Since 2002, UNM’s College of Nursing has had the pleasure of counting Judith Harris as one of our Clinical Educators. In 2007, Judith’s passion for international work led her to Project Helping Hands (PHH), a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing health and medical intervention programs for those lacking access to care. It was then that Judith made her first trip with PHH to Bolivia, where she was captivated by the experience. Thanks to the support of Dean Nancy Ridenour, Judith has been able to bring this same opportunity to her students since 2009. (continued on page 3)
Message from the Dean

We all have an amazing opportunity to change worlds for students, faculty, researchers, patients, and our communities. At UNM, we consider it our responsibility, and certainly, it is one with outstanding rewards. As an alum, friend, and donor, you, too, can influence very positive change in your world.

Every gift to the UNM College of Nursing makes a difference and changes worlds for our constituents. There are many giving opportunities that directly support undergraduate and graduate students with scholarships, faculty with endowed chairs and professorships, academic programs with endowments, and the College with state-of-the-art equipment and capital improvements.

One of the main reasons that there aren’t enough nurses at the bedside, in part, is because there aren’t enough nursing faculty to teach them. Many current faculty are reaching retirement, and many advanced practice nurses are having great success outside of the classroom. Because there are so many opportunities for graduate-prepared nurses, endowed chairs will enable the best people to be recruited and retained as teachers.

Did you know that in New Mexico, midwives attend more births than anywhere in the nation, nearly four out of every 10? The College of Nursing’s midwifery program is committed to educating nurse-midwives to serve rural areas and underserved women and families. Actually, since 1996, more than 80% of our graduates have done just that, and one third of New Mexico’s midwives are UNM graduates. An endowment will give this program stability.

There is a shortage of primary care providers, and nurse practitioners provide many primary care services safely and effectively. Their scope of nursing practice is expanding, and private scholarship support for graduate students as well as faculty practice is critical to facilitate this, as we embrace the changes and come together to improve health care for all. That support will allow nurses to apply their education and expertise in leadership roles on the front lines of nursing, in clinical practice, and in the vibrant network of nurse-managed clinics and collaborative partnerships to help meet the health needs of patients across the lifespan, families, and communities.

Nurses change worlds in so many ways – delivering change with a personal focus until everything is different and everyone is better.

Nancy Ridenour, PhD, RN, APRN, BC, FAAN
Professor and Dean

CELEBRATING DONORS’ LEGACIES

The holidays were a time of celebration here at the College of Nursing, as a year-long remodeling project on our first- and second-floor offices was officially completed. To add to this, we were also the recipient of two very unique gifts from four different donors, which represent the history of both nursing and UNM. Thanks to their generosity, our brand-new walls are looking even brighter.

Drs. J.R. and Barbara Damron donated his mother’s beloved collection of invalid and infant feeders from the 18th and 20th centuries. Carefully collected over many years by Florence Damron, who was a dedicated nurse, these historical pieces are proudly displayed in a cabinet that is itself more than 100 years old.

In addition to the rich history of nursing, we were given an important piece of New Mexico’s history by Maryann and Edwin Roos. They bestowed on us Rogue River #3, a painting by Bob Ellis, a retired UNM art professor and New Mexico artist.

If you would like to view their gifts, please call 272-4455 to schedule an appointment.

The organizational mission of The Woman’s Club of Albuquerque is “dedication to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.” As a group celebrating more than 100 years of service in Albuquerque, they have established a scholarship-endowment supporting students studying nursing, medicine, and education that will live on in perpetuity.

Their organization’s current members are intent on honoring the memory of all those who have gone before them for their charitable works. Their generosity demonstrates their club’s very admirable motto, which is “our mental attitude today determines our success tomorrow.”

The Woman’s Club proudly presents $25,000 to nursing, medicine and education.
"New Mexico has a huge cancer disparity among Native Americans, and by the time many schedule a medical appointment, the disease has already turned fatal."

Emily Haozous, College of Nursing Assistant Professor and RWJF Nurse Faculty Scholar.

Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recognizes our country’s next generation of promising leaders within academic nursing through their Nurse Faculty Scholars program. This year, one of our very own Assistant Professors, Dr. Emily Haozous, was one of 12 nurse educators throughout the nation to receive the 3-year research grant. With this grant, Dr. Haozous has been given $350,000 to develop a culturally appropriate intervention for Native American women. Although the cancer incidence rates of Native Americans in New Mexico are not as high as non-Hispanic Whites, the mortality rate is much higher. Among the main reasons for this is the low understanding within this group about the importance of early screening and their distrust of the health care system in general. To reach out to these women before it is too late, a creative approach is necessary to encourage them to seek out care on their own.

By using digital stories from other Native American women who have undergone cancer screenings, Dr. Haozous hopes to begin breaking down the barriers of medical mistrust that currently exist among Native American women so that this high-risk population can begin receiving the proper screening necessary to increase their chances of early detection. These videos will be shown at outpatient clinics during medical appointments to encourage women to take part in a screening themselves.

“New Mexico has a huge cancer disparity among Native Americans, and by the time many are diagnosed, the disease has a poor prognosis,” Dr. Haozous says. “With this tool, I’d like to reduce the number of cancer fatalities among Native Americans in the state and at the same time, help people feel that health providers are trustworthy.”

Dr. Haozous received her PhD from Yale University and joined the faculty at UNM College of Nursing in 2009. She has spent much of her career focusing on cancer incidence within the Native population and is a two-time Fellow of the American Indian Graduate Center. She is also a current recipient of the Regents Lectureship, an award granted through the University of New Mexico’s Board of Regents.

UNM’s nursing students are only one group out of many that travel with PHH, and all visits are by invitation of the communities to which they travel. Every visit is unique. In Bolivia, our nursing students have offered mobile health clinics in very rural, underserved areas, and in Kenya, our students have worked in a community-built clinic. The key component in all of these visits is an educational focus to the health care services that our students are providing.

Of course, turning the world into a classroom does not come without a cost. Despite the success of their fundraising efforts, Judith knew that there had to be a way to generate a broader and longer lasting funding stream for her students. After all, the cost of just being a student is substantial in and of itself; adding the additional costs of a trip overseas can be staggering.

In 2011, she created the Judith Harris Global Health Endowment, which is entirely dedicated to providing financial support to students who would like to make a difference internationally. Ultimately, Judith hopes that this will mean all students who want to take advantage of the opportunity of traveling abroad can – and without the worry of how they are going to pay for it and their classes: “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if, one year, we could say each student can receive money towards the amount needed to finance the trip?”

In December 2011, the College of Nursing’s graduating seniors pledged $2,795 to Judith’s endowment so that the students who come after them can continue to benefit from the same experience many of them were able to share. The overwhelming support from her students touched her greatly: “It was very emotional for me when I heard the news about the amount. It would be great if we could continue to get that kind of support from the students, faculty, and others in the future.”

In the end, Judith hopes that “a lasting benefit of the experience” is the cultural awareness that being in a different country provides.
Endowments are especially important to the College of Nursing because they provide an everlasting funding stream for students, faculty, staff, and programs of the College. Over the past year, we have been fortunate to add four new endowments to our list, which honor some very special people:

- The Sharon Lee Smoker Nursing Scholarship Endowment was created by Ruth Bernstein to honor her daughter’s memory. Mrs. Bernstein’s wish is to perpetuate the care and concern that Sharon gave her patients by providing a scholarship to support nursing students. Sharon dedicated her career to helping others, and before her death, served for many years as a nurse at UNM’s Children’s Psychiatric Hospital.

- Due to her mother’s foresight and encouragement, Carolyn Dooley Martinez pursued a career in nursing. Throughout Carolyn’s career, nursing became her passion, and out of this, she decided to create the Carolyn Dooley Martinez Scholarship Endowment in Nursing to support future nurses. In her words, nursing is “a profession that will be stimulating, demanding, and exceptionally generous in its rewards.”

- A health episode reminded Dave Evans of the importance of skilled nursing care, so together with his wife Marty, the Dave and Marty Evans Scholarship Endowment in Nursing was created to support our nursing students’ education. Marty, a retired physical therapist, worked closely with RNs in the intensive care unit and will never forget the care they gave their patients. She sincerely believes that “nurses are so special. . . . A good nurse makes a difference!”

- Finally, our very own Dean Nancy Ridenour created the Ridenour Staff and Faculty Development Fund to support those who work here at the College of Nursing in advancing their professional knowledge and experience. By doing so, the College’s efforts will be strengthened, our outstanding staff can be retained, and the students they serve will benefit.

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PLANNED GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have a will?
Do any of these reasons sound familiar?
- I don’t want to think about death.
- Only rich people need wills.
- I can’t afford a will.
- I don’t have time now.
- I don’t have an attorney.
- My family will divide things when I am gone.
- I will do it just before I die.

It is one of the most important things we will ever do.

Every adult needs a will. It will make sure that whatever assets we have go where we want them to go, and it will also make life easier on the grieving loved ones we leave behind.

Go to www.unmfund.org or call our planned giving office at (505) 277-9604 for information to create your will.

HOW TO GIVE

If you would like to help support programs, students, and faculty at the College of Nursing, please use the enclosed envelope or:

- Send your check, made payable to The UNM Foundation (please write College of Nursing in the memo), to The UNM Foundation Two Woodward Center 700 Lomas Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87102-2520
- Make a secure donation online with your credit card at www.unmfund.org.
- Donate through your employer’s payroll deduction plan or matching gift program. Please check with your human resources department for details.

For more information on giving, please contact:
Rosemary Reichert Gregory (505) 272-0200 rrgregory@salud.unm.edu

Thank you for your support!