

UAB NURSING

THE UAB SCHOOL OF NURSING

Spring/Summer 2008



*Building on a
Vision*

A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UABSON

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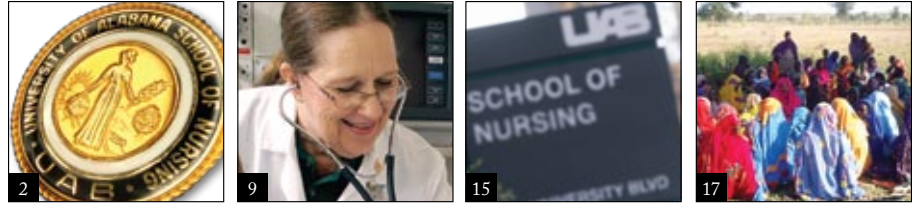
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COVER PHOTO BY STEVE WOOD

Pictured left to right: Jennifer Payne, a student in the UABSON's Accelerated Master's Pathway; alumnus Gregory Eagerton, MSN, RN, associate director for patient/nursing services at the Birmingham VA Medical Center; and Karen Meneses, PhD, RN, FAAN, UABSON professor and associate dean for research.

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Great teams are known for outstanding performance, particularly when building a vision and leading change. This edition of *UAB Nursing* acquaints you with the strategic work and initial impact of our team here at UAB's School of Nursing. The UABSON team includes faculty, staff, students, alumni, and our Board of Visitors and Junior Board of Visitors, as well as our academic, research, and clinical partners. And what a great team we have—as evidenced by the early outcomes related to the UABSON's plan for the future in the spring issue of *UAB Nursing*.

This issue features real-life stories that describe the initial outcomes of our school's five new strategic goals. The first goal—innovative programs to meet workforce needs—is depicted in stories about the Nurse Scholars Program, curriculum reform, the changing school culture, and our accomplished faculty, students, and alumni. Stories about clinical simulation and our new front entrance address the second goal—creating a work and learning environment that supports the School of Nursing community. The accounts that attest to the viability of our third goal—expanded partnerships and collaborations—focus on our academic, clinical, research, and global partners.

Our fourth strategic goal—to expand resources and revenues from multiple sources—is underscored through highlights of new nationally known and funded faculty, increases in the tripartite funding portfolios noted in the faculty achievements section, and support from the Board of Visitors and our friends and donors. Lastly, our fifth goal—being recognized as a nursing leader—has been validated through our number-one ranking in *The Chronicle of*



Doreen Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN

Higher Education, the top-10-percent-nationwide ranking for our graduate programs in *U.S. News and World Report*, our prestigious faculty, our student and alumni awards, and the more than 185 publications in peer-reviewed journals and books by our faculty and honors nursing students.

Indeed, the UABSON has been highly productive in 2006 and 2007. I express my deepest appreciation for the impressive accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni and for the support given by our alumni, Board of Visitors, and friends and donors. Our UABSON continues to build its

vision with supportive, highly effective leaders—our faculty, students, alumni, and community, all of whom are working together as a team. With this supportive, effective foundation for highly educated nurses, I am confident that patients, families, and communities will be the beneficiaries of safer, higher-quality care.

My best,

Doreen C. Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN



Building on a Vision

A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UABSON *by Anita Smith*

Five major goals drive a blueprint for the future of UAB's School of Nursing (UABSON)—a strategic plan designed and approved by the school's faculty. The faculty also identified strategies for achieving these goals, as well as indicators of success they feel should exist by the year 2011.

"Our faculty did an excellent job of designing the strategic plan," says Doreen C. Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN, dean of the UABSON. "This plan addresses the challenge of thinking futuristically—not just thinking about today, but also thinking about tomorrow. As we follow this plan, we will use the best tools to prepare our students to enter a rapidly changing workplace and then to continually learn, change, and improve."

Harper says she is delighted with the faculty's eagerness to implement the plan. "The exciting news is that by the time our faculty ratified the strategic plan, they had already begun moving in directions that the plan outlined," she says. "For example, one key initiative is to increase faculty practice sites—an initiative I view as one of this plan's diamonds. During the months when the plan still was under development, eight new faculty practice sites were funded."



The Five Goals

These are the five goals outlined in the strategic plan:

Goal 1: Provide integrated, innovative programs to promote excellence in teaching, research, and service that are responsive to workforce and health needs.

“One of the most constant, binding threads woven into the strategic plan is an integrated-mission concept that addresses our faculty’s involvement in the three missions—the tripartite mission—traditionally associated with academic medical centers such as UAB’s,” says Harper. “This relates to involvement in research, teaching, and service. Under the strategic plan, all of our faculty will be involved in two or three of those missions.”

Goal 2: Create a work and learning environment that develops and supports the School of Nursing community.

As part of this goal, the faculty will focus on increasing recruitment and retention of students, faculty, staff, and preceptors. For students, this means that outstanding faculty will recruit and nurture a high-achieving, diverse student body.

Goal 3: Establish effective external strategic partnerships and collaborations for teaching, research, and clinical service—with emphasis on UAB Health System partners and Alabama’s most vulnerable populations.

To achieve this goal, the School of Nursing will develop a faculty-practice plan; nurture and expand partnerships for teaching, research, and service; and address health disparities. Mechanisms

continued on page 4

continued from page 3

will be developed to help faculty members increase their scholarly productivity, such as heightening faculty participation in clinical service, writing scholarly articles for publication, making presentations that add to knowledge, contributing to innovative teaching, and participating in research.

“We’re building a faculty scheduling system so that faculty members won’t teach nonstop without having periods to devote to their scholarly pursuits within the school,” says Harper.

Goal 4: Expand resources and revenues from multiple sources sufficient to meet these goals.

This goal includes bringing in more funds through means such as a comprehensive development plan, increased endowment funding, and revenue generated from practice. It also targets upgrading the school’s facilities and technologies—including renovating faculty offices, planning for wise space utilization, and making sure the school’s academic infrastructure is supported by proper clinical simulation and technology resources.

Goal 5: Extend visibility of the School of Nursing in all venues of influence as a recognized leader.

The goal here is to build on the reputation the UABSON already enjoys as a recognized academic-nursing leader and to become even stronger.

This goal targets increased National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding, higher rankings for master’s programs, and increased faculty participation in (and recognition for) publications, presentations, and tripartite-related and World Health Organization activities.



Matching the Strategic Plan to a Changing School Culture

While faculty immersed themselves in months of work to design the strategic plan, they matched the plan to the current UABSON culture of rapid change, says Harper. Components of that changing culture include:

- Recruitment of new faculty. Several outstanding new faculty members have been appointed to SON positions, including four who are Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). “Out of some 2.8 million nurses in our nation, only about 1,500 hold this AAN Fellow honor,” says Harper.

One of the four is Linda Moneyham, DNS, RN, FAAN, who says she was attracted by UAB’s numerous avenues for collaboration in her area of research, which focuses on women with HIV. “The opportunity to do interdisciplinary collaborative research with the Center for AIDS Research, for example, just creates a wonderful climate and many, many opportunities,” she says. “Being able to interact with other investigators through that center and being able to use the 1917 Clinic is

really helpful in terms of having access to a patient population.”

- A redesigned organizational chart. To address changing needs in nursing education and health-care delivery, the school recently underwent a restructuring. Associate and assistant deanships are divided into Academic Affairs, Clinical Affairs and Partnerships, Research, Clinical Simulation and Technology, and Student Affairs. Three departments are divided into Community Health, Outcomes and Systems; Family/Child Health and Caregiving; and Adult/Acute Health, Chronic Care, and Foundations.

- A reformed curriculum. The School of Nursing’s curriculum has been revamped at all levels. (See “A New Direction for Nursing Education” on page 8 for further details.)

- Newly funded research projects. “In recent months it has been exciting to see additional funding come into our school for research projects in such areas as breast cancer, AIDS, and technologies to reduce medication errors in patients,” Harper says.

“Our school is getting a new front door, a new front entrance. I believe that creating new entrances and opening new doors are symbols of what our strategic plan is all about.”

— Dean Doreen Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN

Karen Meneses, PhD, RN, FAAN, the school’s new associate dean for research, brought one such project with her to UAB from the University of Central Florida. “My study involves healthy living after cancer and moving forward, specifically for women who are middle-aged or younger and who might have late effects that manifest before they would in older women. This RO1 grant was just funded by the National Cancer Institute at NIH,” Meneses says.

- Continuation of the school’s leadership in international nursing. Recently a four-year redesignation was announced for the school’s World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Collaborating Center for International Nursing—among 10 such centers in the United States and 37 worldwide. Harper says WHO and PAHO are taking advantage of the school’s expertise in distance learning via the Internet and in family and child health.

- An expanding network of partnerships. “Our school’s network of partnerships and collaborations is phenomenal,” says Harper. “We have partnerships within

UAB—for example, with the UAB Health System, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Children’s Hospital, and UAB’s interdisciplinary research centers. We’re developing promising collaborations with other schools of nursing, including those within our state. We have partnerships and alliances with global nursing partners around the world.”

The collaborative atmosphere at UAB was a big attraction for Ann Wojner-Alexandrov, PhD, RN, CCRN, FAAN, who comes to UAB from Arizona State University and brings an extensive background in neurovascular acute and critical illness. “When you are a scientist who likes to study and practice with very complex acute stroke patients, this setting is very hard to beat,” she says. “And the fact that UAB Hospital is one of only two Magnet hospitals in Alabama was a huge plus.”

- Awards and honors. As the school implements the strategic plan, Harper says it’s relevant to look at honors and awards the school already has received—indicators that they are capable of reaching goals in the plan. “For example, a National

Platinum Award from the Wellness Councils of America went to the Good Health Program, our 15-year partnership with the city of Birmingham to deliver preventive health services to the city’s 3,500 municipal employees,” says the dean. “Then, in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for 2005, our school received the number-one ranking for faculty scholarly productivity among nursing schools with doctoral programs.”

- Construction to renovate portions of the UABSON building. “We have construction under way to address several needs in our school’s physical plant—a building which, while still lovely and occupying a prime location on the UAB campus, nevertheless is more than 30 years old and in need of a facelift,” says Harper. “Included in that construction is something I think of as both beneficial and symbolic: Our school is getting a new front door, a new front entrance. I believe that creating new entrances and opening new doors are symbols of what our strategic plan is all about.”



UABSON student Drew Hornsby (center)
with parents Larry and Carol

“Everybody has their doubts; but when I’m in clinicals, I know that when I graduate and I’m working as a nurse I’ll be where I belong.”

— Analyn Kracke

The Journey of a *Nurse Scholar*

Both of Drew Hornsby’s parents earned their degrees from the UAB School of Nursing. They even met while waiting in line at 5:30 a.m. to register for a chemistry class. But when Drew made the decision as a high-school senior to enter the field of nursing, he did so on his own.

by Doug Gillett

“It wasn’t just because my parents chose nursing that I wanted to do it—it was because I saw how happy both of them were with their choices,” Drew says. “My dad told me a few years ago that if he had to do it all over again, he’d do the same thing, and there aren’t a lot of people who can say that to you. His happiness in nursing really had a big impact on me.”

That kind of early interest can be the mark of a great future nurse—just the kind of student the School of Nursing hopes to recruit. As labor shortages in both nursing practice and academics become more acute, the School of Nursing is expanding its Nurse Scholar Program to seek out and attract students with an aptitude for nursing—and give them a leg up on becoming the nursing leaders of tomorrow.

THE SEARCH FOR NURSING TALENT

Every year college football programs across the country scour high schools for the most talented players; in a way, the Nurse Scholar Program does the same thing. From the UAB enrollment management office, the SON gets a list of Alabama high-school students who have

indicated UAB as an option, expressed an interest in nursing, maintained a 3.25 grade-point average in high school, and earned a minimum of either a composite ACT score of 25 or an SAT score of 1130. “We connect with them immediately,” says Pam Autrey, PhD, RN, assistant dean for student affairs. “Before they even set foot on campus, we send them letters, talk to them about the benefits of the program, and when these students come for their freshman orientation, the Office of Student Affairs faculty attend orientation to meet specifically with those students.”

Most important, students accepted into the Nurse Scholar Program get automatic admission into the School of Nursing as long as they meet the criteria for admission and maintain a 3.0 GPA in their core curriculum at UAB and a 3.2 in their pre-nursing coursework. In addition, Nurse Scholar students frequently qualify for academic scholarships throughout their undergraduate program at UAB.

Sometimes that extra consideration can be just enough to sway a student who’s trying to decide between nursing and another field. Like Drew Hornsby, Analyn Kracke was a UABSON legacy: Her mother, Beverly, graduated from

UAB and currently works for the SON as a research associate. But Analyn was wavering between nursing and dance. She had been a ballet dancer since the age of 10 and, despite some back problems, had been looking at a number of schools with highly ranked dance programs when her mother suggested she apply to be a Nurse Scholar.

“I didn’t really expect to get it,” she says, “but then they notified me that I had been accepted. Separate from that, I also got a full scholarship for tuition and books for four years. So the more I thought about my injury and ballet as opposed to nursing, where there are just so many job opportunities, all of that really appealed to me.

“Even now, when I go back and perform . . . I still have ballet teachers who tell me, ‘Oh, you have such talent’ and things like that, and for a split second it makes me think, ‘Should I have gone that route?’” says Analyn, who graduated last December. “But then I know that I have selected a career for a lifetime. Everybody has their doubts; but when I’m in clinicals, I know that when I graduate and I’m working as a nurse I’ll be where I belong.”

STANDING BY THEIR SCHOLARS

The attention paid to Nurse Scholars doesn’t wane once they’re on campus at UAB. The university now has a separate orientation specifically for pre-nursing students, and the SON provides activities for those students during their first two years even before they officially start nursing school, with luncheons, seminars, and other events. “We keep our Nurse Scholars closely connected to the school,” Autrey says. “So we’re reaching out to those students to help them understand the career options available for nurses with baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees.”

For dedicated Nurse Scholars, the

“We are building and strengthening the connection between pre-nursing foundational coursework and our nursing major in the university.”

— Dean Doreen Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN

requirements for direct admission to the SON are a great motivator, says Drew Hornsby. “A 3.2 GPA is not easy to attain . . . so the prospect of automatic admission to nursing school is a really good incentive to keep your GPA up,” he says. “School’s going to be a full-time job, but I think it’ll be very rewarding in the end to go straight into nursing school and not have to worry about the competition. It’s just very good insurance.”

As a complement to the Nurse Scholar Program, there’s also a Pre-Nursing Scholar Program for students already attending UAB; it offers direct admission for students who may not yet have met the SON prerequisites but have maintained the same grade-point standards required of Nurse Scholars. In addition, the SON has strengthened its ties with general-studies advisors, Autrey says. This year there are three advisors dedicated exclusively to pre-nursing students.

UABSON Dean Doreen Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN, says this in-depth advising is part of a larger effort on the part of UAB to make sure all students on campus find majors that are the best possible fit for them. “This is really part of President Carol Garrison’s vision of integrating the undergraduate experience into the majors throughout the schools at UAB,” Harper says. “We are building and strengthening the connection between the pre-nursing foundational coursework and our nursing major in the university. The other thing that we’re really interested in doing is helping those Nurse Scholars look at the Honors Program as a

viable option right from the beginning, so that they build on the opportunities to work in research that improves nursing practice throughout their entire four-year program.”

BRIGHT FUTURES AHEAD

Hornsby just started classes in August, but he’s already keeping an eye on where he might go after his baccalaureate degree. “After nursing school I’d like to become a nurse anesthetist like my dad. That also requires about a 3.2 GPA to get into, so it’s very competitive,” he says. “Nursing has really turned into a professional career with options, and that’s another reason I’m very interested in it. I’d like to be part of such a professional group whose focus is on helping people improve the quality of their lives.”

Drew’s father, Larry—a member of the SON class of 1981—has turned nursing into a lucrative and rewarding career as the owner of VitalMed, a comprehensive medical-management firm specializing in anesthesia. He says he’s enjoyed being able to sit back and watch his son independently discover a field he’s loved for more than 25 years.

“I was just ecstatic that they offered Drew this opportunity, and I think it’s an opportunity that none of us takes lightly,” Larry says. “I didn’t want him to choose it just because that’s what my wife and I had done; I really felt strongly that he should pick something that he would enjoy . . . and I think he did a nice job. Obviously I’m sold on nursing as a career, and I hope he has as much success and happiness in his career as I’ve had.”

A New Direction for Nursing Education:

REFORMING THE UABSON CURRICULUM

by Anita Smith



Anlyn Kracke (left) and
Dr. Pam Autrey

The UABSON's curriculum has gone through a restructuring at all levels, and the school's Faculty Organization approved the restructuring on June 25, 2007, with major changes taking effect beginning in January 2008.

This is not just a curriculum revision—it extends to curriculum reform,” says UABSON Dean Doreen C. Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN. “Our faculty have been absolutely incredible in charting this new path.”

Under the reform, the baccalaureate curriculum has been redone relative to both the traditional and RN-mobility programs; the master's curriculum has been revamped to feed into changes the school is making in relation to the Doctor of Nursing

Practice Program; and the PhD curriculum has undergone a complete revision.

Dean Harper says several key goals drive the UABSON curriculum changes:

Adding more content. “As we add more content, we'll do it in a way that threads the content differently through the curriculum, so that students get progressive exposure to different areas of nursing.”

Providing students with more clinical exposure. “We will increase the amount of time students spend in clinical areas, in both patient-related and service-delivery learning experiences. This curriculum is designed to prepare nurses who will continually provide leadership in asking questions such as ‘Is our system improving constantly to serve the patients?’ and ‘How do we remember that each patient is an individual, with individual needs?’”

Exposing students to technology while still being patient-centered. “Today's nursing practice has moved very quickly in terms of information systems, the kind of information we access about patients, the technology of care, and safety and quality issues associated with the complexity of care. Our new curriculum will teach students how to integrate up-to-date knowledge and team function in those areas into what still is a patient-centered approach.”

Strengthening the link between academic nursing and clinical areas. “For the sake of both our students and the patients they will serve, our curriculum is moving toward a model in which the academic side of nursing education has closer connectivity, closer synchrony, with the clinical

service-related areas.”

Identifying and correcting gaps in students' nursing education. “In identifying and correcting some of these gaps, we will seek more guidance from and interaction with our strong clinical partners. Our school continues to develop close ties with these clinical partners, such as UAB Hospital and Health System, Children's Hospital, the VA Medical Center, and a number of others.”

Creating pathways that enable the school to help qualified students from diverse backgrounds become nurses in a timely manner and move smoothly from one degree to another. “Through our curriculum reform, our goal is to get the most qualified, diverse, talented pool of applicants into our school and move them forward at all levels of nursing education.

“What we have tried to do is build pathways to different levels—pathways from our undergraduate-to-graduate program, from our graduate-to-doctoral program, from our undergraduate-to-doctoral programs. We have pathways from associate degree to baccalaureate to master's, from associate degree to master's, from bachelor's to doctoral, from master's to doctoral, from post-master's to doctoral. We even have a brand-new accelerated pathway into the master's program for people who have degrees in fields other than nursing. All of these pathways have one goal in common: to help our students advance and transition as seamlessly as possible across all levels of nursing preparation.”



Professor Ellen Buckner (center)
leads students in treating a
“simulated patient.”

Improving Quality of Care by Doug Gillett

“Quality of care” is a seemingly simple concept that actually relates to a vast array of problems, techniques, and strategies. Fortunately, the School of Nursing is joining with a number of partners on campus to provide an equally wide array of solutions, from undergraduate training to complex research projects by faculty members.

At the Learning Resources Center, a project jointly funded by the SON and the School of Health Professions (SHP), the SON is instilling the importance of quality of care in its students by giving them the opportunity to practice procedures on “simulated patients” in the clinical-simulation labs. These patients are far more sophisticated than, say, the mannequins used for CPR training—in fact, they’re closer to robots that can be programmed to respond authentically to whatever technique or therapy the student performs.

“These simulators actually have breath sounds and heart sounds, their pupils can dilate, they have pulses, you can put IVs into them, and they’re hooked to a computer that’s run by one of the instructors,” says associate professor Jacqueline Moss, PhD, RN, assistant dean for clinical simulations and technology. “So students are put through simulated scenarios that require both psychomotor skills and critical thinking.”

Previously, students would have had to practice such skills on actual patients—or, more likely, not at all, to avoid the possibility of mistakes. The simulated patients, though, give students a head start by letting them practice in an environment where mistakes are allowable. “There are some things that we would just never let them do in the hospital as students, just because they don’t have the experience—we would never let them run a code, for

example,” Moss says. “But in the clinical-simulation environment we can allow students the actual experience of practicing complex skills with simulated patients.”

At the other end of the academic spectrum, SON researchers are taking the lead in creating processes and management systems that will enable nurses to ensure a higher standard of care for their patients. Patrick McNees, PhD, FAAN, is using his background in business and technology to make those systems a reality.

As an example, McNees recalls an NIH-funded project he worked on in the early ’90s concerning chronic wound care. “The problem was that we knew the methods that help wounds heal faster, but in 1993 only approximately 20 percent of practitioners actually utilized those methods,” he explains. “So we developed a computer-based system to guide people through the assessment process, then offer them a set of protocols. . . . When people followed those protocols, wounds healed a lot faster. We developed a database of more than 35,000 wound assessments worldwide, and that was converted to an Internet-based system.”

McNees, who also has an appointment at the School of Health Professions and the Center for Aging, says he looks forward to expanding these ideas at UAB and engaging other researchers and institutions in the process. “The bulk of my research is applied research, and at UAB my emphasis will be on developing multidisciplinary project teams to address a variety of problems,” he says. “So it’s really going to push team science and collaborative research and will involve a lot of different schools.

“Many of the things that other universities will have to develop over time, UAB already has in place,” McNees says. “UAB is primed to take a lead role in elevating collaborative research and team science to another level.”

New Faculty Members *by Doug Gillett*

Ann Wojner-Alexandrov, PhD, RN, CCRN, FAAN

Professor



Ann Wojner-Alexandrov

Education:

PhD, Texas Woman's University
MSN, University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center School of Nursing
BSN, University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center School of Nursing

Ann Wojner-Alexandrov and her husband, Andrei Alexandrov, were both doing stroke research in the Southwest when UAB's Comprehensive Stroke Center asked Andrei if he would apply for the center's directorship. "We looked at each other and said, 'Gosh, right back in the middle of the stroke belt—what more could you ask?' It's a great honor to be part of this system," she says.

Alexandrov is now a professor at the UAB School of Nursing with a joint professor of neurology appointment in UAB's Comprehensive Stroke Center. She is program director for NETSMART (Nurse Education and Training in Acute Stroke Management and Reperfusion Therapies), a federally funded, collaborative UAB/Arizona State University program preparing advanced-practice nurses as primary emergency responders for acute stroke. The program combines an Internet-based program with regular on-site validation to train nurses to join emergency departments and treat acute stroke cases. "Its entire focus is to create a critical mass of nurses with this skill set that's similar to what I have and very few of my colleagues have right now around the country," she says. "There is currently no formal training to develop those skills."

Alexandrov's lengthy—and pioneering—career in acute-care nursing has led to a long list of professional recognitions. She has been national president of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and was the first nurse member of the United States Food and Drug Administration's Neurologic Device Approval Panel. She also developed the reviewer role for the Joint Commission's Stroke Center Certification Program.

Dr. Alexandrov's honors include induction as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the American Stroke Association's Distinguished Service Award, the American Heart Association's Stroke Manuscript of the Year Award, the American Stroke Association Texas Affiliate's Excellence in Volunteer Leadership Award, and the University of Texas-Houston's John P. McGovern Teaching Excellence Award.

Gwen Childs, PhD, RN

Assistant Professor



Gwen Childs

Education:

PhD, University of South Carolina
MS, Medical College of Georgia
BSN, Lander University

Many nurses talk about their "wow moments"; Gwen Childs had hers two years ago while guiding her students at the University of South Carolina through pediatric clinicals. "I was looking into this patient's history, and I said, 'Why does this name sound familiar?' I had taken care of him when he was a preemie in the NICU, and he was now 12 years old. All I could say was, 'Wow.'"

Childs, an assistant professor in the Department of Family/Child Health and Caregiving, began her lengthy career in nursing as a candy striper in high school. Last year she earned a doctorate at the University of South Carolina, where her dissertation focused on factors influencing sexual behavior among adolescent African-American girls living in low-income housing. That research is slated for publication in the

Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care; Childs has also presented her work at conferences sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International, the Association for Nurses in AIDS Care, and the Southern Nursing Research Society.

Now joining one of her former professors, Linda Moneyham, at UAB, Childs is the recipient of a Minority Faculty Fellowship and has also been accepted into UAB's Clinical Research Training Program, sponsored by the UAB K30 Clinical Research Curriculum Development Award. Having shifted the primary focus of her research to HIV prevention in teenage girls, Childs is already working on a study she hopes will culminate in grant money to build a risk-reduction intervention for girls age 11-14.

"I've talked with girls out in the community, and it's clear they don't understand how HIV is contracted," Childs says. "There are still a lot of misconceptions, so I decided to target that group. If we can target them early and develop programs that will either help them abstain from sex or decide to be safer, we might start seeing a decline in the number of women who are diagnosed."

Teena McGuinness, PhD, APRN-BC

Professor



Teena McGuinness

Education:

PhD, University of Pittsburgh
MSN, Virginia Commonwealth University
BSN, Old Dominion University

Teena McGuinness, a professor in Community Mental Health, Outcomes, and Systems at the UAB School of Nursing, is a family psychiatric nurse practitioner, adoption researcher, and "very much an adoption advocate." Her own adopted daughter started school at UAB in the fall of 2007.

McGuinness, whose areas of research and clinical interest include mental health of children and adolescents, international adoption, and community mental health, believes nurses can play a valuable role in easing the difficult transition for adopted children and their new families, particularly in international adoptions. "The culture of the orphanage can be the biggest challenge for internationally adopted children, because there's no intimacy expected in an orphanage—there's no love, really,"

she says. "So when an American parent goes to adopt, say, a toddler from Russia, these children don't know what it's like to get all that attention. They get overstimulated, and sometimes their behavior regresses because of all the stress. You have to take it one day at a time and realize there may be some catching up, and a lot of learning, to do."

McGuinness has been recognized for her significant work in international adoption by the Alabama State Nurses Association and was awarded the Researcher of the Year honor by the Zeta Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International. She has to her credit more than 50 peer-reviewed and invited writer articles, and she writes a bimonthly column titled "Youth in Mind" for the *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing*; this column focuses on the mental health of children. She is also an editorial-board member and reviewer for the *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing* and a reviewer for both the *Journal of Family Issues* and the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nursing Association*.

Patrick McNees, PhD, FAAN

Professor



Patrick McNees

Education:

PhD, University of Kansas
MA, Middle Tennessee State University
BS, Florida Technological University

First and foremost, Patrick McNees is a businessman and a researcher—he was the CEO and chief scientist of Applied Health Science in Seattle before deciding to come to UAB. But he is also an honorary Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. His expertise in process control, quality improvement, and informatics will be invaluable to nurses and other health professionals as they assert ever more vital leadership roles in the health-care industry.

New Faculty Members *(continued)*

Patrick McNees, continued from p. 11

“The reason I’m at UAB is to see if I can take what I have learned in the business world and move people’s research from individual programs to enterprise-level research that has the trappings of a business,” McNees says. “We’re trying to figure out the tools and systems that are necessary to build a collaborative research enterprise in a way that takes a lot of the troughs and valleys out of the research cycle.”

McNees originally came to the School of Nursing as the school’s director of research, innovation, and technology. He has since moved to the School of Health Professions as SHP’s associate dean for research, but he still maintains very close ties to the SON, serving on the executive councils of both schools, the Laboratory for Global Health Observation Advisory Council, and the advisory committee for UAB’s Health Services and Outcomes Research Training Program (T32).

Creator of a computer program to graphically display serial data and plot regressions, McNees develops technologies and methods relevant to health-care concerns and nursing practice/research. His collaborations with nurse researchers and clinicians in areas such as nutritional risk, urinary incontinence, chronic wounds, and cancer have resulted in numerous patents and copyrights; he engineered the technological scheme and assisted with study design for the first comprehensive electronic environment for conducting human intervention research. He currently focuses on interdisciplinary tools and developing a toolkit and methodologies to enhance nursing research efficiency and productivity.

Karen Meneses, PhD, RN, FAAN

Associate Dean for Research and Professor



Karen Meneses

Education:

PhD, Boston College
MS, Boston College
BS, Georgetown University

As the daughter of a physician and a nurse, and as someone whose nursing career spans more than 30 years, Karen Meneses has witnessed some amazing strides in cancer treatment. Paradoxically, though, the dramatically increased survival rates for some kinds of cancer have spawned their own issues and dilemmas. Addressing those issues has been a key component of Meneses’s research.

Meneses, a professor and associate dean for research at the UAB School of Nursing and a senior scientist at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, has more than 30 years of experience in the care of cancer patients and research into improving survivors’ quality of life. During her career she has received 11 national awards and honors and seven federal appointments for

her research and professional involvement and cancer survivorship and quality-of-life interventions for women with cancer. She has been inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International and the Oncology Nursing Society. In 2006, she was appointed to the federally authorized National Cancer Advisory Board by the president of the United States.

Meneses’s program of research has sustained funding totaling more than \$4 million. Her current research in rural breast cancer survivor intervention is supported by the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH). The project studies the effectiveness of telephone interventions for breast-cancer survivors in rural areas to ensure that they receive proper follow-up care. “We share with them very concrete info about the physical effects of treatment—pain, fatigue, cognitive changes, edema, arm swelling problems, concerns about recurrence,” she says. “It’s not that we want to scare them, but it’s generally a big concern of people after treatment. Another part of our intervention is to provide emotional support, because often these patients get little, if any, in their follow-up.”

Previously, Meneses received funding for her research on the quality-of-life intervention for women with breast cancer from the NIH’s National Institute of Nursing Research. Her research on fertility after breast cancer was a Web-based program funded by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (now known as Komen for the Cure).

Linda Moneyham, DNS, RN, FAAN



Linda Moneyham

Education:

DNS, Indiana University
MSN, University of Kentucky
BSN, Berea College

HIV is a disease in which improved treatments and longer life spans have created challenges in terms of the health and emotional well-being of survivors. “Some people were doing very well living with the disease, but there was another group that could only focus on the dying, the negative aspects,” says Linda Moneyham, the first UAB faculty member to be named the Rachel Z. Booth Endowed Chair at the School of Nursing, of her previous work with HIV-positive women. “They weren’t taking care of themselves. And then there was the intense stigma these women were feeling, especially the women in rural areas.”

Moneyham, who came to UAB from the College of Nursing at the University of South Carolina with an established program of funded research totaling more than \$7.5 million, received funding from the NIH/NINR for investigation into telephone counseling for rural women with HIV. This ongoing study involves peer counseling for women with HIV, using the resources of UAB’s 1917 Clinic to recruit and communicate with participants. Moneyham says that one-on-one counseling from other women with HIV might be more effective than support groups in providing information and emotional help for rural HIV-positive women. “In small towns and rural areas, if you go to the health department, everyone knows about it,” she explains. “The women don’t want to talk about having HIV again because they’re concerned about confidentiality.”

Moneyham has another NIH/NINR grant for social support for mothers of mentally ill children. Her research and clinical interests have included women’s health; stress, coping, and adaptation; depressive symptoms and quality of life in a chronic-illness context; self-care and disease management; and peer-based social-support interventions. Her honors include induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the Researcher Recognition Award from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, and the Researcher of the Year Award from the Georgia Nurses Association.

Rachel Z. Booth Endowed Chair and Professor

Tony Roberson, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC



Tony Roberson

Education:

PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
MSN, University of South Florida
BA, University of Alabama

Tony Roberson comes to UAB with more than 15 years of experience as a psychotherapist and nurse practitioner. He began his career in health care as a psychiatric counselor before returning to school, earning both a master’s in counseling psychology from Troy State University and a degree as a nurse practitioner in psychiatric and mental health from the University of South Florida. He also earned dual certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center as an adult and family psychiatric mental-health nurse practitioner.

Over the years, Roberson developed an interest in decision-making and informed-consent issues related to child and adolescent mental health, and he made that the focus of his doctoral research in North Carolina—a state that had recently passed laws allowing teens to pursue outpatient psychiatric help without parental consent. “Many of these laws were implemented without a lot of understanding about how adolescents make decisions in these situations,” he explains.

The completion of a PhD at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, followed by his move to UAB, were highlights of a busy 2007 for Roberson, who also had an article accepted for publication by the *Journal of Nursing Law* and gave a presentation at the International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Padua, Italy. He comes to UAB looking to expand his research into adolescent mental health—possibly including inpatient settings—and take advantage of the school’s many avenues for collaborative work. “I like the foundation of support for researchers,” he says, “and it’s exciting to know that there are other researchers out there interested in collaborations for improving adolescent health.”

Assistant Professor



SYLVIA WAWERU *by Doug Gillett*

It was a big leap of faith for Sylvia Waweru to come all the way from Kenya to the United States to study finance, then switch to nursing after she got here. “Working conditions are not very good for nurses in my country, so my parents advised me against doing nursing, but I always knew that it was something I wanted to do,” she says.

“I explained to them that an international education in nursing was quite different from a nursing education in Kenya, and that opportunities for a BSN who went on to a PhD would be better for people both here in the United States and in Kenya, if I decided to go back. They were fine with it—they told me, ‘Well, as long as you’ve done your research, go ahead.’”

They probably didn’t need to worry about Waweru’s dedication to research. Even before being admitted to the PhD program at the SON, she developed an in-depth research project as part of the Honors Program. Under the mentorship of Ellen Buckner, DSN, RN, Waweru investigated a topic of great importance to her homeland: children with HIV. “I did a research project into socially assessed levels of emotional health and self-perception of children who had HIV both here in the United States and in Kenya.”

Waweru measured this with two tools—a self-concept questionnaire and an art project in which the children were asked to draw pictures of themselves. The drawings were of particular importance,

she says, because children might answer a questionnaire based on what they think adults want to hear. With the artwork, however, “you learn to actually look for signs from a picture that can clue you in that a child might need further health assessment,” she says. “When I did that, I found that more than half of the children in the orphanage had more than two emotional indicators, which is the number that tells you the child needs further mental health assistance. . . . The importance of using two assessment tools cannot be underestimated in assessing emotional and mental health.”

Waweru hopes that this use of artwork will become more common in gauging children’s mental status. “Most of the children in my study who were found to have more than two indicators in their human-figure drawings were referred to social workers for counseling—that was a good thing for them,” she says. “That was something they might not have gotten if I hadn’t done this study.” Her work was recently recognized at the annual meeting of Sigma Theta Tau International.

As she prepares to enter the PhD program, Waweru is looking ahead to getting additional real-world experience in nursing and, she hopes, a career in teaching that will allow her to help future generations of nurses make a difference for people all over Africa. But she’s also thankful for the opportunities that helped put her in the position she’s in now.

“Dr. Buckner understood my interest and my vision, and she took me under her wing and nurtured my ambitions to excel,” she says. “And I don’t know where I would be without the entire School of Nursing faculty who tried to accommodate me when I was working in Africa. Can you imagine taking exams in an Internet café in Kenya?”

JONATHAN WILLIAMS *by Doug Gillett*

Jonathan Williams grew up in Birmingham and attended Ramsay High School, right in UAB's backyard. So UAB seemed a natural place when it came time to apply to college. The School of Nursing, though, wasn't quite on his radar screen, at least initially.

"Believe it or not, I started out wanting to do marine biology," Williams says with a chuckle. "And then I thought about whether that would be practical living in Alabama—I lived at home the whole time I was at UAB, so I didn't want to move. I knew a few nurses and I started talking to them about their jobs, and they told me about the flexibility it allowed them to have and how rewarding the career is, so my second semester I actually changed over to the nursing curriculum.

"I've always liked the sciences, and I knew that I wouldn't be giving that up if I went to nursing," he says. "At the time I didn't see it as a big change. I just thought, 'This is what I'm going to do.' It's been a long, hard road, but I don't regret it."

In terms of research, Williams hit the ground running and embarked on a project investigating the effects of physical activity and light exposure on sleep quality in elderly African Americans. The success of that project prompted his mentor, Mary Umlauf, PhD, RN, FAAN, to urge him to apply for a prestigious summer research project at Morehouse University in Atlanta.

"She thought it would be ideal for me to get more experience and do more research," Williams says. "As a nurse, I really didn't expect to get it, because most of the applicants had a strong interest in

PhD and MD programs. But she told me to try because I had previous experience. So I applied, and I got it."

Williams got to spend the summer at Morehouse's Neuroscience Institute, working with animal models and delving into even more complex areas of research. He returned to Birmingham in late July and immediately began a four-month internship at Medical Center East. The internship has allowed him to rotate through a number of different specialty units, but he says he's had an interest in geriatrics for some time.

"All my classmates thought I was crazy, because nobody wanted to do that. Everybody wanted to do labor-and-delivery or neonatal; nobody wanted to do geriatrics," he says. "But it's exciting to know that it's a growing field. There's just a lot out there in the way of funding for

school, and eventually I want to go back. Right now I want to get enough experience to feel comfortable in the role of a nurse. I do have an interest in the new DNP program. I would like to be a nurse practitioner someday."

Williams credits Umlauf and Ellen Buckner, DSN, RN, with guiding him toward opportunities that led to his induction into two honors societies, as well as the Most Outstanding BSN Student Award and the Dean's Award. "This school has been good to me, and I've been fortunate to be around people who have genuinely cared about me and presented me with opportunities," he says. "I've gotten so much support from Dr. Buckner, Dr. Umlauf, and my family, and I'm excited about the possibilities I see ahead."



Constance Hendricks, PhD, RN, FAAN

by Doug Gillett



Constance Hendricks



Constance Hendricks with Jean Kelley (left) and former UABSON Dean Marie O'Koren

The world of nursing has changed considerably since Constance Hendricks, PhD, arrived at UAB in the late 1960s. Alabama has, too.

“I had a UAB classmate in the 1960s, a white girl, whose dad was a doctor in my hometown of Selma—he was the physician who filled out my health form when I went to school,” says Hendricks, who earned the SON’s 2007 Alumna of the Year Award. “I remember going in the side door of her dad’s office, which was labeled ‘colored.’ But I didn’t know his daughter until we got to UAB. When we met and found out we were both from Selma, we would get together and ride back and forth to Birmingham together, but once we got home we had to separate.”

Racial segregation was just one of the challenges Hendricks has faced over the course of a 40-year career in nursing, but in time she ascended to the deanship

of the School of Nursing at Hampton University, one of the largest nursing schools in the country. This past summer she returned to Alabama to accept a tenured position as a professor of nursing at Auburn University.

Of the many life lessons she shares with her students, one of them is that “you might’ve been the big fish where you came from, but now you’re in a pool where everybody’s a big fish.” Hendricks was the valedictorian of her graduating class at Alabama Lutheran Academy, “but everybody at UAB was at the top of their classes, too,” she remembers. “I learned that I had to work that much harder.”

Hendricks did work harder, and just six months after she graduated from UAB, her hard work earned her an invitation to run a UABSON nurse-managed clinic in Birmingham’s Central City housing projects. Over the course of the next few years, Hendricks would weather a divorce while trying to complete her master’s degree, as well as jobs in not one but two Black Belt hospitals that closed down while she was working there. She found

stability at Auburn University, where she joined the faculty for several years; the University of South Carolina; and then at Boston College, which offered her a full fellowship to pursue her PhD in nursing.

Boston was a culture shock for an African-American divorced single mother from the Deep South, Hendricks remembers, but the BC campus was a “safe haven.” Along with her close friend Ellen McCarty, PhD, RN, now a faculty member at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island, and Karen Meneses, PhD, RN, FAAN, the UABSON’s new associate dean for research, Hendricks trained their young daughters—both of whom now have doctorates themselves—as “research assistants”: “We were in the library trying to do our homework, and we would give our kids our reading lists, and they would go through the library and find our articles for us. Then they had our copy cards, so they would make two copies of each article. They laugh about how that’s how they learned to use the library.”

Hendricks was the first African American to receive a PhD in nursing from Boston College, and later on, she was asked by Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to help them start a PhD program there—only the second nursing PhD program ever offered at a historically black college. In 2004, she became the dean at Hampton, which started the first such program. She has been recognized nationally for her contribution to nursing as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

“It’s been a wonderful blessing for me. At each of the schools, as far back even as UAB or my first time at Auburn, I tried to make a contribution wherever I’ve been,” she says. “It’s my obligation, because I stand on a lot of shoulders. I feel I have to be that same mentor for others.”

Esther Moring, RN

by Doug Gillett

Esther Moring's career as a nurse started earlier than most. "I had two brothers, and I was the 'army nurse' for them," she remembers. "How do you get to play with your brothers when they're playing army, except as a nurse? I've given numerous little boys between the ages of four and eight their army shots."

Little did Moring know that years later she'd be working in actual war zones, giving immunizations and other care to entire populations of displaced refugees. Moring's work with the international aid organization Doctors Without Borders has taken her everywhere from Tanzania to Angola to El Salvador to Tajikistan, and, earlier this year, it earned her the UAB School of Nursing's JoAnn Barnett Award for Compassionate Care.

"I appreciated that they opened the award up to a broader perspective than just individual care," Moring says. "When people treat populations, defend them, and advocate for them, that is compassionate nursing at its highest level."

Moring was nominated for the award by UABSON professor Ellen Buckner, DSN, RN, whom Moring says was a mentor of hers from the very beginning. "I flunked every chemistry course I ever took at least once," she remembers with a laugh, "And I hated the writing part, too. So Ellen sat me down and said, 'Esther, you are going to be a great nurse, but whatever you do, you must get through chemistry, and you must get through this writing.'"

Get through it she did, and after earning her master's degree in nursing at the University of Washington, Moring joined

the International Rescue Committee. "My first mission was in Tanzania, and while I was there, 'Hotel Rwanda' happened," she says. "It was a sea of people coming up the road with their belongings on their heads, and there I was, a new international nurse who had no idea what I was doing. . . . It was trial by fire, and I learned on that first mission how to love international nursing and how to work with refugees in outbreaks and vaccination campaigns."

To take an even more direct role in the treatment and management of such efforts, Moring joined Doctors Without Borders and went on her first mission to Burundi in 1995. Over the next 12 years, she would become an expert on ebola in central Africa, battle dengue fever in El Salvador, dodge bullets in Bosnia, and contract a case of typhus in Burundi—34 missions in all, and she began a 35th, to Chad, in July 2007. "I opened Chad three years ago for the Dutch section of Doctors Without Borders, so it'll be interesting to

see how the care has evolved and how the people are faring," she says.

In the midst of this, Moring got married in June of 2006 to Bob Rackleff, a county commissioner in Leon County, Florida. "I promised my husband six months out of the year," Moring laughs. "He keeps the home fires and the county fires burning while I'm gone."

How has she managed to survive such a grueling workload over more than a decade of international missions? She chalks it up to a lesson learned while slogging through charts during her UABSON days: "Chop up your work. If you have something overwhelming, chop it up into pieces, and that works," she says. "If you're in a rescue camp with 200,000 people, then focus on 10,000 at a time—you'll get through it."



Esther Moring



Moring's extensive work with Doctors Without Borders has taken her to destinations all over the African continent.

New Junior Board of Visitors Created to Support School of Nursing

by Anita Smith



The UABSON Junior Board of Visitors

Sixteen years ago, a Board of Visitors was established to support the School of Nursing. Working with Dean Rachel Z. Booth in founding that board was advertising/public-relations executive and community leader Robert E. “Bob” Luckie Jr., who helped recruit the board’s founding members, including its first chairperson, Lella Bromberg. The Board of Visitors has been very successful in generating public awareness about the UABSON and raising funds for scholarships and programs.

Now, as the board continues its work, it is sometimes referred to as the “Senior” Board of Visitors. That’s because this board’s success has inspired the creation of a second board to support the UABSON—a Junior Board of Visitors, comprised of a young generation of community leaders.

As was true with the Senior Board, a leader in organizing the Junior Board is a member of the Luckie family. The

Junior Board’s first chair is Bob Luckie’s granddaughter, Mary Katherine Luckie Cabaniss.

When Bob Luckie helped establish the Senior Board, he was motivated by compassionate nursing care that had been rendered to his wife, Lois—known affectionately to her grandchildren as “Loie”—who died in 1987 after a long battle with breast cancer. Cabaniss is motivated by the same pas-

sion that drove her grandfather, who supported the Senior Board up until his death in February 2007—including two nursing scholarships from the Luckie family.

“A key goal of our Junior Board is to build further awareness about the School of Nursing,” says Cabaniss. She notes that many Alabamians really never appreciate having a great school of nursing at UAB “until they end up in a hospital and need a nurse.”

Cabaniss’s father, Robert E. “Bobby” Luckie III, offers this perspective: “Mary Katherine was my parents’ first granddaughter, and she was very close to her grandmother Loie. After her grandfather died, it was important to Mary Katherine to do something to honor her grandmother’s memory and at the same time continue to support the School of Nursing, which has been so important to our family.”

Cabaniss lists the following 21 young Birmingham-area residents who, in addition to herself, thus far are Junior Board members: Gerry Cabaniss, Sidney Wood Clapp, Anna Bishop Cook, David Darden, Ashley David, Susanna St. John Davis, Ginny deBardeleben, Lindsey Tomlinson Druhan, Beth and Bo Gresham, Kate Wood Hamilton, Carolyn Jordan, Julia King, Elizabeth Hassinger McCain, Kim Parsons, Barnes Ray, Laura Hale Robertson, Janet Skinner, Carey Thomasson, Ivy Watson, and Amanda Starnes Welden.

For its first fundraising event, the Junior Board sponsored a “No-Show Ball” on September 30. The concept called for board members to deliver delicious meals to the homes of all persons who purchased

“The Junior Board represents a generational approach to what our Senior Board has begun and is engaging a younger generation to invest in nursing’s future.”

Dean Doreen C. Harper, PhD, RN,
FAAN

tickets—thus, instead of dressing up and attending a fundraising gala, “you could put on your fuzzy slippers and stay home, and we would bring a wonderful meal to your doorstep,” Cabaniss says. “It doesn’t get any easier than that!” Proceeds from that fundraiser were directed toward a UABSON pediatric-nursing scholarship.

Serving as liaisons with the Junior Board are Senior Board members Jean Tomlinson and Paula Midyette.

UABSON Dean Doreen C. Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN, is excited about the Junior Board’s potential to generate community awareness of and support for the School of Nursing. “The Junior Board represents a generational approach to what our Senior Board has begun,” she says,

“and is engaging a younger generation to invest in nursing’s future.”

Carolyn Jordan is a Junior Board member who, by virtue of being a former School of Nursing staff member, has particular insight into what the new board can do. “Our Junior Board has great potential to create a broader reach and build on the Senior Board’s success in generating support for UAB’s great School of Nursing,” Jordan says. “Just as was true with the Senior Board, our Junior Board can start out with members mainly in the Birmingham area and then expand to include members from other parts of our state.”

Cabaniss invites anyone wanting to know more about the Junior Board to contact her at mkcabaniss@charter.net.

“A key goal of our Junior Board is to build further awareness about the School of Nursing. Many Alabamians really never appreciate having a great school of nursing at UAB until they end up in a hospital and need a nurse.”

Mary Katherine Luckie Cabaniss,
First Chair of UABSON’s
Junior Board of Visitors



Ivy Watson *by Doug Gillett*

School of Nursing’s development department after having spent almost eight years in UAB’s events office. “As an events specialist, I constantly interacted with major donors. Through planning events, I saw their deep commitment to UAB through their generosity. Now, my interest is not only to attract donors to the School of Nursing but also to experience the satisfaction of working directly with them through the entire process of giving, recognition, and beyond.”

In her previous position, Watson also had frequent contact with UAB leaders. “I’ve been fortunate to have worked with the UABSON through its volunteers on the Board of Visitors and to have collaborated with them on their annual fundraisers over the last seven years. This gave me insight into a fine school and a noble profession, and I knew I wanted to help in even greater ways,” she says.

At the School of Nursing, Watson serves as the program coordinator for the World Health Organization Collaborating Center (WHOCC). Watson’s bachelor’s degree from Birmingham-Southern College in international studies with a focus on Spanish and Latin American studies has been an asset in her work with the WHOCC.

“I’ve traveled down there and seen a lot of the poverty—I’ve been able to witness firsthand what they’re dealing with, particularly many of the infants and children being so sick in some of the rural areas,” she says. “I know the School of Nursing, through the WHOCC for International Nursing Education, is doing some great work in Latin America.”

With both an aunt and a godmother who attended the UAB School of Nursing, Ivy Watson gained an early respect for the school and for the nursing profession. “I am especially inspired by my grandmother, who became a nurse at the age of 58 and worked for 13 years until she retired,” Watson says.

In the summer of 2007, Watson accepted a position as the major gifts officer in the

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 Joyce M. West (DIPL 1954, BSN 1959, MSN 1969)
 Denise White (BSN 1982, MSN 1988)
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 Clyde A.B. Whiting (DIPL 1944)
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VANCE, DAVID

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Vance, D.E., Smith, B., Neidig, J., and **Weaver, M.** (in press). The effects of anger on psychomotor performance in adults with HIV: A pilot study. *Social Work and Mental Health*.

Vance, D.E., and Struzick, T. (in press). Addressing risk factors of cognitive impairment in adults aging with HIV: A social work model. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.

Vance, D.E., **Antia, L.**, and Smith, B. (in press). Predictors of cognitive complaints in adults with HIV. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*.

Vance, D.E., Struzick, T.C., and Russell, T. (in press). Spiritual and religious implications of aging with HIV: A review and conceptual design. *Journal of Religion, Spirituality and Aging*.

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Vance, D.E., Struzick, T.C., and Masten, J. (in press). Hardiness, successful aging, and

HIV: Implications for social work. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work*.

Vance, D.E., and **Farr, K.** (in press). Spaced retrieval method in geriatric settings: Implications for nursing research and practice. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*.

VINCENT, JANICE

Vincent, J. (2006). Newborn with Cardiac Problems. *Pediatric Nursing*, 32(6).

WEAVER, MICHAEL

Davis, L.L., **Weaver, M.**, and **Habermann, B.** (2006). Differential Attrition in a Caregiver Skill Training Trial. *Research in Nursing and Health*, 29, 498-506.

Jones, D.E., **Weaver, M.**, Grimley, D., **Appel, S.J.**, and Ard, J. (2006). Health belief model perceptions, knowledge of heart disease and its risk factors in educated African-American women: An exploration of the relationships of socioeconomic status and age. *Journal of National Black Nurses Association*, 17(2), 13-23.

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WRIGHT, ANNETTE

Wright, M.A. and **Appel, S.J.** (2007). Inhaled insulin: breathing new life into diabetes therapy. *Nursing*, January, 37(1), 46-8.

Editorial and Review Boards

APPEL, SUSAN

Reviewer, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 2004-present

Reviewer, *Diabetes Care*, 2003-current

Reviewer, *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 2004-current

Reviewer, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 2003-present

Reviewer, *Nursing Management*, 2003-current
Advisory Board, *Journal of National Black Nurses Association*

Reviewer, *Nursing Research*, 2002-current

Reviewer, *Critical Care*, 2005-current

Reviewer, *Nursing*, 2004-current

Reviewer, *The Nurse Practitioner*, 2003-current

Reviewer, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, 2004-current (abstracts)

Reviewer, Sigma Theta Tau, Nu Chapter, 2005-present (abstracts)

Reviewer, Southern Nurses Research Society, 2005-current (Abstracts)

AUTREY, PAMELA

Reviewer, *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 2006-current

BOSARGE, PENNIE

Reviewer, *Nursing Made Incredibly Easy*, 2006

Expert Reviewer, Lippincott Publishing, 2000-present

Editorial Review Board, *Contemporary Nurse Practitioner*, 1999-present

Clinical Reviewer, *Applied Research*, 1999-present

Reviewer, National Association for Women's Health, 1998-present

BROWN, KATHLEEN

Reviewer, *Journal of Western Nursing Research*, 2007

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 2005-present

BUCKNER, ELLEN

Reviewer, *Journal for Specialists in Pediatric Nursing*, 2006-present

Editorial Board, *Proceedings of the National Conference on Undergraduate Research*, 2006-present

DASHIFF, CAROL

Reviewer, *Research in Nursing Health*, 2005-present

Reviewer, *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 2005-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 1997-present

Editorial Board and Reviewer, *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 1987-present

Reviewer, *Image-Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 1986-present

EAVES, YVONNE

Reviewer, *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 2007

Reviewer, *Geriatric Nursing*, 2006-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*, 2005-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 2002-2004, 2007

Reviewer, *Nursing Research*, 1998-present

FOOTE, ANNE

Reviewer, *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, 1988-present

Reviewer, *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, 1999-present

FORDHAM, PAMELA

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 1998-present

GRANT, JOAN

Reviewer, *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 2007

Reviewer, *Annals of General Psychiatry*, 2006

Reviewer, *Stroke*, 2006

Reviewer, *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, 2006

Reviewer, *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 2006

HABERMANN, BARBARA

Reviewer, *Nursing Outlook*, 2003-2006

Editor and Research Corner, *Journal of Neuroscience*, 1994-2007

Reviewer, *Research in Nursing and Health*, 2000-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 1999-present

Reviewer, *Qualitative Health Research*, 1994-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Neuroscience Nursing*, 1984-present

HAN, YOUNGSHOOK

Editorial Board, *Cancer Nursing*, 2001-present

Review Board, *Preventive Medicine*, 2001-present

Review Board, *Health Promotion Practice*, 2001-present

HARPER, DOREEN

Editorial Board, *American Journal of Nurse Practitioners*, 2000-present

Reviewer, *Nursing Outlook*, 1994-present

HARRISON, LYNDA

Reviewer, *Western Journal of Nursing*, 1990-2006

Reviewer, *Clinical Nursing Research*, 1991-2006

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 1999-present

Editorial Board, *Revista Horizonte de Enfermeria*, 2002-present

Editorial Board, *Revista Latino-Americana de Enfermagem*, 2001-present

Editorial Board, *Advances in Neonatal Care*, 2004-present

HOGAN, BEVERLY

Reviewer, *Perspectives in Psychiatric Nursing*, 2006-present

HOLCOMB, LYGIA

Reviewer, *Journal of Child Health Care*, 2007

Reviewer, *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, 2003-present

IVEY, JEAN

Associate Editor, *Journal of Child Health Care*, 2006-present

Editorial Board, *Pediatric Nursing*, 2002-present

JUKKALA, ANGELA

Reviewer, *Applied Nursing Research*, 2006

KANG, DUCK-HEE

Editorial Board, *Research in Nursing and Health*, 2002-2008

Reviewer, *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*, 2003-present

Ad hoc Reviewer, *Heart and Lung*, 2001, 2006

Reviewer, *Nursing Research*, 1998-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 1998-present

Reviewer, *Research in Nursing and Health*, 1997-present

KELTNER, NORM

Reviewer, *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*, 2006-2007

Editorial Board and Reviewer, *Perspectives of Psychiatric Care*, 1991-1996; 2000-2007

LACEY, SUSAN

Reviewer, *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, 2006-present

Editorial Board, *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, 2007-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Nursing Education*, 2006-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 2006-present

Ad hoc Reviewer, *Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership*, 2006

MCCALEB, ALBERTA

Editorial Board, *Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing*, 1996-present

Reviewer, *Research in Nursing and Health*, 2003-present

Reviewer, *Nursing and Health Perspectives*, 1998-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 1996-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 1996-present

MCCLAIN, RHONDA

Reviewer, *Critical Care Nurse*, 1996-present

MCGUINNESS, TEENA

Editor, *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing, Youth and Mind*, 2005-present

Editorial Board, *Journal of Psychosocial Nursing*, 2006-present

MCNEES, PATRICK

Reviewer, *Research in Nursing and Health*, 2006-present

Reviewer, *Nursing Research*, 2006-present

Reviewer, *International Journal of Public Policy*, 2005-present

Peer Review Board, *Advances in Skin and Wound Care*, 2004-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Ostomy and Wound Management*, 1996-present

MONEYHAM, LINDA

Reviewer, *Rehabilitation*, 2006

Reviewer, *Women in Health*, 2001-present

Reviewer, *Research in Nursing and Health*, 2000-present

Reviewer, *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*, 1995-present

MOSS, JACQUELINE

Reviewer, *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 2003-present

Reviewer, *Computers, Informatics and Nursing*, 2004-present

Reviewer, *Contemporary Clinical Trials*, 2005-present

PRYOR, ERICA

Reviewer, *American Journal of Infection Control*, 2004-present

Reviewer, *Nursing Outlook*, 2006-present

SAENZ, KAREN

Reviewer, *Journal of Child Health*, 2007

TURNER-HENSON, ANNE

Editorial Board, *Family and Community Health*, 1994-present

Editorial Board, *Issues in Comprehensive Pediatric Nursing*, 1993-present

Reviewer, *Image*, 1995-present

Reviewer, *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 2004-present

Reviewer, *Pediatric Nursing*, 1993-present

Reviewer, *Preventing Chronic Disease*, 2005-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 1992-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Adolescent Medicine*, 2006-present

VANCE, DAVID

Reviewer, *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Psychology*, 2007

Reviewer, *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 2007

Reviewer, *AIDS Care*, 2007

Guest Co-Editor, ASA Lesbian and Gay Aging Issue Network, 2007

Reviewer, *International Journal of Psychology*, 2006

Reviewer, *AIDS Behavior*, 2006

Editorial Board, *Physical and Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics*, 2005-present

VINCENT, JANICE

Reviewer, *ANA Journal: Maternal-Child Nursing*, 2001-present

Reviewer, *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 2001-present

Reviewer, *Neonatal Network*, 2001-present

Reviewer, Lippincott Williams Publisher, 2001-present

Reviewer, Delmar Publisher, 2001-present

Reviewer, Prentice Hall Publisher, 2001-present

WILLIAMS, ANNE

Reviewer, *Research in Nursing*, 1994-present

Faculty Honors and Awards: International/National

APPEL, SUSAN

Alumni Award, School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award, 2006

Most Innovative Poster Award for Basic Research, Second Place—title: *The Association Between Inflammation and Body Composition Among African-American Women age 20-45*. Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association, 12th Annual Symposium, Denver, Colorado, 2006

BUCKNER, ELLEN

Roy Adaptation Association, Co-author for Award for Best Paper, 8th National Conference, 2007

GIBSON, LINDA

Excellence Award in Research. Poster Award: *A Correlational Study of Secondhand Smoke Exposure in Families of Children with Asthma*. Presented Society of Pediatric Nurses Conference, Orlando, Florida, 2006

HARPER, DOREEN

Cornell University, New York Hospital, School of Nursing, Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award. New York, April 2007

NONPF, Lifetime Achievement Award, National Organization of Nurse Practitioners Faculties, Orlando, Fla., 2006

HOLCOMB, LYGIA

Diploma de Reconocimiento, Municipalidad de Puerto Cortes, 2007

JOHNSON, VICKI

Featured Alumni Spotlight: *Pulse Magazine*, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, Texas, 2006

KANG, DUCK-HEE

Elected Member, Fellow Selection Committee of the American Academy of Nursing, 2006-2008

Permanent Member, Nursing Science: Adults and Older Adults Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, NIH, 2004-2008

Vice President, Secretary General, Global Korean Nursing Foundation, 2004-present

LACEY, SUSAN

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Executive Nurse Fellow, 2006-2009

MCNEES, PATRICK

United States Public Health Service, RADM Faye G. Abellah Publication Award for Nursing Research; co-author, development of content-validated venous ulcer guideline, *Ostomy Wound Management*, 2007

Honorary Fellow, American Academy of Nursing, 2006

POOLE, DOROTHEA

Marquis, *Who's Who of American Women*, 2007; New Providence, N.J.

PRYOR, ERICA

First-Place Poster: *Scientific misconduct: Perceptions of research coordinators participating in a national survey*. Presented at the Association of Clinical Research Professionals 2006 Global Conference and Exhibition, Phoenix, Ariz.

WADAS, THERESA

Nova Nordisk Inc. Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Award, 2007

Faculty Honors and Awards: Regional/Local

APEL, SUSAN

Outstanding Service Award, Presented by the Central Alabama Association of Nurse Practitioners, Birmingham, Ala., 2007

Research in Minority Health Award, Southern Nurses Research Society, 2006

BROWN, KATHLEEN

Well Workplace Gold Award, City of Birmingham Good Health Program, Wellness Councils of America, 2006

BROWN, RICHARD

Childhood Cancer Award, 2006

BUCKNER, ELLEN

Ellen Gregg Ingalls/UAB National Alumni Society Award for Lifetime Achievement in Teaching, 2006

DASHIFF, CAROL

Camp Seale Harris Volunteer Service Award, 2006

DIMICCO, WENDY

UAB, President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2006

HARPER, DOREEN

Birmingham Business Journal, Birmingham's 100 Most Influential People, Birmingham, Ala., February 2006

MCGUINNESS, TEENA

Sigma Theta Tau Researcher of the Year Award, Zeta Gamma Chapter, University of South Alabama, Mobile, 2006

REED, LINDA

UAB, Distinguished Faculty Senate Award, 2006

ROSS, JILL

UAB, President's Excellence in Teaching Award, 2007

STULLENBARGER, ELIZABETH

President, Alabama Board of Nursing, 2007

WEAVER, MICHAEL

Well Workplace Gold Award, City of Birmingham Good Health Program, Wellness Councils of America, 2006

WRIGHT, ANNETTE

Outstanding UAB Student Nursing Association Advisor, 2006-2007

Faculty Research and Scholarship Activities: Grants and Contracts

Department of Adult/Acute Health Chronic Care and Foundations

APEL, SUSAN

(PI) Pfizer, Medical Educational Grant: Management of Diabetes: A Multidisciplinary Approach Across the Lifespan

BOSARGE, PENNIE

(Consultant) UAB, School of Public Health: Healthcare Professionals Knowledge and Perception of Diaphragm Use. Kulczyki, A. (PI)—intramural

FOOTE, ANNE

(PI) HRSA, Advanced Education Nursing Grant: A Distance Learning Culturally Competent ANP/GNP Program for the Rural and Underserved Populations

GRANT, JOAN

(Co-I) NIH, NINDS: Psychosocial Effects of Stroke on Family Caregivers. Roth, D. (PI)—1R01NS045789-01A1

(Co-I) NIH, NICHD: Problem-Solving for Caregivers of Women with Physical Disabilities. Elliott, T. (PI)—1R01HD37661-A3

(Consultant) NIH, NINR: Caregiver Telephone Assessment and Skill-Building Kit. Bakas, T. (PI)—K01

HILL, GAIL

(Project Director) HRSA, Advanced Education Nursing Grant: A Culturally Competent FNP Program, D09HP00412-02

KANG, DUCK-HEE

(Co-I) NIH/NINR: Psychophysiological Outcomes: Child Anger Intervention. Rice, M. (PI)—R01 #NR007910

(Sponsor) DOD, Genetic Risk of Breast Cancer, Distress, and Immune Response. Park, N. (PI)

MENESES, KAREN

(PI) NIH/NCI: Rural Breast Cancer Survivor Intervention, 7R01CA120638-02

(PI) Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, WebO.N.E. Development

Department of Family, Child Health, and Caregiving

DASHIFF, CAROL

(Director) U. S. Department of Education: Growing Capacity of Nursing Faculty in Alabama, Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need. Stullenbarger, N. (PD)

(PI) UAB, School of Nursing, Dean's Research Award: An Application of SDT to Late Adolescents with Type 1 Diabetes: A Pilot Study. Intramural

EAVES, YVONNE

(PI) NIA/NIH: A Caregiving Intervention for Rural African Americans. Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award (K01)

FORDHAM, PAMELA

(Project Director) HRSA, Advanced Education Nursing Grant: A Culturally Competent Online PCAPNP Program. 1D09 HP00569-04

HARRISON, LYNDA

(PI) HRSA: Advanced Education Grant: A Culturally Competent Online Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program, Continuation.

(PI) UAB, School of Nursing, Dean's Research Award: Needs Assessment for Latino Parent Intervention Project. Intramural

(PI) Center for Infectious Disease Research: Development and Implementation of Continuing Education Certificate Program in Clinical Research Coordination and Teaching Strategies Course for CIDRZ Study Coordinators

(PI)UAB, Sparkman Center: Global Health Grant. Familias Fuertes: Strengthening Families and Preventing Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among Honduran Adolescents. Intramural

(sub-PI) Fogarty International: Development and Implementation of Continuing Education Certificate Program in Clinical Research Coordination. Funded as subcontract through International Centers for Excellence in Research

(sub-PI) HIV/HPTN: Development and implementation of online course in coordination and implementation of Clinical Research

HOLCOMB, LYGIA

(Co-I) UAB, Sparkman Center: Global Health Grant. Familias Fuertes: Strengthening Families and Preventing Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among Honduran Adolescents. Harrison, L. (PI)—intramural

IVEY, JEAN

(PI) HRSA, Advanced Education Nursing Grant: A Culturally Competent Child/Adolescent Acute and Continuing Care Program

SMITH, GLENDA

(PI) Purdue-UAB Botanicals Research Center: The Pharmacokinetics and Bioavailability of Herbal Remedies Used by Rural African-Americans

(PI) Office of Equity and Diversity, Faculty Development Award: Moving Toward Efficacy in the African-American use of Herbal Remedies. Intramural

STULLENBARGER, ELIZABETH

(Project Director) U.S. Department of Education: GAANN (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need)

(Project Director) HRSA: Professional Nurse Traineeship Grant

(Project Director) HRSA: Nurse Faculty Loan Program

VANCE, DAVID

(Co-I) NIH/NIA: Improvement of Visual Processing in Older Adults (PACES Project). Ball, K.K. (PI)—5R37AG05739

(Co-I) NIH/NIA: Measuring Independence in the Elderly Study (MILES Project). Wadley/Ball, K.K. (PI)—2P50AG16582

(PI) Center for AIDS Research/UAB: Chronicity of HIV and Aging on Neuropsychological Functioning and Everyday Performance. Intramural

Department of Community Health, Outcomes, and Systems**BROWN, KATHLEEN**

(Program Director) NIOSH: Occupational Health and Safety Training Grant. Oostenstad, K. (PI)—T42CCT10429

(Investigator) AHRQ: Deep South Musculoskeletal CERTs. Saag, K. (PI)—U18HS016956-01

(PI/Director) City of Birmingham, Contract: Occupational Health Services Clinic

(Co-I) City of Birmingham, Contract: Good Health Program. Weaver, M. (PI)

HARPER, DOREEN

UAB Health System, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, Accelerated Master's Entry Pathway

JUKKALA, ANGELA

(PI) UAB, School of Nursing, Dean's New Investigator Award: Rural Hospital Preparedness for Neonatal Resuscitation. Intramural

LACEY, SUSAN

(PI) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Executive Nurse Fellow Program

MCNEES, PATRICK

(Co-I) NIH/NCI: Rural Breast Cancer Survivor Intervention. Meneses, K. (PI)—7R01CA120638-02

MONEYHAM, LINDA

(PI) NIH/NINR: Telephone Counseling for Rural Women with HIV, 5 R01NR04956-08

MOSS, JACQUELINE

(PI) AHRQ: Clinical Decision Support Simulations for Medication Administration Safety, U18 HS016660

PARK, NA-JIN

(PI) UAB, School of Nursing, Dean's New Investigator Award: Breast Cancer Risk Factors and Biological Responses. Intramural

PRYOR, ERICA

(Faculty) NIOSH: Occupational Health and Safety Training Grant. Oostenstad, K. (PI)—T42CCT10429

RICE, MARTI

(PI) NIH, NINR: Psychophysiological Outcomes: Child Anger Intervention. R01 #NR007910

(Co-PI) Purdue-UAB Botanicals Research Center: The Pharmacokinetics and Bioavailability of Herbal Remedies Used by Rural African-Americans. Smith, G. (PI)

SAENZ, KAREN

(PI) March of Dimes, Birth Defect Foundation: Mother/Baby Program for Spanish Speaking Mothers

(Co-I) UAB, Sparkman Center: Global Health Grant. Familias Fuertes: Strengthening Families and Preventing Substance Abuse, Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Among Honduran Adolescents. Harrison, L. (PI)—intramural

(Recruiter) Children's Hospital: Assessment of Prevalence of Vitamin D Deficiency in Obese Teenage Girls and Influence of Vitamin D on Insulin Secretion and Sensitivity

TURNER-HENSON, ANNE

(PI) UAB, Cystic Fibrosis Center: Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Children with Cystic Fibrosis. Intramural pilot funds

(I) School of Public Health, Maternal, Child and Health Behavior Training Grant. Leadership Education in Adolescent Health. Sturdevant, M. (PI)

(PI) CDC: Secondhand Smoke Exposure and African Americans. Special interest project

UMLAUF, MARY GRACE

(Mentor) UAB, Obesity Training Program, Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Obesity Research, Clinical Nutrition Research Center. Allison, D. (PI)—T32DK62712-01A1

(PI) UAB, School of Nursing, Dean's Research Award: Sleep and Circadian Rhythms in 22q11DS. Intramural

WEAVER, MICHAEL

(PI) City of Birmingham, Contract: Good Health Program.

(Co-I) NIH, NINR: Psychophysiological Outcomes: Child Anger Intervention. Rice, M. (PI)—R01 #NR007910

(Co-I) NIOSH: Occupational Health and Safety Training Grant. Oostenstad, K. (PI)—T42CCT10429

A Salute to Captain Gladys M. Rylee Casper

Retired U.S. Air Force Nurse Shifts Strategy to Benefit Students Now



Muriel Casper

In 1997 Captain Gladys Muriel Rylee Casper established a charitable remainder unitrust to create an endowed scholarship in the School of Nursing. In a tactical maneuver designed to help alleviate the financial strain facing many students, she recently decided to renounce her income interest in the trust so that students may benefit from the funds now rather than later.

“This gift serves as a wonderful tribute to Captain Casper’s distinguished nursing career and life devoted to the service and care of others,” says UAB President Carol Z. Garrison.

A 1947 graduate of the Jefferson-Hillman Hospital School of Nursing, Casper grew up in Alabama’s rural Perry County. She joined the U.S. Army Cadet Nursing Corps during World War II and received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Colorado in 1951. After serving active duty in Germany, she returned to the United States and soon met and later married Richard F. Casper, a career military man and her husband of 34 years until his death in 1994. Mrs. Casper continued her military career for more than 20 dedicated years before her retirement in 1985 from the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps.

A strong belief in the importance of the nursing profession and the rewards it offers both to nurses and those in their care led Casper to make this gift. It is her wish that the Rylee/Casper Endowed Nursing Scholarship be used to provide financial assistance to deserving nursing students, particularly those from her home county of Perry and the adjoining counties of Bibb and Chilton.

“I wanted to make the funds available to students in this area,” Casper says. “I hope it helps someone who might otherwise not be able to go to the School of Nursing actually finish and get his or her nursing degree.”

According to School of Nursing Dean Doreen Harper, Ph.D., Casper’s timing couldn’t be better. “At a time of critical nursing shortage,” she says, “Muriel Casper realized that making these funds available now allows more nursing students the potential to benefit from her profound generosity—and she can see her desires fulfilled.”

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