Hello Alumni and Friends of the CSU, Chico School of Nursing!

Happy spring! Things are running smoothly at the School of Nursing. Our new MSN in Nursing Leadership is a big success. Interim accreditation visits and reports are complete. Program demand is high. NCLEX pass rates are excellent and our reputation as a school that produces top-notch graduates continues.

It seems a good time to announce my intention to enter the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) in July 2015. I will be returning to the classroom to teach half-time in fall 2015, something I look forward to immensely. We will begin a national search to find a director later this spring. Dr. Peggy Rowberg, the current Assistant Director of the program, will step in as Interim Director until the search is complete. I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead the school the past 5-1/2 years and to work with such capable faculty, staff, and students. Thank you.

Finally, we continue to actively recruit faculty. We currently have open positions in mental health nursing as well as simulation/informatics. We anticipate hiring additional faculty in the coming year in maternal child health and medical/surgical nursing. If you are interested (minimum of MSN required), please let us know. Please help us spread the word about these open positions. Enjoy this newsletter and stay connected with us at the School of Nursing.

It is so amazing to think that I am finishing nine years here at Chico State. The time has gone so quickly and it is with a heavy heart that I accept that Carol Huston is retiring. As my long-time mentor, she has had a significant impact on my career and my life. When I first met Carol, at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, I had no idea what the future would bring but it has brought me through a journey that I value every day. I have grown both personally and professionally because of Carol and for that I am forever grateful. I don’t think Carol really knows how much she has contributed to the School of Nursing and the faculty and staff in her time as director and in her many years as a faculty member. She will be sorely missed!

I have agreed to be the Interim Director for up to a year while we conduct a search for a new director. We are beginning the process now and are hoping we can have a new director in place by July 2016. As I step into this role in July, I hope that I can fill the shoes of the directors who served before me. Following their long legacy of building the outstanding nursing programs here at Chico State is a daunting task. As I reflect on these last nine years, I am proud to be a Wildcat and so grateful for the opportunities it has brought me.

To Carol, I say, you have always been a great boss, colleague, and friend and your hard work, dedication and positive attitude are only a few of the many precious things you shared with us every day and for that, we say Thank You!
## The Rural Northern California Preceptorship Program Continues to Thrive!

Almost 40 nursing students and recent graduates participated in the Rural Northern California Preceptorship (RCNP) Program during the winter break in January 2015. These students spent four weeks at rural hospitals in Northern California working one-on-one with a preceptor to perfect their nursing skills.

Kathleen Kirby states, “Preceptorships increase student confidence and participating during the winter or summer break gives students a concentrated ‘immersion experience,’ that a one-day-a-week clinical experience can’t offer. Repetition, repetition, repetition--it’s how our brain learns.”

If you plan to do a preceptorship, then Elise Paul, who has preceptored for several Chico State students and more than a dozen new nurses, offers this advice: “If possible, contact your preceptor prior to your first day and ask what types of patients you can expect to see in your assigned unit, the most common medications you will be giving, what special pieces of equipment you will be using, and what procedures you can expect to watch or assist. Then do your research. This will impress your preceptor and gives you an advantage because you won’t be spending precious clinical time looking up medications or procedures.”

Applications for the January 2016 placements will re-open August 2015. Stop by Kathleen Kirby’s office at Holt 353 or visit the RCNP website at http://www.csuchico.edu/rcnp/ for more information.

## New SAM II Auscultation Manekin for the School

The School of Nursing competed for and received funding late in fall 2014 to purchase a SAM II Auscultation Manekin for the School of Nursing. This manikin is programmed to teach students how to assess and diagnose a variety of heart, breath, and bowel sounds. Although he looks displeased, SAM II is excited to be in the School of Nursing skills lab.

## New Collaboration between the School of Nursing and Mercy Medical Center for Nurse Residency program

The School of Nursing entered into a partnership with Mercy Medical Center of Redding in January 2015 to establish a nurse residency program directed at preparing new graduate nurses for work in Labor and Delivery. Holly Kralj, Lecturer for the School of Nursing is overseeing both the theoretical and clinical components of the 400 hour residency program. Administratively, the program is run through the Rural California Nursing Preceptorship program. Two CSUC nursing graduates participated in the first cohort spring 2015.
Tenure Track Nursing Faculty Position in Simulation/Informatics
Open for Fall 2015

California State University, Chico College Of Natural Sciences invites applications for one full-time, tenure-track faculty position in the School of Nursing at the Assistant or Associate Professor level to start August 2015. The position requires a Master’s degree in nursing no later than July 31, 2015 with specialization in simulation/informatics, at least one year’s clinical experience in direct patient care and a course which includes practice in teaching nursing or one year’s experience teaching nursing.
Candidates must be eligible for RN licensure in California and meet health policies and other requirements imposed by clinical agencies if given a clinical teaching assignment. In addition, candidates must pass a 10 panel drug test and background check as a condition of employment.
Candidates must also demonstrate potential for significant achievement in areas of teaching, professional achievement and service. This tenure-track position carries responsibilities in the areas of teaching, which may include providing theory and clinical instruction for BSN, RN-BSN, and MSN students. New faculty teach a reduced teaching load for the first two years.
The full position announcement is available at http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs

Tenure Track Nursing Faculty Position in Mental Health Nursing
Open for Fall 2015

California State University, Chico College Of Natural Sciences invites applications for one full-time, tenure-track faculty position in the School of Nursing at the Assistant or Associate Professor level to start August 2015. The position requires a Master’s degree in nursing no later than July 31, 2015 with specialization in mental health nursing, at least one year’s clinical experience in direct patient care and a course which includes practice in teaching nursing or one year’s experience teaching nursing.
Candidates must be eligible for RN licensure in California and meet health policies and other requirements imposed by clinical agencies if given a clinical teaching assignment. In addition, candidates must pass a 10 panel drug test and background check as a condition of employment.
Candidates must also demonstrate potential for significant achievement in areas of teaching, professional achievement and service. This tenure-track position carries responsibilities in the areas of teaching, which may include providing theory and clinical instruction for BSN, RN-BSN, and MSN students. New faculty teach a reduced teaching load for the first two years.
The full position announcement is available at http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs
Think big! That’s what 5th Semester nursing student LaTiana Ridgelle did when she took an internship in New York. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) provided her with not just a fantastic internship in New York, but also paid for her round-trip airfare and a $3500 housing and expenses stipend.

Don’t think “vacation” though, as LaTiana attended three classes in addition to her duties as an intern at the ARC Senior Center in Harlem, New York. It was there she provided health-promotion workshops to seniors, and assisted staff. Interacting with seniors was her favorite duty, and a highlight was a poem-writing activity that rekindled her own interest in poetry. LaTiana said, “The seniors greatly appreciated the sessions we did together, and told me how it enriched their lives, and thanked me tenderly.” Thinking big has paid off for LaTiana. In part from her internship, she has identified how she can use her nursing background and passion for social justice to ultimately write and interpret policies to help reach underserved populations. LaTiana plans to pursue a masters degree in public health once she graduates from Chico State in May of 2015.
A Message from the Dean

Almost two semesters into my time as dean of Natural Sciences at CSU Chico, I am well into the steepest part of my learning curve: the School of Nursing. I have to say that I am continually impressed by the program: we have intelligent and enthusiastic students, talented and committed faculty and staff, and successful and generous alumni. But what has impressed me most is how integral nursing is to the college. The School of Nursing is founded in a scientific understanding of health and wellness, and the faculty and students engage in research that advances that understanding. In my first semester, I had the opportunity to attend a poster session in which our students presented their findings on a range of topics, demonstrating their ability to develop, carry out, and communicate original research. I’ve also had the chance to read a number of high-quality papers and book chapters by nursing faculty. So much for me to learn, and I enjoy learning it!

I also appreciate the patience of the faculty and staff of the school as they have helped me learn the program, and I am dedicated to ensuring that the school will continue to thrive. To further my learning, I hope that readers of this newsletter will share their thoughts about the school with me at any time: dhassenzahl@csuchico.edu.

School of Nursing Recognized for Excellence

♦ The School of Nursing was notified by NurseJournal.org in February 2015 that CSU, Chico School of Nursing was ranked 10th out of 442 schools in the Western U.S. (America’s Best Nursing Schools 2015 – Western Rankings [http://nursejournal.org/articles/americas-best-nursing-schools/#sthash.wble9Z0g.dpuf]). Criteria included quality, affordability, convenience, satisfaction, and value.

♦ In addition, the School of Nursing was notified by RN-BSN.org in January 2015 that it was ranked 36th out of nearly 400 online RN-to-BSN programs offered in the U.S. for providing one of the best online classroom experiences [http://www.rntobsn.org/best-online-rn-to-bsn-programs/#row-36]). These rankings were based on data drawn from IPEDs, institution websites, and state nursing boards. Factors considered were accreditation, commitment to online education, academic and career counseling services, and academic quality.

School of Nursing Faculty (from left): Helen Karpilovsky, Sherry Fox, Jean Shackelford, Becky Damazo, Kathleen Kirby, Carol Huston, Phyllis Salopek, Carl Pittman, Janelle Gardner, Irene Morgan, Fay Mitchell-Brown, and Karin Lightfoot
Groundbreaking at the Kristina Chesterman Memorial Clinic in Nigeria!

Groundbreaking for the medical clinic named in honor of CSUC nursing student Kristina Chesterman has begun in Ozu Abam, South Eastern Nigeria. Construction of this clinic honors the hopes and aspirations of Kristina, who was killed by a drunk driver before she could realize her dream of someday changing the world by providing nursing care for patients residing in medically underserved areas of rural Africa. Construction occurred as a result of the efforts of her classmates and others who partnered with a team of California based health care professionals to build this clinic. The Kristina Chesterman Memorial Clinic will be a sister clinic to the Upon This Rock Medical Center which was built in Ozu Abam, Abia State, Nigeria in 2012 by James Umekwe and his organization Clarrion Call. The goal of the new clinic will be to provide health care for women and children of the area as well as to provide care and education for those who suffer from diabetes.
We need Volunteers!

We need volunteers prior to the race to assist with fundraising and preparation. Join us for lots of fun! We could also use several volunteers on the day of the race.

If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Haley Horner, haleyrhorn516@yahoo.com

We would really appreciate your support.

Or, if you are planning to Run or Walk, register now on Active.com or sign up at the Chico Sports Club.

Thank you CSU, Chico students: Peter Duenas, Candice Sawyer and Samantha Wanner!

The School of Nursing has been fortunate to have three amazing student assistants in the office for several semesters. Fortunately for them (and unfortunately for us), all three will graduate in May 2015. We wish them the best in their future and will miss them greatly. Take care Peter, Candice, and Samantha.
Make the Most of Midnight a Big Success

More than 70 nursing and pre-nursing students sent 1,000 letters to raise money for the Enloe Breast Cancer Center during October’s Make the Most of Midnight. This year’s effort generated more letters than last year—it must be all the food, prizes, and guest speakers that kept letter writers entertained.

Great job!

Nursing students, from left to right: Rebecca Rinard, Rachel Jackson, Stephanie Geronimo, Rory Anderson, Kaytee Taylor, guest Jefferson Wright, Casey Wright, and Liza Sciallis

To Infinity and Beyond!

Eight Chico State students and 630 other nursing students attended the three-day, “To Infinity and Beyond,” 2014 CNSA Convention in Southern California in October 2014. Val Bessmertnyy, 3rd Semester student and CNSA Legislative Director for the Chico chapter, introduced, defended, and saw the adoption of his resolution on the need for basic labor and delivery support training before OB clinical rotations begin. Val was also elected to be the Legislative Director on CNSA’s Executive Board. He will travel to the state capital, attend several conventions, and select resolutions for next year’s state convention.

Dr. Gayle Kipnis, who was instrumental in helping Val draft the resolution, was at the convention with the students and provided guidance and input—a special thank to Dr. Kipnis for her dedication. You can read Val’s resolution at http://www.cnsa.org/2014-resolutions.

Another Important Announcement! Valery Bessmertnyy was named the CSU, Chico College of Natural Sciences Outstanding Student Leader for 2014-2015. This prestigious award was based on exceptional academic accomplishment and a strong record of leadership on campus and beyond. The ceremony and awards presentation will occur at a luncheon on April 14, 2015.
Faculty Retirements

Becky Damazo will enter the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) starting summer 2015. Becky started work at CSU, Chico in 1982 as a part-time teacher and joined the faculty full time in 1988. As lead teacher in public health, Becky pioneered the preceptored model of student clinical experiences in community health, started the requirement for service learning and community projects, and developed poster sessions and film festivals to showcase student work. In response to the growing RN-BSN program, Becky increased the number of clinical agency options for community health clinicals from five agencies to more than 50. Becky has worked with faculty teams to bring in more than 1 ½ million dollars in funding to support nursing education. She received CSU, Chico professional achievement honors and was named Rotary Club’s educator of the year. In 2006, working with Dr. Sherry Fox, she developed the Rural SimCenter, a state of the art clinical simulation center. She received advanced certification in the field of simulation education from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare.

In 2008, Becky began work with the Sierra Fund to understand the health impacts of gold mining in the Sierra Nevada. Her research provided opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students. In 2011, she received a Post Masters certification in Informatics from the University of Minnesota. In 2013, she worked with students and community partners to develop a home visiting center for Butte County.

While in the FERP program, Becky plans to continue as Director of the Rural SimCenter and hopes to spend more time with her amazing family.

Sue Carriere is retiring after teaching the Practium in Nursing Foundations as a part-time lecturer during the 2014-2015 school year.

Sue received her nursing degree from UCLA, then received her master’s degree as a Critical Care Clinical Specialist from CSU, Long Beach. Her clinical nursing career centered on critical care and emergency care before accepting a position at CSU Long Beach as a lecturer. After moving to the Sacramento area, Sue accepted a position at Sacramento City College, working as a Professor in the VN and ADN programs for 15 years before returning to the CSU system this fall. Sue has a graduate certificate in gerontology, and has volunteered in hospice and respite care in recent years.

Sue is looking forward to being outdoors, gardening, and hiking, and having more time to travel and visit family and friends. She is also interested in teaching, volunteering or working in an area related to geriatrics.
Carol Huston

Dr. Carol Huston has been a Professor in the School of Nursing at CSU, Chico since 1982 and became the Director of the School in January 2010. She was named Master Teacher for CSUC from 1999-2001, Outstanding Teacher for CSUC for 2001-2002, and Outstanding Professor for CSUC for 2008-2009.

Dr. Huston is the author of five textbooks on leadership, management, and professional issues in nursing (17 editions total) and has published more than 100 articles in leading professional journals. Dr. Huston is also the co-developer of the Marquis-Huston Model for Teaching Critical Thinking, which has been recognized internationally by nurse scholars.

In addition, Carol served as the 2007-2009 President of STTI, the International Honor Society of Nursing. As President, she was responsible for strategic planning, program implementation, and fiduciary oversight of approximately 130,000 nurses in 470+ chapters, in more than 90 countries. She also served as Co-Chairperson of the 2010 International Year of the Nurse (IYNurse) Initiative (a global partnership effort between Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health, and the Nightingale Museum of London). She currently chairs the STTI Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (2014-2015). In Nov. 2007, she became a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Huston is also a frequent speaker at nursing conferences and has keynoted more than 250 presentations worldwide. Her research interests include leadership, outcomes measurement, quality health care, and empowerment of the nursing profession. She also currently serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Enloe Medical Center as well as on several other national advisory boards related to nursing and nursing education.

Dr. Huston is married to Tom Huston and is the mother of two grown daughters; Shauna Huston and Kristin McKay. She also has three grandchildren.

Congratulations on your retirement!
Giving Back—We hope your learning experiences at Chico State helped you to pursue a rich and satisfying career in nursing. Are you willing to help current students in the School of Nursing do the same? Many learning experiences at Chico State are being threatened by the State of California budget crisis. As a result, the Chico State School of Nursing is working harder than ever to provide the best educational experience possible for nursing students while managing an ever-decreasing budget. Are you able to help us purchase needed equipment with a gift to the School of Nursing? Please consider making a donation through the California State University, Chico online giving website. To access the site, please paste this address into your web browser: https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/CUH/onlinegiving/showGivingForm.jsp?form_id=76412 Near the bottom of the Online Giving Form, under Department or Program, choose “School of Nursing.” Under Gift Supports, choose Operations. Under Gift Designation, type in Nursing Skills Lab.

Or, you can fill out the School of Nursing Gift Card below and mail it. Please indicate Nursing Skills Lab in the memo area of your check and mail the Gift Card and donation to: California State University Chico, College of Natural Sciences, Attn: Margaret Schmidt, Chico, CA 95929-0555. Thank you for your support.

### School of Nursing Gift Card

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Thank you for your support of the CSU, Chico School of Nursing Programs

### The CSU Chico School of Nursing “Wish List” for Needed Supplies and Equipment

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<tr>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Recognition Level</th>
<th>What your gift could support for the School of Nursing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50</td>
<td>Agnes Dix</td>
<td>A stethoscope or blood pressure cuff for student training</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
<td>Faye Glen Abdellah</td>
<td>A new educational video or software for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>Loretta C. Ford</td>
<td>Demo dose packages for student medication training</td>
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<td>$500</td>
<td>Margaret Sanger</td>
<td>New anatomical models for the Skills and Simulation Labs</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Clara Barton</td>
<td>A bi-directional Doppler for student training</td>
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<td>$2,500</td>
<td>Virginia Henderson</td>
<td>A medication cart or AED trainer for the Skills and Simulation Labs</td>
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<tr>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Florence Nightingale</td>
<td>A new hospital bed or a cadre of learning resources for the Media Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Friends of Nursing</td>
<td>Scholarships, loan funds for students, supplies, misc.</td>
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Dr. Holly Kralj, CNM, NP, IBCLC received her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree from University of Hawaii, Manoa this past fall. Holly received the Dean’s Research Award for her Scholarly Inquiry Project titled, *Creating Pathways of Care: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Increasing Screening and Treatment of Postpartum Depression in a Rural Health Clinic*. Her doctoral work focused on educating staff and providers at Feather River Health Center regarding the screening and treatment of postpartum depression, as well as developing integrated triage pathways for women with positive screens.

In addition to working at the CSUC School of Nursing as a lecturer, Holly maintains a clinical practice as a Certified Nurse Midwife/Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner and provides frontline screening and treatment of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (PMAD’s). She has worked extensively with Butte County Public Health, First 5, and the California Health Collaborative to increase awareness of PMAD’s and access to care for Butte County childbearing women. Holly is also coordinating the new Labor and Delivery residency program with Mercy Medical Center, Redding.

Phyllis graduated from California State University, Chico’s School of Nursing with a BSN in 1989 and a MSN in 1998. She attended Western University of Health Science and graduated in 2000 with a Family Nurse Practitioner certification. She then worked as a practitioner for the Butte County Public Health Department. She has been a faculty member in the School of Nursing since 1999.

Phyllis has taught multiple courses in the School of Nursing including the undergraduate BSN program, the LVN to BSN program, the RN to BSN program, and the Master’s program. She currently teaches physical assessment and evidence-based practice course in semester 1 and patient care management clinical in 5th semester. In addition to teaching, Phyllis is the pre-nursing advisor to approximately 1100 pre-nursing students. Phyllis says she enjoys working with each and every one of them and hopes to see many of them enter the program.

This fall, Phyllis plans to attend the California State University Northern Consortium to complete a Doctorate in Nursing Practice. Phyllis has been married to her husband, Joe for 45 years; she has two grown children, Joseph and Kelsie; and four grandchildren — Noah, Jonathon, Anthony, and Bella.
CSU, Chico School of Nursing has three teams that will be presenting their N342 (Nursing Research) proposed research design projects as Rising Stars at the STTI Biennial Conference in November. Their topics and members are:

**Team 1**: Infection rates in traditional vaginal births vs. water birth: Sasha Sinkevich—team leader, Natalee Snyder, Nicolette Singleton, Stephanie Palmer

**Team 2**: Sister to sister surrogacy: Diana Cullati—team leader, Lisa Ceynowa, Jose Regino

**Team 3**: Depression among new graduate nurses working in the ICU and Medical-Surgical units: Val Bessmertnyy—team leader and Keith Taylor.

The aim of the program is to offer students the opportunity to “present” at an international conference from start to finish. STTI started the Rising Stars program at the 2001 Biennial Convention with 20 students. We had over 90 at the 2013 convention. Students will have an opportunity to not only see and be involved in the submission process, but also interact with other attendees and nurse leaders of the society during the poster sessions onsite.

The Rising Stars of Scholarship and Research posters will be displayed the first two days of the convention, Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8, 2015.

More information about the Convention November 7-11, 2015, in Las Vegas can be found on the society’s Web site (http://convention.nursingsociety.org).
In Memoriam

Lorraine DeGraff - Lorraine was a Professor of Nursing at CSU Chico from 1967 to 1992 and retired as Professor Emerita of Nursing. During her career, Lorraine took sabbaticals in England and New Zealand to study and gain knowledge of other education programs specializing in nursing care of handicapped children. She also took a two year leave of absence from 1973 to 1975 to be the Director of Training at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Lorraine died January 18, 2015 in Sacramento.

Marie Coakley - Dr. Marie Coakley received her Diploma Nursing degree in Baltimore, MD in 1943; her BSN from the University of Colorado in 1951; her MS in Education, Administration of Nursing Service in 1952, and completed her Doctorate of Education of Higher Education; Administration of Nursing Education and Teaching in 1962.
Dr. Coakley was a staff nurse, head nurse, supervisor and instructor in the US Army Nurse Corps in Texas, Virginia, California, New Guinea and the Philippine Islands from 1943-46. She was a head nursing in surgery in Merced, Oakdale and Woodland in California and Detroit, MI.
Dr. J. Marie Coakley was a professor and director of the Schools of Nursing at Western Kentucky University, State University of New York, Plattsburg and California State University, Chico (1978-1989).
Dr. Coakley served in the U.S. Army for 33 years and retired as a Major in 1976. She died August 14, 2014 at the age of 97.

Elizabeth Wolfe - Elizabeth Wolfe, 98, one of the earliest faculty in the School of Nursing, specialized in Psychiatric Nursing. In the late 1960s, Elizabeth was the Assistant Division Chairman of Chico State's Nursing Division and in 1971, she was the Chair of Nursing. Elizabeth died January 14, 2015 in Orland, California.