Message from the program director

Please enjoy this hallmark update on nursing. We are excited to announce the naming of the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing, made possible by a generous gift from Dr. Fay Bradley in his mother’s honor. Irene Ransom Bradley’s legacy of devotion to her children will live on as generations of nursing students are educated at PSU.

We are proud of the success of our nursing students, faculty, staff and alumni as evidenced by promotions, awards and other distinctions. We continue to be grateful to you, our friends and supporters, for the many opportunities that you provide us and our students. In the near future, please contact us to share your good news or simply to say hello!

– Mary Carol Pomatto

Doctor of Nursing Practice program in the works

PSU is moving forward in the quest to convert the current Master of Science in Nursing program to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. After extensive study, a Statement of Intent to offer the DNP was submitted for approval to the Kansas Board of Regents. With their approval, a full application is being developed.

PSU announces gift for Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing

The Pittsburg State University Department of Nursing is now the Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing. PSU officials revealed the name change at a ceremony in which they recognized Dr. Fay Bradley for a gift of $1 million to the program. The new name honors Dr. Bradley’s mother.

University officials also noted the elevation of the department to the rank of a school within the university, in recognition of the nursing program’s growing size and complexity.

PSU President Steve Scott said that Tuesday’s announcement was a reminder of the roles families play in the life of the university.

“I always describe our alumni as family,” Scott said. “Family is a powerful word. It evokes memories in each of us...Family is what brings us here today. We are here to celebrate the love and sacrifice of a mother for her family.”

The president described the life of Irene Ransom Bradley, who was born in Texas and moved to Independence, Kansas, in 1919. There she met and married Henry Bradley and worked as a domestic in a private home earning just $3.50 a week.

Neither Irene nor Henry finished high school, but they believed in...
Recent recognition and awards

Faculty/Staff

Dr. Barbara McClaskey was selected by the Student Government Association to receive the Kaye Lynne Webb Award for her vision, unwavering enthusiasm and outstanding Pitt State spirit.

Dr. Cheryl Giefer was selected as the recipient of the PSU Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award which was based on scholarly projects, grant awards, presentations and publications, and evidence of impact in lay and scholarly communities.

Dr. Barbara McClaskey and Dr. Janis Schiefelbein were promoted to the ranks of University Professor and Professor, respectively. The promotions were awarded based on records of outstanding achievement in teaching, research and scholarship, and service.

Alumni

Dr. Bethene Fahnestock (BSN ’90), Vice President for Academic Affairs for Northeastern A&M College in Miami, Okla., was honored with the 2012 Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Award. Dottie R. Bringle (BSN ’90), was honored with the 2013 Dr. Kenneth K. Bateman Outstanding Alumni Award.

KANS students receive national distinctions

The PSU Chapter of the Kansas Association of Nursing Students (PSU-KANS) recently received three national distinctions. The first award was for the most successful school project in the nation demonstrating the theme, “Committing to Community: Empowering with Knowledge.” The goal of the PSU project was to provide fans with the opportunity to access health education, first aid, and blood pressure screening at PSU sports events. According to faculty sponsor, Dr. Barbara McClaskey, “Students involved in the project were able to utilize their patient teaching skills and to demonstrate to alumni and friends that PSU nursing students have made service to the community a key part of their professional nursing practice.”

The second award was for the most outstanding legislative project in the nation and the third award recognized PSU-KANS as a National Student Nurses Association Stellar School Chapter. The Stellar Chapter designation has only been awarded to 16 schools since 2009.

Outstanding mentors honored

Each year, clinical nursing students have the opportunity to nominate a mentor who has made a significant difference to them in their clinical learning experiences. These outstanding nurses have provided an example of excellent, compassionate care to their patients while demonstrating a commitment to enriching students’ clinical experiences.

The recipients of the 2013 Outstanding Mentor Awards are (left to right): Tracy Hernandez, Michelle Sides, Jessica Dalton, Karen Sullivan, and Joyce Hines. Not pictured: Chelsea Bradfield.

Pittsburg State University Irene Ransom Bradley School of Nursing

Faculty: Dr. Mary Carol Pomatto, Dr. Cheryl Giefer, Dr. Barbara McClaskey, Dr. Janis Schiefelbein, Karen Johnson, Jennifer Harris, Dr. Amy Hite, Karen Tompkins-Dobbs, Dr. Kristi Frisbee, Linda Bitter, SanDee McChristy, Judith Coltharp, Deborah Fischer, Gena Coomes, Tracy Stahl, Donald Shull, Anna Beth Gilmore and Chris Gossman

Health Simulation Center Coordinator: Ms. Dolores Pruitt

Administrative Staff: Ms. Peggy Totman and Ms. Jennifer Parker
Fundraising

The PSU nursing program has been fortunate to receive private support from graduates and friends of the department. Your continued support for scholarships, equipment and other departmental needs makes a difference and is very much appreciated. To make a secure donation online, go to https://go.pittstate.edu/givenow. For information on establishing a scholarship or other ways you can support the nursing program, contact Ellen Carter, University Development, 620-235-4930, or ecarter@pittstate.edu.

Revisions

benefit students

The RN-BSN program is growing by ‘leaps and bounds’ with more than 40 new students admitted to the program for Fall Semester 2013. The program has been revised and courses moved to online and hybrid format. This has allowed more nurses to have the opportunity to further their education at PSU.

Advanced education grant awarded

PSU has been selected as the recipient of a $325,000 federal Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT) Grant with potential for renewal for a second year. The grant will help fund the education of Family Nurse Practitioner Students from underserved areas in Kansas and contiguous counties in Missouri and Oklahoma. The grant proposal was developed under the direction of Dr. Cheryl Giefer.
Update on retired nursing faculty
We are often asked by former students, “Who’s still teaching”? So, we asked Dr. Ruthellyn Hinton, University Professor Emeritus, to assist with gathering this information. Retired faculty include: Cecilia Waggoner, Joan Marshall Hunter, Barbara Jean McClaskey, Constance Gangwer, Diana Kerle, Carolyn Brooker, Joan Sheverbush, Dr. Carolyn Keil, Mary G. Ross, Dr. Ruthellyn H. Hinton, Susan Seglie, Dr. Sharon M. Bowling, Laura Carlson and Susan Wachter. The retired faculty living in the Pittsburg area meet for lunch each month. In February, they participated in celebrating the 100th birthday of Cecilia Waggoner, the first chairperson of the Department of Nursing.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of several of our faculty but will forever be grateful for their years of service. Deceased faculty include: Pat Devine, Dr. Shirley Stevenson, Angela Scotten, Janette J. Pucci, Mary Kay Dudgeon, Dr. Ellen Carson, Dr. Cathy Cole, Dr. Roberta D. Thiry, and Marlene McClure.

Student recognition and awards
Two nursing graduates and a four-year student employee of the Nursing Department received Outstanding Senior Honorable Mention at commencement ceremonies last spring. We congratulate: Krystal Beecher (BSN ’13); Kristan Chester (BSN ’13); and Lakota McCune (BBA ’13) for their hard work and dedication.

Nursing students Ashley Fann, Lesli Gilbert, Jaimie Berberich, Julie Martin, Krystal Beecher, and Jessica Criser were among the 26 students awarded the 2013 PSU Golden Gorilla Award. The award recognizes students for exemplary contributions in community service, academic excellence, and campus involvement.

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Kansas Nursing Initiative grant funding
In 2006, the Kansas Legislature appropriated funds for a 10-year Nursing Initiative to address the nursing shortage. Kansas vested authority for grant management to the Kansas Board of Regents. The Department of Nursing, in response to the call for proposals, submitted the Integrated Nursing Program Expansion Project, authored by Dr. Mary Carol Pomatto, with the goal to “enhance provision of nursing and health services to Kansans through increased nursing program capacity at undergraduate and graduate levels.”

The nursing program has received more than $3 million in Nursing Initiative grant funding, including the PSU match, from FY 2007-2012. The funding is used to: add faculty positions; expand numbers of clinical students; purchase patient simulators; provide scholarships to graduate students committing to nurse faculty positions in Kansas; and, develop a computer classroom and personalized student learning center. A regional Health Simulation Center and Learning Resources Center was created to meet PSU nursing student, community college nursing student, and area health care professional needs. Please contact us to schedule a tour as we are proud of this partnership among the State of Kansas, the Kansas Board of Regents, and PSU.