



Mickey lecturing at a primary care seminar

The Endowment

Mickey spent most of her professional career serving the needs of UND and the Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program. Her dedication to this fine University will continue through the **Mickey Knutson Scholarship Endowment**, established within the University of North Dakota Foundation.

This endowment will provide scholarships to UND students, allowing them the opportunity to complete their studies and pursue careers in the health field.

Committed to Service

Throughout her career, Mickey gave unselfishly of her time, energy and resources to numerous organizations and activities. She served in various positions at the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, including president in 1981, and has held numerous positions in the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants since its inception. She has also been a member of the American Nurses Association, the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine and the Association of Physician Assistant Programs.

In 1990, Mickey was presented the University of North Dakota President's Award for Outstanding Service and the North Dakota Academy of Physician Assistants Distinguished Service Award.

A distinguished speaker and published author, Mickey has traveled around the country presenting research, giving speeches, and coordinating workshops on nursing and health issues.

"Mickey Knutson touched so many lives in such a beneficial way. This endowment will continue her dedication to the students, her profession and to the University."

*Earl S. Strinden
Executive Vice President
UND Foundation*

The Mickey Knutson Scholarship Endowment



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University of North Dakota Foundation

Mickey Knutson is an outstanding leader and visionary on the University of North Dakota campus. Students, colleagues and countless others hold her in high esteem for her perseverance, honesty and dedication.

As a valuable member of the UND faculty for more than 30 years, Mickey obtained several grants and led the development of the Family Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Program. She worked hard to make it a leading and respected program at UND. The Mickey Knutson Scholarship Endowment honors the woman whose contributions have made a better University of North Dakota.

Early Years

Marion "Mickey" Yvonne Walstad was born in 1936 and grew up on a farm in rural Hoople, North Dakota. She attended the Walsh County Agricultural High School in Park River, North Dakota.

In 1958, she married Larry Knutson, a Park

*back: Larry and Mickey Knutson;
front: Jim, Cole and Theresa Knutson.*



River native and 1961 graduate of UND. The couple raised one child, Jim, and have one grandson, Cole.

Mickey received a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of North Dakota in 1958, and began her teaching career as a nursing instructor at the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Grand Forks. She left teaching in 1960 to obtain her master's degree in nursing. Mickey graduated from the University of Washington in 1961, and shortly after began working as an ophthalmology nurse clinician in Seattle until 1963.

Admired by All

Mickey returned to North Dakota and UND in 1963 when she accepted a job as an assistant professor of nursing. In 1966, she moved to Minot and worked, first as the director of the St. Francis School of Nursing, then as an assistant professor at Minot State College.

In 1972, she returned to UND. That same year, she founded and directed the Family Nurse Practitioner Program. Mickey used her leadership skills while she served as the project coordinator of the experimental MD/FNP joint practice project from 1977-1982, during which time she co-wrote and negotiated more than \$3 million in grants for the program. This outstanding work allowed



UND's first Family Nurse Practitioner graduating class in 1973.

Mickey to obtain her own family nurse practitioner/physician assistant certificate from UND in 1978.

The Family Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Program grew rapidly from six graduates its founding year (1972), to 80 graduates annually.

Dr. Robert C. Eelkema, who worked closely with Mickey as co-director of the MD/FNP project, said, "I couldn't have asked for a more wonderful colleague and friend."

Mickey was director of the Division of Health Practitioners, co-director of the Physician Assistant Program and is an associate professor of Community Medicine and Rural Health at UND. She retired in January 1998, after more than 30 years as a leader and innovator at the University of North Dakota.

"When I envision Mickey, three basic ingredients come to mind: Strength—the capacity to do the job; Energy—an inner vitality, and Action—the ability to get things done. A powerful leader says 'I can do it' and then gets the job done. This is Mickey's legacy to me."

Martha J. Adams, class of 1978