

ISU Welcomes New School of Nursing Interim Director Dr. Nancy Renn

Dr. Nancy Renn has rejoined the School of Nursing (SON), returning from retirement to serve as the Interim Director. Dr. Renn has had a long and rewarding relationship with Idaho State University and the SON. Dr. Renn graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Nursing in May of 1980, Master's degree in Nursing in 1990, and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2004. She has had many professional opportunities, working as a staff nurse at Bannock Memorial Hospital (now Portneuf Regional Medical Center), as a nurse administrator at the Southeastern District Health Department (now South Idaho Public Health), and as a faculty member in the SON. Dr. Renn joined the faculty in the SON in 1998. She taught leadership and community classes for both undergraduate and graduate students and had served as the Interim Director for the SON prior to her retirement in 2012.



Nancy Renn, PhD, RN

Dr. Renn feels strongly that nursing is not a spectator sport; nurses need to be actively involved in order to make changes that are safe, effective and efficient. She knows that the SON has strong students who graduate and are prepared with the knowledge, skills and abilities to make positive changes in professional nursing practice. The students from the SON are prepared to be leaders, and are encouraged to move forward and make a difference. The alumni continue to innovate actively in practice in the state of Idaho, the nation, and globally to improve patient outcomes as professional registered nurses, care providers, nurse educators, family nurse practitioners, researchers, and in many other roles.

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Thomas Geriatric Symposium: A Success!



GATE Scholar Award Recipient: Tamara Tasseff

Tamara Tasseff, enrolled in the Ph.D. in Nursing program, has been selected as the Graduate Assistant Teaching Experience (GATE) Scholar for the 2015-2016 academic year in the School of Nursing. The GATE Scholar award is offered through the ISU Graduate School, and provides students with focused opportunities to explore and consider aspects and information associated with faculty preparation and a career in academia. Tamara holds an M.A. in Organizational Learning, and has served in various leadership and consultant roles. Her research interests focus on improving elder and palliative care within rural and frontier regions.



As a natural systems thinker and life-long learner, Tamara has worked to apply lessons learned from other industries directly to quality improvement and healthcare transformation. She has served in various leadership and consultant roles throughout healthcare including: quality and safety, medical and nursing continuing education, new program development, diabetes care management, hospice, and palliative care. Tamara and her husband live in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, experiencing firsthand the gaps in access and availability of care for people living in rural and frontier areas. Tamara plans to focus her dissertation research on palliative care, and build the nursing science in this topic area.

Submitted by Dr. Karen Neill

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students selected for internship with the VA Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education

Sean Smart, RN and John McRae, RN have been selected to complete an internship with the VA Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education through the Boise VA Medical Center in Boise, Idaho. This is a competitive, national program designed to foster transformation of clinical education. A primary emphasis of the internship is to prepare graduates of health professional programs to work in, and lead patient-centered interprofessional teams and

The learning experience will integrate shared decision making, sustained relationships in practice, interprofessional collaboration, and performance improvement to optimize the health of populations. Sean Smart and John McRae are completing the final year of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program, Family Nurse Practitioner option in the School of Nursing.

Submitted by Dr. Karen Neill

John McRae, RN

John McRae grew up on a farm in Homedale, Idaho. He spent a couple years at the University of Idaho, finishing his first degree (BS) in biology at BSU in 2003. That work got him interested in epidemiology, and he ended up getting a Masters in Public Health from A.T. Still University in 2007. After graduation and completion of the national certification exam, John fell into nursing (which he loves) and got his BSN in 2011. Currently, John works at St. Luke's Boise as a Nursing Supervisor for a medical-surgical unit. He will complete the DNP degree program in May of 2016. His doctoral project is focusing on increasing oral cancer awareness for current and future nurse practitioners. John has a wife and three children and resides in the Boise area.

Submitted by John McRae



Above: John McRae, RN
Below: Sean Smart, RN



Sean Smart, RN

Sean Smart has been a Registered Nurse (RN) for eight years, completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern Maine. He spent the bulk of his career in the operating room, beginning in orthopedics and most recently in cardiothoracic and vascular areas of practice. After spending over six years in the operating room, Sean decided to pursue a nursing role with an increased focus on prevention. Sean is currently in the final year of ISU's Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program, and looks forward to being a nurse practitioner. Sean plans to practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner in the Boise area.

Submitted by Sean Smart

Idaho Center for Nursing Research

Hello Students, Alumni, and Friends in the State of Idaho! Some of you may already know that ISU School of Nursing currently has an Interim Director for the School of Nursing and that I have a new role at ISU as Director of Nursing Research with exciting possibilities in the Division of Health Sciences, University, and the State of Idaho.

During my time as Dean, two new doctoral programs (DNP and PhD) were launched. The DNP completed the CCNE accreditation and received the maximum 5 year accreditation for new programs. External funding in the School of Nursing increased significantly as well as receiving funding for two Jonas Nurse Scholars. The undergraduate curriculum was revised to allow traditional students to complete the Bachelor's degree in 4 years and the accelerated students in 1 year. The NCLEX pass rates have consistently been above the national pass rate during my tenure as dean. I now look forward to my new role! Check out this link for current funding <http://www.isu.edu/nursing/funding.shtml> Email me at niesmary@isu.edu to share comments and updates on ideas related to Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice in the State of Idaho.

Research Updates:

1) Idaho State University was recently awarded a \$1.5 Million Grant from the federal Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). Dr. Kelly Fanning and Dr. Mary Nies are the Project Director and Co-Project Director on the Grant. We will use an Interprofessional collaborative care model to provide healthcare services to the underserved senior refugee population in Idaho. The grant is just getting started. We will keep you posted.

2) Idaho State University currently is funded for 2 Doctoral Jonas Scholars. Dr. Mary Nies is PI on the grant and mentor for both of the Jonas Scholars, Julie Hammatt, DNP student and Tamara Rose, PhD Candidate. Both Julie and Tamara will be presenting their Jonas Scholar Leadership pro-



Mary A. Nies, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAAHB, Director of the Idaho Center for Nursing Research and Professor with Joint Appointment MPH Program

jects in Washington DC this month. Also great news is that both Julie and Tamara have had their Jonas Scholar manuscripts accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals!

Hammatt, J. and Nies, M.A. (In Press). DNP's: What do we expect? Nurse Leader

Rose, T. and Nies, M.A. (In Press). A Place at the Table: Positioning Nurses on Boards Where Health Care Decisions are Made. Nursing Management

3) Idaho State University's very first PhD in Nursing plans to graduate May, 2015. Tamara Rose, PhD Candidate. Dissertation chair is Dr. Mary Nies. We will keep you posted on her Nursing research.

Submitted by Dr. Mary Nies.

Faculty Research: Dr. Susan Tavernier

Dr. Susan Tavernier is currently working on the two following studies, building upon her previous published doctoral and post-doctoral work completed at the University of Utah College of Nursing.

CTR-IN (Clinical Translational Research Infrastructure Network) IDeA-CTR study:

Titled "Patient Voice in Healthcare" which will begin to receive \$61,000 funding July 1, 2016 and extend for 12 months.

The study involves collaborating with Saint Alphonsus Cancer Care Centers to explore the influence a patient reported survey has on patient/provider communication. During the study, patients will complete disease/treatment related surveys while in the waiting area using iPads. The iPad is taken into the visit and results shown to the clinician. A nursing student has begun working as the study coordinator. Dr. Tavernier is seeking a graduate student to hire as a Research Assistant. She anticipates to enroll the first study participants mid-October.

ITHS (Institute for Translational Health Sciences) Rising Stars Faculty Development grant

began receiving \$15,000 in funding July 1, 2015 and extends until June 30, 2017. The study, titled "Impact of Patient Voice on Outcomes," is a pilot study designed to compare the use of a patient reported measure at the point of care to usual care on patient satisfaction, referrals, and symptom severity in the outpatient cancer care setting. The purpose of the Rising Stars program is to provide a high-quality, targeted and structured translational science career development package for two years. It seeks to increase the number of investigators who are successful in obtaining funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and promote long term retention of Rising Stars in translational research.



HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) Idaho Senior Refugee

Inter-professional Holistic Health Project:

Dr. Tavernier is also a co-investigator for the HRSA Idaho Senior Refugee Inter-professional Holistic Health Project, and is responsible for the evaluation component of the project. This is a 3 year study, receiving a \$1.5 mil project grant. Dr. Tavernier will evaluate the degree to which the goals and objectives of the project are attained.

The primary goal of the project is to use an interprofessional collaborative care model to provide healthcare services to the underserved refugee population in Idaho through the team based education of nursing and other health discipline students. The project will involve at least eight faculty and 95 students from seven disciplines over the three years. Undergraduate and graduate students will participate from nursing, pharmacology, dietetics, and audiology programs in the first year, expanding to include physical therapy, occupational therapy, and public health students in years two and three.

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Geriatric Symposium

Top Right: Linda Hatzenbuehler introduces Dr. Tony Seikel
Bottom Left: Case Discussion
Bottom Right: Kathy Olson teaches Yoga



Left: Dr. Tony Seikel teaches about Mindfulness
Bottom: Community Panelists Betty Moore and Dr. Bill Brydon



8th Annual Thomas Geriatric Health Symposium

The 8th Annual Thomas Geriatric Health Symposium took place on October 2nd at ISU on the Pocatello and Meridian Campuses. ISU's Division of Health Sciences invited Dr. Tony Seikel, a specialist in neurophysiology and mindfulness, and Dr. Kevin Rich, current Chief Medical Officer of the Family Residency Medicine of Idaho, to speak about healthy living and brain health. Cindy Seiger, PT, MS, led a case discussion about care issues for geriatric patients with Parkinsons disease and their caregivers. A panel made up of geriatric community members discussed everyday activities increasingly used to improve brain health. During a breakout session, different classes were offered including yoga, fall prevention, and mindfulness. An additional topic presented was on managing finances. These classes gave the audience opportunities to learn about improving brain health for all ages. Over 300 students and community members attended the symposium.

Submitted by Anne Briggs, Junior Nursing Student

Idaho State University Bengal Pharmacy

On Tuesday, September 22, 2015, a group of senior nursing students who were enrolled in the population health class, attended the grand opening of the Bengal Pharmacy in Challis, Idaho. The nursing students met with community stakeholders, governmental leaders, and the people from the rural city of Challis. Idaho State University (ISU) President, Dr. Arthur Vailas spoke to the students and shared the university's vision for care for rural and diverse populations. The Vice-Provost and Executive Dean from the Division of Health Sciences, Dr. Linda Hatzenbuehler also spent time talking with students. She also shared her insights about the need for care in rural communities and how nursing can make a difference for rural populations. The Challis Area Health Center provides services to individuals who live in the area, and the ISU Bengal Pharmacy will provide needed services to extend care opportunities to the people in the area.

Submitted by Kim Jardine-Dickerson



From left to right – Thomas Landon, Dr. Hatzenbuehler, Ryland Mauck-Duff, Travis Nelson, Betty Hall, Samantha Smith, and Kim Jardine-Dickerson. Front center – Michelle Raley.

Faculty Research (Continued from Pg 5)

Specific objectives are: 1) develop student/faculty inter-professional cohorts 2) provide an environment for interprofessional learning, 3) provide interprofessional healthcare services in nurse-led student teams to senior refugees, 4) evaluate the impact of the project on student knowledge, interaction and skills, and senior refugee healthcare outcomes, and 5) disseminate project outcomes to lay and professional communities. This model calls for nurses to function at their highest level of education and fosters mentorship by advanced practice nurses

with undergraduate nursing and other health profession students.

ISU School of Nursing Dean's Research and Scholarship Award: A \$4000 internal grant titled "Cultivating Healing Presence." The study was designed to evaluate the feasibility and impact of content designed to cultivate a healing presence on student and program outcomes. The study is complete and researchers are currently in the process of analyzing data and submitting a manuscript for publication.

Submitted by Dr. Susan Tavernier

Introduction: Dr Nancy Renn (Continued from pg 1)

Dr. Renn has outlined important activities that are vital to the success of both undergraduate and graduate students:

1.) Continue to Learn. This is only the beginning of your education and much more will be expected. Both undergraduate and graduate students need to take every opportunity to learn more, and more, and more.

2.) Be Part of Every Solution. It is not enough to be aware of the problems; you must always be thinking about the solutions as well. Every problem has a solution and you will need to work with others to find the right answers to specific problems.

3.) Give Back. You need to share your knowledge, skills, abilities, and money to help support the profession every time you can. Give of your time when asked to serve as a preceptor for nursing students. As you all know, you will be giving future students the best oppor-

tunities to learn from those currently in practice. Nursing needs you to be engaged in all aspects of the profession and engagement means you are fully participating every day with your time, your talents, and your money.

4.) Volunteer. There are many ways to help in your community. Take the initiative to serve on local boards for your free clinics, your homeless shelters, your local schools, your hospitals, your

churches and any other health related organization you can think of. You can get involved and understand what is happening in your community and how it affects your profession. You can run for an elected office at the local, state or federal level. You are wanted, as organizations like to have nurses participate in their collective work. Nurses have wonderful insights and many ideas to share. Go out and do really good things. Some of my greatest work was not done during my 8-5 job. Many of the really remarkable things happened when I volunteered.

5.) Stay Connected. Let Idaho State University know where you are, what you are doing and how you are making a difference. The graduates of the ISU School of Nursing work in every state in the nation and many countries throughout the world and they do amazing things every day. Let us know about you, so we can be informed of your progress in the real world of nursing.

This is a transitional year for the SON, and Dr. Renn is pleased to be able to assist during this period of change. The SON has begun the process to hire a new Dean. Everyone at the SON is hopeful by this time next year, the SON will have a new Dean who will provide strong leadership to keep moving the great work of the SON forward.

"Nursing is not a spectator sport; nurses need to be actively involved in order to make changes that are safe, effective and efficient"
Dr. Nancy Renn

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Upcoming Events

ISU Homecoming 2015

Idaho State University School of Nursing, Student Nurse Association (SNA) and the Men's Nurse Association (MNA) will be planning for a great time at ISU Homecoming events. Student leaders from campus organizations plan to have floats in the Homecoming Parade Saturday October 17th. The parade will start at 9:30am on the corner of 1st Avenue and Center Street in Pocatello. Students are encouraged to bring their friends and family to the parade and other homecoming events. If you are interested in being in the parade to support the Student Nurses Association, contact Sukey Jepsen (SNA) 208-520-1721 or Thomas Landon (MNA) 208-241-4209 for instructions.

HOMECOMING GAME:

ISU vs Eastern Washington at
the Holt Arena

Kick-off at 2:30pm

Tailgating Events begin at
12pm at the Holt Arena



School of Nursing 60 Year Anniversary (1956-2016)

Planning is underway for the 60th Anniversary celebration for the School of Nursing. In May of 1956, the first students graduated from the program. The 1956 class graduated seven amazing nurses who have had long and rewarding careers in nursing. Nursing has changed dramatically since 1956, but the School of Nursing remains committed to their students and graduates. In the Spring of 2016, the School of Nursing will ask you to join us in celebrations to recognize all of our graduates and the work they have done for their clients and communities. Watch our School of Nursing website at <http://www.isu.edu/nursing/> for more information about this Spring 2016 celebration.