



# Nursing Notes

A Publication of the National Alaskan Native American Indian Nurses Association

Summer 2006

Volume 8, No.21

---

## President's Report

Greetings from the President:

It has been a busy few months since our last contact. The Board and Planning Committee have been busy getting the next Summit planned and think that you will like it. The theme is "Honoring Our Traditions." It will be held in Tempe, AZ at the Mission Palms Resort. The dates are **November 11-13** and include a tribute to our dear colleague, Roxanne Struthers. We may also have a pre-conference, but we are still working on the details of that.

Some of you may have noticed that our web site has been down for a few days. This occurred as we were transitioning to a new webmaster and new address. Our new address will be [www.nanainurses.org](http://www.nanainurses.org). It should be visible to all within a few days. We wanted to be sure to have all of the information updated before we put this out for public viewing. Check every few days to see if it up. It will have the call for proposals and registration information and some new pages for more interaction with members. Let us know how you like our new look and what suggestions you have for increasing the web site's usefulness to you.

NANAINA was well represented at the NCEMNA conference in March and our students were assigned excellent mentors. These students will also be attending our Summit so we can have a chance to talk to them about this experience.

Please be thinking now about who you would like to nominate for offices. We will be calling for nominations for President-Elect, Secretary and member-at-large. There will be online voting this year, so it will be a little different than in the past.

I have certainly appreciated the help and support I have received this past year during very difficult times for the organization. I think as Native women, with help from the men, we will emerge stronger and more viable as an organization. I know that the current board, though not at full strength and in recovery from the loss of Roxanne, has worked diligently to provide a foundation for the future growth and development of this organization.

We appreciate the patience of the members as we emerge from this transition time to become a stronger and more visible force in the provision of health care for American Indian people.

Wado,  
Beverly Patchell, RN, MS, CNS  
President  
Email = [beverly-patchell@ouhsc.edu](mailto:beverly-patchell@ouhsc.edu) .

**Summit XII**  
**Honoring Our Traditions**  
**Nov. 11-13**  
**Mission Palms Resort**  
**Tempe, Arizona**  
**More information Coming**

## Call for Nominations

The following offices are up for election in the fall.

**President** – Elect - One year term, due to the death of Roxanne Struthers and the assumption of the presidency by Bev Patchell, the previous president-elect. Term will end with assumption of the presidency in Fall 2007.

**Secretary** – two year term 2006-2008

**Member-at-large**—two year term 2006-2008.

To submit nominations send email to Bev Patchell at [beverly-patchell@ouhsc.edu](mailto:beverly-patchell@ouhsc.edu)

## Summit XI Highlights Nov 17-19, 2005

The summit in Washington D.C was well attended and provided many unique opportunities for the attendees to learn and have fun. It included a visit to the Museum of the American Indian as well as excellent speakers. A few of the “Hot Topics” are summarized in this newsletter. There will more highlights in the next newsletter. The hope is that you will be encouraged to attend the next summit in Phoenix.

**Dr. Grimm** the Director of Indian Health Service spoke on the Priorities of Indian Health. The priority has moved from infectious diseases to chronic diseases and lifestyle issues such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and cancer. Programs such as **Just Move It** focus on **health promotion** related to these diseases. Health Native Fellowship is a cooperative

program with Indian Health Service and Indian communities to:

1. Help your community realize their vision of health and wellness
2. Create effective teams and coalitions in the communities.

**Chronic disease management** programs within Indian Health Services are focusing on partnerships of Indian Health Services and other organizations such as.

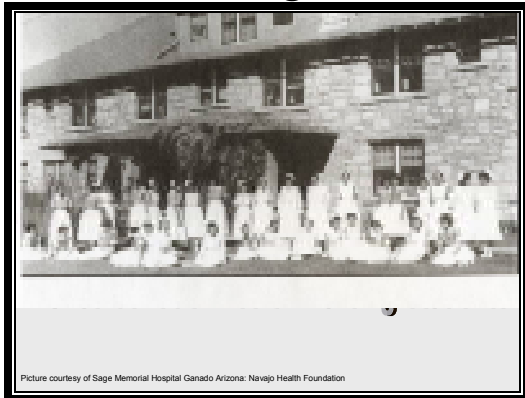
1. Boys and Girls Clubs of America
2. Nike
3. UNITY
4. John Hopkins and NFL-Native Vision

**Behavioral Health** is also a high priority as Indian people have a high rate of suicide, homicide, depression, unintentional injuries, and domestic violence. A startling statistic is that of the cases of mental health diseases: 50 % of all cases of mental health issues are diagnosed by age 14 and 75% by age 24. National Suicide Prevention Project, A suicide prevention website for American Indian- train tribal people is being developed.

**Sean Clarke -Hospital Patient Safety** State of the Workforce facts: shortage now is the Shortage Perfect Storm – average age of nurses in 2000 was 45 which means nurses will be retiring, financial pressures on health care, demand for health care services going up, and nursing school applicants being turned away due shortage of nursing faculty. The shortages are expected to broaden and deepen in the future. Research shows that low levels of nurse staffing are associated with increase rates of poor patient outcomes. Health care institutions may **not be able to offer safe staffing levels**. Additionally, the average experience level may fall in the next few years. Investigation needs to be done on the role of management and organizational

characteristics that contribute to nurse turnover and nurses leaving the profession. The safety of both patients and nurses are at stake as needle-stick injuries are 2 to 3 times higher in lower staffed hospitals than in better staffed hospitals. All of these issues are interconnected issues as increased number errors are linked with 12 hours shifts. For more information contact [sclarke@upenn.edu](mailto:sclarke@upenn.edu)

## **Northern Arizona University Ganado Nursing Program 10<sup>th</sup> Year Gathering and Celebration of all the 2004 Graduates Passing NCLEX**



### **1940 Ganado Nursing Students**

The Gathering was coordinated by Mr. Jim Davis, 1999 Graduate and Ms. Ilene Tapaha, Administrative Secretary. Forty-one individuals gathered to celebrate the Ganado Program's success of ten years and the 100 percent success of passing the NCLEX, national nursing board exam, by the May 2004 Class. Representatives from Classes 1998, 1999, 2004, 2005 and the current class 2007 were present along with families and friends. Each student spoke about how much the program meant to them as well as Mrs. Eileen Furnman, a former faculty. Mrs. Ilene Furman, Ms. Ilene Tapha and Dr. Crow were presented roses and Dr. Crow, Coordinator of the Program, was honored by being presented with a Chief Joseph

Pendleton Shaw by the Class of 2004. Kathleen Atene, Class 2005 gave Certificates of Appreciation to faculty and staff. Thanks to the Ottens Foundation support, Navajo Health Foundation, Sage Memorial Hospital and Indian Health Service support students have been able to attend the BSN program on the reservation since 1995. To date 26 students have been successful in passing the national exam (NCLEX) and are working on the Navajo Reservation.

Northern Arizona University's School of Nursing's Ganado Program was the first reservation based baccalaureate nursing program in the country. The program is supported by the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation in partnership with Northern Arizona University, Sage Memorial Hospital, Dine, and Indian Health Service. By offering the program on the reservation, American Indian students are able to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) near their home and family. Students learn, practice, and grow where nurses are most needed. Classes and clinicals are held in locations throughout the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations through Interactive Television, Web based courses and Clinical instruction. The senior year, students leave the reservation to have the opportunity to work in a major medical center as part of their preparation for passing the national nurse exam (NCLEX).

The program emphasizes developing professional nursing knowledge and skills in conjunction with sensitivity for Native American traditional health care beliefs and practices that allow native nurses to provide care appropriate to the needs of native populations. To meet and maintain culturally specific needs, medicine people work directly with the program, Johnson Dennison and Ursula Knoki-Wilson. Each fall a ceremony and open house is held as part of the orientation for incoming students

and their families. A basic Navajo medical and health terminology course is offered every spring to incoming students. Currently, a NAU Ganado graduate, Darlene Chee RN, teaches the course.

Even though the program is located on the Navajo Reservation at Sage Memorial Hospital, Ganado, Arizona on the second floor of Café Sage, commitment is needed. Time and effort in long distance driving for course work and clinicals still occurs. The average number of miles per week many of these students drive to the nearest statewide site or clinical site is 800 miles. Some students come from as far away as the Utah boarder and from New Mexico.

For any questions about the program contact:

Dr. Karine Crow, Coordinator NAU School of Nursing Ganado Program or

Ms. Ilene Tapaha, Administrative Assistant NAU-Sage Memorial Hospital  
PO Box 457

Ganado, Az 86505

(928) 755-3550

[Ilene.tapaha@nau.edu](mailto:Ilene.tapaha@nau.edu)

[Karine.crow@nau.edu](mailto:Karine.crow@nau.edu)



## Board Member Highlight



**Audrey M. Koertvelyessy, MSN, RN, FNP**

Audrey M. Koertvelyessy is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation of Indians in New York State. She was born and raised on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation and is a member of the Heron Clan. She is a Captain in the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service currently serving in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Division of Research, Training, and Education. Audrey received her baccalaureate and master's degree in Nursing from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has been a member of the Nursing Profession for 47 years with extensive experience in many different facets of nursing including clinical practice, education, policy making, administration, etc. Upon entry into the Public Health Service, she served as the Chief Nurse of the Indian Health Service for five years. She has been a member of NANAINA for many years including the first iteration of the organization. She is an active member of numerous other Nursing organizations. She is married to Dr. Tibor Koertvelyessy, Full Professor at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

## **Nurse Competence in Aging Grant Awarded to NANAINA**

### **Congratulations**

The Nurse Competence in Aging NCA Selection Committee has awarded the National Alaska Native American Indian Nurses Association and Implementation Grant for the activities proposed. The grant period is November 1, 2006 to may 31, 2007. We are delighted to welcome you to the NCA family of specialty organizations.

**Project Coordinator and Board Liaison is Martha Baker.** If anyone would like to assist with the activities related to the project please contact her via E-Mail: [mbaker@sbuniv.edu](mailto:mbaker@sbuniv.edu) or by phone: 417-820-5058.

We will be needing assistance as we carry out these grant activities. The very first activity was done at the Summit in Washington DC with a informational session on the grant as well as the first annual Nurse Competence in Aging award. This first recipient was Melanie Tobin from Minnesota. Through the benefits of the grant, she received a plaque and a monetary award of \$500. The second annual award will be given at the Summit XII. If you know of a nurse who has excelled in caring for our elders, nominate them. Send the nomination to me via e-mail at the address above.

## **Current Board Members:**

Beverly Patchell – President  
E-Mail: [beverly-patchell@ouhsc.edu](mailto:beverly-patchell@ouhsc.edu)

Past President – Deb Smith  
E-Mail: [dsmith@fdlrez.com](mailto:dsmith@fdlrez.com)

Martha Baker-Secretary  
E-Mail: [mbaker@sbuniv.edu](mailto:mbaker@sbuniv.edu)

Audrey Koertvelyessy –Secretary  
E-Mail: [akoertvelyessy@hrsa.gov](mailto:akoertvelyessy@hrsa.gov)

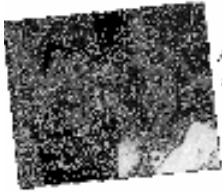
Lee Ann Nichols – Member-at Large  
E-Mail: [lee-nichols@tulsa.edu](mailto:lee-nichols@tulsa.edu)

**If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns about what is going on with the board or NANAINA contact one of the board members. We will be glad to assist you in any way.**

## **NEW WEB ADDRESS IS:**

**[www.nanainanurses.org](http://www.nanainanurses.org)**

## Advertisements



*Although my sisters and I may never see the day breast cancer is eradicated from the Native American population, we can be a part of the road to that end."*

Eunice Gamblin, 21, pictured here with her sister, Danna D.C., a breast cancer survivor.

### *A Special Invitation to members of NANAINA*

American Indian & Alaska Native Women are needed to join a landmark study to discover the causes of breast cancer. The Sister Study will enroll fifty thousand women whose sister had breast cancer. The study is conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services.



for more information:

**1-877-4-SISTER** (1-877-444-7637)

Deaf / Hard of Hearing: 1-866-TTY-4615

**www.sisterstudy.org**

To help spread the word to American Indian & Alaska Native Women, please contact Sara Williams at 1-800-948-7552 ext. 343

<p><b>Urban Health Program</b></p> <p><b>UIC COLLEGE OF NURSING</b> UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO</p>	<p><i>"Celebrating Diversity"</i></p> <p>Consistently ranked nationally among top 10 colleges of nursing by U.S. News &amp; World Report</p>
	<p><b>Programs Offered</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSN</li> <li>• RN-BSN</li> <li>• Graduate Programs (MS &amp; PhD)</li> <li>• Graduate Entry Program (for those with non-nursing bachelors degrees)</li> </ul> <p><b>For More Information</b> <a href="http://www.uic.edu/nursing">www.uic.edu/nursing</a></p>



**SCHOOL OF NURSING**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

600 Highland Avenue • Madison WI 53792-2455

### **Doctoral Program**

- Emphasizing early and continuous research training
- Early Entry PhD Option available

**608.263.5172**

### **Master's Program**

- Dual degree MS/MPH •
- Master of Science with specialities in

*Adult Health and Illness Nursing*  
*Geriatric Nursing Pediatric Nursing*

*Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing*  
*Women's Health*

- Nurse Educators for Tomorrow (Online Option)

**608.263.5258**

### **Baccalaureate Program**

- Bachelor of Science degree • Honors Program
- For Returning RNs: RN to BS • RN to MS

**608.263.5166**





# Nursing

Rediscover  
*your*  
Career



**Paid interview expenses**

**Benefits start first day**

**Competitive salaries**

**Generous relocation package**

**Continuing education**

**Tuition assistance**



Mayo Clinic Nursing In Rochester, Minnesota invites you to *Embark on an Adventure* of unparalleled opportunities where your experience counts. At Mayo Clinic, you have the opportunity to practice your profession in a world-renowned medical center and contribute to a reputation of nursing excellence, where nursing practice is closely integrated with advanced education and research programs. Your expertise will help shape critical decisions surrounding your practice specialty and patient care. Nurse educators and primary preceptors offer a customized orientation to match your previous experience with current practice at Mayo Clinic. The variety of practice specialties and opportunities for growth allow you to rediscover your nursing career. To apply or learn more about Nursing opportunities at Mayo Clinic, please visit [www.mayoclinic.org/jobs-rst](http://www.mayoclinic.org/jobs-rst).

Phone: 800-562-7984 e-mail: [nursing.hr.staffing@mayo.edu](mailto:nursing.hr.staffing@mayo.edu)

Mayo Clinic is an affirmative action and equal opportunity educator and employer.

# **Native Nurses Career Opportunity Program NNCOP University of Minnesota – School of Nursing**

The University of Minnesota - School of Nursing (UMN-SON) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service - Indian Health Service (USDHHS-IHS) is pleased to offer scholarships for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) registered nurses (RN's) to obtain their Masters of Science (MS) in Nursing degree through the NNCOP at the UMN-SON.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Up to \$20,000 in scholarships may be awarded to AI/AN nurses pursuing the MS in Nursing degree full-time (6 credits minimum). Tuition is covered and fees and books are usually covered. Monthly stipend, in whole or part, for other expenses incurred in connection with the program may also be included in the award.

## **AREAS OF STUDY**

Nurse Anesthesia

Public Health Nursing\*

Nurse Midwifery\*

Other areas may be considered for funding

*\*These areas are offered via web-based internet courses.*

## **REQUIREMENTS**

Prospective applicants should meet the minimum requirements to apply to the MS program, must be willing to attend the MS program full-time, and must sign a *IHS Nursing Scholarship Program Contract* for service payback. Please contact our office for further information.

## **APPLICATION**

The *MS in Nursing Application* and process can be found online at the UMN-SON Web Site:  
<http://www.nursing.umn.edu>

For further information call, write, or e-mail:

### **NATIVE NURSES CAREER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM**

University of Minnesota – School of Nursing

5-160 Weaver-Densford Hall

308 Harvard Street S.E.

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Tel: (612) 624-4644

Fax: (612) 626-2359

E-mail: [NativeRN@umn.edu](mailto:NativeRN@umn.edu)

Internet: [www.nursing.umn.edu/NNCOP](http://www.nursing.umn.edu/NNCOP)

***“Advancing American Indians and Alaska Natives in Nursing Careers”***

## Master's & Doctoral Programs

*These programs offer a great opportunity for practicing nurses to continue their education.*

### Master's Degree

#### Specializations:

- Nurse Anesthesia
- Clinical Nurse Specialist in Nursing Therapeutics
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Health Administration
- Psychiatric & Mental Health Nursing
- Nurse Education



### Doctoral Program Opportunity:

- PhD in Nursing Care of Diverse & Vulnerable Populations



For more information:

(701) 777-4552

[graduatenursing@und.nodak.edu](mailto:graduatenursing@und.nodak.edu)

[www.und.edu/dept/nursing](http://www.und.edu/dept/nursing)

**There's something about just being you!**

### ***Recipient of the 2005 Excellence in Diversity Award!\****

There's something unique here at Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region. Our family of hospitals brings together some of the brightest minds and state-of-the-art resources. Just as important, our favorable patient ratios allow us to foster a breadth and depth of services across many nursing specialties. But what makes us truly unique, is you.

As part of Sutter Health, one of the nation's largest health networks, we are able to sustain and foster a collegial, supportive environment. And we unite differing skills to serve a patient base as diverse as the region we serve. It's no wonder we've been recognized for our commitment to care, as well as our community focus and excellence in cultural diversity.

No doubt, there are many places where you can express your individuality. But only one place where you can just be you.

Join us in one of the following nursing specialties:

**Birthing Center • Critical Care • ED • Med/Surg • NICU  
Oncology • Operating Room • PACU • Pediatrics  
Psychiatry • RN Management • Telemetry**

To apply online please visit [www.checksutterfirst.org/careers](http://www.checksutterfirst.org/careers)

\*Award given at the 2nd Annual Multi-Cultural Business Forum in Sacramento, CA

EOE