Fall 2009

Rain Rhythms: Fall 2009 - Summer 2010

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

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Jodi Hajicek, (top from left), Shannon Behnkie, Terilyn Poitra, Matthew Lorenz, Vickie Hicks, Lacey Twamley, & Jennifer Good earned Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees.

I would like to calm the worried phone calls and rumors out there that RAIN has lost our funding and is no longer in existence. As you will see in this issue, our students and program have been and continue to be very busy. Last year, RAIN submitted a proposal for a third cycle to the HRSA Nursing Workforce Diversity. We were recommended for funding but not funded. This meant a loss in funding for our writing and science mentors, some scholarships, the “No Excuses” Orientation, student travel, reservation and faculty travel. On the positive side, our funding through IHS remains intact for support staff, scholarships and travel as well as financial support from private foundations. We have been working diligently with the College of Nursing, the President’s office, and the UND Alumni and Foundation office to replace what is not currently funded. We are working on collaborative efforts with other programs, colleges and other funding resources. Our first priority has been and always will be our students. Our program is strong and we continue to serve our students! - Deb Wilson

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At the December 2009 traditional meal are the graduates (from left) Shannon Behnkie, Turtle Mountain, Matthew Lorenz, Turtle Mountain, Lacey Twamley, Turtle Mountain, Vickie Hicks, Cherokee, Terilyn Poitra, Turtle Mountain, Rhea Allery (MS grad), Turtle Mountain, Jennifer Good, Turtle Mountain, and Jodi Hajicek, Turtle Mountain.
An alumni panel and luncheon was held in conjunction with UND Homecoming 2009. Panel participants included (from left) Shannon Little Wolf, RN, BSN (‘02), Millie Stewart Kazhe, MS, RN (guest speaker, Millie is a nurse at Mescalero Service Unit, NM), Anthony Agard, RN, BSN (‘88), Robbi Baker, RN, BSN (‘07), and Krissie Davis, RN, BSN (‘07).

Our RAIN Pinning Ceremony: Barb Anderson honors RAIN Alum Sandy Storey (‘89) with a RAIN pin. All alumni attending the Homecoming luncheon received a pin.

Honored guest Dr. LaVonne Russell Hootman listens to the beautiful flute music performed by Allen Demaray.

The luncheon closed with a friendship dance celebrating the many years of the RAIN Program and honoring all those who have contributed and participated.

Shawna (Cosen) Ziadah (BSN ‘08), (from left), Krissie Davis (BSN ‘07), Sophie (West) Pettula (BSN ‘93 and MS ‘95), Elaine Gunville (BSN ‘04), Shannon Little Wolf (BSN ‘02), Mary Lynn Eaglestaff (MS ‘96), Mary Black (BSN ‘00 and MS ‘04), Robbi Baker (BSN ‘07), Madonna Azure (BSN ‘02 and MS ‘01), Anthony Agard (BSN ‘88), Suzie Mesteth (BSN ‘97), and Sandy Storey (BSN ‘89).
RAIN Alumni share memories of the RAIN Program at the College of Nursing Gala celebrating 100 years of nursing at UND. Pictured from left, Wendy Blair-Melton, Ashley Albertson, Millie Stewart Kazhe, Elaine Gunville, Shannon Little Wolf, Anthony Agard, Madonna Azure, Mary Lynn Eaglestaff, and Suzie Mesteth.

 Deb Wilson, Elizabeth YellowBird, and Barb Anderson

 RAIN nursing students attend the Gala: Tracy Charboneau ('10), (from left) Challsey Lawrence, Chenoa Peterson, Chenoa Gipp, Jennifer Good ('09), Vickie Hicks ('09), Matt Lorenz ('09), Jodi Hajicek ('09), and Sarah Bell.
The 2010 RAIN/WIND “No Excuses” Orientation was held from May 31 to June 8, 2010 in Grand Forks. Over 20 participants from around the country took part in the busy 8-day orientation. Activities included daily morning prayers and talking circles led by Indian Elder Loretta Jeanotte-Leith, and many guest speakers from the campus and region. During orientation, RAIN staff provided sessions on the College of Nursing and UND requirements and expectations, math and science overviews, writing workshops, and practical applications that pertain to nursing. Students were also able to spend some time in the College of Nursing’s Clinical Simulation and Resource Center, allowing them the opportunity to experience ‘real-life’ nursing practices.

RAIN Travels: Along The Moccasin Trail

Recruitment Travel: Visits to reservations in Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Nebraska

CON Faculty members Dr. Tracy Evanson and Dr. Cindy Anderson joined RAIN Staff LoAnn Hirsch and Deb Wilson on a recruitment tour of South Dakota reservations.

Ella Richards (BSN ’92), Shannon Little Wolf (BSN ’02), and Winnie Old Coyote (BSN ’07)

Marilyn YellowBird (BSN ’95 and MS ’97)

CON Faculty members Dr. Tracy Evanson and Dr. Cindy Anderson joined RAIN Staff LoAnn Hirsch and Deb Wilson on a recruitment tour of South Dakota reservations.

Madonna Azure (BSN ’82 and MS ’01) and Melinda Balderas (BSN ’94)

Sophie (West) Pettula (BSN ’93 and MS ’95)

Shawna (Baker) LeBeau (BSN ’07)

Career Fairs Attended:
Fond du Lac Tribal College/High School Career Fair in Cloquet, MN
Leech Lake Tribal College Career Fair in Cass Lake, MN
Sioux Community Career Fair in Granite Falls, MN
Four Winds High School Career Fair, Fort Totten, ND
Tiospa Zina High School Career Fair at Sisseton, SD

Elizabeth YellowBird and Madonna Azure

Jolane Tomhave, Linda Neuerburg, Deb Wilson, and Elizabeth YellowBird

Nancy Everling, Deb Wilson, and Barb Anderson
Barb Anderson and Deb Wilson brought 12 RAIN students to this year’s Nurse Leaders in Native Care (NLiNC) Conference July 19 to 23, 2010 in Washington DC. Students were able to meet many several RAIN Alumni at the conference. Pictured in back row from left: Barb Anderson, Michelle Loing, Krysten Azure, Chenoa Gipp, Michelle Peltier, Angel DuBois, Sarah Bell, Dorothea Olson, Deb Wilson; Front row: Teresa (Romero) Nelson, Alexis Jones, Ian GreyBull, Andrea (Nikki) Baker, Cynthia Michaelsen.

RAIN students Sarah Bell, Alexis Jones, and Cynthia Michaelsen attended the Nursing Students Association of North Dakota (NSAND) Annual State Convention on February 5 to 6, 2010 in Jamestown, ND. The theme for this year’s convention was “Reach for the limit.” Pictured at right: Sarah Bell, Emily Bailey (UND Nursing Student Association President), Alexis Jones, and Cynthia Michaelsen.
Captain Celissa G. Stephens, RN, MSN, USPHS, made an IHS Section 112 site visit to the RAIN Program on November 9 and 10, 2009. She toured the College of Nursing (CON) and RAIN area, met with RAIN staff, met with CON Dean Julie Anderson and faculty, met with RAIN students over lunch, and had dinner with the EARTH (RAIN) Advisory Board members Chris Burd and Dr. Linda Neuerburg, and RAIN staff members Deb Wilson and Barb Anderson.

Indian Health Services Site Visit

Pictured (top from left): Chantel DeCoteau, Brianna Kurrasch, Autumn Tsosie, Melissa Parisien, Angel DuBois, Capt. Celissa Stephens, Chalsey Lawrence, Sarah Bell, Chelsea Warren; Front: Chenoa Gipp, Chenoa Peterson

National Indian Health Board Conference

RAIN Program Coordinator, Deb Wilson and Assistant Program Coordinator, Barb Anderson attended the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Conference in Washington, D.C., September 12 to 16, 2009. Speakers at the conference included Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, several senators including Byron Dorgan and the director of Indian Health Services, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux. Deb and Barb provided information about the RAIN Program and learned about the upcoming legislation that may impact our program and Indian country.

Other Conferences Attended:

International Mentoring Association 23rd Annual Conference: “Diversity in Mentoring: Connection through Mentoring: Transforming Communities, Cultures, and Networks,” March 16 to 19, 2010, in Orlando, FL. Deb Wilson, Barb Anderson, and Amy Fiala, RAIN Nurse Mentor, attended.


American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) 2010 Annual Conference: March 19 to 23, 2010 in Chandler, AZ. Deb Wilson and Barb Anderson attended.

NDUS Diversity Council Conference, April 22, 2010 in Bismarck, ND. Barb Anderson attended.
Barb Anderson Receives Award

As noted in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing NewsWatch, December 2009, Barb Anderson, Assistant Program Coordinator of the RAIN Program, was recently recognized for her dedication to American Indian programs. The North Dakota Indian Education Association (NDIEA) awarded Barb their 2009 Community Service Award, recognizing her “fourteen years of community service to tribal youth via the UND Indians into Medicine (INMED) Summer Institute.” Director of UND’s American Indian Student Support Services Leigh Jeanotte, who nominated Barb, says of her, “Overseeing the activities and wellbeing of that many high school students for so many years is worthy of recognition.” Leigh goes on to say: “That Barb did it so very well speaks volumes about her character and commitment to the American Indian youth of the communities.”

“‘This recognition is so well deserved. How many people do you know willing to give up their summers for all those years to work with students 24/7?’ asks Deb Wilson, RAIN Program Coordinator. ‘The impact is seen when the RAIN Program is out recruiting locally, regionally and nationally. So many individuals in healthcare and education we meet know Barb because she had worked with them when they were in junior high or high school. She has much to be proud of. Indian country can be very proud of the continued impact Barb has with American Indian people’” (CON website).

Also at UND’s Founders’ Day Banquet in February, Barb received an award for 25 years of employment at the University. Congratulations, Barb!

LaVonne Russell Hootman Receives Sioux Award

At the UND College of Nursing Centennial Gala in October 2009, founder of the RAIN Program LaVonne Russell Hootman received the Sioux Award, “the highest honor given by the UND Alumni Association for achievement, service and loyalty.” Pictured, from left, are CON Dean Dr. Julie Anderson, RAIN Program Coordinator Deb Wilson, LaVonne Russell Hootman, Roxanne Hurley, CON Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Barb Anderson, RAIN Program Assistant Coordinator.

New Admits to UND’s Nursing Program

Billie Diver, Brittany Huggins, Cynthia Michaelsen, and Alexis Jones were admitted into UND’s CON nursing program for Spring Semester 2010.
Jackie Davis Retires

RAIN writing mentor Jackie Davis retired December 31, 2009, after working for the program since September 2007. Previous to her writing mentor role, she taught writing for UND’s English Department for 22 years, and started a writing center for law students at the Appalachian School of Law where she worked for four years. She’s looking forward to traveling and visiting her family and friends. We’ll miss you, Jackie.

Best Wishes to Neha Patel and Mary Monette

RAIN writing mentor Mary Monette, and RAIN Science Mentor Neha Patel are sadly no longer on staff due to RIF. Mary Monette started working for the program as a writing mentor in 2007, and has taught in UND’s English Department for years. Neha Patel started at the RAIN Program in October 2007.

Thank you for your dedicated service. You will be greatly missed.

Cultural Identities and Nursing Survey

Hello! My name is Elizabeth YellowBird and I am a graduate student working on my PhD in Educational Leadership. I am currently conducting a survey of cultural identities and nursing. Within the next few weeks a survey will be emailed to students who have graduated from UND RAIN since 2000. Please take a few minutes and complete the survey. The survey will only take about 10 minutes and could be very important for future students. I have discussed this survey with Deb Wilson and have completed all of the forms necessary. For your information, all names and identifiers will be removed and your confidentiality will be protected. If you have any questions there will be a name and telephone number listed on the first portion of the survey. Thank you very much!” ~Elizabeth YellowBird

“STAR” Room

We are proud to announce a new edition to our RAIN Program area. The “STAR” (Students, Tutors, and Resources) room is a place for tutors and students to work in a quiet environment. It is also home to many current pre-nursing and nursing textbooks and a variety of other helpful resources.

RAIN is on Facebook!

Facebook is a social networking site that is a great way to help you stay in touch with other RAIN fans. If you don’t have a Facebook account yet, it’s easy to get started. Go to http://www.facebook.com/ and sign up. It’s free and anyone can join. Once you are signed up for Facebook you can find ‘friends’ with the built-in friend finder and fill out your own profile. You can put as much or as little information as you would like on your profile, but remember not to put anything about yourself that you wouldn’t want others to see.

Now what? All that’s left is to stay in touch with everyone else on Facebook. You can do this by posting ‘status’ updates of yourself, posting on someone else’s ‘wall’, chatting live with people that are online with you, or, if you prefer things a little more ‘private’, send an e-mail message to a friend.

And, of course, don’t forget to visit RAIN University of North Dakota on Facebook and become a fan!

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Correction: In the Spring/Summer 2009 RAIN RHYTHMS, RAIN nursing student Michelle Peltier was incorrectly identified as Michelle Poitra on pages 8 and 9. We apologize for the error.

RAIN Program Highlighted in Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Article

The RAIN Program was highlighted in the May 2010 Issue of Charting Nursing’s Future, a publication of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The article was titled “New Curricula and Technology: Reaching Rural and Ethnic Communities.” This article can be retrieved free of charge from www.rwj.org.
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Photo taken in Wisconsin, October 2009