The Old Made New Again: Health Sciences Building

Nurses Up North

The Montana Tech Nursing Department officially moved to the North Campus. The Nursing Department packed up years’ worth of belongings and moved to the newly renovated Health Sciences Building (formally known as the Petroleum Building). Some of the features included in this multi-million dollar facelift include:

- Private faculty offices. As many of our graduates and current students recall, offices were shared on the South Campus.
- Four-bed “hospital” Fundamentals lab. This lab includes VitaSim Mannequins and a computerized medication dosing system, Med Dispense, which includes bar code scanning and computerized medication administration records (MAR).
- Simulation lab. This lab includes a high fidelity simulation mannequin known as SimMan™ and a pediatric version known as SimBaby™. These simulation mannequins allow beginning; as well as, advanced nursing students to practice skills or hone their assessment and procedure techniques in a safe & supervised environment.
- Classrooms, classrooms, classrooms. We now have classrooms assigned to each student cohort. In addition, there is a computer lab in the Health Sciences Building with printing capability for computer testing, dosage calculation practice, or a place to work between classes.
- Availability of great food and coffee!
The Mick Paffhausen Nursing Scholarship

Mick Paffhausen was a private business owner, who started and operated Paffhausen Construction in Butte, Montana until he retired. Throughout his life, he supported and was proud of the education of his children and grandchildren. He will always be remembered for his constant smile, love of the outdoors, and life. This scholarship is offered in memory of Mick and in celebration of his belief in education. This year, two awardees will receive a $500 scholarship.

Qualifications:

1. Must be a current ASN or BSN student.
2. Student must be enrolled full-time in Fall 2012.

Necessary Documents:

1. Scholarship application form (available in the Nursing Dept.).
2. The student must submit (a maximum of a one page essay), stating why they should be the scholarship recipient.

Deadline & Submission: application and essay submitted via email to wlester@mtech.edu by March 2, 2012.

Nurse’s Notes:

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to note worthy accomplishments, life events or any items of interest for our alumni. Sadly, we cannot complete this section without your help. Please help your fellow alumni keep up with you by sending any updates to wlester@mtech.edu. Make sure to include your degree program (ASN, BSN) and your year of graduation.

Christina Mogan (ASN May 2012) went to Ilo, Peru over Christmas break on a mission trip with the Montana Tech Baptist Student Union. While there she taught vacation bible school to children, shadowed a nurse working labor/delivery and was able to observe the difference in the healthcare delivery system. (FYI, Peru will take nurses for an internship if anyone wants to travel!)

Kayla Hall (ASN December 2012) got engaged to her fiancé Derek Harvey on December 21, 2011. They have dated for 5 ½ years and are planning a Butte wedding in the summer of 2013.

Travis Hughes (ASN December 2012) has a fire eating/magic show entitled Butte Magic (and can be contacted at buttemagic@gmail.com). He is also re-establishing fencing club where he teaches beginning and advanced foil, epee, and saber as well as classes in rapier. He offers discounts for interested parties from the medical community and can be contacted at buttefencing@gmail.com.

Rory Shea (ASN May 2012) delivered an 8 lb. 9 oz., 21 inch baby boy on 12/31/11. Rory’s son, Michael Scott Bush’s motto: “Those who are late are usually happier than those waiting for them.”
Nurse’s Notes:

Jenessa (Todd) Trudnowski (BSN May 2010) and her husband, Tony, welcomed a daughter, Brynlee Mae Trudnowski on October 11, 2011. She weighed in at 9 lbs. 6 oz., 21 inches long. Jenessa states, “She is our little bundle of joy!”

Amy DuBois (ASN May 2011) accepted a position in May 2011 at Barrett Hospital in Dillon, MT. She will be working the medical-surgical, intensive care and obstetrics units. She states, “I absolutely love being able to work in each section of the hospital to keep my skills sharp!”

Lindsay (Thatcher) LeProwse (BSN 2006) married Tech alumni Jay LeProwse and they have a son named Jayke.

Heather Valen (ASN May 2012) is expecting her first child in April (about a month before graduation).

Karli Nash (ASN May 2012) is marrying Chris Bjorgum on March 15, 2012 in Wallea, Maui, Hawaii.

Kelly Amtmann, Allison McIntosh-Duffy and Rae Farrell (nursing faculty) are currently enrolled in doctoral programs. Kelly and Rae are currently doctoral candidates and in the dissertation phase of the process.

Dedication of the Health Sciences Building:
March 29, 2012 from 4-7pm

On March 29, 2012 from 4-7 pm, there will be a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly renovated Health Sciences Building. In addition there will be tours of the building; as well as, students providing demonstrations in the Simulation lab. Nursing faculty and staff will be available to answer questions about the Nursing Department.

Hors d’oeuvres and refreshments will be provided.

Save the date, we hope to see you there!

About Our Program:

Enter the exciting world of health care in a program that offers two degrees in professional nursing—a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) completion degree and an Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree. Students pursuing the BSN degree must first earn the ASN degree and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in order to continue into the BSN curriculum. Students must meet minimum program requirements and complete a formal program application to be accepted into the professional nursing program.

The profession of nursing is best served through highly educated members who continually strive to broaden their knowledge and expertise to meet the increasing demands of the health care environment.

We believe in a holistic approach to nursing education, including sensitivity to the physical, psychological, spiritual and sociocultural needs of the individual, family and community. Further, we strive for a continually evolving curriculum that reflects best practice.

Montana Tech's Nursing graduates enjoy a 100% placement rate and average starting salaries in the mid-$40,000 range.
What Current Students Have to Say About Montana Tech Nursing Moving to the North Campus!

“The building is great, but the parking is not the best. At least we get some exercise.”
Heather Valen, ASN, May 2012

“There is easy access to a number of facilities pertaining to our schooling. The new location is much more convenient for health science students.”
Emily Watson, ASN, May 2012

“I actually feel like we (the Nursing Department) are part of Tech by being up here with all the other programs.”
Ashley Morrell, ASN, May 2012

What our Alumni Have to Say

“I graduated from Montana Tech with both my ASN & BSN degrees in Nursing. I have worked at Focus Medcare, Mercury Street Medical, and St James Healthcare. My bachelor’s degree has been invaluable in preparing me for my current position as a Performance Improvement RN at St James Healthcare. The depth of knowledge & experience the Montana Tech faculty provides has been instrumental in my success as an RN.” Kellie Brophy, BSN, RN

“One of the best decisions I have made in my life was choosing to get my nursing degree from Montana Tech. The variety of curriculum gave me a knowledge base to explore many options professionally. In 2004 I received my Associate’s Degree in Nursing and in 2006 I received my Bachelor’s Degree. I cannot say enough about the support the faculty gives personally and professionally. I consider them not only colleagues but friends. On September 23, 2011 I was humbled to receive the Alumni Recognition Award. I would strongly encourage anyone interested in nursing to attend MT Tech.”
Lindsay (Thatcher) LeProwse, BSN, 2010

“Attending Montana Tech has been one of the greatest adventures of my life. The University professors are knowledgeable and care about student learning. The Montana Tech Nursing faculty teach with passion and have a personal investment in their students’ success. My wife, Whitney and I, both obtained our Associate’s Degree in Nursing from Montana Tech. After graduation we were able to obtain sought after positions at Benefis Health System in Great Falls, MT. This was an amazing and unique opportunity for a new graduate. Ultimately, Benefis chose to accept 11 people into the program, of the eleven, three were graduates of Tech’s nursing program. Through this internship we have both received amazing positions at Benefis, with Whitney working in the Intensive Care Unit and myself on the Cardiovascular Unit. Without the great education and invaluable connections we were able to make through our professors, we would not have had the amazing opportunities we had in starting our careers.

Currently, Whitney and I are pursuing our Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing through Montana Tech. We are both extremely excited with this opportunity to continue our education with the amazing professors and staff, which have already helped us achieve so much. Obtaining a Bachelor’s degree is important to us. It will help open the door for numerous opportunities, not only for advancement in our careers, but also expanding our view of nursing as a whole, across multiple healthcare avenues.”
Coulter and Whitney Wyant, ASN, May 2011 (current BSN students)
What our Alumni Have to Say

“As a brand new nurse out in the workforce I could immediately see how important it was going to be for me to obtain my Bachelor’s degree from Montana Tech. As an Associate’s degree nursing graduate from Montana Tech I knew the educators and staff in the Nursing department would provide me with the resources and knowledge I needed to become a Bachelor’s prepared nurse. The educators from Montana Tech pushed me to think about nursing in a new light and helped me see that nursing isn’t just about the hospital setting. I was given the educational opportunities to broaden my nursing scope and practice in different clinical settings and with different projects within the Butte community. I learned how to be a team player and how to be an effective leader within the nursing field.

I chose Montana Tech to continue my nursing education after obtaining my ASN in December of 2010. I knew the staff and educators and felt that they would provide me with the best education. I also knew that if I needed something or was in a tight spot I could count on them to help me through it. The staff in this department works with each student on an individual level so that each student can learn and take the most away from each clinical and classroom experience. The class sizes are small and emphasis is placed on class interaction and teamwork. I am so happy that I chose Montana Tech to obtain my BSN and would recommend it to any nursing student or nurse in the future.”

Jamie Waldorf RN, BSN-December 2011

Montana Tech Nursing T-Shirts for Sale!

Support the Montana Tech Student Nurses’ Association and buy a Montana Tech Nursing t-shirt! The t-shirts are ashen grey (a lighter charcoal) and available with or without the Montana Tech logo. The cost is $15 ($3 goes to the Montana Tech SNA) plus shipping/handling. We prefer you pick your shirt up at the Health Sciences Building and take a look around. Checks, money orders or cash is accepted. Make checks payable to the Montana Tech SNA. Sizes available: small-XXL. If interested, email your order to wlester@mtech.edu.
Montana Tech’s Student Nurses’ Association (SNA) Attends the Annual Convention in Billings, MT Feb. 24-26.

The SNA faculty advisor, Laurie Noel, attended the SNA State Convention in Billings accompanied by nine nursing students from Montana Tech. Shelby Shaw, Ashley Morrell, Marissa Steele, Emily Watson, Kayla McCartney, Katie Edgerton, Christina Mogan, Ericka Jenkins and Michelle Hodges represent varied cohorts of the Montana Tech Nursing Department and joined forces to represent Montana Tech Nursing in Billings. In addition to listening to speakers discussing topics such as nursing informatics, nursing in Haiti, nurse bullying, telemedicine nursing, to name a few, they were given tours of the Billings Clinic facility. They also set up a vendor table to represent Montana Tech where they had information on Montana Tech, the bachelor’s completion degree and sold T-shirts to raise money for their organization.