PARTNERSHIPS YIELD POWERFUL IMPACT
Dear College of Nursing Alumni and Friends,

One of the four strategic goals of the College of Nursing is to cultivate partnerships. These relationships within higher education, across diverse health organizations, and with communities of the state, region and world assure quality education and stimulate innovative ideas that improve health and health care. This issue of the College of Nursing magazine is all about partnerships. In May 2016, The College of Nursing held its inaugural Partnership Summit. An entire day of engaging dialogue took place in Sioux Falls between College of Nursing faculty and staff from across the state and professional representatives from 20 healthcare organizations and government agencies. Small group discussions addressed opportunities and challenges in health care and nursing education. Conversations honed in on where health care is taking place, how to engage students in that care, and how to educate a workforce with the skills to manage and coordinate care for populations of people who may share a common geography, chronic condition or age group. Cost, quality and outcomes of health care were resounding themes. We know that the nursing workforce has an important lead role to play in quality, affordable, accessible health care. Our partners were complementary of our graduates and challenged us to prepare professionals with excellent clinical judgement, safe practice, the ability to work in teams and strong communication skills. We are taking on those challenges in both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Partnerships that extend beyond the United States are essential for our students and faculty to gain a global perspective on health and health care. We are honored to host two exchange students from Sweden's Jönköping University on the main campus in Brookings this fall. College of Nursing students have the opportunity to travel to Sweden in the summer as part of this partnership between our universities. Our faculty are developing a new study abroad opportunity in Ghana, Africa. Other study abroad opportunities are under consideration for parts of Asia. We know that these learning experiences prepare our students as global citizens and forever change their perspective on life.

Our partnerships allow us to imagine a future where people are healthy, and health care is affordable, accessible and high quality. Our actions as leaders in nursing education will inspire our graduates to make this imagined world a reality.

With best regards,

Nancy Fahrenwald, Ph.D., RN, APHN-BC, FAAN
Dean and Professor
SDSU College of Nursing (BS ’83)
Cover photo:
The College of Nursing welcomed Linda Emfridsson, left, and Isabell Ohtonen to the Brookings campus for the fall 2016 semester. The students are part of an exchange program with Sweden’s Jönköping University, a partnership that has been in existence for 15 years. For more on their first weeks at State, see page 12.

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Special thanks to the College of Nursing for its assistance.

This publication is published by the Office of University Marketing and Communications, South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D. 57007-1498.

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Collaboration a key part of first-ever event

It was a day of camaraderie, laughs and knowledge exchanged. That day was the College of Nursing’s first partnership summit May 10 at the Holiday Inn-City Centre in Sioux Falls. Representatives from approximately 25 agencies attended to discuss topics ranging from continuum of care and staffing changes to evidence-based practice expectations and changes in health care.

What took place was what Nancy Fahrenwald, the college’s dean, had in mind when planning the event.

“The plan for the partnership summit was to provide an opportunity for our faculty and staff and our numerous clinical and community partners to talk about changes in health care and the impact of these changes on nursing and academic education,” she said. “We also planned the event to generate ideas for research and collaboration to improve health and quality of life for the people of the state and region. As we envision a future with new and innovative models of health-care delivery, the partnership with education and practice is critical. There is great value in face-to-face dialogue among all of our faculty from the four program locations across the state, and the presence of our clinical and community partners affirmed the importance of working together to solve the big challenges in health and health care.”

Representatives ranged from Lindsay Weber ’07, a family nurse practitioner at Avera St. Benedict Health Center in Parkston, to JoEllen Koerner ’82/M.S., senior vice president of clinical quality at CareSpan and former president of the American Organization of Nurse Executives. In addition to the partners’ representatives, various college faculty and staff from all four campuses were in attendance.

“Education and service need to walk hand-in-hand. I thought it was really helpful to bring together the various stakeholders and listen to what’s going on.”

JoEllen Koerner

“Education and service need to walk hand-in-hand. I thought it was really helpful to bring together the various stakeholders and listen to what’s going on. I thought it was a good idea to have the faculty and others listen to and contribute to what is going on in the field.”
The whole day was about collaboration, a blending of boundaries.”

That collaboration met one of the college’s strategic goals to cultivate partnerships within higher education, across diverse health organizations and with communities of the state, region and world to assure quality education and to develop innovations that improve health and health care.

Weber, who has been a FNP for five years, was interested by the topics and chose to attend.

“Whenever I have a chance to gain knowledge or provide education, I am always interested,” Weber said. “We were able to visit with several nursing leaders from across the state, which we seldom get the opportunity to do. We each were assigned two different breakout sessions where we were able to visit about different topics related to nursing education.

“I was fortunate enough to participate in the practice innovations and continuum of care forums,” she continued. “We discussed what innovations are coming to health care and how we can prepare students to be adopters of these innovations. We also spoke at length about what we as education partners can do to help students be prepared when they graduate and the expectations we would have for new graduates.”

Both Weber and Koerner said they were able to gain and provide different perspectives.

“Patient care is really going down the path where we see more care at home. I would like to see new students come out with a focus on that,” said Weber, who said she always wanted to be a nurse practitioner. “We are getting the push from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) to keep patients at home. I’d like to see the nursing students realize how important it is to see patients be successful at home as well as at the hospital.

“I have a unique role in that I function as a hospitalist in a rural health-care facility. I manage the care of patients in an acute-care setting and also cover our emergency room,” Weber said. “I also help provide coverage in our rural health-care clinic.”

Koerner said, “The opportunity to talk with and learn perspectives from several generations is great. When the Native Americans put together a tribal council, there is a subset, a council of elders. They never finish a conversation until it goes past them, to get the insight and wisdom of those individuals. I feel I’m part of that group and as long as I can contribute, I’ll be there.”

Regardless of role, both said they’d return to future partnership events.

“The best part was the camaraderie that was developed and being able to engage with other nursing leaders from across the state,” Weber said. “We are very fortunate in South Dakota to have wonderful nursing leadership, and this summit was a great example of that. One thing I would like to hear about is what are the different clinical sites the students are at besides the hospital setting. Health care is ever-changing; therefore, the clinical experience is ever-changing as well.”

Matt Schmidt
Since beginning in August 2015, the Wicaske Alliance has been focused on the goal of helping every Native American who wants to become a nurse become one.

The alliance has conducted activities ranging from outreach efforts to providing scholarships for the International Rural Nursing Conference to creating a welcoming place. That welcoming place, Wicozai Otipi, is for students to gather, study, relax or learn about their Lakota culture at the West River College of Nursing.

The Lakota Elder community selected the name Wicozani Otipi, which means a space for balance and harmony. It was officially opened with ceremonial prayer and smudging by Lakota tribal leaders. Two faculty members donated their office space so the Native American nursing students and other students could have the Wicozai Otipi.

Representatives from the Great Plains Tribal Chairman’s Health Board, Indian Health Service/U.S. Public Health Service, Oglala Lakota College and Native Women’s Health join the SDSU contingent for monthly meetings.

While it’s been an ambitious start, it’s part of the Lakota way, according to Robin PetersonLund, an Oglala Lakota member and co-director of the project funded by a Bush Foundation grant. Barbara Hobbs, assistant dean and associate professor, is also a co-director. Bev Warne, former director of the American Indian Students United in Nursing at Arizona State University, is the community consultant/adviser.

“The Lakota way is everyone pulling together and giving their gifts for the common good,” PetersonLund said. “Everyone is a team. We don’t consider this group a hierarchy.”

The Lakota way is everyone pulling together and giving their gifts for the common good. Everyone is a team. We don’t consider this group a hierarchy.”

Robin PetersonLund

level, our goal is to ensure they can achieve their academic and professional goals,” she continued. “We will do all that we can for them to attain their dreams.”

While the Bush Foundation grant helped the Wicaske Alliance get started, PetersonLund believes its foundation was already established.

“I think it would have started without the grant, because not only is the vision there but the hope is also there—it’s arising from the people, from all of the communities: the reservation communities and the urban reservation community in Rapid City,” she said. “When we reached out and asked for help, people came forward offering their gifts for the students. The advisory board has been invaluable in their creative direction and leadership for us. These are busy community leaders who meet quarterly with us to discuss and help guide our efforts.

“I believe the time has come, and everything has converged for a reason. There’s a strong determination to see this through. It provides strong encouragement for us to keep going and to keep problem-solving, not just to recognize the barriers but obliterate them so the students can be successful. That’s what we really want,” PetersonLund continued. “It is important to recognize and support the strengths that the students bring with them.”

The various entities recognize that nursing plays an instrumental role in improving health disparities and improving health outcomes.

“The strength of nursing and the Lakota people is the relationship with the person; that healing relationship,” PetersonLund said. “We know and recognize the devastating health disparities among our population and our goal is to address that. It may be an ambitious goal but we think it’s attainable.

“Things are unfolding. People are helping, the students are eager to become nurses and we need to meet them where they are and make sure they’re successful.”

While initial plans are to encourage those interested in becoming nurses, the support process will not stop upon a student enrolling or graduating.

“We seek to keep them in school and help them overcome whatever difficulties they might have while supporting the strengths they already have,” PetersonLund said. “We will walk with them all of the way; not only through graduation but also through licensure. We want to make sure they are licensed and ready to meet the world so they can achieve whatever they want to do.

“This kind of work and what I see happening puts a smile in my heart when I wake up,” she said.

Matt Schmidt
South Dakota State University College of Nursing students and graduates are in high demand shown by attendance at the college’s career fairs. More than 30 employers attended the 2016 spring and fall career fairs as they sought out candidates for full-time employment or internships.

Gundersen Health System, based in La Crosse, Wisconsin, has become a fixture at SDSU career fairs. Gundersen employs approximately 1,550 registered nurses throughout its Level II Trauma Medical Center and network of clinics and affiliate hospitals in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa.

South Dakota State graduates have been targeted due to their excellent National Council Licensure Examination scores and Gundersen expanding recruitment efforts beyond its immediate geographical borders. Gundersen, like many other health-care institutions, is expanding recruiting efforts in order to meet the Institute of Medicine’s Future Nursing Report recommendations by the year 2020 for achieving an 80 percent baccalaureate-prepared nursing workforce.

“We recognize the high-quality nursing education that South Dakota State University students receive so we have made the decision to continue to build strong relationships with students and faculty,” Karen Torud, a recruiter with Gundersen Health System, said following the spring career fair. “During our campus visits, we have learned that the communities surrounding Brookings and Sioux Falls are similar to the La Crosse area, making the relocation process a more realistic option for some students, especially those with family or friends near La Crosse.

“We have been warmly welcomed by the students and faculty,” Torud continued. “We have found SDSU nursing students to be focused on career development and receptive to the idea of relocation. Many of the students have friends and family near the La Crosse area or they have visited our area and can picture themselves moving to our area either after graduation or in the future. We have found the career fair venue at the University Student Union to be conducive to quality discussions with many students in a short period of time.”

Twenty-two of the career fair attendees stated the career fair met or exceeded expectations. Nine of those firms met with 50-or-more students.

Matt Schmidt

At the South Dakota State University College of Nursing’s spring career fair, hospitals and clinics from South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa were among the 30-plus agencies represented. From left, first-semester nursing student Alivia Braniff of Tekamah, Nebraska, talks with Karen Torud from Gundersen Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, about internship opportunities.
Developing perspectives

Ferrell’s talk brought spirituality back to nursing

Doctoral student Shannon O’Connell-Persaud made the most of meeting Betty Ferrell when the international leader in hospice and palliative care spoke in Sioux Falls in February.

O’Connell-Persaud, who is pursuing a doctorate of philosophy in nursing, got some one-on-one time with Ferrell, who currently serves as a director and professor in the City of Hope, before Ferrell’s luncheon keynote at the Holiday Inn-City Centre in Sioux Falls, Feb. 22. Ferrell was named one of 30 visionaries by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2013.

“I was excited to learn that Dr. Betty Ferrell was visiting South Dakota State University to speak to the graduate nursing students. She brings many years of clinical and research expertise in palliative and end-of-life care,” said O’Connell-Persaud, who works as a part-time intensive care nurse at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City and is a clinical and laboratory instructor at Western Iowa Technological College.

“My dissertation interest encompasses the use of simulation in undergraduate nursing programs to educate on communication at the end of life and spirituality,” O’Connell-Persaud continued. “She spoke specifically on the importance of communication with the patient and family in palliative and end-of-life care. It was a great opportunity to have the ability to actively engage in discourse with an expert in the field. Making the personal connection with a leader in the field has made it easier to communicate virtually in order to advance my knowledge of palliative and end-of-life communication.”

Another result of O’Connell-Persaud’s time with Ferrell is that Ferrell agreed to mentor O’Connell-Persaud as she works to complete her doctorate and continue to work in college education.

Ferrell’s keynote presentation talked about the impact spirituality plays in health care, particularly in end-of-life care.

“There has been wonderful progress in the area of palliative care and it’s all come about because we, as a nation and certainly at the state level, are recognizing that care of the seriously ill is one of the most important things we do,” Ferrell said. “Palliative care is providing new models of care where patients can get very high-quality care and also learning how to best use our health-care resources so we can use our health-care dollars to provide the best care possible. Palliative care is upstreaming that quality care so we are providing better care to seriously ill people across the spectrum.

“If you are not providing excellent spiritual care, you are not providing palliative care,” she continued. “I don’t care if you can give me the best physical exam of all-time, I don’t really care if you can manage 14 systems and I’m glad you’ve held a family conference but if you have not addressed spiritual care, you cannot be providing palliative care. If it is not there, it is not present.”

Matt Schmidt
Kate Lorig’s approach for the 2016 College of Nursing Deans’ Distinguished Lecture April 14 was unique. Her presentation, “Getting on with Life: Managing Long-term Conditions,” at the McCrory Gardens Education and Visitor Center started with her asking the audience what they wanted to hear.

After several suggestions, and audience votes, Lorig chose to talk about mental health well-being, helping others understand your disease, and pain.

“I hadn’t heard of that approach in a talk,” said Julia Goodale, a May 2016 graduate from Sioux Falls. “It was much more interesting that she talked on the points we wanted to hear about. I think I learned a lot from her.

“It was definitely helpful to hear it from someone who has a condition like that,” continued Goodale, noting Lorig was born with Gaucher’s disease and was diagnosed with lymphoma 12 years ago. “In the health-care setting, you always get more insight from people who actually have the conditions than what we learn in our classes. I thought it was helpful and interesting.”

Lorig has worked as a nurse and professor. While she still actively heads the Stanford Patient Education Research Center, she is known as Professor Emerita Lorig. She started at Stanford in 1978 as a research associate and moved up the ranks to be a professor in 1995. She earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Boston University, a master’s degree in nursing from University of California, San Francisco and added a doctorate in public health from the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to Stanford, Lorig has been on the faculty at San Jose State and University of California, San Francisco.

“For students, there is probably no way you can really understand a chronic illness until you have one,” Lorig said. “If you want to try, put two dry chickpeas in your shoe for a day. You’ll have some vague idea of what it’s like to have a chronic illness. It’s not a perfect exercise but it’ll give you an idea of what it’s like to live with pain or live with a disability.”

In addition to asking the audience questions, she interacted with several members, particularly Hunter Lipinski, a Brookings High School student wearing a Stanford T-shirt. Lipinski was in attendance because it was a class assignment.

“I thought it’d be a good fit to see what she had to say seeing that she was from Stanford and I’ve always wanted to go to Stanford,” said Lipinski, who is thinking of going into medicine. “I’ve heard about chronic illnesses but don’t know much about the topic. I’m interested in learning more about different things in the health-care field, especially from such a noted professor like her.”

Lorig’s ability to talk to the audience also caught the attention of Brandon Varilek, who recently finished his second year pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree.

“She really brought the topic down to earth, especially for all of the community members in attendance” said Varilek, who is from Sioux Falls. “It’s nice to have an example of someone who can capture the essence of having a chronic illness but provide it in such a simple manner that anyone can understand it.”

The Deans’ Distinguished Lecture began in 1996 with contributions from Helen K. Grace and the Kellogg Foundation, four former deans and then-dean Roberta Olson. The endowment provides interest on an annual basis that is used to bring in a nationally known speaker to speak on research in nursing.

Matt Schmidt
Global impacts

International Rural Nursing Conference brings ideas and individuals to Rapid City

The 2016 International Rural Nursing Conference gathered at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, July 19-21. The conference, titled Rural Nursing and Health Care in the New Frontier, brought 253 participants, 100 participants more than the expected turnout, to South Dakota. The 253 attendees represented 35 states and 9 countries.

The conference was sponsored by the Matson Halverson Christiansen Hamilton Foundation, SDSU’s College of Nursing, the University of South Dakota’s School of Health Sciences and the Rural Nursing Organization.

“It was a great success story for South Dakota to get that many participants from other regions, including some who traveled more than two time zones. We had several participants who had not traveled to the United States before,” said Corey Kilgore, executive director of the Matson Halverson Christiansen Hamilton Foundation.

The experience was one that Barbara Hobbs, the college’s assistant dean of nursing, described as truly gratifying.

“It was wonderful to have hosted the event in Rapid City,” Hobbs said. “Having the opportunity to offer an international nursing conference in South Dakota is wonderful.”

A key takeaway both Hobbs and Kilgore intended for was a richer understanding of rural health-care areas and the struggles rural communities face. Along with the knowledge of what sets rural and urban areas apart, attendees also learned of the similarities that unite all health-care areas under the common bond of caring for people, and what can be done to assist rural communities in that mission.

“We all live in very different regions or different parts of the United States and the globe, but there still are commonalities we share in terms of the challenges that go along with rural communities and quality health care in those somewhat isolated situations,” Kilgore said. “Regardless of where you’re living, there are a lot of things that are still the same.”

The three-day conference consisted of various presentations and keynote speakers that covered ways to address the issues nurses face in rural health-care areas.

Hobbs, who played a supportive role organizing the conference, credits the success to the many hands that contributed to the event, including the keynote speakers who presented on issues within the Native American communities.

“Donald Warne, a keynote speaker and director of the master of public health program at North Dakota State University, is rich in knowledge of his Lakota people and emphasized the need for public health. He brought forward the specific challenges of living in the Plains states that people of other countries and states might never consider,” Hobbs said.

The conference emphasized such rural aspects, theories and components, looking at how the rising costs, workforce shortages and the future health-care changes impact health care in rural communities.

“I attended presentations that spoke to my goal, which is to prepare a diverse workforce for the West River area,” Hobbs said. “We have an initiative that speaks to expanding our Native American nurses and we are looking at other schools’ strategies in hopes to use their expertise to develop our own strategies, so that we may reach out to people living in these distant sites.

“There were presentations on how to build a workforce for rural communities where students don’t have the opportunity to pursue degrees as health-care providers. There are programs that teach students at a distance using technology, including a robotic video machine that can observe their care, even while being miles away.”

Although the conference focused on addressing and understanding issues in rural health care, attendees from all over the country and abroad were able to benefit from networking with each other.

“Having the opportunity to share lessons learned across the board and new ways of thinking in terms of how to address those challenges was a really good way to re-energize the participants when they go back to the complexities of what they do every day with new ideas to add to their toolkits,” Kilgore said.

“It was a great opportunity to network with all the people,” Hobbs said. “Meeting people from other states and countries and hearing each others’ challenges are ways in which we learn about others’ diversities.”

The conference concluded in conversations of establishing state organizations, and the Rural Nursing Organization supported those present to set up their own chapters. Chapters would serve to support rural nurses and bring them together so that they are able to communicate information to the nurses working in these distant rural areas.

“We accomplished our objectives,” said Kilgore. “If the participation level and conversations throughout the conference and after were any measure of success, I would say we succeeded.”

Shelby Bauer
Having already made one trip to Ghana, Cindy Elverson and Ruth Klawiter are busy planning a return trip.

Elverson, an associate professor, and Klawiter, an instructor, started thinking about developing a faculty-led study experience to another country in January 2015. The two met with Ann Mays, Sanford Health’s senior director of clinical services for the Sanford World Clinic initiative.

Sanford chose Ghana in 2011 to kick off its international clinic development due to the possibility of partnerships there, the nation’s economic and political stability, its need for permanent health-care infrastructure—particularly in rural areas—and its potential for sustainability. Sanford also required a country that would provide a safe working environment for staff. Ghana is now the site for 17 Sanford clinics.

“Working with universities brings credibility to Sanford World Clinic,” Mays said. “The unique skill sets of our organization and the universities allow us to gain experience from each other. We’re looking at how we can grow these collaborations in a way that will benefit the people of Ghana and provide meaningful experiences for future health-care workers across the world.

“We live in a global society, and students of this generation are interested in global-learning experiences,” she continued.

“Trip to Ghana sparks interest in return visit

“‘It’s increasingly important for students and professors to understand this global society and other perspectives. With a shift to a population health model, understanding how community, cultural, socioeconomic, spiritual and environmental factors are all determinants of health and aids in the development of policies that will improve health. The United States is becoming more diverse, so the concepts health-care professionals learn in Africa are immediately applicable domestically. It all starts with the professors understanding this and imparting information that develops students to enhance their professional and personal growth.’

With that in mind, Elverson and Klawiter knew the trip was going to be more than a trip overseas.

“We knew Sanford had international clinics, including ones that focused on rural areas, and knew we wanted to partner with them because it’s not just a trip, it’s a learning experience,” Klawiter said.

The two then met with Nancy Fahrenwald, the college’s dean, and Sally Gillman, the university’s director for study abroad, for assistance. Gilman put Elverson and Klawiter in touch with the University of South Dakota’s Carol South-Winter, an assistant professor in the Beacom School of Business’ health sciences administration. South-Winter had been to Ghana in 2014 and was planning a trip in 2016.

“We talked to Carol about our proposed trip to Ghana with SDSU students. She then invited us to come along with her faculty-led experience,” Elverson said. To help prepare for the trip, Elverson and Klawiter attended three classes South-Winter held about Ghana and read several books about the nation’s culture and health care.

Upon arriving, the two visited two government clinics, Sanford’s headquarters in Accra and Sanford’s clinics in Mankessim, Cape Coast and Kasa. Part of May 2017’s potential itinerary includes an additional visit to Kumasi, where Sanford is building a clinic.

“I think it’ll be a really good experience for the students to do a service-learning project like we did on this trip,” Klawiter said. “We try to go beyond the social issues. The trip will allow them to start learning to think about who is my neighbor and what responsibilities do I have for other people? We’re getting much, much more diverse, and we need to meet the needs of our clients.”

Elverson and Klawiter are also working with Sanford to develop service-learning projects at the clinics that have the latest medical technology, including electronic medical records. These service-learning projects will be part of the faculty-led program that includes learning about Ghana, tropical diseases and the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations and World Health Organization.

Students interested should visit: sdstate-sa.terradotta.com or call SD State Abroad at (605) 688-6094.

Matt Schmidt

At Sanford’s clinic in Kasa, are, from left, Alexander Yeeboah, Ruth Klawiter, Cindy Elverson, Josephine Afful and Carol South-Winter. Klawiter and Elverson visited clinics in Ghana in May and are planning to return in 2017.
China Overseas trip provides unexpected experience
Lois Tschetter and Paula Carson originally signed up for the nutrition staff and student study abroad trip to China and Taiwan expecting a culturally rich, international travel experience, but what they brought back with them was that and more.

Not only did the nursing faculty members gain a nutritional, medical and cultural education overseas, but they also established an opportunity for international travel next summer for students.

“After we had decided to go along for the cultural experience itself, Chunyang Wang indicated that there would be an opportunity for dialogue with the nursing program at China Medical University. This trip sparked an idea for a potential program at China Medical University. This trip sparked an idea for a potential international experience for the nursing students. We thought it would be an eye-opener for the students to see another place in the world and recognize the similarities in the nursing courses, patient population and the methods of care,” said Tschetter, who is the assistant academic dean and an associate professor.

Tschetter and Carson, who is also an associate professor, spent two weeks overseas with eight nutrition students; a pharmacy student; Kendra Kattelmann, director of the didactic program in dietetics; and Chunyang Wang, an associate dean in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

The two-week trip is offered annually for nutrition students. This summer’s group was continuing a spring semester class, Food and Health: East Meets West. The focus was to look at food systems, health and culture in another part of the world and recognize the similarities, commonalities and distinctions.

The aspects of nutrition were ones Carson and Tschetter wished to take to their nursing students and hoped those who travel next summer will get to see for themselves. “I don’t see nutrition and nursing as separate. We both teach good health so the nutrition aspects are helpful and good to see,” Carson said.

Starting in Taiwan, the group was able to learn about the carryover with nutritional aspects for health when it came to dietary guidelines through various presentations. After experiencing Taiwan, the group traveled to mainland China to visit Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Wuhan.

While visiting the School of Nursing at the China Medical University in Taiwan, both Tschetter and Carson were able to meet with its director and a faculty member. The two were also given the opportunity to stand in on the nursing students’ check-off day, where they watched the evaluation of the students’ ability to demonstrate proficiency in starting an IV and putting in a catheter.

“The task itself was similar, but here we have high-fidelity human simulators, where there they had task trainers that couldn’t interact. It’s not just an arm you are sticking; they need to learn that interaction. I think that would be a good exchange we could offer,” Carson said.

“We also learned about their curriculum and student plans of study. When you look at the nursing curriculum, you see there are a lot of similarities with our courses,” Tschetter said.

The first portion of the trip was more educationally focused; the group attended seminars, presentations and museums all with a focus on traditional Chinese medicine.

“Some students and members of the group volunteered to have different traditional Chinese medicine strategies used on them. They used acupuncture, cupping and scraping. It was very interesting,” Carson said. When asked what she wanted the nursing students to learn when they traveled to China, Carson explained, “The immersion with a different culture and an openness to what’s beyond Western medicine. I would hope that they could get in on some of the classes and tours we did.”

One of the tours was of a hospital’s pharmacy.

“We had a great itinerary. We were very fortunate to be taken to the pharmacy at the hospital at China Medical University and get a very detailed tour that consisted of compounding medications from herb, plant and animal sources and the process behind it,” Tschetter said. “A U.S. hospital would probably never let a group of this size come in and watch them do their daily work.”

Even though the whole experience was highly educational, the group was able to experience and learn a great amount about the culture of China.

Carson and Tschetter believe all students would benefit from international travel.

“You don’t really know what it’s like until you actually get there. One day we visited a middle school over the lunch hour and got to sit with some eighth-grade students. You forget students study English in other countries in the world, so some brave children surprised us with how well they were able to communicate. It was an interesting experience,” Tschetter said.

“We got to see the Great Wall of China and Hong Kong lit up at night, but we also got to see that people are people. We are a rural state and seeing the different beliefs and orientation there was a good human and cultural experience,” Carson said.

Shelby Bauer
Student News

Swedish students making most of time at State

Whether it’s attending a Jackrabbits football game, the Jacks Bash, a baseball game in Minneapolis or seeing Mount Rushmore, Isabell (Bella) Ohtonen and Linda Ernfridsson are making the most of their semester at the College of Nursing.

Ernfridsson and Ohtonen, exchange students from Sweden’s Jönköping University, are at State for the fall 2016 semester. They will return to Jönköping and plan to graduate in June. They are taking a mixture of classes in the curriculum for semester two and three nursing students at State as well as independent study courses.

South Dakota State has had an exchange agreement with Jönköping for 15 years. In the past two summers, State has sent eight students to Jönköping. The agreement allows for every four SDSU students who attend class in the summer at the School of Heath Sciences at Jonköping University (and pays for a three-credit class at SDSU), one Jönköping student can attend SDSU for a (12-credit) semester.

While the two knew each other at Jönköping, Ernfridsson and Ohtonen are developing a stronger friendship while they are also developing a stronger knowledge of nursing.

“The students here know a LOT of stuff. Since we only have a semester left in Sweden, we thought we’d know a lot more stuff than everyone else. We realized we don’t,” Ernfridsson said. “We remember we might have heard it, but not really studied it. Here, we review everything.”

They said each nursing class at Jönköping lasts five weeks. As a result, they needed to adjust to having multiple classes in one day.

However, the desire to get another perspective of nursing education and experience a different culture has given the two students plenty to tackle during their time at State.

“I applied to Jönköping University because I wanted to go abroad. They advertised themselves as having so many partner universities around the world,” Ohtonen said. “I always wanted to come to the United States. It’s kind of like the American dream. You want to experience what you see in the movies.

“I wanted to experience a different culture,” Ohtonen continued. “Every time you go abroad you take something back, you learn something new and you grow. I wanted to do that.”

“It is like the movies,” Ernfridsson said of her time in the United States. “You have cheerleaders, you have football players and nice weather.

“You really need to get to learn another angle or perspective,” she continued. “And you gain more independence if you study abroad. You have to solve problems by yourself as you don’t have the same people supporting you. Of course, everybody helps you here but it’s not the same. I think it’s better this way. You have to think a lot more, not only in the classroom but also in other aspects of life.”

One different aspect in the classroom is learning about pediatrics.

“We don’t do anything in pediatrics in our nursing program. It’s more of a specialty you’d do after graduation,” Ohtonen said. “I think it’s better here because we always ask questions back home about ‘how does this apply to children?’ but hear ‘we’re not here to talk about that. You get to do that later, if you choose.’”

Despite the different class formats and topics, both admit the transition has not been easy but they are happy they are here.

“It’s both information that you recognize and information that’s new. It kind of sums up all you know and don’t know. It’s hard to explain but I like the classes,” Ernfridsson said.

“At first, it was kind of stressful because we didn’t know what to prepare for because our classes aren’t that way,” Ohtonen said.

“In Sweden, we go to lecture and then go home. We have to figure out ourselves what to study because we don’t get reading assignments. Here, it’s better. We get more in-depth learning.”

Both say the best part about their time is meeting the faculty, staff and students.

“People are so nice. They hold the door for you, ask how you are. I don’t know how to respond,” Ohtonen said. “Do I say I don’t feel good today? Or do I say I have a cough? No, you’re just supposed to say ‘hi.’ People pass by and say hi, that’s so different. We don’t know how to respond. Everyone’s really polite, nice and outgoing.

“People might think we’re rude but we are not used to that. It’s very different but nice,” Ohtonen continued.

One of their trips will be to visit the West River College of Nursing locations and see Mount Rushmore.

“We’re excited about going,” Ernfridsson said. “These study abroad trips make you grow a lot as a person. I think you have to see more in life. In your home country, you’re in a safety bubble. You have to go out to see more and experience more. I think it’s better to do that.”

“It’s really fun. It is,” Ohtonen said. “I can go to Australia to stay at a friend’s house or I can go to Spain or almost anywhere in the world and meet people I know.

“You meet so many people and make friends all over the world. Who wouldn’t what that?”

Matt Schmidt
Isabella Garcia, second from left, finished as the second runner-up at the 2016 Miss South Dakota competition. Julia Simon, a fellow Jackrabbit, center, won the event. Garcia, who graduated in May 2016, has already qualified to compete in the 2017 competition. Photo courtesy of Bob Grandpre.

Y ears of competitive dance, a brief discussion and the quest for scholarship dollars got Isabella Garcia to enter her first pageant as a junior at Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School. At that initial competition, she was named 2011 Miss Outstanding Eastern Plains Teen.

“A mom of someone I mentored in dance said she competed in Miss South Dakota and thought I’d be a great representative of that organization. She listed all of the qualities that she thought I had and said I should think about it,” said Garcia, who graduated in May with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. “I thought about it and said I could use some scholarship money. Being onstage wasn’t intimidating to me because of my competitive dance experience so I entered, competed and won.

“I then went to the state Miss Teen competition and placed as the second runner-up and won best interview and Miss Congeniality,” she continued. “I was shocked I did so well. I just went for the experience and thought I might get a couple of scholarships out of it. It was a really wonderful experience.”

Garcia placed as the second runner-up at the 2016 Miss South Dakota. She received the Ray Peterson Rookie of the Year Award for the first-year contestant with the highest overall score. Garcia, who tied for the top interview, also won the Miracle Maker award for raising the most money for Children’s Miracle Network. She has already qualified to compete again for the 2017 title.

While her college days ended on a high note with the Miss South Dakota event, Garcia’s start as an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was not one, however.

The motivation to dance as a member of the Scarlets Dance Team prompted her to attend UNL. Her time there lasted only a semester.

“I never really felt like I belonged at Nebraska. I knew a lot of people who went there and seemed to find their niche. I didn’t,” Garcia said. “A couple of my best friends were going up here for nursing and that had been my career plan. I decided they have a good program so why don’t I go up there and see what it’s like.”

After being accepted, Garcia visited State, getting tours from her friends and members of the college’s faculty.

“From the second I stepped on campus, I was like ‘this is where I’m supposed to be,’” she said, admitting that her mother called her ‘Florence Nightingale’ after talking about helping injured classmates get ice packs or Band-Aids after recess mishaps. “I never really thought that I’d be at South Dakota State. I’m from Sioux Falls and wanted to get away while I’m young and wanted to try other things. However, coming here was the best decision I’ve ever made. There’s just something about it that makes it feel like home. Whether it was the way people treated me all of this time or what I’ve learned from all of the classes, it’s been way more than I could have hoped for.”

But there was still a desire to try to be Miss South Dakota. She kept putting off those thoughts due to the demands of the major and time spent practicing and performing with South Dakota State’s danceline.

“People had been asking me every year ‘The pageants are coming up. Do you want to do one?’ I kept saying, next year, when I have more time, I’ve got so much on my plate, I can’t do it this year,” she said.

“Finally, I decided I’d do it and see where it goes. At the very least, I’d meet a tremendous amount of influential women and see what happens.”

Deciding to compete for the title was not an easy choice for Garcia, who has been working on the west surgical trauma floor at Avera McKennan in Sioux Falls.

“I really wasn’t sure if I actually wanted to try to win because the plan after graduation was to be a nurse,” she said, noting Miss South Dakota officials typically don’t encourage winners to work due to various responsibilities and travel. “But how many people get the opportunity to influence so many others, especially young girls, and my platform—learning a second language—is really important to me.”

Garcia spent her last few months as an undergraduate talking about her time at State and why she wanted to be Miss South Dakota.

“Being Miss SDSU put me more in touch with the community,” she said. “I got to hear why SDSU is important, how SDSU has affected their lives. I went back to Roosevelt and my old middle school to speak about myself and SDSU. I thank God each day that I didn’t make the Scarlets and was able to come here. It’s been great.”

Matt Schmidt
Competing in speech at South Dakota State was not a factor when Amanda Moriarty made the decision to come to Brookings and major in nursing.

“South Dakota State was far enough that my family couldn’t come visit me each weekend but close enough that I could race home if I needed to for something,” said Moriarty, who is from Cottage Grove, Minnesota. “College has been so much fun. I’m the first in my family to go to college so I share all of my experiences with my family. I’ve met a lot of cool people, particularly through speech and my major.”

However, once she learned State has a speech team, she eagerly jumped at the chance to compete. She teamed with another freshman to win the duo competition at the Dakotas Intercollegiate Forensics Association Tournament, helping lead State to its first title since 2013.

“She was eager and excited to continue in competitive speech and debate,” said Andrea Carlile, the director of forensics. “Her enthusiasm and passion for speech continued throughout the season.”

That success continued on the way to the national tournament.

“Speech is something I really, really enjoy doing,” she said. “It’s something I never expected to get anything from rewardwise, but to show that the hard work has paid off by attending a national tournament is really exciting. “I didn’t think I’d go to nationals as a freshman, especially with how the returning members talked about it as being a competition with the best and the brightest from across the country,” Moriarty continued. “I never thought I’d be in that bunch as a freshman. It’s really cool. I’ll take it.”

Moriarty finished 68th in a field of 147 in impromptu. She also competed in after-dinner speaking.

“Overall, I’m very pleased with how I placed,” Moriarty said. “I did better than I ever thought would be possible as a freshman at her first national tournament. The entire experience was really exciting and interesting. I got to see some incredible speeches, and I felt like the time that I put into practicing my events paid off, especially in Impromptu. I know that I certainly didn’t place first in anything, but I’m so proud of how I did, and I wouldn’t change a thing about how I performed.”

“This tournament was a great opportunity for growth, I think. I got to experience amazing speeches on important topics from all across the country,” she continued. “It’s through competing that I’m able to learn about the struggles of others and how I can help them to the best of my ability, and that is truly one of the greatest joys of competing.”

One side note to her competing in speech is that it’s helped reinforce her decision to attend SDSU.

“Speech is way more than memorizing a speech and being able to recite it, but being able to get a message across in terms the audience will understand. I think it plays really well into nursing where we have a lot of different medical terms and difficult situations to explain to patients and their families and be able to come across in the most understandable way.”

Amanda Moriarty, who is in the far right of the bottom row, helped South Dakota State win the Dakotas Intercollegiate Forensics Association Tournament, the university’s first title in that event since 2013. Moriarty believes her time in speech will make her a better nurse when she completes her education.
O’Connell-Persaud, Varilek named GNSA liaisons by AACN

Shannon O’Connell-Persaud and Brandon Varilek have been named Graduate Nursing Student Academy liaisons by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. There are nearly 150 GNSA liaisons in the nation.

Varilek, who is from Sioux Falls, recently completed his second year pursuing a doctor of philosophy degree in nursing while O’Connell-Persaud, who plans to complete her degree in 2018, would like to pursue a career as a college professor and researcher following graduation. She currently lives in Dakota Dunes and works as a clinical and laboratory instructor at Western Iowa Technological College.

“It is with great honor that I have been chosen to serve as a liaison between the South Dakota State University nursing department and the GNSA,” O’Connell-Persaud said. “My goal is to reach out to the graduate nursing student body to encourage membership in this organization. It will be my duty to enlighten graduate nursing students of the educational opportunities as well as the resources that are available to help achieve success as they move forward in their educational journey.”

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing started the program in 2012 after it saw a need for an entity that would provide resources specifically geared toward graduate nursing students. The liaisons are the primary contact at their institution and serve in a leadership capacity by distributing information to their fellow students. They also have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to the GNSA Leadership Council, hence influencing the GNSA’s future. In addition, there are opportunities to lead various events on campus, such as a lunch-and-learn session.

“I hope I can expand students’ knowledge of the resources available and help make them as successful as possible,” Varilek said. “I also serve as a link between students at SDSU and the GNSA, help recruit and sustain a network of students affiliated with the GNSA, and engage students in GNSA activities.”

Varilek, who plans to complete his degree in 2020, would like to become a faculty member at a university. He plans to pursue a position that would allow him to be in the classroom and conduct research in palliative care. Varilek, a registered nurse, currently works full time at Avera McKennan as a solid organ transplant coordinator.

“I have had the privilege of working with and knowing Brandon as an undergraduate nursing student, as a nursing professional and now as his academic advisor as he seeks his Ph.D.,” said Mary Isaacson, who encouraged Varilek to pursue the position. “I felt that Brandon would be an excellent candidate for the liaison position because he is a great collaborator, exudes tremendous enthusiasm and is a dedicated doctoral student. He understands the complexity of being a graduate student and working full time. Therefore, he can provide a realistic voice to the GNSA as to the needs of graduate students.”

Another faculty member, this time a State graduate working at Briar Cliff University, interested O’Connell-Persaud in graduate school.

“I knew I wanted to further my educational journey post graduation from nursing school but did not know what direction I wanted to proceed. An alum from SDSU, Dr. Barb Condon, was an inspiration and mentor to me in my nursing program at Briar Cliff University,” O’Connell-Persaud said. “It was Dr. Condon who planted the seed to pursue a Ph.D. in nursing. After a great amount of thought and self-reflection, I decided to pursue the Ph.D. tract. I explored the BSN-Ph.D. options that were available and decided SDSU was the best fit for me and aligned well with my education goals.”

Matt Schmidt
Carson lands fellowship

Proving that one never stops learning, Paula Carson will be taking part in a three-part program on simulation.

Carson, an associate professor, will further her expertise in simulation by participating in a fellowship developed by International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) and CAE Healthcare.

“I have done classes in simulation, but I really want to refine my skills with designing, facilitating and debriefing a clinical experience,” Carson said.

The fellowship accepts 30 participants and is a three-part program, which can last up to one year. It is made up of webinars, face-to-face workshops and mentoring, designed to introduce simulation to new educators and refine the skills of those who currently use it. There are two webinars and two, two-day immersion sessions were held in Texas, one right after the INACSL’s annual conference in June and the second in August.

Having completed the first webinar, Carson was eager to jump into the first workshop.

“Paula’s expertise in this area, and willingness to further develop those skills, will help us better prepare our students,” said Nancy Fahrenwald, dean of the college. “As a college, we will all benefit from her knowledge gained from being chosen to be in this fellowship cohort.”

Carson supports the use of simulated learning. Having worked with simulation on campus, she has witnessed its benefits in learning.

“It’s immersion; students get experience and interaction,” said Carson. “You can learn a task, but if you are engaging someone while doing it, it’s more lifelike. Students have the opportunity to try things in a no-risk-to-patient environment; this way they rehearsed performing tasks and cares before entering health-care settings.”

Shelby Bauer
Nicole Carlson

Nicole Carlson has always been interested in learning about how the body works, but while pursing her degree in nursing, she developed a greater passion for the difference she could make in lives through nursing. After graduating from the University of North Dakota with a bachelor’s degree in nursing and a minor in Spanish and from the University of New Mexico with her master’s degree in nursing, she realized how much she enjoyed teaching and helping others find their passion for nursing.

“I was attracted to SDSU because of its excellent nursing program,” Carlson said. “I am looking forward to working with students who are excited about nursing.”

Before becoming a nursing instructor at State, Carlson worked primarily in medical-surgical nursing and long-term care. She also taught nursing courses and clinicals for the last four years at Clovis (New Mexico) Community College.

Patricia Da Rosa

An interest in public health started early in life for Patricia Da Rosa. Having grown up in Brazil with high levels of social and health disparities, she started learning about health and disease and their impact on people’s life at a young age.

With her background in dentistry, specialization in public health and master’s degree in health science from INRS-Institute Armand Frappier, Quebec, Canada, and three years in the Ph.D. program in dental science at McGill University, she found the position with the SDSU College of Nursing to be an exciting opportunity to fulfill her professional and personal goals.

As a public health and health outcomes data analyst/instructor, she hopes to use her scientific knowledge to directly impact public health and provide support in data management and analysis on research and population health evaluation projects to the college.

“I am enthusiastic to support the College of Nursing faculty and students by providing public health and health outcomes data analysis services in the areas of chronic disease prevention and control, health promotion and health outcomes,” Da Rosa said.

Kathleen Fitzgerald-Ellis

Kathleen Fitzgerald-Ellis ’12 is an academic advisor/student services coordinator for West River Nursing. Prior to starting at State, the Illinois native worked as an advisor for Black Hills State University at University Center.

She received a bachelor’s degree from Illinois State in 2007 before earning a master’s degree in college counseling from South Dakota State in 2012. Her husband, Trenton, received a doctorate of philosophy in sociology from State in 2014. He is an assistant professor at Black Hills State.

“I like the idea of working with a group of students who are very motivated and dedicated,” said Fitzgerald-Ellis. “I also just wanted to come back to SDSU. It’s a good mix of being able to stay in the Black Hills and still work for SDSU.”

“I really enjoyed my time on campus in Brookings and got my start in advising there. I started with an internship with the first-year advising program and really like the university’s advising philosophy. There is a strong sense of excellence and high standards in advising. I now get to work with students who are very motivated, dedicated and know what they want to do. They know they really want to help people and I get to be the person who helps them get there.”
New Faculty and Staff

Theresa Garren-Grubbs

Theresa Garren-Grubbs was always interested in a medical profession, but with degrees in both nutrition and nursing, she did not discover her passion for education until working her first nursing job providing education to peritoneal dialysis patients. “It was then that I realized I loved to teach,” Garren-Grubbs said.

Garren-Grubbs graduated from Auburn University in 2006 with her bachelor’s degree in nutrition and food science, and again in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. In 2013, she graduated from the University of Iowa with her master’s degree in clinical nurse leadership.

She worked as a staff nurse in Alabama for two years and as a part of a nursing support team in Iowa for six years. She has worked in all units of a hospital, but spent a majority of her time in ICCU on the medical-surgical unit. Garren-Grubbs looks at teaching as a much-welcomed change.

“I look forward to working with undergraduate nurses as everyday can be a new discovery. This is definitely a new role for me, but I am up to the challenge,” Garren-Grubbs said.

Xiao Linda Kang

While attending the University of Pennsylvania, Kang was inspired by some of the world’s leading nurse scientists who also served as her mentors. Deciding on the path of education, Kang hoped to one day inspire future nurses, as her mentors inspired her.

“Their classes really opened my eyes to the need for more nurse educators to guide the next generation of nurses. So here I am, a nurse educator who is trying to inspire the next generation of nurses to change the world,” said Kang, an assistant professor.

Kang received her bachelor’s degree in health and societies, concentrating in public health, with a minor in multicultural health in 2012, and her doctorate in 2016, all coming from the University of Pennsylvania.

Kang’s mother is an alumna of SDSU. Growing up on campus, Kang was fond of the memories from the university and is happy to return.

Anne Kvamme

After graduating from State with a bachelor’s degree in nursing and from Creighton University with a doctorate in nursing practice, Anne Kvamme wanted to continue to follow her passion for nursing at an advanced level, allowing her to have more autonomy and strive for patient advocacy.

A clinical assistant professor, Kvamme has experience as a local cardiology nurse practitioner and has her nurse certification in heart failure. She also has backgrounds in acute care units, post-anesthesia care units and coronary care units.

The culture and values of SDSU are what ultimately led Kvamme to pursue a career as a clinical assistant professor.

“I am looking forward to working with great staff members and being a mentor for students. I am excited about the personal growth as an educator and the opportunities that will arise with it,” Kvamme said.
Rebecca Leslie

Rebecca Leslie has been working as the diversity outreach and engagement coordinator for West River Nursing. In that position, she has:

- Developed, implemented and evaluated nursing education and health professions outreach and engagement plans with American Indian communities, schools, tribal programs and related health-care organizations.
- Explored and developed new opportunities for educating K-12 students in tribal communities about pursuing health careers.
- Collaborated with College of Nursing faculty to plan and implement health-care career camps located in tribal communities and in Rapid City.
- Led planning and implementation activities for advising, retention and mentorship of American Indian students who are interested in nursing or another health career at SDSU.
- Developed relationships with American Indian nurses and health professionals to support recruitment and mentorship of students interested in attending SDSU to pursue nursing or a health career.
- Facilitated development of American Indian health and cultural education for all students enrolled in nursing and health professions at SDSU.
- Identified and written grants to support outreach, engagement, recruitment, student support and mentorship of American Indian and other diverse students enrolled in nursing.

Leslie also works with Bev Warne to help recruit and retain students and provide support for students when they start their degree programs.

Leslie joined SDSU after running a private practice in addiction counseling in Rapid City. She also worked with the Black Hills Center for American Indian Health. She has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and a master’s degree in counseling from State.

Sarah Mollman

Sarah Mollman is a faculty member at West River Nursing. After spending 11 years as an oncology nurse in Boise, Idaho, and Rapid City, and earning a master’s degree, Mollman made the transition to teaching. She spent four years as an instructor at National American University.

Her relationships with SDSU faculty from her undergraduate and graduate days brought her back to State. She is also pursuing a doctorate degree specializing in nursing education.

“What I really saw when I was in graduate school was how the professors serve as mentors, not just teachers,” Mollman said. “Knowing my background working with cancer, MaryLou Mylant got me on a research project with Dean Nancy Fahrenwald. I really saw how the faculty worked with you and looked to develop and grow you. I thought if they do that with the students, what kind of help and collaboration do they do with peers? "When I was pursuing my master’s degree, I was encouraged to become a teacher," she continued, noting she worked on an early-stage breast cancer research project with Fahrenwald—one of her undergraduate professors. “I shadowed some faculty, thought about it and really enjoyed working with the students. I loved seeing how their minds worked and how they questioned what I did and knew as a nurse. It made me a better nurse and I hope it will make me a better teacher.”

Benjamin Moyer

In high school, Benjamin Moyer always enjoyed visiting with the school counselor about possible career pathways. In fact, it inspired him to pursue a career working face-to-face with students, assisting them with degree completion and career ambitions.

Moyer graduated from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania with a master’s degree in school counseling and student affairs and from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor’s degree in clinical psychology.

His experience ranges from working with students on academic probation to his most recent work at Harrisburg Community College assisting nontraditional students adjust to college and leading workshops on time management, technology, study habits, planning and career development.

Moyer looks forward to working as an academic advisor for the College of Nursing students, “I have had many warm and welcoming interactions with staff and faculty members thus far and look forward to the students coming back to campus for the fall semester,” Moyer said.
Mary Kay Nissen

Working in health care for 30 years, Mary Kay Nissen has years of experience and is no stranger to the field of teaching.

After graduating from the University of Iowa with undergraduate and master’s degrees in nursing, she pursued a postmaster’s degree in family practice from Briar Cliff University and her doctorate of nursing practice from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Nissen has since worked in family practice and urgent care for a number of years while teaching graduate- and undergraduate-level classes in other nursing programs.

Nissen is eager to continue her career growth and begin a new experience at State as an associate professor.

“It has been the most rewarding career I could have chosen,” Nissen said. “I have colleagues who have worked at SDSU over the years and I have been impressed with the nursing program at the university. I was pleased to be asked to join the faculty this year.”

Brandi Pravecek

Teaching called Brandi Pravecek back to SDSU. After earning her bachelor’s degree from SDSU in 1993 and her master’s degree in 2002, Pravecek taught at SDSU for two years before leaving to enter a full-time nurse practitioner practice. While there, she continued to serve as a preceptor for nurse practitioner students and as an adjunct faculty member at Mount Marty College in its graduate program.

“I have always enjoyed teaching and knew at some point I would want to return to teaching on a full-time basis,” said Pravecek. “I am excited to start the fall semester and am looking forward to teaching courses I have not previously taught. I love learning and the academic setting.”

Pravecek is currently working to obtain her doctorate of nursing practice and continues to practice as a nurse practitioner part-time at The Scotland Medical Clinic and for the Wapiti locum company based in Huron that provides physician, nurse practitioner and physician assistant coverage for facilities both in and out of state that need coverage.

K Reeder

K Reeder is the college’s associate dean for research. She has been working as a research associate professor at Barnes-Jewish College in St. Louis and as an adjunct research faculty member at Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa in Mason City, Iowa, UnityPoint Health in Des Moines, Iowa, and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Reeder has degrees from Drake University and the University of Iowa and participated in a heart failure postdoctoral fellowship at the Kansas University Medical Center.

“What attracted me to South Dakota State is the fact the College of Nursing has a great dean, faculty and students, and SDSU nursing graduates are highly sought throughout the Midwest and beyond. Nancy Fahrenwald is known nationally and internationally,” Reeder said. “She shared with me the vision for research in the college. It was very exciting to hear about its strategic plan, and I felt it was well aligned with my research interest and career goals.

“I’m at a point in my career where I wanted to be able to share my experiences and support others in developing and sustaining their programs of research,” she continued. “My vision for the Office of Nursing Research in the college is to support faculty in fulfilling their research goals using scalable strategies to achieve widespread adoption and reach of our research that will benefit people locally, as well as globally and inform practice and policy decision-making.”

Reeder plans to meet with the college faculty to learn about their current projects, as well as research interests to determine how to best support faculty in achieving their long-term goals for research.
The thought of giving back started with Bev Warne as a child and the mindset continues with her today. Warne graduated from the St. John’s McNamara School of Nursing in 1962 and then added bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing. She taught nursing and American Indian culture courses at Mesa Community College and served as the director of the American Indian Students United in Nursing program at Arizona State University College of Nursing and Healthcare Innovation.

Her current work is with the Bush Foundation grant awarded to the college to increase numbers of American Indian nurses in South Dakota.

“The thought of giving back stayed with me all my life. We know we can’t change everything but we do the best we can with what we can change. We can change some things and build upon that,” said Warne, who has served as a school nurse, an IHS public health nurse, a pediatric nurse, and a nurse in a clinic in Bangkok, Thailand. “I feel good about what we were able to accomplish in Arizona and now look to create a similar program here.”

Camilla Veire

Known as a people person, Camilla Veire’s eclectic professional background has had her demonstrate that ability in a number of opportunities. Whether it is working in a group home, owning her own speaking and training business, being a co-author of a teen series book, working in development and fundraising and teaching at a collegiate level, she discovered working with student success as an academic advisor to be her passion and future.

“Academic advising allows me to inform, inspire, and assist students in meeting their academic goals,” Viere said. “I enjoy coming to work everyday—inspired by student advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities and populations.”

Viere works as an academic advisor for the College of Nursing in Sioux Falls, where she advises prenursing, standard nursing, preaccelerated and accelerated nursing students. She earned her bachelor’s degree in sociology and education from the University of Wisconsin, her master’s degree in counseling and human resource development from South Dakota State University and her Master of Business Administration from the University of Sioux Falls.

South Dakota Hall of Fame inducts Koerner

JoEllen Koerner ’82/M.S. has always believed it is a wonderful time to be a nurse. Koerner, the senior vice president for clinical quality at CareSpan, was inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in September for her nearly 50-year career in patient care as a nurse, educator and manager.

“I am so excited by the evolution of the field. Technology and connectivity are extending the borders of our capacity. Nursing continues to expand the scientific understanding that forms the foundation for our work,” Koerner said. “We are increasing our ability to generate and manage information leading to population health management. Our unique blend of caring presence and intelligence generates trust, making nursing professionals ideal advocates for social policy changes that impact the health of all of society. What a wonderful time to be a nurse.”

Before her work at CareSpan, Koerner was president of the Global Nursing Academy in Boulder, Colorado, senior vice president of patient services for Sioux Valley Hospitals and Health System, vice president for program development at Interactive-Think Inc., executive director of the South Dakota Nursing Board, nursing department director at Freeman Junior College and a physician assistant for Rural Health Clinics, P.A.

“I was very grateful for the hall’s invitation extended to nursing,” said Koerner, who also was honored as an SDSU Distinguished Alumnus for outstanding professional achievement in 1992.

“This award has invited me to reflect on and celebrate all that has contributed to my life journey,” she said. “It starts with family—past, present and future—for giving me a center filled with meaning and memories. I have to add the Native Americans of South Dakota, for saving the life of my migrating ancestors’ homesteading efforts that first harsh winter, and for the meaningful cultural perspective they share with us today.”

Matt Schmidt
2015-16 Faculty Awards and Honors

Robin Arends—South Dakota representative, American Association of Nurse Practitioners.
Karla Hansen—College of Nursing Faculty Excellence Award, SDSU.
Marge Hegge—College of Nursing Excellence Award, SDSU; Distinguished Alumni Award, SDSU Alumni Association.
Mary Isaacson—2015 College of Nursing Outstanding Researcher, SDSU.

Jennifer Kerkvliet—Professional Staff/CSA Award for Excellence, SDSU.

Christina Lammers—First place research abstract, Sanford Evidenced-Based Research Symposium.

Heidi Mennenga—2016 College of Nursing Outstanding Researcher, SDSU.

Roberta Olson—College of Nursing Excellence Award, SDSU.

Robin PetersonLund—Representative, South Dakota Board of Nursing.

Christina Plemmons—Nurse Educator Award, South Dakota Nurses Association.

Tom Stenvig—College of Nursing Excellence Award, SDSU; Fellow, American Academy of Nursing; G.J. Van Heuvelen Award, South Dakota Public Health Association; Excellence in Outreach and Engagement, SDSU.

Lois Tschetter—College of Nursing Excellence Award, SDSU.

Venita Winterboer—2016 College of Nursing Teacher of the Year, SDSU.

Manuscripts, Books and Book Chapters

Susan Bassett


Gloria Craig

Nancy Fahrenwald

Becka Foerster

Kay Foland

Jo Gibson

Linda Herrick


Polly Hulme


Jennifer Kerkvliet


Heidi Mennenga


Elizabeth Pasquariello

Thomas Stenwig

Lois Tschetter


Howard Wey


Faculty Presentations and Posters at Professional Meetings

Robin Arends


Susan Bassett


23
at Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Linda Burdette**


**Cynthia Elverson**

**Nancy Fahrenwald**


**Cynthia Elverson**

**Nancy Fahrenwald**


**Cynthia Elverson**

**Nancy Fahrenwald**

Becka Foerster
Foerster, B.; Mennenga, H. and Tschetter, L. (2015, February). “Student and faculty knowledge regarding telehealth and rural characteristics.” Poster presentation at SDSU Celebration of Excellence Faculty Showcase, Brookings.

Shana Harming


Linda Hendrickx

Linda Herrick


Polly Hulme


Mary Isaacson


Conversations with indigenous elders.” Podium presentation at Sigma Theta Tau International Biennial Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jennifer Kerkvliet


Cristina Lammers


Sheryl Marckstadt


Heidi Mennenga


presentation at American Academy of Nursing, Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference, Washington, D.C.


Mary Minton


Marylou Mylant

Jody Ness


Elizabeth Pasquariello

Robin PetersonLund


Dawn VanRuler
VanRuler, D. (2015, April). “Educational Intervention to Improve Mental Health Nursing Students Attitudes about Inter-professional Collaboration.” Podium presentation at Mid-Western Nursing Research Society Conference at St. Louis, Missouri.

Jo Voss

Howard Wey


Venita Winterboer

LITTLE DID GRETCHEN (COOL) ULMER ’90 KNOW WHEN SHE FOLLOWED HER OLDER SISTER, CHRISTINE ’88, TO GET A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN NURSING AT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE THE IMPACT SHE’D MAKE ON THE FIELD OF NURSING. THAT IMPACT WAS RECENTLY RECOGNIZED WHEN SHE WAS NAMED TO THE 100 GREAT IOWA NURSES 2016 LISTING.

Ulmer is the latest State graduate on the list. Laura Baker ’05 and Denise Cundy ’04 were on the 2015 list of 100 Great Iowa Nurses. The annual list recognizes nurses who have made meaningful, lasting contributions to their patients, colleagues and the nursing profession, and are viewed as mentors to other nursing professionals.

“I was totally surprised and honored,” Ulmer recalled about notification that she was on the 2016 listing. “It is a true blessing to give to others and help meet their needs, whether physical, mental, spiritual or emotional. I did not feel like I should receive this honor. It takes a team to provide great nursing; all of my co-workers also deserve this award.

“I love to give and help others,” she continued. “I knew at a very young age it was my calling. The profession is rewarding, yet challenging and has incredible career opportunities.”

Ulmer’s nursing career started working alongside her mother, Trixie, in Marshall, Minnesota, at what is now known as Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center.

“My mom always has been caring and loving and has been known in the Marshall area as an awesome nurse,” Ulmer said, noting her mother was a nurse for nearly 40 years. “She not only gives this love to her patients and their family members, but also to her family and friends. She is an awesome example of a wonderful nurse, and of course, I wanted to be just like her when I grew up.”

After getting married, she moved to Ames, Iowa, and worked in intensive care and critical care units. She and her husband, Karl ’90, then moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she moved into the education department for the Mercy Medical Center. She then took a break from her nursing career after their third child, Meghan, was born. The couple have four children: Jordan, who is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering at State; Joshua, who attends the University of Northern Iowa; Meghan, a senior in high school; and Matthew, a seventh-grade student.

She returned to Mercy Medical Center in 2008 and now works on the neurosurgical and orthopedic floor, teaches nursing and helps facilitate Mercy Touch Introduction to new employees and Living Mercy Touch Retreats to other staff.

“I believe the great knowledge and skills received in the classroom at State and within the hospital/community setting, set the wonderful foundation necessary to encourage me to be challenged and to provide the best holistic care to all I care for,” said Ulmer, who also volunteers at the Community Health Free Clinic and is on various hospital committees.

“Jackie Gilbertson ’74 does not recall ever wanting not to be a nurse. However, that might change following her retirement as the director of nurses at the Mickelson Center for the Neurosciences in Yankton. For her constant focus on making sure nursing students have their best possible experience under her watch, Gilbertson has been named the college’s distinguished service award recipient.

The award, which was initially given to R. Esther Erickson in 1980, recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the improvement of health care and overall quality of life or to the advancement of South Dakota State University College of Nursing.

Gilbertson’s 40-year nursing career has almost always had her working with students.

“I worked very hard to make the best possible opportunities for the students of the seven colleges who send students here,” she said. “Our center has both acute and long-term treatments for adults, adolescents and gerontology so the students get a very good mental health experience, one they’re probably not going to get elsewhere.

“Not too often does a director of nursing take on the specifics of making assignments for nursing students, but I took that on so that both patients and students have the best experience possible,” Gilbertson continued.

In addition to being the director of nurses, Gilbertson served in the S.D. Human Services Center’s Nursing Education Department where she taught a psychiatric nursing clinical and served as a nurse manager in a geriatric area of the hospital. The HSC was dedicated “George S. Mickelson Center for the Neurosciences,” in 1994. However, it is her work with students that have been the most noteworthy, according to her nomination letters.

“Jackie consistently supports and promotes the student role, thus promoting the College of Nursing in the attainment of its goals. She is most helpful in honoring our requests and has been integral in providing optimum clinical experiences for our students,” said Sue Bassett, a lecturer in the college and one of Gilbertson’s nominators. “Although Jackie is nonpartisan in her dealings with the nursing schools she schedules, she readily shares her pride in being a South Dakota State University College of Nursing graduate. She has demonstrated the ideals, philosophy and purpose of the SDSU College of Nursing throughout her career and expects nursing students of this institution to do the same.”
Thank you

To help further our initiatives to educate and train the next generation of nurses, educators, administrators, practitioners and scientists, we encourage you to consider donating to the Roberta Olson Endowment to recognize the time, dedication and efforts made by Roberta and David throughout their time at our university.

Faculty as well as create areas such as the active-learning environment by knowing that funding is in place.

Of Nursing is actively creating new simulation laboratories, clinic environments, skills laboratories and active-learning classrooms. Endowments allow us to access flexible funding to support the places where our students learn.

An endowment also permanently preserves a donor’s legacy. Although David is no longer with us, his legacy and commitment to the college will always be a part of the Roberta Olson Endowment.

We value and appreciate each and every one of you who contribute your time, talent and treasure to cultivate the next generation. Thank you for enabling us to do what we do.

Endowments preserve a legacy while supporting where students learn

Earlier this year, the College of Nursing lost a dear friend in David Olson. Not only was he the husband of Dean Emerita Roberta Olson, but he also supported the efforts shown by the college’s administration, faculty, staff and, most importantly, the students.

We appreciate the efforts of individuals like David and the many others who believe in the mission of our college. To help further our initiatives to educate and train the next generation of nurses, educators, administrators, practitioners and scientists, we encourage you to consider donating to the Roberta Olson Endowment to recognize the time, dedication and efforts made by Roberta and David throughout their time at our university.

Endowments strengthen our scholarship programs and allow the college to better recruit and retain students and faculty as well as create areas such as the active-learning environment by knowing that funding is in place.

Educating the next generation of nursing leaders requires different types of learning environments. The College of Nursing is actively creating new simulation laboratories, clinic environments, skills laboratories and active-learning classrooms. Endowments allow us to access flexible funding to support the places where our students learn.

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High school science students from the Flandreau Indian School visited the College of Nursing and participated in activities in the clinical skills laboratory.