Dear Friend,

Greetings from the College of Health Sciences!

The college continues to be a hive of activity with the faculty and staff working hard to address our teaching, research and outreach enterprises.

Our activities are many and varied. For instance, our newly formed college advising office saw more than 1800 students between July and December 2011. With our on-going student growth in health sciences they will continue to innovate their quality services to provide needed advising for an ever growing population of students. The Office of Research opened six months ahead of schedule! During the first semester of operation, the Office of Research staff focused their efforts to provide assistance in pilot projects, proposal and manuscript development for COHS faculty and our many community partners. They will continue to provide these services in the future.

Additionally, our development and planning of the nursing advanced degree programming has progressed quickly and we hope to have our applications for these degrees submitted to the State Board of Education this spring. The work on this initiative has been impressive.

Our undergraduate programming on interprofessional education is also taking shape. This is one of the most significant and ambitious strategic initiatives that the college will address during the next five years. We have engaged the faculty, staff and college advisory board to identify how we will change the way we educate our students so they learn within an environment that relies much more
Megan Spurny holds a 16-day-old infant after he received the second-ever arterial switch operation in Iraq. While still in the ICU recovering from a wound infection, he has a good prognosis.

Check out Sarah Toevs’ podcast about aging on the Beyond the Blue website.

As always, our faculty continue to engage in activities that contribute to their development and the betterment of local, regional and global communities. I think you will find the story of Megan Spurny’s work in Iraq engaging and moving. Also, our many health-related projects within Idaho and across the United States help expand our footprint as leaders and partners in health innovation and discovery.

Enjoy the newsletter and please contact me if you have any questions or comments (timdunnagan@boisestate.edu).

Sincerely,
Dr. Tim Dunnagan
Dean, College of Health Sciences

Iraqi Medical Facility Learns and Benefits from Boise State Respiratory Care Faculty

Megan Spurny, RRT, MHS, a Boise State University respiratory care faculty member and alumnus, completed an 18-day medical mission. Spurny had the privilege of changing the lives for 16 Iraqi children, educating the international medical team and the local Iraq medical practitioners about respiratory care practices and equipment, and improving the medical resources in Nasiriyah, Iraq with a generous donation from Norco Inc.

Spurny joined an International Children's Heart Foundation (ICHF) team of international medical providers to spend Jan. 7-24 in Nasiriyah to perform medical procedures on children with congenital heart defects and to educate and support the local medical community in building a sustainable and functional cardiac care program.

Prior to her departure from the States, Spurny solicited Norco's assistance in bringing much-needed supplies to Iraq. Some supplies that are common in the States are either absent or re-used, increasing the risk of infection, in developing countries. Norco generously sent Spurny with enough ventilator circuits and post-operative respiratory supplies so that each of the children operated on during the mission had clean supplies for their recovery. The Nasiriyah Cardiac Center will continue to use the supplies as they build their cardiac care program.

While Spurny had many medical duties in during the mission, one of the most important responsibilities was to educate those responsible for respiratory care practices about ventilator management, acid-base management, patient assessment, and post-operative respiratory care. Through her role as an educator and mentor, Spurny sought to empower the Iraq team members to become self-sufficient health care practitioners.

Read more about Spurny's work in Iraq.

Graduate Students Examine Health Care Reform with Health Insurance CEO in Unique Course

Ray Flachbart, President and CEO of Blue Cross of Idaho, is taking time from his very busy schedule to teach students from the College of Health Sciences and the College of Business and Economics. Boise State graduate students have a rare opportunity to explore one of the most discussed federal acts of legislation, the Affordable Care Act, with Flachbart.
Blue Cross of Idaho and Boise State's COHS and COBE have teamed up to offer a spring 2012 graduate course on Health Care Reform: Impact of the Affordable Care Act. The course will be exploring strategies for controlling health care costs. In addition to a comprehensive review of the Affordable Care Act, Flachbart will teach students to identify critical issues in controlling health care costs and analyze the potential impact of the legislation on consumers, employers and health care and insurance industries.

"I am pleased to be instructing a course on health care reform at Boise State. The topic has been in the national spotlight for the past several years and it's a subject I'm very familiar with because of my career in the health insurance and healthcare industry," states Flachbart. "Health care reform is an extremely complex issue and stakeholders on all sides - from the public to lawmakers, to health insurance companies and healthcare providers - are tasked with some very difficult and complex decisions. Hopefully this class will shed some light on those complexities and allow for open discussion and thought that will allow students to better understand the situation."

Sarah Toevs, Interim Director of the Master of Health Science program, explains that "Both the MHS and the MBA programs have a long history of engaging community-based experts in the classroom. Securing Mr. Flachbart's participation is a real coup for the university; very few students have the opportunity to learn from front-line leaders at a time of such significant change."

Read more online.

**Center for Health Policy Contracts to Work on Affordable Care Act Program**
The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has contracted with Boise State's Center for Health Policy to develop and implement an evaluation plan for the Idaho Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. MIECHV was developed and funded under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to provide funds for "Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs" to ensure healthy maternal and child health in members of at-risk populations. The program's goal is to help build quality, comprehensive statewide early childhood systems for pregnant women, parents and caregivers, and children from birth to 8 years of age - and, ultimately, to improve health and development outcomes across the nation.

Primary investigators **Tedd McDonald**, PhD, faculty in the Department of Community and Environmental Health, and **Tim Dunnagan**, EdD, dean of the College of Health Sciences, along with Sandina Begic, project manager for the Center for Health Policy, are currently involved in developing systems for collecting data on the extent to which three types of home visitation programs - Early Head Start, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Parents as Teachers - can help improve mother and child outcomes across multiple domains, including maternal and newborn health, child injury, abuse and maltreatment, improvement in school readiness.

**Students Create Culture of Giving**
One trait that College of Health Sciences students share, regardless of their discipline, is the spirit of giving. This holiday season students made substantial gifts to the community at large and to future students of the college.

The **Student Association of Radiologic Technologists** (SART) completed a food donation drive for the Idaho Foodbank as a part of the "Leading the Effort to End Hunger in Idaho" campaign. The students collected 71 pounds of food that results in 59 meals. The food will be redistributed to more than 200 non-profit partner organizations in communities around the state.

However, the students of SART didn't stop with one drive. They also completed a holiday book drive for Koelsch Elementary, a Title I school desperately in need of books to be used in the library, in the classroom, and to be given to students for personal books during reading week. SART collected 180 new and slightly used books that were delivered to Koelsch just prior to Christmas.

Meanwhile, the students in the graduating class in the **School of Nursing** solicited donations and built baskets for a silent auction to raise more than $2,000 in scholarship money for future Boise State University nursing students. In 2008, faculty, staff and students established the School of Nursing Academic Scholarship in
and achievement, domestic violence, and family economic self-sufficiency. Dr. Zeynep Hansen, a health economist from the College of Business and Economics, is working with the team to evaluate the program's cost.

"This [MIECHV] is an exciting program," McDonald said. "Idaho has been far behind other states in terms of coordinated home visitation programs to serve at-risk families. We have a real opportunity to help ensure these families are well served in the future."

Although the first year of the contract will consist primarily of the development of an implementation plan for services in four Idaho counties with high risk indicators, the researchers hope to renew the contract to track the program's success across wider regions of the state.

Students have not stopped this trend of giving SART has an ongoing drive for Campbell soup labels and Box Tops for Education, which will continue until the end of the academic year. Nursing students raise funds for nursing student scholarships each semester.

The Radiologic Sciences and Nursing students are thankful for the participation of faculty, staff and fellow students in these initiatives.

Boise State School of Nursing Partners with the National League for Nursing to Become National Experts in Health Care Simulation

The Boise State University School of Nursing is excited and honored to co-sponsor a two-day workshop with the National League for Nursing (NLN) in an effort to promote the use of simulation in health care education, to meet the needs for collaboration, communication and teamwork resulting in improved care, enhanced safety, and reduction of human error. The workshop, titled "Beyond the Basics: Innovative Simulation Topics for Health Care Educators," will be held on April 27 and 28 and will examine what is currently known about simulation and learning outcomes; discuss integration, challenges and strategies for simulation in curriculum; explore the state of science related to Interprofessional Education; and investigate evaluation tools for simulation. The workshop will be led by nationally known and respected simulation leaders Sharon Decker, PhD, RN, ANEF, Professor and Director of Clinical Simulations at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and Suzan Kardong-Edgren, PhD, RN, ANEF, Assistant Professor at Washington State University.

For more information, view this PDF flyer or contact Rosemary Macy, rmacy@boisestate.edu. To register, visit www.nln.org.

Health Tip
The Importance of Daily Exercise

Many people in our country are being lured to a more sedentary lifestyle by the internet, video games, and cable TV. Many of us spend long hours in our offices in front of computers and in meetings. This has an adverse impact on our health.

When we suggest increasing daily exercise, many of us imagine spending long hours in the gym, buying a new bike and hitting the road, or running a marathon. While these are great activities, not all of us will make the time or have the skill/desire for major exercise events in our lives.

JUST MOVE! Get up from your desk and take a walk down the hall to visit your co-workers. Go outside and walk around the building. Park a bit further from the door when you shop. Take the stairs up one flight.

Try incorporating these small bits of exercise into your daily routine. You will begin feeling better both physically and mentally. Enjoy!