As we ring in the New Year, we are rolling out our new strategic plan for the College of Nursing. Creating the 2011-2015 plan has been a very iterative and interactive process. We rededicated ourselves to our core values of excellence, innovation and integrity. We also identified the key competencies all faculty and staff will need to possess in order to achieve our strategic goals and realize our preferred future: 1) flexibility/adaptability, 2) technology skills, 3) responsiveness and the ability to work collaboratively.

The following six overarching themes emerged as we reviewed the work of the faculty teams: Innovation - Maintain our leadership position as innovators in teaching, research and practice. Excellence – Continue to strive for excellence in all our missions and programs. Collaboration – Engage in collaborative partnerships in the education, research and practice arenas. Integrity/Equity & Diversity – Ensure a culture of accountability, integrity and responsiveness. Mentoring – Create mentoring programs for students and faculty that maximize talent and productivity. Technology - Advance to a higher level of teaching, research and practice using the latest technologies. Within this framework we identified strategic goals for the education, research and practice missions and specific action plans for each of our programs.

Our strategic plan is important work that positions us well for the future and prepares us for our upcoming Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accreditation visit. As you know, an accreditation review is a major milestone in the life of the College. Every ten years we conduct an in-depth self study and evaluate our education programs with a focus on program quality and program effectiveness. Program quality includes mission and governance, institutional commitment and resources as well as teaching-learning practices. Program effectiveness includes aggregate student and faculty outcomes. Our site visit is March 9-11, 2011. A team of five evaluators including four academic representatives and one practice representative from peer institutions will be meeting with faculty, students, administration and alumni during these three days. They will evaluate the BS, MS and DNP programs. Because the DNP is a new degree for the College this will be an important initial review with a five year maximum program accreditation for the first cycle. We are hopeful the other programs will receive a ten year accreditation approval.

As stakeholders in the College of Nursing we invite you to view our new strategic plan at www.nursing.utah.edu/about/strategic.html and to stay in touch with your College of Nursing. We value your ongoing interest and support. And we enjoy hearing about your many accomplishments, career successes and activities. In the end it is the success of our faculty, current students and alumni and the lives they touch that is the true measure of excellence for the University of Utah College of Nursing.
Thursday, October 7 the College of Nursing opened its doors to all alumni for the Decades of Caring alumni reunion. The event was a chance for graduates to have a sneak preview of the newly renovated Annette Poulson Cumming Building in advance of November’s public grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. Ranging in class years from 1947 to 2010, attendees joined together for lunch and a panel discussion led by faculty and Emeritus Dean Linda K. Amos, who traveled back to Utah from Texas for the occasion. Following the program, graduates perused old class photos, toured the new building and reconnected with classmates and faculty.

The event was also an opportunity for the Alumni Advisory Board to launch Faces of Nursing, a campaign to build a mosaic mural representing the individuals who comprise and support the College of Nursing community. Guests were able to visit an on-site photo booth with friends to capture their photo submission and create a lasting memory of the day.

“In addition to giving alumni the opportunity to rekindle old memories we wanted to offer a unique way for them to make new ones,” says Dianne Stewart, a community representative serving on the Alumni Advisory Board and chair of the Decades of Caring planning committee. “The photos alumni posed for in the photo booth will be incorporated into the photo mural to establish their permanent legacy in the College of Nursing.” You can read more about the Faces of Nursing campaign, and how you can get involved, on page 4.
Brooke Epperson Rice (BSN 1998) grew up well aware of how much her mother, Diane Epperson (BSN 1975), enjoyed being a nurse. But it was an accident at their family cabin, and her mother’s rapid, calm response, that inspired Brooke on her own path to a career in nursing.

“My younger brother had jumped off a river dam and hit the back of his head,” recalls Brooke, who was in middle school at the time. “My mom kept her cool and sutured the wound. Witnessing her in action, knowing just what to do to help someone in an emergency situation, prompted me to realize nursing education would prepare me with skills I could use throughout my life.”

Diane credits the College of Nursing with helping to ready her with the skills she needed to remain calm under pressure.

“During my very first day of clinical at the University of Utah a patient expired on my shift,” she says. “It was an eye-opening experience and by the end of the shift I realized I was going to need to work at managing such traumatic situations. I did so through my experience with the College of Nursing.”

Diane went on to enjoy six years working in labor and delivery at LDS Hospital where “every delivery was an awe-inspiring experience getting to witness the miracle of life” before transitioning to a position as a nurse paralegal. The role gave her unique perspective on the impact of bedside care and flexibility to help support Brooke in the pursuit of her own nursing education.

“Brooke and her classmates would get together at our house to study and I could already see from my experience compared to what Brooke was doing how nursing education at the College of Nursing was continuing to evolve,” Diane says. “The same core curriculum was in place but the college was clearly taking it one step further.”

After moving around the country for 10 years as a traveling nurse while her husband completed medical school and a residency in orthopedic surgery, Brooke, now a mother herself, returned to Kaysville, Utah last fall with her growing family and began working as a certified nurse in the operating room at Davis Surgical Center.

In October, eager to reconnect with fellow classmates and tour the Annette Poulson Cumming Building, the two women returned to the College of Nursing for the Decades of Caring alumni reunion. “It was refreshing to see a lot of the same faces but a beautiful new facility,” Diane says. Touring the Intermountain Healthcare Simulation Learning Center proved to be a highlight of their visit. “When I was a student we would practice injections on one another if anyone was brave enough but mainly we were just shooting oranges,” recalls Diane in amazement. “What an advantage for today’s students to have a learning environment like this. The excellence Brooke and I experienced at the College of Nursing just keeps getting better.”
The Alumni Advisory Board is seeking photos for *Faces of Nursing*, a mosaic collage of nurses past, present and future that will be displayed in perpetuity in the College of Nursing. For a tax-deductible contribution of $50, nurses and supporters of nursing can submit their photo, or a photo of a friend, family member or colleague to be included in this collage. The photos will come together in one master work of art symbolizing the myriad faces of nursing. The piece will be on a prominent wall on the main student education floor of the Annette Poulson Cumming Building.

“For me, these images and faces represent an answer to a question that I have always wondered about: Why does the public consistently rank nursing as the most trusted profession?” says Alumni Advisory Board member Brenda Luther, who is the board liaison for the campaign. “As this project came together; I found the answer. Every time I interact with my clients, nurses who have touched them before are with me; they have created an environment of trust, knowledge, caring, and compassion. As a nurse, I represent more than myself and I am supported by more than myself in all of my client interactions.” Luther says she hopes fellow alumni will get involved in this project as it is an opportunity to "commit our practice to all of those who have gone before us and our support to those ahead as we strive to honor each other and our profession in our hearts and minds.”

All proceeds from *Faces of Nursing* will provide nursing student scholarships to help prepare the next generation of nurses to care for communities everywhere. Establish your legacy in the College of Nursing by participating in *Faces of Nursing!* To learn more, visit [www.facesofnursing.utah.edu](http://www.facesofnursing.utah.edu) where you can make your contribution and upload your photo.

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**Say Thank You to a Nurse Who Has Touched Your Life: 17th Annual Honors for Nursing**

The Alumni Advisory Board is continuing its rich tradition of hosting the region’s nurses for the state’s largest celebration of National Nurses Week with the **17th Annual Honors for Nursing** May 10, 2011. Individual nurse recognitions are $25 and include an invitation for the individual to attend the celebratory dinner at Little America Hotel where they will receive a gift and certificate of honor. Visit [www.honorsfornursing.org](http://www.honorsfornursing.org) or contact Sue Onwuegbu at 801-581-5109 by Friday, April 29, 2011. Your nurse recognition supports nursing scholarships awarded to students through the College of Nursing Alumni Association fund.
Dialog with the Dean Takes Students’ Input to the Top

Getting face time with the dean of a thriving College of Nursing is not always easy. At least that was the experience of Maureen Keefe during her own undergraduate nursing education and it’s something that has stuck with her throughout her career. So when she became dean of the College of Nursing in 2001, Keefe made engaging students in conversations about the direction of the college a top priority.

Now, each semester, undergraduate cohorts have the opportunity to participate in Dialog with the Dean, a solution-oriented session designed to give each cohort one-on-one time with the dean. Over breakfast or lunch students can hear college updates, voice concerns and ask the burning questions that can otherwise be difficult to deliver to the leader of a fast-paced institution. Keefe takes their input back to college administrators to identify solutions and make changes where possible.

“I see the purpose of Dialog with the Dean as being multi-faceted,” says Erin Cole, the Student Advisory Committee representative for the accelerated BSN cohort. “It gives students a chance to get to know the dean more personally. It also provides students with a platform to voice their questions and comments about their education and the direction of the college directly to the dean. That Dean Keefe listens to their comments gives students the satisfaction that their opinions are valued at the highest levels of administration and that the dean is their advocate. Students feel like they are part of something larger than their cohort—they are part of the College of Nursing community.”

Each cohort is invited to participate in Dialog with the Dean four times during their program. The format allows Keefe to report back to students how their valuable feedback has been used to advance the college and elevate the student experience. Students can graduate knowing they had a role in helping to shape the college for students to come.

“I have been impressed with how much Dean Keefe is willing to talk about the direction of the college with us as students,” says Cole. “Whether she’s presenting changes to the curriculum or new and exciting happenings at the college, she really listens to our input.” Cole says another nice result of taking part in Dialog with the Dean is that Keefe knows her by name when she sees her around the campus. “That makes me feel like this is my place.”
Thursday, November 4 more than 300 supporters of the College of Nursing gathered at the newly transformed Annette Poulson Cumming Building to celebrate this major milestone in the life of the college.

Dean Maureen Keefe opened the formal program by welcoming fellow speakers University President Michael K. Young, Utah Governor Gary Hebert, alumna Annette Cumming and Intermountain Healthcare Chief Nursing Officer Nancy Nowak.

“It takes more than a village to do something like this,” Cumming told the audience of the $24 million overhaul. “It took a lot of donors contributing gifts of all sizes to get us here.”

Finished on budget, ahead of schedule and in time to start the fall 2010 academic semester, the facility boasts an entirely new infrastructure with new heating, cooling and electrical systems, a floor plan designed to illuminate learning and work spaces with natural daylight and the 12,600-square-foot Intermountain Healthcare Simulation Learning Center.

“We count on the college for nurses and nurses are counting on us. And students are counting on us to give them clinical experience,” said Nowak of the regional health care system’s decision to fund the $4 million virtual hospital. “I believe the center will make students feel safe, welcome and at ease. We will be able to listen to them with sensitivity. We will be able to respond...
to their needs. We will be able to keep them informed and involved and we will be able to ensure them that our team is working with them and for them to make them great practitioners.”

The program concluded with a ceremonial ribbon cutting before Keefe invited guests to tour the building with faculty and members of the Alumni Advisory Board.

Mayor Ralph Becker Signs Nurse Practitioner Week Proclamation

Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker arrived early for the ribbon cutting ceremony in order to sign a proclamation recognizing November 7 - 13, 2010 as Nurse Practitioner Week.

“The Utah Nurse Practitioner Week proclamation signed by Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker and then by Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon and Utah Governor Gary Herbert is a public affirmation that Nurse Practitioners provide Utahns with high quality, cost effective, comprehensive, patient centered, personalized healthcare,” says Lee Moss, NP, Utah State Representative for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Several individuals were on hand to witness Mayor Ralph Becker’s (center) signing of the proclamation. Back row (from left: Tek Kilgore, Val Flattes, Gwen Latendresse, Jennifer Clifton, Sherrily Brown, Patricia Murphy, Wendy Rusin and Lee Moss.
Celebrating Our Success

**Publications**


Morse, J.M. (2010). Simultaneous and sequential qualitative mixed method designs. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 16(6), 483-491.


Scheese, C. (2010). 8 modules: Artificial Nails; Anatomical Remains, Disposal; Cleaning the OR; Culture and Tissue Handling; Frozen Section Specimen Handling; Metal Fragments, Disposal; Permanent Section Specimen Handling; Sharps, Disposal. In Lippincott’s Nursing Procedures and Skills, electronic product; *Ambler, PA. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.*


Presentations


Cloys, K.G., Reblin, M., Berry, P. Clayton, M. & Ellington, L. Facilitative and directive communication patterns in home hospice care interactions: Content analysis of RN and caregiver/patient speech. Late-breaking poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, November 19-23, 2010. New Orleans, LA.


Fuller, D. Steering Students in Producing Stellar DNP Projects, Third National Doctor of Nursing Practice Conference September 29 - October 1, 2010. San Diego, CA.


**Jensen, P.K.**, “What is a NP? Consumers Understanding of the Nurse Practitioner Role in Healthcare Delivery; North Dakota Nurse Practitioner Association, October 2010. Fargo ND.


**Morse, J.M.** Qualitative health research: Taking stock. Keynote address to the 16th Qualitative Health Research Conference, October 3 2010.Vancouver, Canada.


**Supiano, K. P.** “Practical Approaches to End-of-Life Decision Making” Utah Hospice and Palliative Care Organization-Annual Meeting, November 2010. Salt Lake City, UT.

**Supiano, K. P.** “A new understanding of complicated grief” National Alliance on Mental Illness-Utah meeting. November 2010. Salt Lake City, UT.


Awards and Recognitions

Fuller, D. November 2010: received the Utah Nurse Practitioners 2010 State Award for Excellence in Education at the Annual Meeting of the Utah Nurse Practitioners.


Jensen, P.K. Mended Hearts and Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc. CONTROL Hypertension Advisory Board, Dallas, TX, December 2010.

Kaufman, K. selected as the President of the Utah Nurses Association, effective January 1, 2011.


Roberts, L. was awarded the Grand Prize Winner - Best Poster of the Show. for her poster at the Third National Doctor of Nursing Practice Conference in San Diego. October 2010.

Grants

Latendresse, G. College of Nursing Research Committee Grant ($5000) for the project, Stress Reduction in Early Pregnancy: A Pilot Study. (Project Dates: July 2010-2012).

Linder, L. Relationships Between Symptoms and the Hospital Care Environment in Children and Adolescents with Cancer. Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation. Independent Nurse Researcher Grant. $100,000. (Project Dates: 1/03/11 - 12/31/13)

Murphy, P. A. As Project Director. Funding: HRSA. Title: FY 2010 Advanced Nursing Education Expansion Initiative. (Project Dates: 9/30/10-9/2014.)

Pepper, GA. (Role: Consultant) Meta-analysis of interventions to improve medication adherence. Funded by NIH: National Institute of Nursing Research. (PI” V. Conn, University of Missouri). (Project Dates: 2010-2014.)
Calendar Highlights

Friday, February 18, 2011

College of Nursing Seminar Series
“Reinventing ourselves as Mid-Career Faculty”
4100C
Noon to 12:50 p.m.

Friday, March 4, 2011

College of Nursing Seminar Series
“How to Teach Conceptually”
4100C
Noon to 12:50 p.m.

March 9 - 11, 2011

The College of Nursing will be reviewed for national accreditation of its bachelor’s degree program in nursing, master’s degree program in nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) March 9-11, 2011.

Monday, March 14, 2011

College Council
HSEB Alumni Hall
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Friday, March 18, 2011

College of Nursing Seminar Series
“Barriers to Simulation Utilization”
4100C
Noon to 12:50 p.m.

Thursday, May 5, 2011

College of Nursing Convocation
Kingsbury Hall
6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

17th Annual Honors for Nursing
Little America Hotel
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.