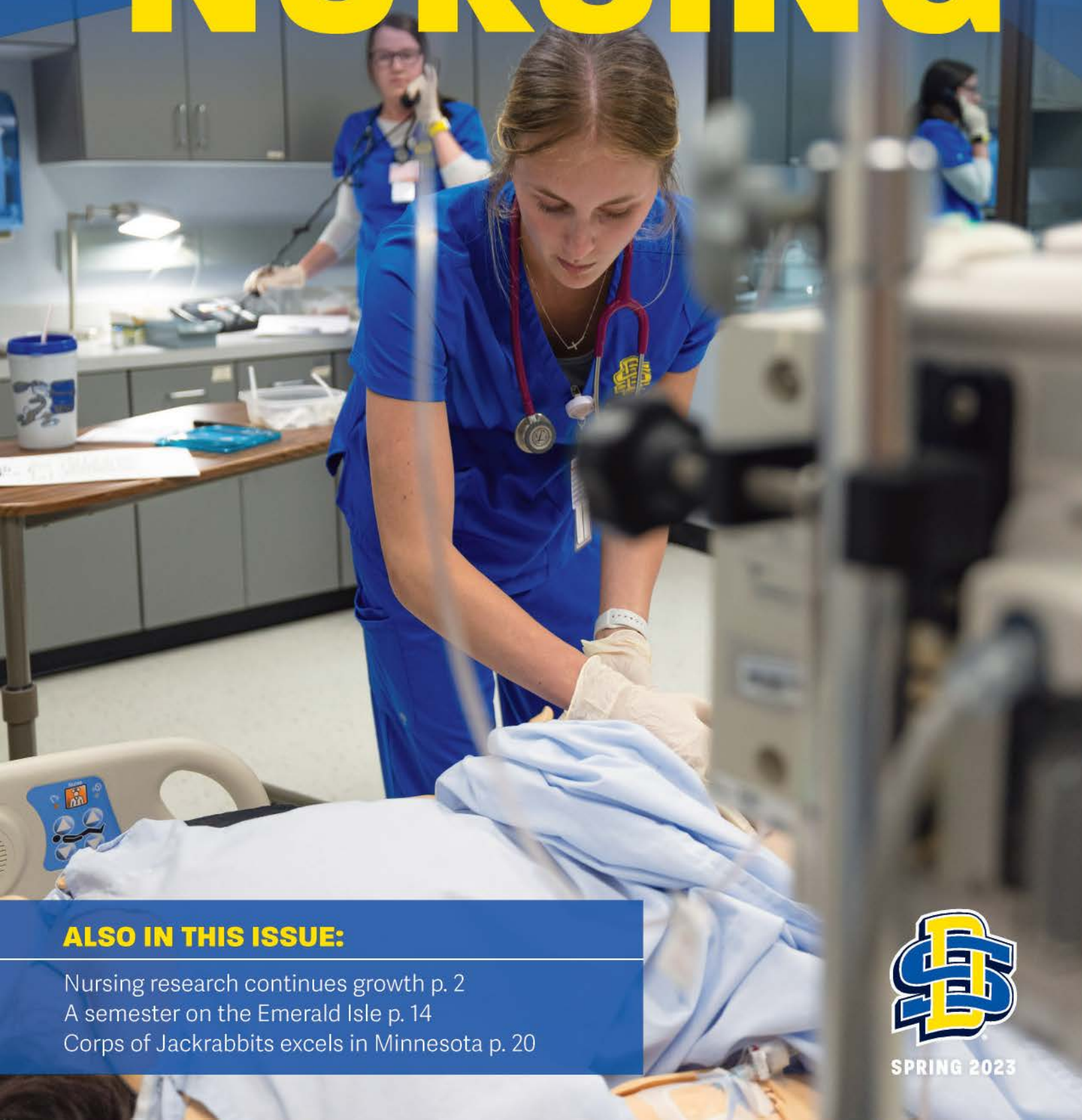


College of **NURSING**



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Corps of Jackrabbits excels in Minnesota p. 20



SPRING 2023



Message from **THE DEAN**

Dear College of Nursing alumni and friends,

This has been a banner year for the College of Nursing. We have achieved significant growth in programming and have achieved external validation of the high quality and excellence that is SDSU nursing. This has included recognition as a Center of Excellence for Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing. Secondly, the college has earned full accreditation of its Healthcare Simulation Center across South Dakota. We are the only nursing program in the state to have achieved this accreditation, and it is a testament to the high standards we utilize in the simulation environment to provide impactful learning to our students at every level. All of these accomplishments are a testament to the fantastic team of faculty and staff in the College of Nursing and their ongoing commitment to student achievement.

If I had one word to sum up our year in the College of Nursing, it would be partnerships. With the current state of health care, we have learned that working together helps us to achieve excellent results in research, health and population outcomes. We have built strong partnerships with public universities, technical colleges and clinical partners across the state to provide a path to nursing education, no matter where a student lives. Friends of the college have partnered with us to provide exceptional funding for faculty-driven initiatives, including the new Marge and Ron Hegge endowment that will provide ongoing support for faculty-driven ongoing quality improvement projects throughout the college. Strong relationships with colleges across SDSU have helped us to grow our research trajectory within the College of Nursing, and we are seeing great results from these partnerships.

Faculty and graduates from the College of Nursing have long had impactful careers that make a substantial difference in the health and well-being of our populations. We are proud of the work of all graduates and are highlighting the many faculty and graduates of the college who have been recognized as fellows in the American Academy of Nursing. I am honored to be included among this list of nursing leaders who have paved the way for so many of us.

Our students continue to be our best ambassadors and demonstrate every day the integrity, values and quality of SDSU College of Nursing graduates. As you will see in the following pages, our students are researchers, leaders and global ambassadors. They make me proud every day to serve as their dean.

Thank you to each of you for your ongoing support of the SDSU College of Nursing. Please stop in if you are ever near one of our sites in Aberdeen, Brookings, Rapid City or Sioux Falls. We'd love to show you around.

Mary Anne Krogh, Ph.D., APRN, CRNA, FAAN
Dean and Professor
SDSU College of Nursing (B.S. '85, Ph.D. '11)

ON THE COVER:

Simulations provide students hands on experience and are instrumental to the College of Nursing. Sydney Leidholt Begeman (center) and Trista Frost (back) are hard at work in the College of Nursing Healthcare Simulation Center.



College of NURSING

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Nursing Research CONTINUES GROWTH

South Dakota State University's College of Nursing has seen continual growth in its research enterprise over the past few years.

Sarah Mollman was hired as the college's associate dean for research last spring. Since taking over that role, she says she has been impressed with the efforts of faculty and staff members who are motivated and passionate about their research.

"It is both exciting and inspiring to see."

With the hiring of new faculty researchers, the number of grants being submitted and awarded to the college is up from the previous year—a sign of a growing research enterprise. As Mollman notes, the college's research focus can be broken up into three distinct areas: simulation, rural health and workforce development.

SIMULATION

Alyssa Zweifel is director of the college's Healthcare Simulation Center. This past semester, she has sought out partnerships to improve student outcomes while also conducting simulation-related research.

Notably, the center partnered with the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions and the theatre program to create even more realistic simulations for nursing students. Theatre students acted out roles as patients in simulated scenarios, which provided the nursing and pharmacy students with invaluable experiential learning.

In December, Zweifel and Karin Emery, the college's assistant dean, published the results of their research, titled "Exploring learning effectiveness for participant roles during health care simulation," in *Nurse Education Today*, a leading nurse education academic journal. Their work showed that simulation is effective in a nursing education environment regardless of the participant's role during the simulation activity. They also concluded that debriefing is an essential element to simulations.

"Alyssa and her team at the Healthcare Simulation Center are doing some fantastic work," Mollman added.

The center has also partnered with the state's two largest health care systems, Sanford Health and Avera Health, as well as the University of South Dakota Parry Center and the VA Health Care System.

Brandi Pravecek, a clinical assistant professor, received a grant from Sentinel U, a leading provider of virtual simulation

education tools, to study virtual simulation education for nursing students. The grant will provide the college with all of Sentinel U's Advanced Practice Series virtual education tools, which faculty will use to supplement the learning of a select group of nursing students this spring.

Last fall, the center reached full accreditation status from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare in the areas of teaching and education. Faculty members were officially recognized in January at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare in Orlando, Florida.

RURAL HEALTH

As a land-grant research institution, a majority of SDSU's research activities are focused on improving the lives of everyday South Dakotans. In the College of Nursing, that is especially

true as a large focus of research output is deliberately centered on improving rural health care in South Dakota.

This fall, Mary Isaacson, an associate professor in nursing, partnered with Jennifer Anderson, an associate professor in the School of Communication and Journalism, on a National Institute of Nursing Research grant to increase palliative care knowledge and awareness among Native Americans. The \$368,794 grant, which comes by way of the National Institutes of Health, will see the research team create a culturally responsive health communication campaign to increase palliative care awareness.





“The knowledge gained from this grant is critical to developing innovative and sustainable solutions for South Dakotans with end-stage renal disease,”

-Brandon Varilek
Assistant professor



Sydney Leidholt Begeman, left, checks the heartbeat of a patient in the midst of a simulation scenario. Trista Frost, right, checks a patient's extremities. Simulations are just one of the many hands-on, experiential learning tools at the College of Nursing's disposal.

Isaacson's and Anderson's work will begin in earnest over the next few months.

“We are excited for the impact this work will have on the people of South Dakota,” Mollman said.

Palliative care continues to be a major focus of the college's research efforts as faculty members, including Mollman and Isaacson, have been conducting research to improve access to palliative care in the state.

“We are focusing on rural and underserved populations in the area,” Mollman said. “We are trying to improve care and access to health care in those rural areas.”

Theresa Garren-Grubbs, a clinical assistant professor, Pravecek and Mollman have continued their work with the South Dakota Palliative Care Network, with a goal of increasing access to palliative care services by increasing knowledge of palliative care among health care professionals, nursing students and community members. Started in 2018, the SDPCN now includes around 300 individuals from 30 organizations. It has educated over 1,500 students, around 120 health care professionals and nearly 200 community members as of fall 2022.

Brandon Varilek, an assistant professor, and Mollman have



Alyssa
ZWEIFEL

Alyssa Zweifel is an assistant professor and the Healthcare Simulation Center director for the College of Nursing. Having been with SDSU since 2016, Zweifel has been instrumental in creating one of the top simulation programs in the region. Her research has focused on improving student outcomes in simulation activities and exploring cross-college partnerships to create even more realistic scenarios that provide invaluable learning experiences for students. This past summer, Zweifel was honored by her peers at the International Nursing for Clinical Simulation and Learning Conference for her simulation-related research. She was also responsible for helping lead the creation of a nursing simulation podcast hosted by faculty members in the college.

partnered on a \$100,000 Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation grant to adapt a palliative care intervention that will seek to ease the cancer burden, particularly for the Native American population in South Dakota.

Further, Varilek received subaward funding from the National Institutes of Health to study palliative care use, kidney transplant rates and survival statistics among American Indians with end-stage renal disease caused by diabetes.

"The knowledge gained from this grant is critical to developing innovative and sustainable solutions for South Dakotans with end-stage renal disease," Varilek said.

As Mollman notes, securing NIH-level funding is strong indication of the college's growing research enterprise.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The nursing profession is experiencing shortages across the United States. In South Dakota, many rural health care systems have had a difficult time hiring and retaining nurses. With an aging population in many rural areas, health care services—especially critical care services—are a significant need. This is why the college's research is focused on the training and educating of future health care professionals, with a primary focus on rural health.

A pair of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services-Health Resources and Services Administration grants will address these shortages.

Garren-Grubbs is leading a partnership with Avera Health to improve the recruitment and retainment of new nurses in rural health care settings. The project is titled "PREPARE-RNS: Partnering to Address the Critical Nursing Shortage in South Dakota" and will prepare BSNs and RNs for careers in acute-care critical access hospitals by providing education in cultural awareness, social determinants of health, health equity and health literacy.

"The goal is really to improve the recruitment and retainment of new nurses in rural health care settings," Garren-Grubbs said. "We are also hoping to identify students who are interested in rural health and provide them with targeted experiences in this setting."

Christina Plemmons, assistant academic dean for cooperative programs in the college, facilitated a partnership between SDSU and Montana State University to increase the number of skilled, qualified clinical nursing faculty and preceptors in the region. The project, titled "The Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention Program-Clinical Faculty and Preceptor Academies," will provide support for faculty and staff who may be interested in becoming a clinical instructor or preceptor—two areas of need in the training and educating of future nursing



Mary ISAACSON

Mary Isaacson has been with the College of Nursing since 2013. Based in Rapid City, Isaacson has been honored for her work in rural health care and palliative care. This fall, she became the first College of Nursing faculty member to receive a grant from the National Institutes of Health—recognition from the federal agency that her work is highly impactful. In March, Isaacson was honored by the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association as a Fellow in Palliative Care Nursing at the 2023 American Academy of Hospice

and Palliative Medicine/Hospice and Palliative Nurse Association's Annual Assembly in Montreal, Canada. A prolific researcher, Isaacson has received eight grants totaling more than \$2.4 million since 2013. Heralded for her ability to cultivate relationships with the Native American communities, Isaacson has been thoroughly committed to eliminating the health disparities that severely impact the Native American populations in South Dakota.

professionals. Becka Foerster, a lecturer in the college, and LeAnn Lamb, an instructor at the college's Rapid City site, will serve as the grant liaisons and will oversee the implementation of the developed curriculum.

Three ongoing projects are looking to increase the number of nursing students in the state of South Dakota, with a special focus on underserved populations.

The College of Nursing has created the "Wicozani-Life Pathway" project for qualified Native American and Alaskan Native students pursuing a degree in nursing. Through Indian Health Service funding, this project provides scholarships, stipends and individualized mentoring for Native Americans to pursue full-time study in a program for a bachelor's or graduate (nurse practitioner track) degree in nursing at SDSU.

"The Wicozani Project's purpose is to recruit, retain and graduate American Indian and Alaska Native nursing students at SDSU," said Tom Stenvig, an associate professor and program director in the College of Nursing. "Increasing the number of American Indian and Alaska Native nurses will improve health care services and help eliminate health disparities in Indian Country."

To date, the project has produced six graduates with eight currently receiving funding.

The Oyate Awáŋwáka Project (new beginning for tribal students) is a National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded project that looks to increase retention and graduation rates of Native American students attending SDSU. The project, administered by Emery, provides specialized support to students as they transition from Oglala Lakota College into SDSU's nursing program. Seven students are either currently supported or have been supported with the first BSN graduate last fall.

Emery is also administering another grant, this one from the Health Resources and Services Administration, to increase admission, retention and graduation rates of full-time nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including racial/ethnic minority groups and first-generation nursing students at SDSU. The grant aims to improve the recruitment of disadvantaged nursing graduates in rural primary care or medically underserved communities.

This five-year, \$3.25 million award has supported 58 students thus far.

"The work being done in all these areas is very important for the college, nursing profession and society," Mollman said. "It's an exciting time for the college."

Addison DeHaven



Marge and Ron Hegge

NURSING FACULTY EXCELLENCE ENDOWMENT

Five South Dakota State University College of Nursing faculty were named the first-ever recipients of the Marge and Ron Hegge Nursing Faculty Excellence Endowment. They are:

- **Theresa Garren-Grubbs, clinical assistant professor (Brookings)**
- **Becka Foerster, lecturer (Brookings)**
- **Venita Winterboer, lecturer (Brookings)**
- **Nicole Albert, instructor (Rapid City)**
- **Amanda Sandager, instructor (Brookings)**

The purpose of the endowment is to provide funding to help faculty make improvements in teaching and learning. The group received \$10,000 as part of the one-year endowment.

Started in 2017 by two lifelong Jackrabbits, Marge and Ron Hegge, the endowment ensures that the College of Nursing maintains its excellence as a landmark school in nursing across both the region and the nation.

“The College of Nursing is near and dear to my heart,” Marge said. “This particular grant is for enabling faculty teams to gain expertise and experience to address priority issues in the curriculum and the learning design, delivery or instruction at the college.”

Marge, who received her master’s degree in education from SDSU in 1972, was a faculty member in the college for over 40 years and retired in 2013, while Ron is a 1969 mechanical engineering graduate from SDSU. Marge was recognized as a Distinguished Alum in 2012.

“The purpose is really teamwork, innovation, improving student learning and, most of all, to enhance the College of Nursing’s ability to stay at the cutting edge of nursing education,” Marge, a distinguished professor emerita of nursing, added.

Each of the recipients teach NURS 119, the College of Nursing’s freshman seminar course, and wanted to utilize the endowment to make some needed improvements.

“All of us have taught this course for many years at this point, and we have really recognized that since COVID, a lot of things that we have been doing in the classroom and helping to prepare students isn’t working like it used to,” Garren-Grubbs said. “There are a lot of new situational factors that students are coming into college with, recognizing that some of their experiences in high school were during the pandemic.”

As Garren-Grubbs points out, students are dealing with some trauma related to the pandemic, along with a whole host of other factors that educators weren’t seeing 10 to 20 years ago. With the current structure of NURS 119, faculty noticed that students weren’t engaging like they used to and some weren’t even going to class. Nursing faculty members decided something had to change.

“Our goal is to really reimagine this seminar class,” Garren-Grubbs said. “We want to provide a strong foundational course for students as they enter into the nursing major.”

Included in this reimagined course—which will begin next fall—is extra focus on time management and organization, as well as giving students a full breakdown of all the resources available to them on campus. Faculty also want to provide students with tools for managing anxiety and other stress-related factors that are becoming more commonplace for first-year students.

“We want to help develop those student success skills, like using a planner or knowing where to go on campus,” Garren-Grubbs said. “But we also want to take a step and engage in the larger university community, such as being involved in student organizations or being involved in the Common

Leadership Challenge Opportunity

CONTINUES FOR COLLEGE OF NURSING EMPLOYEES

An exciting opportunity for all staff members in South Dakota State University's College of Nursing to hone their leadership skills continues into its fourth cycle.

The Leadership Challenge Opportunity is an 18-month focused leadership training program that is open to all employees in the College of Nursing, regardless of location.

Facilitated by Christina Plemmons, assistant academic dean for cooperative programs in the College of Nursing, the program began in 2019 after the leadership group began searching for ways to provide professional development leadership opportunities to all of the employees within the College of Nursing. Based around James Kouzes' and Barry Posner's book, "The Leadership Challenge: How to Make Extraordinary Things Happen in Organizations," the program aims to develop leaders within the College of Nursing.

"(The book's) focus and (the authors') research asks the question—what do leaders do in organizations that are doing extraordinary things?" Plemmons explained. "We want to be a premier university and the College of Nursing has a lofty vision as well and this program helps achieve those goals."

As Plemmons explains, the program fit nicely with the university's strategic plan—Imagine 2023—and the College of Nursing's vision. From Imagine 2023: "The College of Nursing recognizes leadership is derived from service to others. We are committed to creating a culture where all thrive and are supported on their own personal and professional paths toward lifelong learning, growth and leadership."

"This program has been valuable for us to elevate the leadership talents inherent in each one of our faculty and staff to achieve our strategic goals on the path to excellence,"

said Mary Anne Krogh, dean of the College of Nursing. "Dr. Plemmons herself serves as an excellent leader and mentor in this process."

After a few members of the leadership group went through and evaluated the program in 2018, it was determined that it would be suitable for the College of Nursing.

"We were thinking about a people-centered program with the recognition that all employees are leaders to some extent," Plemmons said. "We wanted to ensure that every employee within the College of Nursing had an opportunity to develop their leadership skills."

The program got off the ground in 2019 with an inaugural cohort of 10 employees. They included Valeria Big Eagle, Paula Carson, Cynthia Elverson, Cori Heier, Jennifer Kerkvliet, Amanda Melhaff, Amanda Mitchell, Sarah Mollman, Takara Schomberg and Jo Voss. A number of participants from this initial cohort have now moved into leadership positions within the College of Nursing.

Each fall, a new cohort of participants begins the Leadership Challenge Opportunity, which runs from August to December of the following year. The deadline to apply is June 1.

Each cohort is limited to 10 participants. The cohort meets approximately once a month for a 90-to 120-minute session. Each participant will read Kouzes' and Posner's book, develop leadership abilities, complete a leadership practices inventory assessment, and implement a project for the final phase of the program. Participants may also be eligible for six CETL points.

Addison DeHaven

RECIPIENTS



THERESA GARREN-GRUBBS



BECKA FOERSTER



VENITA WINTERBOER



NICOLE ALBERT



AMANDA SANDAGER

Read program. We want to help students find their place on campus."

As Garren-Grubbs points out, helping students feel welcome will help them both in the classroom and later in their careers.

The five faculty members were able to virtually attend the 42nd annual Conference on The First-Year Experience thanks to the endowment.

"The information we learned from this conference could be used across the board for other 119 classes," Garren-Grubbs said. "Yes, we are trying to revamp our 119 course, but really we are hoping that we find things that others across campus could find useful as well."

Funding from the endowment was also used to purchase books for the course.

Addison DeHaven

Advancing the Profession SDSU LIST OF AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING FELLOWS TOTALS 13

If the American Academy of Nursing had a hall of fame, one wing could be devoted to South Dakota State University.

In a sense, the academy does. It's fellows program honors a select number of nurses each year. Fellows are chosen based on their "substantive, sustained and outstanding contributions to health or health care at the national/international level or at a state/regional level where the work has potential for scalable impact," according to the academy's website.

Between Carol Peterson's selection in 1974 and Robin Arends' selection in 2022, there have been 13 fellows who graduated from SDSU or taught here.

"A fellow shows your achievement within the field. Fellows have made contributions to nursing and nursing sciences or health policy with work that is sustainable. It can't be a one-time grant," said College of Nursing Dean Mary Anne Krogh, who is a fellow herself.

She said because SDSU has a Ph.D. program and a significant research mission, "it naturally draws people who are high achievers and want to excel. We're really proud of the tradition of faculty making substantial and sustainable contributions to health care as evidenced by their induction as fellows."

Arends, SDSU's advance practice registered nurse program director in Sioux Falls, was one of 250 distinguished nurse leaders to be inducted into the 2022 Class of Fellows with the American Academy of Nursing. They were recognized for their significant contributions to health and health care at the academy's annual Health Policy Conference in October 2022.

Arends was the only fellow selected from South Dakota among a group representing 35 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 17 countries.

A BRIEF LOOK AT SDSU'S 13 FELLOWS:



Robin Arends poses with colleague and sponsor Tom Stenvig at her induction as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing at its annual conference Oct. 29, 2022, in Washington, D.C. Stenvig was selected as a fellow in 2015. Mary Anne Krogh, also a 2015 inductee, was Arends' other sponsor.



Robin Arends

Years as a nurse: 22 years

SDSU connection: 2008 MSN, faculty member since 2011

Year selected: 2022

Primary contribution: Focused in the areas of health policy and education. Significantly reduced barriers to practice and improved access to high quality care provided by nurse practitioners. Was an

integral leader in legislative and policy initiatives to broaden the scope and independence of nurse practitioners in South Dakota.

A nationally recognized telehealth leader, Arends has been instrumental in reducing health disparities across the country by increasing education and access to telehealth. Led the development of multiple educational platforms to reach providers and students throughout the nation.



Sandra Bunkers

Years as a nurse: 56 years

Year selected: 1999

SDSU connection: 1983 MSN, faculty member 2004-11

Primary contribution: Developed and implemented practice models for nursing theory-guided education and nursing theory-guided research. As head of SDSU graduate nursing, co-developed

programs in Doctorate of Nursing Practice and Ph.D. in Nursing.



Nancy Fahrenwald

Years as a nurse: 40 years

Year selected: 2014

SDSU connection: 1983 BSN, faculty member 1995-2018

Primary contribution: Developed and tested innovative and evidence-based solutions to health inequities for rural and American Indian populations.



Roxie Romness Foster

Years as a nurse: 56 years

SDSU connection: 1967 BSN

Year selected: 2000

Primary contribution: A recognized expert in the assessment and treatment of children's pain through efforts focused on practice, research, education and policy development.



Marge Hegge

Years as a nurse: 54

SDSU connection: 1972 Master of Education, faculty member 1969-2013

Year selected: 2012

Primary contribution: Chaired Colleagues in Caring statewide collaborative between nursing education, nursing service and nursing regulation; initiated Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

program with Sanford Hospital, awarded more than \$6 million in federal and foundation grants to support SDSU graduate nursing programs, published more than 60 articles in national referred journals.



Karen Billars Heusinkveld

Years as a nurse: 56 years

SDSU connection: 1967 BSN

Year selected: 1998

Primary contribution: Career has focused on advancing the nursing care of cancer patients. Chaired the Oncology Nursing Society Committee that wrote and implemented the first National Oncology Nursing Certification.



JoEllen Koerner

Years as a nurse: 43

SDSU connection: 1982 MSN

Year selected: 1990

Primary contribution: The former chief nursing officer and vice president of patient services at Sioux Valley Hospital (now Sanford), became the chief financial officer of the health care division of Simulis, a company focused

on scenario-based simulation, and then chief nursing officer with CareSpan, a virtual primary care clinic that serves remote and underserved sectors of the United States, Africa and Indonesia.



Mary Anne Krogh

Years as a nurse: 38

SDSU connection: 1985 BSN, 2011 Ph.D., faculty member since 2019

Year selected: 2015

Primary contribution: Research and scholarship has focused on credentialing, test development and psychometric assessment. Through her leadership and collaborative partnership

with the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists, validated new testing methods for the national certification examination for CRNAs, developed new certification program for nonsurgical pain management, and modernized the recertification program for nurse anesthetists.



Joan Peterson Kub

Years as a nurse: 50

SDSU connection: 1973 BSN

Year selected: 2014

Primary contribution: Played an integral role in the development of the Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Public Health joint degree program at Johns Hopkins University in the early 1990s and then in designing a unique curriculum

that enables students to focus on a MSN in public health nursing with a midwifery certificate.



Michael Relf

Years as a nurse: 35

SDSU connection: 1988 BSN

Year selected: 2008

Primary contribution: Has focused his scholarly efforts on nursing education and global health and has made substantial contributions to the advancement of the psychosocial understanding of HIV/AIDS and building the domestic and global

nursing workforce to care for those with HIV/AIDS.



Carol Peterson

Years as a nurse: 63

SDSU connection: Faculty member 1977-1987, vice president of academic affairs 1987-2009

Year selected: 1974, which was the organization's second class of fellows.

Primary contribution: Helped develop and fund the RN Upward Mobility program, which increased access to

higher education for nurses with a diploma or associate degree. Was instrumental in the development, funding and accreditation of the Master of Science in Nursing program at SDSU, which was the first in the state.

Was also cited for her work in instructional media in nursing education and use of that in independent, self-paced learning.



Thomas E. Stenvig

Years as a nurse: 52

SDSU connection: 1991 MSN, faculty member since 2001

Year selected: 2015

Primary contribution: Expertise in public health practice and policy formation emphasizing protection against vaccine-preventable diseases, culminating in appointment to the National Vaccine

Advisory Committee by the assistant secretary for health; one of a handful of nurses ever appointed. Expertise in the nursing role in vaccination is recognized nationally by organizations endorsing science-based information and valuing vaccines as a major public health achievement.

Contributions also include longstanding leadership in professional organizations and support for access to education and health care services for American Indians and former refugees with regional and national impact.



Barbara Redman

Years as a nurse: 65

SDSU connection: 1958 BSN

Year selected: 1978

Primary contribution: Taught at SDSU, then became dean at the University of Colorado, the University of Connecticut and Wayne State before serving as executive director of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing

(1983-89) and the American Nurses Association (1989-93).

Dave Graves

NEW *faculty*



SAMANTHA FISCHBACH

More than a decade after earning her bachelor's degree in nursing, **Samantha "Sam" Fischbach** is back on campus as an instructor.

Fischbach started Jan. 9 as a clinical and lab instructor at the Brookings and Sioux Falls campuses as well as teaching an online section of medical terminology. She also is on target to earn a doctorate in nursing from SDSU later this year.

Fischbach started her nursing career in 2010 as a medical/surgical/pediatrics nurse at Avera St. Mary's Hospital in Pierre.

In 2011, she and her husband, Adam, moved to Watertown, where she took a full-time position on the medical/surgical/pediatrics floor at Prairie Lakes Hospital. Fischbach worked there full time until fall 2013, when she took a nursing faculty position at Lake Area Technical College. She also continues to pick up shifts at the hospital as needed.

Fischbach said her transition from Lake Area in Watertown to

SDSU has gone "very smooth," and she appreciates the help from her colleagues. Fischbach, a Clinton, Minnesota, native who continues to live in Watertown, said the winter commutes have been "interesting to say the least." Like all of us, she has her fingers crossed for next year.

In her first year on the SDSU faculty, she hopes to finish her doctorate and gain "more of a classroom presence as I think it is so much fun to have a healthy mix of classroom, clinical and lab instruction."

When Fischbach isn't instructing, she enjoys binge-watching movies and listening to audiobooks, which is great since much of her time is spent in the car.

Adam Fischbach teaches in the physical therapist assistant program at Lake Area. The couple has two daughters, Everlie, 10, and Ellesyn, 7, and a son, Griffin, 6. Therefore, part of their free time is spent watching their daughters compete on the swim team and their son, who "loves anything where he can jump off of something, into something, or throw a ball and break something."

Dave Graves



Tiara Ruff, pictured on the far left, is one of the Native American Nursing Education Center's mentors. Ruff was recruited by Bev Warne, pictured on the far right, to improve the retention rate of Native American students in SDSU's nursing program.

When Bev Warne was hired by South Dakota State University to start what would become the Native American Nursing Education Center in Rapid City, she knew she needed the right people to achieve the goals that were set. **Tiara Ruff** is one of those people.

"This is the culmination of my career," Ruff said. "What I've always wanted to do, and what I've always done throughout my career, was to help our Native population. Who better to help than our Native nurses?"

A registered nurse for 30-some years, Ruff retired from the United States Public Health Service and returned to her native South Dakota to be near her daughter, Peri Pourier, a representative in the South Dakota Legislature. She connected with Warne at an honoring ceremony through a mutual friend. Shortly thereafter, Warne recruited her to become a mentor at NANEC and was hired full time last July.

Now, she serves as coordinator of Native American advising and outreach while also mentoring Native nursing students at the Rapid City site.

"It's been a really great experience—rewarding experience—to tangibly help Native students become nurses," Ruff said. "Because we need more and more Native students, and we need more Native students in the community and in education because that's where we gain our knowledge. Knowledge is everything."

As a mentor at NANEC, Ruff wears many hats. Some days she's a tutor, helping her students with their classes or homework. Other days, she's a big sister, providing life advice and guidance to students navigating life's struggles. On other days, she's a listener.

"It's to hear their story and to help them," Ruff said. "I share with them my life experiences and how that could help them in their careers, trajectories and becoming nurses."

The biggest role Ruff and the rest of the NANEC mentors have is to be a support system for the students. As Ruff explains, the barriers and obstacles that many of these Native American nursing students must overcome are difficult to understand, especially for those who aren't intimately involved. Warne, Ruff and the rest of the mentors play a crucial role in NANEC's continued success.

"(Warne) is carrying out her legacy, which our elders usually do, by passing everything onto the younger generation," Ruff said. "And we're helping her do it."

Addison DeHaven



College of Nursing SCHOLARLY OUTCOMES FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PUBLICATIONS

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Isaacson, M., Duran, T., Johnson, G., Soltoff, A., Jackson, S., Petereit, D. and Armstrong, K. (2022). "Calling the spirit back: Spiritual needs among Great Plains American Indians." *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 64(3), 268-275. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2022.05.014>

Karels, E., **Voss, J., Arends, R.** and Horsley, T. (2022). "Impact of infection control education on gastrointestinal endoscopy procedural staff." *Gastroenterology Nursing*, 45(2), 91-100. <https://doi.org/10.1097/SGA.0000000000000590>

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Soltoff, A., **Isaacson, M.**, Stoltenberg, M., Duran, T., LaPlante, J., Petereit, D., Armstrong, K. and Daubman, B. (2022). "Utilizing the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research to explore palliative care program implementation for American Indian and Alaska Natives throughout the United States." *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 25(4), 643-649. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2021.0451>

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FEDERAL GRANTS

Primary (Awarded to SDSU College of Nursing)

Culturally Responsive Palliative Care Messaging for American Indians: An Efficacy Trial. Funding source: National Institutes of Health (R21NR020383). Amount awarded: \$368,794 over two years (2022-2024). **Isaacson, Mary**, principal investigator.

Impacting Models of Practice and Clinical Training for Registered Nurses and Students (IMPACT-RNS). Funding source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Nurse, Education, Practice, Quality and Retention-Registered Nurses in Primary Care (UK1HP31729). Amount awarded: \$2,751,222 over four years (2018-2022). **Mennenga, Heidi**, project director.

Nurse Faculty Loan Program. Funding source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Nurse Faculty Loan Program (E01HP28782). Amount awarded: \$102,107 (continuation from 2021-2022). **Mennenga, Heidi**, project director.

SDS-Registered Nurses in Rural and Medically Underserved Communities. Funding source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Scholarships for Disadvantage Students (T08HP39273). Amount awarded: \$3,250,000 over five years (2020-2025). **Emery, Karin**, project director.

Oyate Owanwaka: USDA-NIFA New Beginnings for Tribal Students. Funding source: United States Department of Agriculture (20217041135208). Amount awarded \$500,000 (\$250,000 match from SDSU) over three years (2021-2024). **Emery, Karin**, project director.

Wicozani: A Place of Health and Balance. Funding source: Indian Health Service, Indians into Nursing (NU11IHS0065). Amount awarded: \$1,012,023 over three years (2020-2023) with continued funding for the next year (2024). **Stenvig, Thomas**, project director.

Subaward or Collaboration (Awarded to another college at SDSU or external entity)

Advancing Palliative Care in Northern Plains American Indians. Funding source: National Institutes of Health subaward from Massachusetts General Hospital. **Isaacson, Mary**, co-investigator.

Advancing Palliative Care in Northern Plains American Indians-COVID funding. Funding source: National Institutes of Health subaward from Massachusetts General Hospital. **Isaacson, Mary**, co-investigator.

Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Diabetes Training. Funding Source: National Institutes of Health subaward from University of Colorado Denver-Anschutz Medical Campus. **Varilek, Brandon**, primary investigator.

PREPARE-RNs: Partnering to Address the Critical Nursing Shortage in South Dakota. Funding source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Nurse, Education, Practice, Quality and Retention from Avera Health. **Garren-Grubbs, Theresa**, education project director.

Region 8 Clinical Faculty and Preceptors Academies Program. Funding source: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Nurse, Education, Practice, Quality and Retention from Montana State University. **Foerster, Becka and Lamb, LeAnn**, partnership liaisons.

South Dakota Early Childhood Mental Health Collaborative. Funding source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) awarded to SDSU Counseling and Human Development department, College of Education and Human Sciences. **Elverson, Cynthia**, evaluator.

Upper Midwest Palliative Care Education Network. Funding source: HRSA Rural Health Network Development subaward from Avera Sacred Heart Hospital. **Mollman, Sarah**, co-project director.

Significant Foundation Grants

Adapting an Early Palliative Care Intervention for American Indian and Rural Patients with Advanced Cancer. Funding source: Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation. Amount awarded: \$100,000 over two years (2022-2023). **Mollman, Sarah**, primary investigator.

Stronger Together: The Power of Intentional Mentors and Academic Tiospaye (Extended Family). Funding source: John T. Vucurevich Foundation. Amount awarded: \$528,000 over three years (2021-2024). **Ruff, Tiara**, project director.

A semester on the Emerald Isle **PRE-NURSING STUDENTS INITIATE NEW STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM**

Nursing students wanting to find a semester to study abroad have a better chance of finding a four-leaf shamrock in a field of clover.

But for pre-nursing students, that's a different story, especially now that the college has begun a study abroad program with Carlow College, St. Patrick's, the second oldest university in Ireland, and South East Technological University, also in Carlow, which focuses its programs on the economic needs of Ireland.

The program began this fall with four SDSU students spending Sept. 2 through Dec. 14 in Carlow, a city of 24,000 that is 52 miles south of Dublin.

The participants were Nancy Khuu, of Gregory, Maddie DeJong, of Sioux Falls, and Emilie Koenig, of Emory, Wisconsin, who now are all in their first semester of the nursing program; and Channing Wientjes, of Mound City, who is completing her second year at SDSU and will enter the nursing program in August.

Nursing's strict regimen of coursework, labs and clinicals doesn't make it practical for students to jump out of the five-semester cycle to study abroad.

Hence, Dean Mary Anne Krogh and the Office of International Affairs on campus created the Irish program for pre-nursing students. While new to the college, Assistant Vice President for International Affairs Jon Stauff has worked with Carlow in the past. The 2022-23 school year was the first time for the school to accept foreign students since the COVID-19 pandemic, and a number of students from various European countries were there.

The pre-nursing students were paired with two South Carolina students.

BONDED THRU DAILY ROUTINES

They stayed in Lennon House, a three-story dorm on the Carlow St. Patrick's campus. Each SDSU student had their own bedroom and shared a kitchen and double bathroom. It was a 30-minute walk to class and a 15-minute walk to the grocery store, where they journeyed weekly. That was an experience in itself, Khuu explained.

Minus a car, they strategically positioned themselves for the journey home. Walking four abreast, the people on the outside carried a small bag in their outside hand. They shared the handles of the heavier bags. Simple things like going to

Right: Taking time to smile when stuck in a New York subway on the way to Ireland are, from left, Maddie DeJong, Nancy Khuu, Channing Wientjes and Emily Koenig.

Below: Posing in front of Buckingham Palace in London are, from left, Channing Wientjes, Maddie DeJong and Nancy Khuu.





the grocery store together and cooking many meals together created great camaraderie, they said.

Talking about their experience three months later, Khuu said one of the things she misses is the routine they created of going to class, cooking and shopping together and planning trips.

SCHOOLING MORE LAID BACK

They took four classes—Irish experience, which was just for the six American students; microbiology and physiology, which are nursing prerequisites; and another prerequisite, which varied by student.

All four students agreed that classes were similar to what they have experienced at SDSU but less stringent. There were fewer tests and less homework.

“We met for labs twice a week. We learned most of what we learned in the lab,” Wientjes said. Also, the microbiology and physiology classes were for a full year, so the learning pace was slower, they said.

Not only is school more laid back—for example, the teacher asked the students when they wanted to take a test—life overall is more laid back in Ireland, and there is a greater emphasis on social life, the SDSU students said.

CHEAP FARES MAKE TRAVEL FEASIBLE

DeJong says she misses that, especially after returning to campus life in Brookings and having exams almost every week. “It was nice to wake up and say tomorrow we are going to fly to this random country and take the train to this city,” she said.

That was possible because of the uncrowded schedule and inexpensive public transportation.

Wientjes said, “I miss the freedom to be able to get place to place. We could find a train ticket to the airport for \$8 and a plane ticket for \$30. The cheapest flight we had was from Paris to Valencia (Spain); we paid \$10.” She noted the sense of space is so much different in Europe. Four Irelands would fit in South Dakota, Wientjes said.

The SDSU-billed program costs for tuition, housing and insurance were \$8,000. Airfare, food, incidentals and supplemental travel added another \$5,000.

Koenig considered the cost well worth it. “We’re spending tons of money now in college anyway. What’s a little more to spend a good amount of time abroad now as opposed to the same cost for a two-week trip later down the road?”

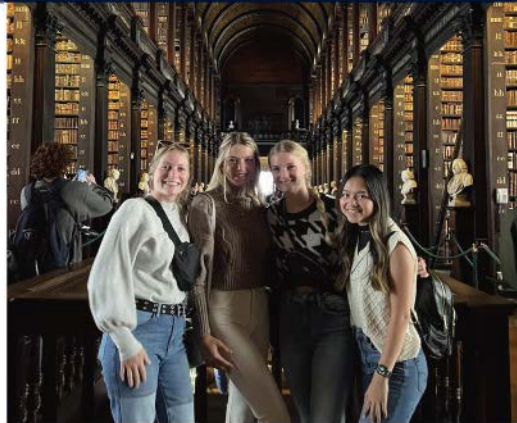
FIRST TIME ABROAD FOR 3 STUDENTS

It was the first time abroad for DeJong, Koenig and Wientjes. Khuu had twice been to Vietnam, her family’s country of origin, and also participated in a Jacks Start Abroad trip to Germany and France. She went on that trip Aug. 2 and was back in South Dakota for 10 days before leaving for Ireland.

Khuu and the other students didn’t know they would be going to Ireland until late in the summer. “We were all prepared to go into dorms” on the SDSU campus, Wientjes said. “We didn’t find out until 2 ½ weeks beforehand that we could go to Ireland.”

Because this was the first year of the program, it was taking a while to get transfer credits approved, the students said.

STUDENT NEWS



'SUCH A GROWING EXPERIENCE'

Wientjes, who grew up in a small town in north-central South Dakota, said she was "itching to get out (of state) and had considered transferring." Then in the spring she got an email promoting a chance for nursing students to go to Ireland. She didn't think twice.

DeJong said, "My freshman year I was such a home body, I would go back home (Sioux Falls) every weekend. I wanted to use it (the semester in Ireland) as a way to step out of my comfort zone and experience different cultures."

It is that same reason that Wientjes encourages others to study abroad.

"You should go to study abroad, not only because are you going to immerse yourself in a different culture, you are going to encounter so many things that you don't encounter in the United States. Like this was the first time I was in an airport by myself. I flew back to the United States one weekend to go to my brother's wedding. It's such a growing experience. You find yourself to be so much more independent than you ever knew yourself to be."

Khuu added, "There was a lot of self-discovery throughout the months while we were there."

Dave Graves

"It's such a growing experience. You find yourself to be so much more independent than you ever knew yourself to be."

- Channing Wientjes



Semester abroad students, from left, Channing Wientjes, Emily Koenig, Maddie DeJong and Nancy Khuu promote their study destination while sitting on a ledge by the Atlantic coast on a trip to Dingle, Ireland. The quartet was the first group of SDSU pre-nursing students to participate in the SDSU in Carlow, Ireland, program.

SDSU IN

Carlow, Ireland

There is no limit on the number of students that can take part in this program, but there are application deadlines: May 1 for fall semester; Oct. 10 for spring semester. There also is a four-week summer program, which had a March 23 deadline.

Interested students are asked to work through Cassandra Stangeland, assistant director for education abroad, or Laura Jacobs and Stephanie Bebensee in the undergraduate nursing office.

For more information, click the "explore education abroad" tab on the international affairs webpage.



[www.sdstate.edu/
international-affairs/
education-abroad](http://www.sdstate.edu/international-affairs/education-abroad)



Madison Fitch: **FUTURE NURSE**

Madison Fitch's dream job is to be a nurse. Well, actually, she wants to be a palliative care nurse practitioner, but that's a little harder to explain than simply "nurse."

"My ideal dream job is to be a palliative care nurse practitioner, but not a lot of people know what that is," Fitch, a Rapid City native, explained. "I usually just say I'm going to be a nurse."

Fitch, who just graduated from South Dakota State University, first became interested in palliative care while working at Monument Health's hospital in Rapid City. Stationed in the oncology unit, she helped patients with daily activities and assisted doctors and full-time nurses as needed.

"I also volunteered there for four years during high school, so I became very exposed to palliative care and oncology," Fitch said. "All my grandparents went through similar experiences with those services as well."

As Fitch notes, there is still some confusion around palliative care as many often associate it with hospice care. While the two share some similarities, palliative care is a specialized type of medical care provided to those with serious or chronic disease. While hospice care is provided to patients with less than six months to live, palliative care can begin at any time during the disease process and can include symptom management, medications and treatments.

"That's a big distinction," Fitch said.

As Sarah Mollman, associate dean for research in the College of Nursing, explains, palliative care is all about increasing someone's quality of life.

Due to her experiences at Monument, Fitch knew she wanted to conduct research during her undergraduate years at SDSU. She just wasn't sure exactly what her topic would be.

Last spring, Fitch began exploring research opportunities and noticed that Mollman and Brandon Varilek, an assistant professor in the college, had received a grant to explore ways to increase the knowledge of palliative care among Native American communities. Fitch emailed her adviser asking how she could get involved with this project.

After connecting with Mollman, Fitch began working alongside the research team. Her project, "Identifying the Need for a Nurse-Driven Palliative Care Intervention for Rural Native American Caregivers," explores the literature surrounding palliative care compared to health care interviews conducted by the research team.

"The nursing profession leads the advancement of palliative care and should deliver care in a culturally appropriate manner," Fitch explained. "Rural Native Americans with cancer and their caregivers face many barriers to receiving a culturally appropriate delivery of palliative care."

One of the biggest barriers to palliative care services for Native Americans is access. For patients who live in very rural communities, the closest access point for these services may be a three-hour drive, and travel may not be feasible, Fitch explained.

During the pandemic, telemedicine and telehealth services became increasingly popular and provided those living in isolated areas accessible services. The issue here, Fitch said, is that some who need the services may not have reliable internet or telephone access.

"Sometimes in rural America, it can be difficult to get internet access," Fitch said. "Often it's not available, or it can be very expensive."

Her work aims to look at other barriers, develop key cultural competencies and identify areas of necessity for nurse-driven palliative care interventions for rural Native American caregivers with patients diagnosed with cancer.

"I went through the literature and found themes related to the cultural responsiveness of palliative care," Fitch explained. "Now I'm going through some interviews that were conducted with Native Americans and pulling themes from them as well. I will then be comparing my literature review to the actual findings."

Fitch found that culturally appropriate palliative care education and nursing interventions are needed as health care evolves to meet the needs of those it serves. Further, considerations for rural Native American culture should include risk factors for palliative care, values and societal impact.

"There is a necessity for improved access, support services and awareness of palliative care," Fitch said. "Additionally, rural Native American caregivers exhibit the need for improved palliative care access, awareness, education and communication methods. Historically, Native Americans have





endured discriminatory delivery of culturally appropriate health care. Increased access to quality palliative care is essential to improve outcomes for rural Native Americans with serious health-related suffering and their caregivers.”

The results of Fitch’s study align with the American Academy of Nursing’s call for nurses to recognize their obligation to protect human rights, which includes quality palliative care services and delivery.

Fitch is currently in the process of analyzing and comparing the health care interviews to the findings in her literature review.

“Palliative care is such a big need, especially in South Dakota,” Fitch said. “Access, awareness and education are especially important.”

POSTER SESSION

Each year, a group of 10 student representatives from South Dakota Board of Regents institutions are invited to Pierre to showcase their research and creative activity as part of the Student Research Poster Session. Fitch was one of two SDSU representatives selected by SDSU’s Division of Research and Economic Development.

“Presenting to state legislators was a little nerve wracking but was still a great experience,” Fitch said. “It was great meeting the other students and seeing their research as well.”

NEXT STEPS

Outside of classes, Fitch has interned at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls and has been involved in various clinical rotations. In her free time, Fitch enjoys hiking, skiing, fly fishing and spending time with her friends and family.

As a new SDSU graduate, she will begin work as a critical

care RN at the Sanford USD Medical Center.

“I like everything, and I can’t wait to get more experience,” Fitch said. “There are really wonderful people at Sanford, and it’s a great unit.”

Earning a doctorate in nursing practice to specialize in palliative care is a long-term goal of Fitch’s that she hopes to pursue at some point in the future.

Addison DeHaven

Corps of Jackrabbits EXCELS IN SMALL-TOWN MINNESOTA

To paraphrase William Osler, who is considered the father of modern medicine, "The good advanced practice provider treats the disease; the great advanced practice provider treats the patient who has the disease."

That's the philosophy at the Allina Springfield (Minnesota) Clinic, where four of the five providers are graduates of the SDSU nursing program.

All of them hail from and live in the general Springfield area, which is 100 miles straight east of Brookings on U.S. Highway 14.

"We live in the communities we serve, so people see you as somebody trusted. You're not just a medical number. You're a person. It's the same people you sit by at church, sit by at sporting events. So it does bring a little more personalized touch when you have a more in-depth knowledge of the person you're taking care of," said Christina Vogel, a certified nurse practitioner and a 2017 graduate of SDSU's doctor of nursing practice program.

Her fellow Jackrabbits are Joshua Hoffman, a certified nurse practitioner who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing, both in 2020; Amanda Goblish, a certified nurse practitioner who holds a 2022 doctor of nursing practice degree; and Valerie Folkens, a family nurse practitioner who earned a bachelor's degree in 2002 and a master's in 2011.

'PUTTING THE PATIENT FIRST'

Vogel said each of them as well as non-SDSU graduate Ashley Schmitt, a certified nurse practitioner, practice similarly, particularly in regard to time spent with the patient.

"We're making sure we are providing them with education, that they're understanding the treatment plan and also that we're adhering to evidenced-based guidelines for practice," she said.

Vogel added that those are values instilled in SDSU nurses regardless of their graduation year. "It is putting the patients first, engaging the patients in their health care decisions and providing the education so they understand why a treatment or medication would be recommended.

"Putting an emphasis on prevention and nonpharmacological management of illnesses also was really something that was instilled in us," Vogel said.

That practice style is, in turn, reflected in patient outcomes and satisfaction.

Minneapolis-based Allina Health has 65 primary care centers, 14 urgent care centers and 12 hospitals throughout Minnesota and in western Wisconsin.

"We consistently lead (the Allina system) in our quality numbers. When we do our staff meetings and they review our

"It just comes down to that philosophy of practice that was really instilled in us from Day One of the nursing program, and we've continued to build on that."

- Christina Vogel

Certified nurse practitioner at Allina Springfield

quality numbers, everybody always says, 'What's Springfield doing?'

"Really, it just comes down to that philosophy of practice that was really instilled in us from Day One of the nursing program, and we've continued to build on that," Vogel said.

RURAL CLINICAL TRAINING VITAL

That is reflected in patient satisfaction ratings. The clinic consistently tops 80% and a couple times topped 90%, said Vogel, who has spent almost her entire career at Springfield. In 2022, she was honored with the Allina Health Patient Choice Award for topping 85%.

"We definitely work together as a team. There's a lot of collaboration back and forth in managing patients. We have a very strong mutual respect for each other. We all practice very similarly, which is very helpful in building that team," Vogel said.

She said that similarity is based on a shared rural Minnesota background and their SDSU training.

"Time and time again, the rural focus of SDSU's training stands out. The ability to really be able to critically think is vital because you're not always going to have a team of experts who are standing by waiting for you to call. You can't just walk down the hall and grab the cardiologist. You have to have that critical thinking and be able to figure where to get your patient the care they need best.

"That's something that is unique with SDSU's program. They make you do so much of your clinicals in a rural setting," Vogel said.

WORKING THROUGH OWNERSHIP CHANGE

Except for a couple years spent working as a nurse educator in New Ulm, Minnesota, the Springfield native has always worked at Springfield.

"I worked for 15 years as a nurse in our hospital/emergency room prior to obtaining my nurse practitioner degree (in 2017). When our community lost our hospital and ER services, Allina



SDSU College of Nursing graduates who work as advanced practice providers at the Allina Springfield, Minnesota, Clinic are, from left, Josh Hoffman, Christina Vogel, Amanda Goblisch and Valerie Folkens. The rural Minnesota clinic consistently tops the Allina system for best patient outcome scores.

Health/New Ulm Medical Center took over operations of our clinic. Thankfully, I had the opportunity to continue to practice as a nurse practitioner in my home community and provide our residents with top-quality care," Vogel said.

Mayo Clinic Health System ran the Springfield hospital and clinic and nearby Lamberton clinic for 22 years before announcing in December 2019 that it would close the facilities due to low patient volume and a struggle to attract physicians. Allina took ownership Feb. 28, 2020, and began seeing patients a month later.

COLLEAGUES FAMILIAR WITH RURAL MN

Folkens and Hoffman also were hospital employees under previous ownership.

Folkens, who is originally of Minnesota, Minnesota, and now lives in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, began working in Springfield in 2015 as solo provider in critical access ER. She then transitioned to the Family Medicine Clinic in Springfield in 2019.

Showing off super powers during the COVID-19 pandemic are, from left, Christina Vogel, Josh Hoffman and Valerie Folkens. A fourth SDSU nursing grad, Amanda Goblish, joined the practice in September 2022.



Hoffman, who still lives in his hometown of Morgan, Minnesota, worked five years as an RN in medical/surgery and the emergency room at the Springfield hospital after earning his associate degree from Ridgewater College. "I remember being amazed by the difference that advanced practice providers can make in the lives of their patients and had a goal of coming back to Springfield as a nurse practitioner."

He accomplished that in October 2020.

Goblish is the staff newcomer. The Clements, Minnesota, native who now lives in Redwood Falls, Minnesota, joined the Springfield staff in September 2022.

"I have always lived in rural Minnesota. Having access to health care in rural Minnesota is needed as much as those who live in large cities. Having the capability to provide health care in a rural community can help enhance the health outcomes of many individuals in the local community and surrounding areas. In addition, family medicine allows working with patients of various ages and needs," Goblish said.

VOGEL: WELL-PREPARED FOR NEW ROLE

The Allina providers care for patients across the lifespan, from newborn to elderly, managing patients with complex chronic disease, acute care and preventative health/wellness needs, Vogel said.

Reflecting on her education, she said, "I felt very equipped to enter the workforce when I was right out of school. In fact, I assumed for a physician who had left, and not once did I feel I was not equipped to handle that. My training with SDSU and the well-rounded clinical experiences really prepared me to step right into that role."

Allina Springfield saw 7,816 patients in 2022. One of them was Amanda Groebner, the mother of three who uses the clinic for

herself and her family. She said, "Springfield staff is the best. You can tell they work as a team. It doesn't matter who you encounter, they are all great! Springfield is so lucky to have this clinic and the talented providers and staff."

VOGEL: IMPRESSED BY NEXT GENERATION OF NURSES

In addition to caring for patients, the Allina Springfield providers are often instructing the next generation of providers through precepting.

Vogel said most semesters she will have a nursing student accompanying her practice. Sometimes they are SDSU students. Sometimes they are from elsewhere. "It's my experience that the SDSU students I do precept tend to stand out. That's consistent if they are in the first semester or ready to graduate. They just seem a little more advanced," Vogel said.

That's good news for Robin Arends, who is the advanced practice RN program director and taught all four of the Allina Springfield providers.

"Our commitment as a nursing program is to be a national leader in developing quality undergraduate and graduate nursing students who are able to serve their patients through evidencedbased care, think critically and make ethical decisions," Arends said

That has certainly proven true at Allina Springfield.

Vogel said, "Those foundations we gained, not only the knowledge and skills we learned, but the behaviors instilled in us—for example, we're all very forward thinking and value leadership—make us stand out."

Dave Graves

Jenna Marquard, a professor and the Cora Meidl Siehl Chair in Nursing Research for Improved Patient Care in the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota, shared her message of nursing and engineering collaboration at the SDSU College of Nursing Deans' Distinguished Lecture on March 23.



Speaker shares impact of NURSING-ENGINEERING COLLABORATION

Jenna Marquard says nurses and engineers should work together to improve health care.

That's the message Marquard, an engineer who has been working with the health care field for nearly two decades helping clinicians and patients fix problems and improve outcomes, brought to the SDSU College of Nursing Deans' Distinguished Lecture, held March 23 on campus.

Marquard, a professor and the Cora Meidl Siehl Chair in Nursing Research for Improved Patient Care in the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota, delivered her lecture, "Driving Meaningful Innovation through Nursing-Engineering Collaboration," in the Volstorff Ballroom in the University Student Union. It was a precursor to the 2023 Sigma Theta Tau induction ceremony for the newest members of the international honor society's Phi Chapter at SDSU.

Marquard is trained in industrial and systems engineering, from her undergraduate degree all the way to her Ph.D.

Industrial or systems engineers look for ways to eliminate wastefulness and create efficiencies—basically, figuring out how to do things better. "We're trying to thoughtfully design technologies that fit the end user," Marquard explained of her field. That's why it's important for engineers to work with nurses, who are most often the end-users of technology in health care.

"I'm really a believer in working across disciplinary boundaries and working with people who do things differently than us, who have been trained differently than us, who think differently than us," Marquard said.

"When I think about meaningful innovation, we're thinking about how do we address these problems, and it's not an 'aha' moment. What that looks like in a lot of these cases is a lot of delayed gratification of people working really hard over a long period of time, churning and having many failures before they come up with some kind of innovation."

Almost everything related to health actually happens outside the formal

health care setting, Marquard said. "Most of the time, my work is looking at things like mobile health apps or electronic health records, and how you can design those so they're easy to use and do what you want them to do. ... Technology isn't meant to replace people. It's meant so that if you couple a person with a piece of technology, they can do better than the person could have done alone."

Marquard said nurses should be involved from the beginning of the engineering and design process, not waiting until tools and technologies are created and then trying them out. She asked the audience to advocate for and support those partnerships.

"Those people coming together in a structured and meaningful way is really important," she said.

The Deans' Distinguished Lecture is made possible through gifts from Helen Grace, former vice president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Jill Fier

Commitment TO OUR PEOPLE



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

"Nobody has ever hugged a goal post."

Coach John Stiegelmeier made that comment at a staff meeting of the SDSU Foundation about two weeks after his football team's FCS national championship win. To give it some context, he was referring to the emotional impact of people on our students. Not just Jackrabbits football players, but

every single student who comes to South Dakota State. It's human beings, not things, who make a difference and make the SDSU experience so memorable.

Sure, the national championship trophy is a thing. Yet it serves as a symbol of the cumulative effort put forth by members of a program, by an entire university and its supporters. It symbolizes that so many people were involved in so many ways and each one made a difference, which is a long-standing tenet in Coach Stig's approach to coaching. "We're not just building football players," he's often said. "We're building young men, many of whom will become husbands, fathers, employees and leaders. We expect each one to make a difference in life after football."

Wherever you are, whatever your situation, you can make a difference. That's your call to action today. Only you can decide how to make a difference based on your experiences and your circumstances. Our alumni and friends who support the SDSU College of Nursing through philanthropy are great examples of making a difference. Nursing is grateful for all gifts of any size and amount from thousands of people. Each one makes a difference. Each story is unique, and the cumulative effort yields championship outcomes.

Here are few recent examples:

- One couple established an endowed scholarship in nursing last year. While both graduated from SDSU, neither degree was in nursing. Their gift is based on

the need for professional nurses; they are making a difference.

- Another couple established an endowed faculty position within the College of Nursing through an estate gift. Their gift will make a difference in the future.
- Four donors, none of whom know each other, made commitments that will allow a program with a focus on the rural health care experience for SDSU nursing students to continue uninterrupted. The program was initially funded through a grant, which expired last summer. Generally, grant expiration marks the end of a program. The gifts from these four individuals are making a difference for more students.
- Hundreds of alumni or friends of the College of Nursing make gifts to the college's Dean's Excellence Fund. That discretionary fund is a tool available to Dean Mary Anne Krogh, allowing the college to make a difference for faculty members and students in a variety of ways.
- Another couple made a gift to honor a very close friend. That gift allowed the purchase of a new simulation mannequin and makes a difference in the student experience and educational training.

In the coming months, several more cohorts of nursing students will complete their BSN degree. They'll enter the nursing profession, trained and prepared to make a difference, wherever they go. We will celebrate them and their accomplishments in Brookings, Sioux Falls, Aberdeen and Rapid City with handshakes and hugs by the hundreds. There will be hugs from family, friends, professors and faculty members, staff members, classmates, teammates, coaches ... the list goes on. Those hugs are a connection to the experiences and memories created by people, not items or things.

Nobody has ever hugged a goal post, or a simulation mannequin, or an IV arm in the clinical skills lab. Rest assured, there will be plenty of hugs for those who made a difference in the lives of those students.

Is this the year you will make a difference for nursing students at SDSU?



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*Save
the Date*
SEPT. 30

The College of Nursing would
like to have you attend its
tailgate event outside of
Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium.

*We'll see
you there!*

