

Entrepreneur, Innovator: Moon became an entrepreneur and innovator in women's health with the development of an educational module, "A Woman's World: Discovering the Dynamic Menstrual Cycle," currently used

by faculty throughout the U.S. and Australia. Her website, *WomensHealthDynamics.com*, promotes women's health through storytelling and technology.

Author: Moon authored professional publications, presenting at U.S., Canada, and Australia conferences. As contributing editor, she published birth poetry in the *International Journal of Perinatal Education* and served on the editorial review board, *Journal of Human Lactation*.

Leadership: Moon's leadership is exemplified through creativity and initiative in developing Women's Health Dynamics Institute, LLC, and through the fight against heroin addiction. Moon sits on the Board of Wells County (Indiana) Citizens Against Drug Abuse. She obtained grant funding to bring nationally known speaker Sam Quinones, author of *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*, to a conference for her community. She was an invited speaker at the Indiana governor's task force on the Indianapolis opiate crisis. Active on social media, Moon contributed "It Takes a Village: Circling the Heroin Addict" to the blog, HealthComU. Moon subsequently received the Outstanding Community Service Award from Citizens Against Drug Abuse in Bluffton, Indiana.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Deadline: 5/1/2020

Submit nominations for the 2020 award online:

www.uwyo.edu/nursing/alumni/alumni-distinguished/index.html

Co-Presidents
UWAANC:



Jenna Hluwood
MS, RN, CNE



Holly Miller
MS, RN, CNE

UW Alumni Association Nursing Chapter (UWAANC)

Our new UWAANC officer board's Capstone Mentoring program has been a huge success! Mentors provided social support/assistance in the transition from student to registered nurse. Both mentors and students had nothing but positive feedback.

We look forward to the upcoming events this fall, listed below:

- ▶ Homecoming Nursing Alumni Meet & Greet: 10/18/19, 5:30–7:30 p.m., Altitude Restaurant
- ▶ Memorable Mentor Award: submit nomination as noted below. Award will be presented at the Homecoming Meet & Greet (above) on 10/18/19, Altitude Restaurant
- ▶ Resume Blitz & Nursing Career Fair: 10/16/19, 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m., UW Student Union Ballroom. Jeanie Niemoller will review résumés at fair for senior students and also on-line. Experienced in looking at résumés and hiring? Please email: uwnursingalumni@uwyo.edu
- ▶ Speed Mentoring: 10/23/19, 12–2 p.m., 3rd floor Health Sciences Center. Nurses come in person or via teleconference to talk about their nursing specialties with students. Interested in speaking about your area of nursing? Let us know! uwnursingalumni@uwyo.edu

We would love to hear from you!

Email us if you want to share experiences/stories: uwnursingalumni@uwyo.edu

Join us: wyoalumni.uwyo.edu/uwaanurse

CALL FOR MEMORABLE MENTOR AWARD 2019 NOMINATIONS

Deadline: 10/1/2019 • Submit nominations for the 2019 mentor award online: www.uwyo.edu/nursing/alumni/uwaa-nursing-chapter/memorable-mentor-nomination-form.html

LIST OF DONORS TO SCHOOL (JUNE 2018-MAY 2019)

A HUGE thank you to the following donors, who together contributed over \$334,071.17 in gifts as noted below.

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of WY

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Thank you!

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Please accept my/our gift to UW Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing in the amount of:

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- Yes**, UW is named in my will.
- Yes**, my company matches my gifts. I have included a form from my company.

N2ONU

2019–2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The school awarded **\$155,655** in scholarships and **\$121,626** in BRAND state-funded loan repayment funds for the 2019-2020 academic year. The following donors make nursing education more *manageable* financially for some students, and make nursing education actually *possible* for others. A big **THANK YOU** for encouraging hard-working students with your gift of support.

Rudolph “Rudy” and Louise Anselmi and Jeri Kirk Family Trust Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,500) awarded to one BRAND student

Marcia Dale Aspire Scholars Program Scholarships

Three scholarships (\$2,000 each) awarded to Basic BSN Scholars in their senior year

Babson and Associates Primary Care Nursing Scholarship

Two scholarships (\$3,000 each) awarded to ReNEW students

Gaurdie and Barbara Shannon Banister Scholarship for DNP Students

One scholarship (\$4,000) awarded to one DNP student (FNP)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming Caring Foundation: Meeting the Needs of Wyoming through Nursing Scholarship

Two scholarships (\$1,400 each) awarded to ReNEW students

Kathleen Buckingham Bohmont Nursing Scholarship

One scholarship (\$790) awarded to one ReNEW student

Polly Chase Memorial Scholarship

Four scholarships (\$1,800 each) awarded to one MS student and three Basic BSN students

Marcia L. and William G. Dale Nursing Scholarship

Two scholarships (\$3,000 each) awarded to Basic BSN students

DNP Innovative Practice Scholarships

Eleven scholarships (from \$500 to \$1000 each) awarded to DNP students

Rosalie Fields Nursing Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,125) awarded to one Basic BSN student

Frances E. Gasdek-Eaglehouse and Barry D. Gasdek Scholarship

One scholarship (\$2,300) awarded to one BRAND student

Frank R. and Dorothy M. Gruden Scholarship in Nursing

Two scholarships (\$740 each) awarded to one junior Basic BSN student and one senior BSN Completion student
One scholarship (\$1,500) awarded to one sophomore Basic BSN student

Elizabeth Holland Scholarship in Nursing

One scholarship (\$1,195) awarded to one DNP student (FNP)

Jonas Nurse Leader Scholars

Two scholarships (\$10,000 each) awarded to DNP students (FNP and PMHNP)

Mildred Agnes Kimball and Adele Colling Memorial Scholarship

One scholarship (\$730) awarded to one Basic BSN student

John V. Leino Memorial Nursing Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,920) awarded to one Basic BSN student

John and Lois Malmquist Nursing Scholarship

Four scholarships (\$1,875 each) awarded to MS Program students

Carolyn Bennett Miknis '59 Nursing Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,800) awarded to one ReNEW student

Gordon S. and Charlott Myers (CHS)

Three scholarships (\$3,430) awarded to one BRAND student and two ReNEW students

Bonnie M. and George E. Nugent Nursing Scholarship

Two scholarships (\$1,850 each) awarded to one Basic BSN student and one MS Program student

Nursing Alumni Scholarship

Four scholarships (\$1,200 each) awarded to three DNP students (two FNP, one PMHNP) and one BSN Completion student

Pearl Crossley O’Kieffe Memorial Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,300) awarded to one DNP FNP student

Jana Leigh Pruitt Memorial Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,000) awarded to one Basic BSN student

Mable C. Sargent Scholarship

Six scholarships (\$5,000 each) awarded to Basic BSN students

Joseph F. and Susan H. Steiner ReNEW Nursing Scholarship

One scholarship (\$900) awarded to one ReNEW student

Paul Stock Scholarship (CHS)

One scholarship (\$1,700) awarded to one MS Program student

Transition Practicum Scholarship: Basic Program

Fourteen scholarships (from \$250–500 each) awarded to Basic BSN students

Dorothy Tupper Nursing Scholarship

Two scholarships (\$1,700 each) awarded to two Basic BSN students

Clayton Unger Endowed Nursing Scholarship

Three scholarships (\$4,250 each) awarded to one Basic BSN, one BRAND, and one BSN Completion student

M&E Viner Memorial Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,000) awarded to one Basic BSN student

Wiest Nursing Scholarship

One scholarship (\$1,075) awarded to one Basic BSN student

W.K. Wolf, M.D. Memorial Scholarship

One scholarship (\$3,000) awarded to one Basic BSN student

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Path to nursing

As a high school student in Cheyenne, Taylor (Burke) Meyer was already well on her way to pursuing her overall goal of becoming a doctor—not a nurse! By the age of 16, she was a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), and would work at a number of healthcare facilities by the time she graduated high school.

But Taylor’s CNA experience changed her career goals. “I was much more of a bedside kind of person,” she found, “where you can really connect with the patient—a different connection than being a doctor.” So Taylor enrolled in UW nursing.



Taylor (Burke) and Ryan Meyer with their son

Opportunities opened doors

After graduating from UW in 2011, Taylor participated in a UW nursing trip to Honduras, volunteering at the Agua Salada clinic. At the same time, a group from UW’s College of Engineering was in Honduras, building that very clinic. Ryan Meyer was one of those engineering students. He would eventually marry Taylor.

In Honduras, Ryan focused on clinic engineering projects by day, volunteering alongside Taylor and others after work. Taylor says she went on the trip very focused as a nurse, and “didn’t want to be distracted by some guy,” she jokes. “It took going to Honduras to meet my husband, though we both went to UW.”

Setback redirects career focus

After Honduras, Taylor worked at Iverson Memorial Hospital and Hospice while Ryan finished his PhD. A patient fall led to Taylor fracturing her own foot—“a death sentence for a nursing career,” she thought. Reassigned to work light duty in Quality Department while healing, Taylor found she was good at it: “I fell in love with patient safety and supporting frontline staff!”

Against warnings from colleagues, who thought it was too early in her career, Taylor made the jump to working in Quality fulltime, making a lucrative decision that led her to the position of Director of Quality in the Twin Cities. After marrying Ryan, Taylor became Director of Quality & Patient Safety with Centura Health in Parker, Colorado.

Giving back

Shortly after graduation, Taylor was asked to join Friends of the FWWSO development board. “I didn’t think I was worthy,” she said. “A nurse for just over a year, I didn’t feel I was the best fit.” But Dean Mary Burman wanted varying perspectives on the board, and felt a new nurse would be beneficial to the group. So, in November 2018, UW held its annual Giving Day—where friends and alumni are asked to give back to UW. The Friends of Nursing Board challenged their members to participate, and Taylor made a gift to the School of Nursing’s Alumni Scholarship Fund. Taylor’s quote wraps it up:

“It’s an area I’ve struggled with for some time. I was focused on paying off student loans and was almost ashamed I wasn’t going to give enough. However, I understand that every bit helps, and there are students who would not become the next generation of great nurses without the support of alumni.”

—Taylor Meyer, ‘11

Interested in Giving Back?

Please contact:
Brett Kahler, Director of Development
(307) 766-3083/bkahler@uwyo.edu

The University is committed to equal opportunity for all persons in all facets of the University's operations. All qualified applicants for employment and educational programs, benefits, and services will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law and University policy. • Editor: Claire Hitchcock; Graphic designer: Mariko Design LLC/Elizabeth Ono Rahel; Main photographers: UW Photo Service, Claire Hitchcock.



Participating in the Thomas Lab (see pg. 6) as an undergraduate as well as a graduate student:

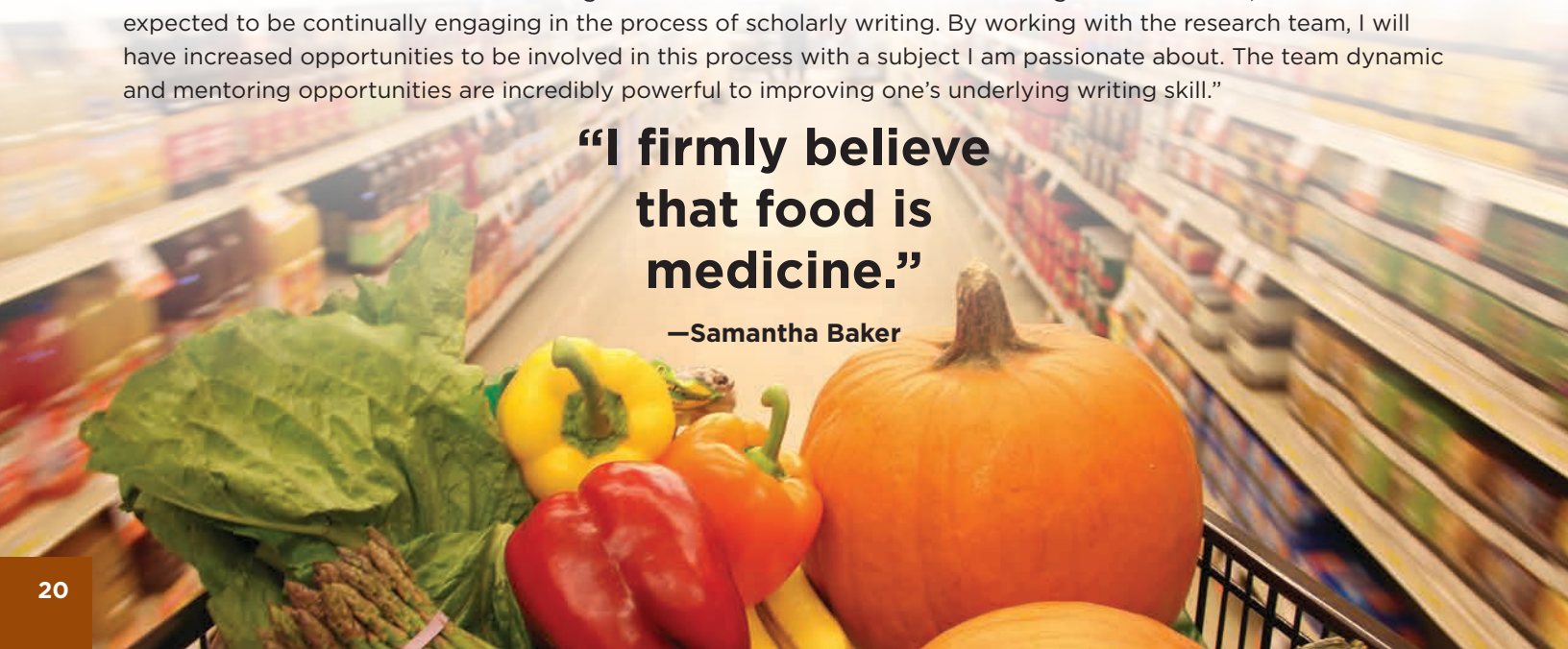
Samantha Baker, DNP student in the FNP option, had the opportunity to be a part of the research team during her undergraduate education. “This experience provided a wealth of opportunity which include: exposure to the research process, publication, mentoring, networking, and the honor of getting to attend the Western Institute of Nursing Conference. These opportunities have influenced my personal and professional development, so rejoining the team for my graduate education felt like a natural extension.”

Samantha Baker • DNP Student

Baker: Research focus varies to fit the passions of the individuals

Samantha Baker not only graduated from the Basic BSN nursing program at UW, but also holds a bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition and Food, truly believing “that food is medicine,” says Baker. “I plan to provide primary care to persons throughout the lifespan with a particular emphasis on holistic care and nutrition.” Thomas' lab with the focus on type 2 diabetes prevention is a great match for Baker.

But Samantha finds other benefits through involvement in the research lab: “As a graduate student, we are expected to be continually engaging in the process of scholarly writing. By working with the research team, I will have increased opportunities to be involved in this process with a subject I am passionate about. The team dynamic and mentoring opportunities are incredibly powerful to improving one's underlying writing skill.”



**“I firmly believe
that food is
medicine.”**

—Samantha Baker