Rain Rhythms: Fall 2010 - Fall 2011

College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines

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Welcome Dean Komiewicz!

Dean Denise Komiewicz began her new duties as Dean of the College of Nursing (CON) on August 1, 2011. Dean Komiewicz comes to UND from the University of Miami School of Nursing & Health Sciences M. Christine Schwartz Center for Nursing Education, where she served as Senior Associate Dean for Research. Dean K. earned her nursing degrees at Madonna University (bachelors), Texas Woman’s University (masters) and the Catholic University of America (Ph. D.). Dr. Komiewicz did postdoctoral work in infection diseases at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. We are very excited to welcome Dean K. to North Dakota and to our RAIN Family!

Coordinator’s Corner

We are back in paper form. You are able once again to read about RAIN from your favorite reading locations. As a program we have been through a lot just like most families. We have had graduations, admissions, inductions, weddings, health scares, and a loss. We have welcomed a new Dean, faculty, staff, and students. We are seeing a good number of our alum returning to school for advanced degrees -- our future leaders. It is so wonderful to travel out in Indian country and see our graduates providing care to our people -- loving their profession and making a difference. We hope to see you on our recruitment. All of this could not be done without the continued support from our funding agencies -- we are so grateful. This is our circle of life. Enjoy! ~Deb Wilson, Coordinator
CLOSING A CHAPTER: WE HONOR OUR GRADUATES
TRADITIONAL MEALS AND HONORING CEREMONIES

FALL 2010

Angel DuBois Family

Chenoa Gipp Family

SPRING 2011

Kimberly Gamett and Challsey Lawrence at the honoring ceremony

Kimberly Gamett Family

Challsey Lawrence Family

Honorees with their Pendleton blankets

Jason Champagne Family; Jason earned his Bachelor in Community Nutrition
Pinnings and Graduation Ceremonies

Chenoa Gipp family
Chenoa Gipp and Angel DuBois, Dec. 2010
Angel DuBois family

Challsey Lawrence family
Challsey Lawrence and Kimberly Garnett, May 2011
Kimberly Garnett family

Lauren Oseland family, Dec. 2011
College of Nursing professors at graduation, Dec. 2010
A new exciting adventure for RAIN began in the Fall of 2011 as our new partnership with Cankdeska Cikana Community College; Spirit Lake Nation was awarded grant funds from the Health Opportunity Grant Program (HPOG) through the Administration for Children and Families. The five year grant, Next Steps: An Empowerment Model for Native People Entering the Health Professions, aims to create a career ladder allowing entry and promoting advancement within the healthcare workforce through a variety of options.

RAIN is a subcontractor for this award and is responsible for providing mentors for Next Steps participants. The purpose of this grant is to assist American Indian students as they progress in health related career educational pathways. The program provides tuition and fees and may assist with transportation and childcare costs. As part of the Next Steps Project, RAIN selected five individuals to serve as mentors at Spirit Lake Nation, Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Standing Rock Nation, United Tribes Technical College, and a statewide mentor.

**MEET OUR MENTORS**

Hi. My name is **Evelyn (Faye) Foote** and I am the Next Steps mentor for the Standing Rock Area. I am married to a Vietnam Combat Veteran and together we have two wonderful children, a daughter who wants to go into nursing, and a son who is in 10th grade. I have an A.S. in Human Services from Standing Rock College and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Minot State University and a Masters in Health Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Hi. My name is **Evelyn (Faye) Foote** and I am the Fort Berthold mentor. I am an enrolled member of the Sahnish tribe. I have 7 children and 22 grandchildren, and grew up in a large family of 15 people, so I love working with my students.

Hi. My name is **Phillip D. Longie**. I am the new Spirit Lake mentor for the RAIN/Next Steps Project. I am excited about being a part of the RAIN/Next Steps team and look forward to assisting students in reaching their educational goals.

Hi. My name is **Lizz YellowBird** and I am the Fort Berthold mentor. I am an enrolled member of the Sahnish tribe. I have a double masters degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Mary. I have been in the education field since graduating. Education has always played an important part of my life, I believe that getting your education is the best thing anyone can do for themselves.

Hi. My name is **Tracy Baker**, I am an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa. I am the state-wide mentor. I have a double masters degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Mary. I have been in the education field since graduating. Education has always played an important part of my life, I believe that getting your education is the best thing anyone can do for themselves.

Hi. My name is **Arlene Brown** and I am the mentor at Bismarck/Mandan. I received my undergraduate degree from UND in Criminal Justice and Indian Studies. I am working on my masters in counseling at UND. I have been working as a mentor since April 2011 and loving every minute of it.

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New Funding for RAIN: HRSA

The RAIN Program has recently been awarded a Nursing Workforce Diversity grant from the Health Resources Services Administration. RAIN submitted a proposal to request funding to recruit and retain American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) students who are pursuing nursing degrees. These additional grant funds will be utilized to provide support services, scholarships and stipends to AI/AN students who are pursuing nursing degrees at the UND College of Nursing. Nurses will return to their native communities to positively impact the health care delivery systems and help alleviate the disparities of health care of AI/AN population.

The funding is a three year award beginning July 1, 2011. These additional funds will allow RAIN to continue as a premiere program for support of AI/AN students; to-date we have graduated 159 Bachelors (BSN) and 39 Masters (MS) prepared nurses. Five of the RAIN Masters nurses have completed PhD degrees at other institutions and one has earned her Juris Doctorate.

Prospective Student Advisor

In September, 2011, Kara Anderson was selected to become the new RAIN Program Prospective Student Academic Advisor. Kara will be responsible for sending information to new prospective students, advising and following progression into the nursing program. Kara has a BS degree in management from the University of Minnesota –Morris.

Kara was previously the Administrative Assistant for the CON Office of Research. Kara and significant other Justin have two sons and one brand new daughter.

Welcome to the RAIN family!

Appointments Plus: A New Scheduling Tool for CON Students

Appointments Plus is an online scheduling program that allows students to schedule a time to meet with their advisors. There is a link to this on the www.nursing.und.edu website, go to “Schedule Appointment”.

When students click on Schedule Appointment, they are taken to Appointments Plus and have the option to “select service” then “select staff member”, once they do that, that person’s scheduled available times appear. From there they may select an open time and complete the required information to schedule the appointment.

For students interested in scheduling an appointment with a RAIN advisor or Next Steps mentor, under the Select Service tab select RAIN: Recruitment/Retention of American Indians or RAIN: Next Steps Mentoring and choose the appropriate staff member’s name. Our RAIN staff is available for you, please call if you have any questions on the new scheduling system.
Academics

Challsey Lawrence and Kimberly Gamett with clinical instructor Mary Adkins (middle).

A multi-systems study group during finals time.

Students studying for finals.

Congratulations Kimberly Gamett, Clarice Bauer, and Lauren Oseland!

Kim, Clarice, and Lauren have been inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society for Nursing (STTI). It is the only international honor society specifically for nursing in the world. These students were inducted based on academic excellence, which includes having a GPA of 3.0 or higher and ranking in the top 35% of their graduating class. By joining STTI, these ladies are now part of a global community that lead in knowledge, scholarship, service, and learning to improve the health of the world’s people.

Kim, BSN 2010
Clarice, BSN 2012
Lauren, BSN 2011
Alumni Came to Visit

Marilyn YellowBird, BSN 1995; MS 1997

Alyssa Martinez, BSN 1996; MS 2003 and Mia Osborne, current RN-BSN student

Student Events

Chenoa Gipp and family enjoying food at the College of Nursing fall 2011 welcome picnic.

Chalsey Lawrence and Kimberly Gamett munching at the College of Nursing fall 2011 welcome picnic.
 Faces and Places on our Recruitment and Conference participation. Throughout this period we also made several trips to Ft. Totten and Bismarck, ND to work with our Next Steps partners.

Lizz YellowBird, Nancy Martin (INMED), Barb Anderson, and Deb Wilson at the NIHB Conference in Sioux Falls, SD. Sept. 2010

Alumni, Cristine Willow, BSN 1993, at Wind River IHS. Oct. 2010

Nursing student Cynthia Michaelsen and faculty member at Fort Peck Community College, Christine Holler-Dinsmore at Ft. Peck, Nov. 2010

Rezruitment:
South Dakota………………………………June 13-17, 2010
Montana and Wyoming…………September 26-October1, 2011
Standing Rock, UTTC, ND………………February 2-4, 2011
Northern MT & Western ND………………March 6-12, 2011
Northern & Southern MN…………………March 13-18, 2011
South Dakota……………………………June 11-13, 2011
Minnesota & Wisconsin…………………September 21-28, 2011

“No Room at the Inn” - Deb attended Ft. Peck Career Fair and she had to stay at the college dorm room because there were no hotels available! Thank you FPCC!

Conferences:
National Indian Health Board………… September 20-22, 2010…………Sioux Falls, SD
National Congress of American Indians Conference (NCAI) ………November 14-18, 2010…………Albuquerque, NM
October 29-30, 2011…………Portland, OR
Native Nurse Leaders Conference……..June 13-June 16, 2011…………Rapid City, SD
National Indian Education Association Conference (NIEA)………October 6-10, 2010…………San Diego, CA
October 26-29, 2011…………Albuquerque, NM
American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)………………April 16-19, 2011…………Bismarck, ND
Clarice Bauer enjoying her lunch on the College of Nursing lawn. Clarice is our first RAIN student in the BAC2 program.

Career/Health Fairs:
Wolf Point, MT.............November 10, 2010
Leech Lake, MN.............February 11, 2011
Fond du Lac, MN.............March 16, 2011
Ft. Totten, ND................April 15, 2011
UTTC, Bismarck, ND........September 9, 2011
(Presented at HEROS Conference)
White Earth, MN...........December 2, 2010
December 6, 2011


Barb Anderson at the RAIN booth at the NIHB Conference, San Diego CA, Fall 2011.

AIHEC Powwow in Bismarck, ND, Spring, 2011.

Red Lake College, Red Lake, MN.
RAIN alumni Clarice (Kills Pretty Enemy) LeBrun, BSN 1991, MS 2011 and Elaine Gunville, BSN 2004 at Rapid City IHS.

RAIN student Chantel DeCoteau with alum Robbi Baker, BSN 2007 employed at IHS Fort Yates.

Alumni, Mary Lynn Eaglestaff, MS 1996 and Teresa Nelson, MS (BSN 2006) at the Aberdeen Area Nursing Conference, summer 2011. (At left)

College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, WI.

La Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College in Hayward, WI.

MS student Susan Harkey working at Menominee IHS.


## In Memoriam of Nicolette Wolf Leader

It is with much grief we report the loss of our student, Nicolette (White Temple) Wolf Leader. Nicolette was tragically killed in a car accident on December 27, 2011. She was in her third semester of the nursing program. Her children are Jameson, age 10 and Josephine, age 6. Nicolette was a wonderful human being, mother, sister, daughter and friend to so many whose infectious laugh was often heard in the RAIN area. We miss her very much! Our condolences and continued prayers go out to Jameson, Josephine, her families and to all of her friends. The College of Nursing held a memorial service for her on January 11, 2012.

![In Memoriam of Nicolette Wolf Leader](image)

## New Adventure for Amy

Amy Fiala, our Nurse Mentor for the past two years, has resigned her position with us effective December 30, 2011. Amy will begin her new adventure as a Public Health Nurse for Polk County in Minnesota. We presented Amy with a Pendleton blanket for her years of service. We miss her very much and wish her all the best with her new endeavor!

![New Adventure for Amy](image)

## Life-long Learners reach goals

Two members of our RAIN family have reached their educational goals.

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- **Life-long Learners reach goals**
  - RAIN Family Members Have New Degrees

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  ![Life-long Learners reach goals](image)

## Our RAIN Family

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- **Dr. Elizabeth “Lizz” YellowBird was awarded her Ph. D. in Educational Leadership on December 18, 2011. Dr. YellowBird will remain with the RAIN Program as the Next Steps mentor for Ft. Berthold.**

  ![Life-long Learners reach goals](image)

- **Our Assistant Coordinator, Barb Anderson, earned her BS degree in Social work on December 17, 2010 graduating Magna Cum Laude.**

  ![Life-long Learners reach goals](image)

- **Congratulations to you both - you inspire us!**

  ![Life-long Learners reach goals](image)
RAIN RHYTHMS

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