



Spring 2009

Rain Rhythms: Spring 2009 - Summer 2009

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

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RAIN

Spring/Summer 2009

RHYTHMS

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Graduates



Laura LaRocque, Robin Belgarde, David Azure, Kelly McCloud, & Michelle Gourneau Robinson



Brittany Olson

Master of Science in Nursing Graduates



Crystal Peltier



Brenda Wolf with her daughter

SPRING 2009 GRADUATES

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Kick-Off to RAIN's 20th Anniversary Celebration

As a kick-off to RAIN's 20th Anniversary Celebration on April 16, 2010, the RAIN Program is holding a RAIN Alumni/Student Luncheon at the Ramada Inn on October 2, 2009, during UND's Homecoming. Also, one hundred years ago, UND started offering nursing courses. Fifty years ago, the College of Nursing was established at UND. And nineteen years ago, the RAIN Program was established as part of the College of Nursing. To commemorate these milestones, UND's College of Nursing is sponsoring a Centennial Gala: "Celebrating a Century: UND's Legacy of Nursing." For additional information about RAIN celebrations, contact Assistant Coordinator Barb Anderson: barbanderson@mail.und.edu or 701.777.4323. For information about the CON Gala, contact Becky Cournia: beckycournia@mail.und.edu or 701.777.4174.

Closing A Chapter: We Honor Our Graduates May, 2009

AT HONOR CEREMONY:



Hellen Melland (Interim Dean of Nursing) with the RAIN graduates (Brenda Wolf not pictured)



Michelle Gourneau Robinson Family



Kelly McCloud Family



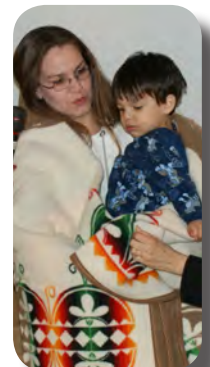
Crystal Peltier Family



David Azure Family



Robin Belgarde Family



Laura LaRocque &
son

AT TRADITIONAL MEAL:



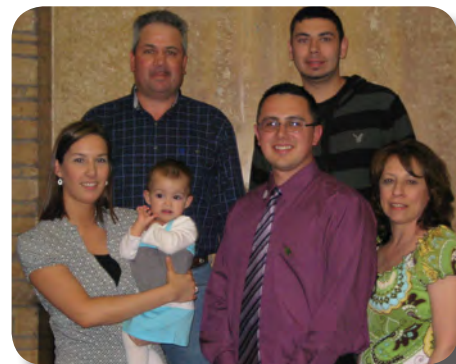
Colleen Clauthier, Deb Wilson & Barb Anderson preparing food



Brittany Olson Family

AT PINNING:

David Azure,
Robin Belgarde,
Michelle Gourneau
Robinson & Kelly
McCloud (Laura
LaRocque not
pictured)



David Azure Family



Kelly McCloud Family



Michelle Gourneau Robinson and husband Joe



Robin Belgarde Family



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Natalie Nicholson (enrolled at Fort Berthold; RAIN graduate, BSN, 2001, and MS, 2008) and her United States Curling Association team won the U.S. Nationals Championships/Olympic Trials in Denver, CO, in February, and in April represented the Women's World Curling Championships in Gangneung, South Korea. They are the first U.S. athletes to qualify for the 2010 Winter Olympics, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Of CON and the RAIN program, Natalie said, "You were all very supportive of my curling in graduate and undergraduate school." Natalie, who lives with her daughter Stella and husband John (UND alum) in Bemidji, MN, passed her boards on June 10, 2009, and will be working as a Family Nurse Practitioner for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa (her grandmother's tribe) in Red Lake, MN, in the Urgent Care/ER.

Olympics, Here We Come! Congratulations, Natalie.



LaVonne Russell Hootman Receives Honorary Doctorate



LaVonne
(second
from left)
with family

At UND's Spring 2009 commencement, the founder of the RAIN Program, LaVonne Russell Hootman (BSN, 1954; MS, 1981), received an honorary doctorate, a first for a UND nursing alumna. After serving as a UND College of Nursing faculty member from 1954 to 1994, LaVonne returned to the CON to launch and direct the RAIN program from 1990 to 1998. Her awards include the Edgar Dale Award for distinguished teaching and service (UND, 1979), the North Dakota State Nurses Association Honorary Recognition Award (1980, 1996), and induction into the North Dakota Nursing Association Hall of Fame (2004).

The CON website included the following excerpt from a letter recommending her: "Dr. Russell reached the pinnacle of her profession as evidenced by the impact she had on the College of Nursing faculty and students. Through her tenure, she initiated courses that remain part of our current undergraduate nursing curriculum. Additionally, she changed the culture and environment of the College of Nursing through the development and implementation of the RAIN Program."

On May 14, the RAIN staff held its traditional meal for the graduates and honored LaVonne with a Pendleton blanket (pictured with her family), showing their gratitude for her on-going support of American Indians pursuing nursing degrees, and the RAIN Program.

RAIN Students Practice in the CON Clinical Research & Simulation Center



From left, Terilyn Poitra, Tracy Charboneau, David Azure and Vicki Hicks



From left, Valerie Jones (RAIN nurse mentor), David Azure, Angel DuBois (patient), Chenoa Peterson, Tracy Charboneau, and Jodi Hajicek, Chenoa Gipp, Lauren Oseland (patient), Vicki Hicks, & Ian GreyBull



From left, Lauren Oseland, Elizabeth Blue, Tracy Charboneau, Chenoa Gipp, Ian GreyBull (graduate student in Family Nurse Practitioner track), Vicki Hicks, Terilyn Poitra, David Azure, Jodi Hajicek, Chenoa Peterson, Challsey Lawrence, & Angel DuBois



From left, Elizabeth Blue, Challsey Lawrence, Lauren Oseland, & Angel DuBois

RAIN Students Fight the Flood



Terilyn Poitra

This spring, due to the snow melt and rising river levels, several communities in the Red River Valley faced serious threats of flooding, so serious that UND canceled classes starting at noon March 25, resuming on March 31. This allowed students to help with the flood fight by assisting with sandbagging. RAIN students were among the over 2000 volunteers who helped fight the rising river (some pictured) in Fargo and also south of Grand Forks in an area not protected by the permanent dike system that protects Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, MN.



Jodi Hajicek, Vicki Hicks, and Michelle Peltier sling sand bags. "It was a lot of hard work," said Vicki Hicks, "but it was worth it. We helped save homes."

RAIN AND WIND "NO EXCUSES" ORIENTATION

From May 25 to June 2, 2009, the RAIN Program sponsored its annual "No Excuses" Orientation for new RAIN students. Senior nursing students Matt Lorenz, Angel DuBois, and Chenoa Gipp joined the 15 pre-nursing students, sharing learning strategies, college survival strategies, test taking strategies, and other survival advice.

Pictured (standing from left) are Angel DuBois, Donna Corbine, Chantel DeCoteau, Stacey Owen, Tuesday Rose, Vanessa Longtree, Brianna Kurrasch, Tracy Fabre, Jonathan Karnopp, Cynthia Michaelson, Connie Neadeau, Tallie Large, James Evans, and (seated in front)



Chenoa Gipp, Melissa Pitts, and Jacob Pitschner. Four days into the orientation, three RAIN students - Krysten Azure, Lauren Oseland, and Sarah Bell who were admitted to the CON Nursing Program starting Fall 2009 - joined the pre-nursing group. Loretta Jeanotte-Leith conducted the opening prayer in the morning and the talking circles in the evening. Guest speakers were Kay Mendick from UND's Campus Safety, Neil Olsen and David Scott from Northeast Human Services, and Jim Murphy from UND's Counseling Center. The pre-nursing students participated in math and science sessions, reading and writing sessions, and nursing preparation sessions conducted by the RAIN and CON staff and University programs.



RAIN EARTH Advisory Board Meeting

On Friday, May 15, 2009, the RAIN Program's EARTH Advisory Board once again met at the new Northern Plains Center for Behavioral Research.

In attendance were board members Emil LaRocque, Linda Neuerberg, Mary Lynn Eaglestaff, Tillie Colhoff, and Chris Burd, the RAIN staff, CON's interim Dean Helen Melland, CON's Alumni and Development Coordinator, Becky Cournia, and RAIN student representative Jennifer Good. In addition to the Dean's report and a discussion of the upcoming 50th anniversary celebration of UND's College of Nursing and RAIN's 20th anniversary celebration, those in attendance saw a RAIN Program update in the form of a PowerPoint presentation given by Deb Wilson and Barb Anderson.

EARTH Advisory Board member Tillie Colhoff, a graduate of Pine Ridge High School, has the distinction of being one of the first Indian Health Services (IHS) scholarship recipients. The scholarship that she received starting in 1978 helped her reach her academic goal, and in May, 1980, she graduated from Marty College (SD) with a BSN. Since then she's worked at several different healthcare facilities in SD, ND, AZ, and MN. In 1983, she started working in Comprehensive



Health at Red Lake, and although she retired in 2003, Tillie continues to be active in native healthcare and education.

Helen Melland Leaves College of Nursing-- Hats Off to Helen: We'll Miss You

After working for UND's College of Nursing since 1989, Dr. Helen Melland has taken the position as Dean of the College of Nursing at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. Dr. Melland held several positions at the CON: Assistant Professor in the Nursing Professionalism and Practices Department, Associate Professor and Chair for the Practice and Role Development Department, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and twice Interim Dean of the CON. RAIN will continue to work with her because Montana State University at Bozeman has a Section 112 grant program like RAIN.



Helen Melland & Deb Wilson



To show their appreciation for all her support over the years, the RAIN staff gave Dr. Melland a Pendleton blanket.

Other CON Employees Say Farewell



Loretta Heuer



Donna Martin



Jessica Lynnes

We also say goodbye to two other CON faculty members: Loretta Heuer, Professor/Chair, and Donna Martin, Assistant Professor. Loretta will be Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health in the NDSU Department of Nursing. Loretta was the first support staff person for the RAIN Program when it began in the fall of 1990. She continued with the program for several years, directing the CNA program provided for American Indians through the RAIN Program. Donna will join the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba as Access Program Liason. We also say goodbye to Jessica Lynnes, a RAIN student office assistant since November, 2006, who graduated May, 2009, with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. This summer, she began employment in the Minneapolis area and was married. We thank them for their fine work at the CON and wish them well in their new positions. We will miss you.

*For information on UND's College of Nursing and the RAIN Program,
go to www.nursing.und.edu/rain/ OR call 701-777-3224*

Spring 2009 Conferences

International Mentoring Association 22nd Annual Conference: "People Empowerment through Mentoring," March 4 - 6, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV.
Deb Wilson & Barb Anderson attended.

American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) 28th Annual Spring Conference 2009: "Tribal Colleges & Universities: Where American Indian Culture & Technology Meet," March 28 - April 1 in Missoula, MT. Deb Wilson & Elizabeth Yellowbird attended.

Career Fairs: United Tribes (Bismarck), Tiospa Zena (Sisseton), and Leech Lake Tribal College.

Recruitment travel included all Montana reservations and stops at high schools, tribal colleges, IHS and tribal health facilities.

Summer 2009 Conference

2009 Nurse Leaders in Native Care Conference: "Linking Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow through Leadership, Teamwork and Evidence-Based Practice," June 15 - 19 in Phoenix, AZ.
Deb Wilson attended with several RAIN students, encouraging them to attend, saying "This conference is an opportunity for you to meet and network with all the individuals who will be your colleagues in the nursing profession: fellow nursing students, IHS/tribal recruiters, PHS, HHS, and IHS top officials."

RAIN Graduates & Students with IHS Chief Nurse Sandra Haldane



From top, left, Robin Belgarde, Vicki Hicks, Terilyn Poitra, Larry Demers (BSN, 1999), Barb Demers (BSN, UND CON, 1998) Michelle Poitra, Shannon Behnkie, & Brenda Hoverson (BSN, 1997). From bottom, left, Shannon Marion, Elaine Gunville (BSN, 2004), Tracy Charboneau, Jodi Hajicek, Sandra Haldane (BSN, MSN, RN), Jennifer Good, Tara Drapeaux (BSN, 2008), Chenoa Gipp, and Kristine Davis (BSN, 2005)



Larry Demers (BSN, 1999) & Gerald Brown (BSN, 2007), Phoenix Indian Medical Center



Callie Baker (BSN, 2003) & Gerald Brown, (BSN, 2007), Phoenix Indian Medical Center



From left, Tara Drapeaux, Shannon Behnkie, Terilyn Poitra, Vicki Hicks, Jodi Hajicek, Michelle Poitra, Tracy Charboneau, Martha Baker (NANAINA), Jennifer Good, Georgeanna Old Elk (IHS Scholarship Program--led a student session on student responsibilities to the IHS Scholarship Program, and collaborated with Martha Baker to lead a session on NCLEX preparation), Robin Belgarde, Chenoa Gipp, & Angel DuBois

A walking tour of the Phoenix Indian Medical Center given by Larry Demers (RAIN BSN, 1999)--a comfortably cool 95 degrees in the dry heat



RAIN students with RADM Carol Romano, Assistant Surgeon General (PhD, RN, FAAN), in uniform

According to Vicki Hicks, RAIN senior, the conference was all around "awesome." She was able to talk to the U.S. Public Health Commission Corp recruiter, and is in the process of becoming a member. Tracy Charboneau, also a RAIN senior, was grateful for the opportunity to see IHS facilities and talk to RAIN graduates in the workplace who offered some valuable advice to the nursing students. Senior Terilyn Poitra added that she appreciated the variety of sessions offered at the conference, especially the one on using humor in the nursing field.

Summer Reservation Travel with CON Faculty

CON professors Loretta Heuer, Cindy Anderson, and Cheryl Stauffenecker and nursing graduate student Bibha Gautam joined RAIN's Deb Wilson, Barb Anderson, and Lizz Yellowbird for a tour of the North Dakota reservations (Turtle Mountain, Fort Berthold, Spirit Lake, and Standing Rock) and their health care facilities.



Bibha Gautam, Cheryl Stauffenecker, Loretta Heuer, Cindy Anderson, & LaVetta Fox (BSN, 1998) at the Minne-Tohe Health Center at New Town, ND



Jennifer YoungBear with Lizz Yellowbird at Fort Berthold



Bibha Gautam, Loretta Heuer, Cindy Anderson, Lizz Yellowbird, Cheryl Stauffenecker, & Barb Anderson at Minne-Tohe



Jennifer Thomas (BSN, 1996), Health Educator, with Cheryl Stauffenecker



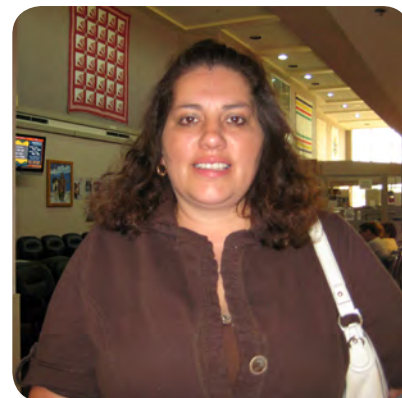
Cindy Anderson with LaVetta Fox at Minne-Tohe



Krissie Davis (BSN, 2007),
Quentin N. Burdick IHS,
Belcourt



Marianne Young Eagle (BSN, 1993),
Belcourt, ND



Virginia Blue (MSN, BSN, 1995),
Belcourt, ND



Dorothea Olson (BSN, 1998),
Director of Nursing, Fort Totten



Aleta Peltier-Delorme (BSN, 2002);
Nicole LeNoir (BSN, 2003), Belcourt IHS



Tammy Lawrence (BSN,
2000), Fort Totten IHS.



Michelle Loing (BSN, 1995); Shirley Butts (BSN, 1990);
Jennifer Thomas (BSN, 1996), Health Educator,
Belcourt, ND



Rose (Pfliger) Davis (BSN, 1995),
Director of Nursing at Minne-Tohe
Health Center, New Town, ND



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Photo taken at Twin Buttes, Fort Berthold, ND