

the 2002 *Vignette*

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF NURSING AT UAB





from the Dean

In this 2002 edition of the *Vignette*, we share some highlights of our activities across the spectrum of the School's mission of education, research, and service. We also introduce to you UAB's new president, Dr. Carol Z. Garrison, an MSN alumna and former faculty member of our School. We are excited to have her in this important leadership position and look forward to her arrival in September.

We hope the articles in the *Vignette* give you a glimpse of the exciting university life that our campus provides for faculty, students, and staff. You will read about our talented faculty and staff involved in a variety of activities—providing care to diverse populations, running a marathon, winning a gurney derby, teaching in both the classroom and the clinical setting, and conducting research. The photos bring to life numerous individuals who cheered students on during Homecoming weekend as they competed with students from 12 other schools at UAB. Not surprisingly, our students' enthusiasm and creativity earned top awards that are proudly displayed in the School of Nursing lobby.

As part of a university-wide conversion, we have changed from the quarter to the semester system this past year. The change has gone quite smoothly due to the carefully orchestrated planning that preceded the conversion.

The interest in online courses continues to grow in terms of the number of courses placed online and the number of students choosing these courses each term. In addition to our in-state students, we have students from other states and countries enrolling in these courses.

Flexibility, convenience, and availability are the primary reasons given for taking the courses online. As technology improves, we will take advantage of the opportunity to increase the quality and attractiveness of our offerings.

During the year, we welcomed several new faculty members to our school, but we also bid farewell to those who retired. Dr. Juanetta Flowers served as assistant to the dean for development and alumni affairs for many years. She will be remembered for all of her significant contributions, including her role in the development and ongoing work of the Board of Visitors and her service as the deputy director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for International Nursing. We will miss her greatly, but we know her days will be filled with travel and all of the exciting experiences of those who have completed this phase of their professional lives.

The community outside the borders of the university is so important to us. One very crucial community group is the School of Nursing's Board of Visitors, so ably chaired by Bobbie Parsons and co-chaired by Karle Falkenburg. As a result of their strong commitment to the School, we continue to increase the number of endowed scholarships, chairs, and funds. They have given of their own personal resources and have influenced others to do likewise. We are very grateful to them for their investment and confidence in our School and in our profession.

We welcome Virginia Gilbert Loftin, our new director of development. Virginia is very involved in the community in her role as chair of the board of directors of The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham and as a member of the

board of directors of the Cahaba Girl Scout Council. She is also a member of The Women's Network and is past president of the Junior Board of the YWCA. Her experiences in these organizations, and as a journalist and public relations professional, will be of tremendous benefit in her new position. She is busy becoming acquainted with our alumni and friends, so you will be hearing more from her.

It is also a pleasure to welcome Suzi McDonald to the presidency of the School of Nursing's Alumni Association. She is one of more than 10,000 alumni located in every state in the nation, in the District of Columbia, and in several foreign countries. We take great pride in our alumni's accomplishments and want to hear more about what you are doing. You may send your news electronically, either to [rossc@uab.edu] or [rzbooth@uab.edu].

Please know that we appreciate all of your support in recruiting students and assisting the School in many other ways. Your financial support, in the form of endowed scholarships, is a boost to our ability to attract outstanding students to our School. We hope you will plan your reunions with us so you can have fun, reminisce, and hear the latest developments about the School and the university.

Rachel Z. Booth, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor

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COMING HOME

Garrison Brings a Nurse's Touch to UAB Presidency..... 2

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KELLY MCAFEE

Staying Fit for the Long Run 3

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: NORMAN KELTNER

Enjoying a Trip on the Road Less Traveled 4

NEW FACULTY

Real-World Experience Pays Off in the Classroom 5

THE REWARDS OF RESEARCH

Building the Base of Nursing Knowledge 6

PRACTICE FACULTY

Finding Value in a Hands-On Approach..... 8

LASTING IMPACT

Laying the Foundation for Nursing Education 10

FAMILY TIES

Building Support for a Caring Profession 12

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MARY LOUISE ROBERTS WILSON

Remembering the "Angel of Anzio" 15

WITH HONORS

Helping Students Stretch the Boundaries 14

SUPPORTING SCHOLARSHIPS

Making Gifts That Keep On Giving..... 15

HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS 16

ALUMNI NEWS

President's Report 18

Alumni Notes 19

Development News 20

Donor List 21

On the cover: (Clockwise from top left) Barbara Smith, Norman Keltner, Joan Carlisle, and Kelly McAfee engage in the research, teaching, service, and student life that are at the heart of the School of Nursing.

Coming Home

Carol Z. Garrison Brings a Nurse's Touch to UAB Presidency

By Roger Shuler

UAB has been the site of several firsts for Carol Garrison.

Her first full-time job came in 1974 at UAB Hospital, working in the pediatric cardiovascular and neurosurgery unit. Her first teaching position also was at UAB.

Now Dr. Garrison has provided UAB with a first, becoming the first nurse to be named president of the university. She had been acting president of the University of Louisville, serving as provost at the U of L since 1997.



"I think she is going to be a perfect fit for UAB, for both the academic and medical sides," says John Russell Thomas, a member of the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees and chair of the presidential search committee.

Dr. Garrison's roots are solidly in nursing. She grew up in Montclair, New Jersey, and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While working as a nurse at UAB Hospital, she earned a master's degree at the UASON in 1976 and a pediatric nurse practitioner certificate in 1978.

Thinking about those days produces fond memories of a young, vibrant university that was poised for a remarkable growth spurt. "I look at it now and I'm just amazed," Dr. Garrison says.

After returning to North Carolina, Dr. Garrison earned a Ph.D. in epidemiology and joined the UNC faculty as an assistant professor.

In 1982 she moved to the University of South Carolina, where she went on to become chair of epidemiology and biostatistics, associate provost, and dean of the graduate school.

Dr. Garrison's teaching and research have focused on psychiatric epidemiology, with a specialization in the effects of stress and trauma on adolescents and children.

Dr. Garrison has called herself the "accidental administrator." While at South Carolina, she was asked to fill in when the department chair went on sabbatical. She enjoyed the experience and was well received by faculty.

"I really try to make sure that I'm inclusive and build consensus," Dr. Garrison says. Her motto? "If it's not fun, it's not worth doing."

At Louisville, former president John Shumaker and Dr. Garrison formed an effective team. Together, they developed

and implemented the "Challenge of Excellence," a 10-year blueprint for the U of L's future. They set specific goals, including raising faculty and staff salaries, increasing state and private support, and recruiting top researchers.

The plan has helped Louisville's endowment rise from \$180 million in 1995 to \$500 million in 2002. Federal grants and contracts have grown from \$40 million to \$80 million.

Louisville, like UAB, has struggled with lagging faculty salaries. Dr. Garrison led an extensive review process at Louisville, identifying \$22 million that could be shifted to other priorities. About \$16 million of that went to faculty salaries.

Dr. Garrison also has a strong background in economic development. At Louisville, she helped form a partnership with the shipping company UPS.

"The similarities between her priorities as an academic officer and the chief operating officer at Louisville and the qualifications sought by our committee are almost uncanny," says Malcolm Portera, Ph.D., chancellor of the University of Alabama System.

Dr. Garrison is the sixth president in UAB's history and the second UAB alum to hold the position. (Charles A. McCallum, the university's third president, earned a medical degree at UAB.)

"UAB's history of growth and accomplishment is remarkable," Dr. Garrison says. "That record has been achieved through an entrepreneurial, roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-it-done attitude that I find exciting and enticing. I am honored and eager to lead this great university."

A photograph of a woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white sleeveless top and blue athletic pants, running through a park. The background is a blurred green forest, suggesting motion. The woman is looking forward and slightly to the left.

Kelly McAfee

Staying Fit for the Long Run

By Cheryl Sloan Wray

For Kelly McAfee, a senior honors student in the School of Nursing, running is more than a pastime. It serves as an inspiration for her academic work.

Ms. McAfee has competed in the New York City Marathon and plans someday to run in the Boston Marathon. Those running experiences came in handy as she recently completed a special research project through the School of Nursing's honors program. The project—which examined the effect of high-impact exercise and fitness during pregnancy—evolved from her interest in running.

“When I was deciding what my project would be about, I naturally thought of exercise because of my interest in running,” Ms. McAfee says. “I decided to try to answer the question: Can pregnant women continue to be involved in marathon training and other high-impact activities?”

GOING TO THE SOURCE

When Ms. McAfee began the project, she was unsure of how to find sources for her study. A race at Oak Mountain State Park soon provided the answer.

“I was in a triathlon at Oak Mountain and happened to see a pregnant woman running,” she says. “I was able to talk with her and then got to meet her doctor. That led to other pregnant women who raced, and then I also located two women from New York and another woman from Virginia that I met over the Internet.”

Ms. McAfee talked with doctors, interviewed pregnant women who ran in marathons, and surveyed the expectant runners' family members.

The results convinced Ms. McAfee that it's possible for runners and other athletes to continue their training and fitness regimes during pregnancy. It's important, however, she says, for expectant mothers to understand their changing bodies and to discuss their training plans with their doctors.

The expectant mother's support system is another important factor. Ms. McAfee's research showed that husbands and mothers were the most concerned individuals in the women's lives, and that husbands were the most supportive of decisions to continue exercising during pregnancy.

GOING THE DISTANCE

Ms. McAfee grew up in Cullman, Alabama, and started running in the tenth grade. She ran her first marathon in 2000 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

“Running is something I really enjoy,” she says. “I started off running shorter distances and moved up to marathons.”

Her second marathon was the New York City Marathon, and Ms. McAfee was pleased to finish in 3:44. “The Boston Marathon is tougher to get into because you have to meet a certain qualifying time,” she says. “I need to get down to 3:40, and I will be working on that in my next few races.”

Ms. McAfee also has her sights set on her nursing future. After graduating in August 2002, she plans to move to Nashville, Tennessee, and work in either obstetrics or pediatrics.

“Nursing and exercise are big parts of my life,” Ms. McAfee says, “and it's been interesting to combine the two in my research projects.”



Norman Keltner, EdD

Enjoying a Trip on the Road Less Traveled

By Roger Shuler

When Norman Keltner graduated from high school in 1963, he gave almost no thought to a career in nursing.

“There was a certain stigma attached to men in nursing at the time,” Keltner says. “There weren’t very many men in the field, and it just didn’t seem like a viable career choice.”

But Keltner got a job at Stockton State Hospital, near his home in Manteca, California. “While I was there, I found out how much money the nurses made,” Keltner says. “It would seem like a paltry amount today. But to an 18-year-old guy trying to figure out what to do with his life, it seemed like a lot at the time.”

That realization started Keltner on a journey that led to UAB, where he is a professor in the School of Nursing and a part-time staff nurse in the geropsychiatry department at UAB Hospital. He has co-authored three books on psychiatric nursing and received numerous teaching awards; in fact, he was the UASON’s recipient of the 2001 UAB President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

“Even though going into nursing wasn’t something I planned on doing,” Keltner says,

“it turned out to be a great decision. Now, I think nursing is seen as another career option for young men. You’ll always be able to get a job, and that makes it an attractive field.”

Growing in the Army

While working at Stockton State Hospital, Keltner decided to enroll at nearby Delta Junior College. As he completed the two-year nursing program, the Vietnam War was heating up and Congress passed a bill to draft 900 male nurses. “I was one of them,” Keltner says.

He served two years as a warrant officer in the U.S. Army. “The Army is where I developed a thirst for education,” Keltner says. “I think I would have been satisfied with my junior-college degree and a job at the state hospital, but the Army exposed me to the world beyond the 15-mile radius of home.”

Keltner earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Fresno State University and worked for three years in continuing education at California State University Stanislaus before earning his doctorate at the University of San Francisco. He served on the faculties at the

University of Wyoming, the Baylor School of Nursing, and Cal State Bakersfield before coming to UAB in 1990.

Living through History

Psychiatric care has improved dramatically throughout Keltner’s career. “In some ways, I’ve lived through history,” he says. “When I started working at the state hospital in 1963, the psychotropic medications had been around for only about eight years. I worked with people who had been there in the 1930s and ’40s and had a wealth of anecdotes about the way things used to be, before we had medications and a more enlightened view of how to care for psychiatric patients.”

Nurses play a critical role in psychiatric care, Keltner says. “There are three overarching interventions nurses can provide in psychiatric care. First, they have to be able to talk with people in a therapeutic way. Second, nurses are the ones who administer medications, and they need to understand the drugs because they can have powerful side effects. And third, nurses help shape the environment in which patients are treated.

“All of that is underscored by an understanding of psychopathology. A nurse needs to understand, for example, the difference between someone with depression and someone with substance-abuse problems.”

Keltner values his role as a classroom teacher. “I think I treat students with respect, and that’s fundamental to my approach. I believe in repetition, the importance of hearing things over and over, from different angles.”

There is a certain urgency to nursing education, Keltner says. “You know there is a day of reckoning coming for the students. They will really have to apply what you are teaching.

“I let my students know that I’ve never regretted going into nursing. It’s an opportunity to do something important with your life. You are helping people at times when they need help. And in my case, after working in a hospital for years, I was able to move to the academic setting and teach younger people what I had learned.”

New Faculty *Real-World Experience Pays Off in the Classroom*

By Laura Freeman

In sharing their knowledge and experience, five new faculty and teaching staff at the UASON are also showing students the value of having a passion for nursing.

Lessons from the Front Lines

Twenty years as a critical care nurse taught Jane Castle, PhD, RN, a lot about living—and the process of dying. During those two decades, advances in medicine saved many patients, but many of them ended up living longer in critical condition. End-of-life care modeled on cancer patients did not always fit this new group of chronically critical patients.

“We’re working to make a patient’s final days comfortable and meaningful,” Dr. Castle says. “It’s important to honor the patient’s preferences, support the family, and provide information and resources to help in decision making.”

Dr. Castle is particularly interested in care for patients with advanced heart failure who are not candidates for transplants. In addition to her teaching of high-acuity nursing, Dr. Castle is interested in medical ethics and research.

Personal Experiences

Nadine James, PhD, RN, is an instructor in adult health nursing and has a special interest in post-anesthesia recovery.

In December 2001, Dr. James became the first graduate from the UASON’s new PhD program. Her dissertation focused on perceptions of exercise in older adults with arthritis and she maintains a strong interest in rheumatic diseases. She is involved with the National Arthritis Action

Program and is helping deliver a self-help course to residents of rural Wilcox County, Alabama.

Dr. James has presented abstracts to the American College of Rheumatology and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is an investigator in UAB’s Center for Education and Research Therapeutics.

The Basics of Business

Pamela S. Autrey, PhD, RN, teaches leadership and management in nursing and health sys-



Jane Castle, Pamela Autrey, and Nadine James

tems administration. “Patient satisfaction is at the heart of success in the business side of medicine,” she says. “As the economics of health care become increasingly complex, it’s important for the business health of a practice or care facility to be in good condition in order to help patients stay healthy.”

Working in quality management for a hospital emergency room increased Dr. Autrey’s interest in sound business practices and how they can help meet patient expectations and retain nurses. She combined her BS in nursing

from UAB (1976) with a master’s degree in business administration, then went on to earn a PhD in the field. She is continuing her research in patient satisfaction and is a scientist in the Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education.

Finding a Niche

Adult psychiatric nursing is the career focus for Ken Farr, MS, APRN, BC. As a clinical nurse specialist, he has worked in both the hospital- and private-practice

specialists, and each specialist can prescribe drugs. No one may be checking to see how these drugs interact, and that has become a significant problem in health care.”

The Challenge of Sickle Cell

For Kristen Lambert Osborn, MSN, CRNP, a love of pediatrics began early and developed into a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner. But it was an unexpected opportunity to work in pediatric hematology that inspired her commitment to caring for sickle-



Kristen Lambert Osborn and Ken Farr

cell patients. “A cross-cultural highlight of my years in nursing was an opportunity to work with patients in Honduras,” he says. “While I was an undergraduate student at the School of Nursing, I was seeking an international experience and was able to go to Honduras through the World Health Organization Collaborating Center at UAB.

“Today, in addition to teaching, I’m primarily interested in geropsychiatry, particularly conditions related to polypharmacy. Geriatric patients tend to see so many spe-

cialists. “I love working with patients as a nurse practitioner. I also do sickle-cell presentations, speaking to case managers and others around the state.”

Ms. Osborn, who earned her MSN at the UASON in 1998, combines teaching with patient care at Children’s Hospital and in outlying areas. She is also involved in research aimed at preventing strokes and complications from exposure to parvovirus in sickle-cell patients.

THE REWARDS OF RESEARCH

Building the Base of Nursing Knowledge

By Sandra Bearden



Barbara Smith studies the effects of exercise on HIV-positive patients

With high energy but no obvious purpose, Betty walks around and around her house, following the same path through the kitchen, hallway, and living room dozens of times daily.

This restless wandering is one of many challenges facing Betty's 75-year-old husband, Bill. Life is a series of crises these days for the retired railroad man. Betty has Alzheimer's disease, and Bill is her chief caregiver. This situation is new to Bill, and he needs help.

Improving the skills and capabilities of caregivers such as Bill (and indirectly, the well-being of their patients) is a major focus of research at the University of Alabama School of Nursing at UAB. But it's only one of several areas drawing the attention of UASON researchers. Like the nursing profession itself, research in the School covers an array of diseases and situations.

Most of the research at the UASON focuses on two primary "clusters"—one that includes scientists studying the needs of

caregivers for patients with long-term, debilitating illnesses, and one that includes scientists studying the effects of exercise on major medical problems. Some research is descriptive, examining situations or patterns of behavior with no attempts at change. Other research is interventional, testing methods for changing behavior or outcomes.

COPING AND CAREGIVING

Aging and Alzheimer's

Linda Davis, PhD, is focusing on skill training for family caregivers of patients with dementia. Tracking 71 sets of patients and caregivers through an NINR grant, Dr. Davis and her research associates are examining the problems caregivers face, and the skills they need, as a family member travels the long and hazardous road of Alzheimer's disease. She says the needs of caregivers change as patients decline through the three phases of the disease: (1) forgetfulness beyond normal absentmindedness; (2) confusion, when patients are mobile but often argumentative, moody, and in need of almost constant attention; and (3) the final stage, in which bedbound patients need basic care.

"Our goal is to develop the best education support system possible," Dr. Davis says. "Such research has a potential impact on the entire population, because over the next few years, we expect that 3 or 4 million people will have Alzheimer's disease. Today, families—usually spouses or adult daughters—provide more than 80 percent of the care for these patients. Fewer than 10 percent go into nursing homes."

Struggling with Stroke

Joan Grant, DSN, recently completed an NINR-funded interventional study, which examined ways in which health-care professionals can use the telephone to assist family caregivers of stroke victims.

"About 80 percent of stroke victims are cared for by family members," Dr. Grant says. "We undertook this study

to help caregivers deal with problems and utilize the resources around them. Through an initial in-home visit, followed by telephone contacts, a group of 74 caregivers learned to define problems, consider solutions, test solutions, and evaluate outcomes. We compared this group with a control group that received only discharge-planning services and another group that received telephone contacts but no intervention."

Christine Poe, of North Shelby County, was a study participant. Her husband, Roy, had a stroke shortly after they had moved into their daughter's home. Since the couple's daughter and son-in-law work, Mrs. Poe was the daytime caregiver.

"Being able to discuss all aspects of Roy's care really helped me keep my morale up," she says. "The nurses also gave me lots of practical help. For instance, on several occasions Roy came up the stairs from his downstairs sickroom, holding on to the stair rails. The nurse suggested I attach a bell or sound device to his belt so I would know when he started up the stairs."

Intervening with Diabetes

A study directed by Carol Dashiff, PhD, focuses on caregivers of teenagers with diabetes. "We hope to learn from the study how teenagers with diabetes can develop autonomy while staying connected to parents and others who are important to them," Dr. Dashiff says. "One of the most innovative aspects of the study is that parents and teenagers fill out forms describing areas in which they're likely to disagree and discuss these in an interaction. Some areas of conflict have to do with normal teenage issues. Others—such as checking blood sugar and letting friends and teachers know about the disease—relate to diabetes."

Dr. Dashiff says her research staff is collecting study data through home visits throughout Alabama. She plans to recruit 274 sets of parents and children (ages 11-15) for the two-year follow-up study, which is funded by an NINR grant.



Duck-Hee Kang says the mind and body can work together to reduce stress in breast cancer patients.

Michele Viikinsalo, project coordinator for the study, says that challenges common to adolescents with diabetes include adjustment to a regular eating schedule, telling others (such as teachers, friends, and school officials) about their diabetes, and monitoring blood sugar while exercising.

EVALUATING EXERCISE

Having an Impact on HIV

While Drs. Dashiff, Grant, and Davis concentrate on caregivers, another trio of nurse scientists is studying exercise and its effects on patients with serious health conditions.

Barbara Smith, PhD, recruited in 1997 to hold the Marie L. O’Koren Endowed Chair in Nursing, has a professional background in sports medicine and a personal background in competitive swimming. Dr. Smith has long been interested in the effect of exercise on patients with chronic diseases. Most recently, she’s conducted research on the effects of aerobic exercise on HIV-positive patients.

Dr. Smith has completed two studies—one focused on HIV-positive women being treated with protease inhibitors, the other on fat distribution in both male and female HIV patients. With two recent grants, Dr. Smith is exploring new aspects of exercise in HIV patients.

“One grant, funded by Bio-Technology General, a pharmaceutical firm, examines the impact of exercise on lipodystrophy,” she says. “This is a condition common to many AIDS patients. It’s characterized by potbellies and skinny arms and legs. Some of the new AIDS medications, while giving patients extended

lives, seem to be redistributing body fat. Insulin resistance, linked to diabetes, is also associated with lipodystrophy. There’s only one known way to reduce abdominal fat, and that’s through exercise.”

Dr. Smith says exercise programs, conducted and monitored at the UASON’s Center for Nursing Research, are designed to increase muscle mass and improve sugar metabolism in patients with lipodystrophy. Patients participate in programs of aerobic exercise and weight lifting.

In another study, Dr. Smith is examining the effects of physical activity and nutrition on HIV-positive patients. The NINR is underwriting this research with a \$1.4-million grant.

“Because of new medications and appropriate treatment, AIDS and HIV-positive patients are living longer lives,” Dr. Smith says. “Our goal is to help them maintain their physical endurance, perform daily activities, and enjoy a high quality of life.”

Fighting Fatigue

Duck-Hee Kang, PhD, is completing the second year of a four-year interventional study of the effects of exercise on breast-cancer patients. The study involves moderate-intensity aerobic exercise designed individually for patients, along with stress management and social support. Researchers implement this through weekly group meetings and teaching self-help techniques.

Participants in the study have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and most have had lumpectomies or mastectomies. Many have undergone chemotherapy or radiation treatments.

“In the past, we believed

patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation therapy would be very tired and require bed rest,” Dr. Kang says. “But some research indicates that exercise is one of the most efficient ways to fight this fatigue.

“A unique feature of the study is that it’s based on mind-body interaction. If you’re psychologically stressed, that stress has immediate consequences that affect immune response.”

Studying Stress and Anger

Marti Rice, PhD, is also participating in exercise-related research. In two studies, she is examining the effects of anger and stress on children and adolescents. “We’re looking to implement a program that includes physical activities and behavioral strategies to help children manage their anger and stress,” Dr. Rice says.

In 1989, the UASON research team began a four-year study with a final sample of 1,200 children. A more recent study

also found that children who are physically active have lower anger levels and more effective anger expression. These were descriptive studies, and we’re applying for a four-year National Institutes of Health grant to conduct an interventional study that would involve hiring coordinators and physical-activity instructors. We would incorporate the study into the school environment, working with teachers, counselors, and administrators.”

Whether nursing research deals with caregivers or care receivers, with exercise or Alzheimer’s, its mission is to improve health through treatment or prevention of disease. “Lay people often tell us nursing research is easy for them to understand,” says Marion Broome, PhD, associate dean for nursing research. “It deals with subjects that people face every day.”



included 200 subjects.

“From the early study, we found that there is a correlation between anger and blood pressure in children, just as there is in adults,” Dr. Rice says. “We

Marti Rice studies methods for helping children cope with anger and stress.



Wendy Booth finds inspiration in her work at Birmingham Health Care.

By Marti Webb Slay

It's a common misconception: Those who can, do; those who can't, teach. But many people can both teach and do, and for them, the two form a powerful combination.

Four UASON faculty and teaching staff maintain active nursing practices, while also handling teaching duties. Each works with populations that have limited access to health-care services.

ENHANCING CREDIBILITY

“Practice and teaching really go well together,” says Wendy C. Booth, MSN, RN, CNS. “They actually go hand in hand, and one feeds the other. Practice keeps you current on both health-care trends and patient interventions, and it also gives you ideas for students and how to educate them. It increases your credibility with the students if you are out there working with patients.”

Ms. Booth (BSN, 1985; MSN, 1988) is a clinical nurse specialist and family nurse practitioner and teaches undergraduate community health nursing. She practices one day a week at Birmingham Health Care (formerly Birmingham Health Care for the Homeless). “A large percentage of their population is indigent, and some of them are in substance abuse rehabilitation programs,” she says.

Ms. Booth finds the work inspiring. “I love the population I work with. I take my undergraduate students there, and we look at different cultural issues—not just race, but also culture, meaning socioeconomic status and issues such as substance abuse, single parenting, care for latchkey children, and more. The needy have many health problems, but I find that they are very appreciative of the care. Most of them really try to listen and comply with the regimens.”

Trips to the clinic are valuable for students, Ms. Booth says. “They are amazed when they go down there. They haven't had much experience with the indigent population.”

Nursing students need to be aware of community resources available to patients, Ms. Booth says. “Even if a student doesn't pursue a career in public health, knowing about these resources can be an important part of the care they provide to their patients.”

WORKING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

Joan Carlisle, DSN, CRNP, BC, and Ruth P. Cox, PhD, LMFT, APRN/BC, CTS, DP-NAP, both make resources available to children through their practice at the Family Place Pediatric Practice at UAB.

The multidisciplinary Family Place offers a unique blend of services to patients, most of whom are



Joan Carlisle treats a number of foster children at the Family Place Pediatric Practice.



Penny Wright says her work with Head Start children helps make her a more effective teacher.

on Medicaid. Dr. Carlisle says the goal is to provide a “medical home” for the children who come to the clinic. “We have a large percentage of children who are in foster care,” she says. “Some are lucky enough to get in a foster home and receive consistent care, but so many go from foster home to foster home, and trying to keep up with what’s going on with them is very difficult.

“Sometimes we find these children are underimmunized or even overimmunized. Many of them have special needs. Our hope is to keep them with us and build a relationship with them, making sure they receive care that meets or exceeds national guidelines.”

Dr. Cox stresses the importance of working not just with patients, but also with families. The Family Place offers the services of nutritionists, therapists, and social workers, as well as hearing and eye evaluations. “We can be a conduit for a lot of services for families,” Dr. Cox says. She works with families whose children have behavioral problems at home or school and often goes to schools to work out solutions directly with teachers or administrators. She also helps locate absentee fathers of children and urges them to take an active role in their children’s lives.

The collaboration among several disciplines makes the Family Place an excellent

training ground. “What we have here is nurses teaching medical students,” Dr. Cox says. “We also work with nurse practitioner students, undergraduate nursing students, social work interns, and nutrition interns. And occasionally high-school students who’re interested in the health-care professions come to volunteer in our clinic.”

Says Dr. Carlisle: “We work together closely—nursing, medicine, social work—and it’s a very high level of collaboration. It’s also an opportunity to conduct research because we are getting grants and looking at outcomes for the children.”

Dr. Carlisle says her practice makes her a better teacher. “I would not even think about teaching pediatric nurse practitioner students if I were not practicing at the same time. We have those real-life examples that aren’t just out of a textbook.”

STAYING IN TUNE

Penny Wright, PhD, who teaches pediatric nursing, agrees with Dr. Carlisle. She says her work with Head Start children makes her a more effective teacher. “One enriches the other. To have a clinical practice, to be out there seeing children, puts me much more in touch, much more in tune, with what is going on, and not just in pediatric nursing; it also

keeps me in touch with kids and how kids think. I can take examples from my practice to illustrate a point, and you can just watch the light bulb go on in a student’s head.

“On the other hand, my teaching enriches my practice. I came into nursing to take care of people, and I can do that in addition to teaching, which I absolutely adore.” Dr. Wright was the UASON’s recipient of the 2000 UAB President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. Wright’s students come to the Head Start Clinic as part of their training. “It has been a really good experience for the students,” she says. “They get to do a head-to-toe physical exam of a child, which is something many of them have never done. They also get to conduct hearing and vision screening.”

All four women agree: Caring for the disadvantaged provides a service to the community while enhancing the teaching of nursing.

“Nursing is about having relationships with your clients and their families,” Dr. Cox says. “To be competent at that, you have to know what’s going on in the discipline. If you are going to teach others, you’ve got to know what is happening in the field, and you can’t know that by just sitting in an office somewhere. You can’t know that just by doing research. It helps to be out in the practice arena.”

Lasting Impact

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR NURSING EDUCATION

By Norma Butterworth-McKittrick

An African proverb reminds us that “we will be remembered not for the fruit we pick, but for the trees we plant.” Robert Luckie, Thomas Jernigan, Fay Ireland, and Muriel Rylee Casper (RN, 1947) will long be remembered—and thanked many times over—for the seed money they have given to provide ongoing support for future generations of nursing students. Their thoughtful, carefully planned gifts will help the UASON continue to fulfill its mission of serving the community through educating nurses for many years to come.



Robert Luckie

MOTIVATION MATTERS

Luckie, president of Luckie & Company, likes to tell a story to explain why he provided the funds for the Robert Luckie Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship. “I think of a little girl from Wedowee,” he says, “who grows up playing nurse with her dolls. She very much wants to go to nursing school, but she and her family are shocked by the cost. Her family can’t afford it, and since she is an average student, she is not eligible for most scholarships. So instead of going to nursing school, she goes to work at McDonald’s. That’s the kind of person I love to help. I believe that sometimes having motivation and zeal is more important than making A’s.”

In 1998 Luckie established the Robert Luckie Family Endowed Scholarship specifically for students who have a special desire to pur-

sue a career in nursing and need financial help to realize their dreams of receiving a quality education. This is the second UASON scholarship Luckie has funded. He established the Lois Drolet Luckie Endowed Nursing Scholarship in 1987, in memory of his wife and in honor of Holli Kemper Mock (BSN, 1985), the oncology unit nurse who “constantly went the extra mile” while Lois was a patient at UAB Hospital. “All of the oncology nurses did a superb job of taking care of my wife, and I wanted to recognize their professional skill and caring attitude,” he says.

LOOKING FOR LEADERS

Luckie has not only given his time, energy, talent, and financial resources to the School of Nursing, but he has also encouraged many others, including Thomas Jernigan, to join him in supporting and honoring the nursing profession.

“My good friend Bob Luckie suggested that I endow a scholarship, and so I did,” Jernigan says. In 1991 he provided the funds for the endowed Jernigan Nursing Scholarship, which is designed to encourage top students

“The nurses I have met are really wonderful people, and their work is tremendously helpful.”

- Thomas Jernigan

to pursue careers in nursing. The scholarship is awarded to nursing students who have cumulative grade point averages of at least

3.0, preferably those who demonstrate leadership potential or ability.

Over the years, Jernigan has continued to support the UASON—and not just because Luckie asked him to. As Jernigan learned more about the nursing profession and saw the genuine concern and attention nurses give each patient, he recognized what a valuable role nurses play in health care. “The nurses I have met are really wonderful people,” he says, “and their work is tremendously helpful.”

PROMOTING A PROFESSION

Fay Ireland and her husband, Bill, delight in giving back to the Birmingham community in general, and to UAB in particular. Over the years their generosity has funded a wide variety of programs at the university, including three endowed chairs in the School of Medicine and an entire floor in the Hugh Kaul Human Genetics Building.

Mrs. Ireland’s decision to fund a UASON scholarship reflects her own lifelong interest in the nursing profession. “My mother was a suture nurse, and I heard a lot about nursing as a child,” she says. “During World War II everyone was asked ‘What are you going to do for your country?’ I decided to serve by becoming a nurse.”

Mrs. Ireland began her nursing education at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and then transferred to New York Hospital Medical Center, where she received her diploma. Later she earned her BSN at Cornell University and served as a senior public health nurse in western Jefferson County before she married Bill Ireland.

“During World War II everyone was asked ‘What are you going to do for your country?’ I decided to serve by becoming a nurse.”

- Fay Ireland

Although Mrs. Ireland did not pursue a formal career in health care after her marriage, her nursing skills came in handy when the couple’s five boys were growing up. She has continued to keep up with the nursing profession over the years, and Dean Rachel Booth invited her to be one of the founding members of the UASON Board of Visitors in 1992. Mrs. Ireland has actively participated in board meetings and activities ever since, including hosting the first two scholarship fundraising events.

After learning more about the UASON’s need for financial incentives to attract top-notch high-school graduates to the nursing profession, she established the Fay Belt Ireland Endowed Nursing Scholarship in 2000. The scholarship, which is awarded annually, helps cover the cost of tuition, room and board, and books and other supplies for a qualified pre-nursing UAB student who plans to enroll in a degree program at the School of Nursing.

A FATHER’S WISH

Going to nursing school changed Muriel Rylee Casper’s life forever. “As a child I picked cotton and planted corn on my family’s farm in Perry County,” she says. “My father was ahead of his time, though, and he encouraged my sisters and me to prepare to support ourselves.”

The family didn’t have the money to send the girls to college, but during World War II the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps provided financial assistance for nursing education, in exchange for a commitment to serve a tour of duty. Mrs. Casper and a friend decided to take

advantage of that offer, and they “escaped” from their rural childhood homes to “get an education” in Birmingham.

Mrs. Casper earned her nursing diploma in 1947 at the Jefferson-Hillman Hospital School of Nursing. By that time the war had ended and her required tour of duty had been waived. She worked as a scrub nurse for a year at TCI Hospital (later Lloyd Noland, now HealthSouth Metro West) before pursuing her BSN at the University of Colorado. She remembers running out of money just before



she completed her coursework. “I came back to Birmingham and worked for a semester. Then I went back out to Colorado and finished my degree.”

A degree in nursing became Mrs. Casper’s ticket to a fulfilling career that took her to Germany, as well as Illinois, Florida, Michigan, Tennessee, and California in her work with the Veterans Administration Nursing Service and the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Mrs. Casper says she would have missed out on a lifetime of wonderful experiences, events, and people if her dad had not given her the incentive to get an education.

In 1997 she established the Rylee Casper Remainder Charitable Trust to give others in her old “neighborhood” the opportunity to “go and try.” The trust provides income for Mrs. Casper during her lifetime, and the remainder will fund the Rylee Casper Endowed Nursing Scholarship to be awarded to qualified nursing students from Perry, Bibb, and Chilton Counties.

“As children we have dreams of what we would like to do when we grow up,” Mrs. Casper says. “If we have the incentive to look for possibilities and the courage to work—and if we’re willing to look for the support we need—success is possible. A never-give-up attitude also helps.

“I tell my story as an example of what incentive can do. And I am thankful that I can now offer monetary assistance for students, to encourage young people to work toward achieving their dreams.”



(Top) Rylee Casper, at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Dedication in 1997 at Arlington National Cemetery; (Above) Mrs. Casper, flanked by photographs of her father and mother, during a visit to her hometown of Centreville, Alabama

Family Ties

BUILDING SUPPORT FOR A CARING PROFESSION

By Norma Butterworth-McKittrick



Jarman Fearing Lowder, from the 1974 UASON yearbook

Tom and Jarman Lowder deliberately include their three daughters in discussions on how to allocate funds from the Thomas H. and Jarman F. Lowder Foundation. They use these family meetings to help the girls—Brooke, Heather, and Kelly—understand the importance of giving back to their community by making responsible decisions about the family’s resources.

The Lowders are also encouraging their children to continue the family’s longtime support of UAB. Over the years Tom and Jarman (BSN, 1974) have volunteered their time, energy, and financial resources for a variety of university events and programs.

A SHINING STAR

“UAB has meant so much, not only to the city of Birmingham but also to the whole state of Alabama,” Tom says. “It is the best thing in the city,” Jarman adds. The Lowders want to do everything they can to help others appreciate Birmingham’s “shining star” and “help keep it going,” Tom says.

The Campaign for UAB has given them a special opportunity to contribute to the long-term financial support of the university. Tom notes that with four females providing input, discussions about distributing funds from the family’s foundation tend to focus on meeting the needs of women and children. A few years ago, for instance, the family decided to make a gift to fund the Lowder Stem Cell Transplant Unit for pediatric patients in the UAB Bone Marrow Transplantation Program.

As Tom, Jarman, and their daughters talked about their contribution to the Campaign for UAB, they considered a number of options. Nothing seemed appropriate, though, until someone suggested endowing a School of Nursing scholarship.

TOUCHING THE HEART

“We wanted to fund something that makes sense in the head and also touches the heart,” Tom says. Other projects seemed interesting,

Jarman earned her degree in nursing at UAB in 1974. She worked while she was in school, and she still remembers how difficult it was to hold a job and complete her education and training at the same time. She is pleased that the Jarman F. Lowder Endowed Scholarship will make it possible for many future nursing students to focus on their studies without worrying about financial pressures. She hopes that the scholarship will encourage young people to consider entering the nursing profession.

In addition to helping educate the nurses of the future, the Lowder family’s \$2-million gift provides a living example for Tom and Jarman’s daughters to follow in the future. “Our family knows firsthand how deeply nursing touches people’s lives,” Tom says. “We hope our gift will encourage other people to think of meaningful ways to share their resources and provide lasting support for UAB.”



(From left) Heather, Tom, Jarman, Kelly, and Brooke Lowder

but it was Jarman’s personal tie to the School of Nursing, along with the fact that most nursing students are women who need financial assistance for higher education, that made funding a scholarship most appealing.



Mary Louise Roberts Wilson

REMEMBERING THE "ANGEL OF ANZIO"

By Roger Shuler

For most of her 87 years, Mary Louise Roberts Wilson was relatively unknown to the general public.

But in the last three years of her life, she became one of the best-known graduates of the nurse training programs at UAB.

Mrs. Wilson, who earned a diploma at the Hillman School of Nursing in 1935, was featured in *The Greatest Generation*, the best-selling book by "NBC News" anchor Tom Brokaw.

The book examines the lives of men and women who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II. It includes a seven-

page chapter on Mrs. Wilson's 29 months of service in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in North Africa and Italy, where her unit treated more than 73,000 patients at the 56th Army evacuation hospital at a beachhead in Anzio. Mrs. Wilson was awarded the Silver Star, making her the first woman to receive the medal.

COURAGE UNDER FIRE

After Brokaw's book was released in 1998, Mrs. Wilson became something of a celebrity. In a 1999 interview with *UAB Magazine*, she laughed about signing autographs

at age 84. She was honored by the city council and became a popular public speaker in her hometown of Duncanville, Texas, a Dallas suburb. She even received a standing ovation at her church.

On November 19, 2001, Mrs. Wilson died of an apparent heart attack at her home. In *The Dallas Morning News*, she was remembered as the "Angel of Anzio," the nickname she earned for her cool under enemy fire while supervising more than 50 nurses and caring for the wounded in World War II.

"She was so nice. She took special care of me," said Dewey Ellard,

a soldier injured after German Tiger tanks in Rome ambushed his tank two days before D-Day. "I had my head bandaged as big as a basketball, with slits for my eyes. But when I opened my eyes, I saw her plain as I saw anything."

Nurses were not sheltered from danger during World War II, Mrs. Wilson said. Sixteen members of the Army Nurse Corps died as a result of enemy action. Sixty-seven were taken prisoner of war, and more than 1,600 were decorated for bravery under fire or meritorious service. The conditions for providing care were difficult, at best. "If we weren't in a tent, we were in a bombed-out building—there was nothing romantic about it," she said. "Any way you take it, war is hell. We had amputees, eviscerated abdomens, open chest wounds—you name it."

MEMORIES OF HILLMAN

Mrs. Wilson finished high school in Lufkin, Texas, but her father died during her senior year, so after graduation she moved with her mother and five siblings to Amory, Mississippi. "I was looking for a place to go for nurse's training, and Amory is halfway between Birmingham and Memphis," Mrs. Wilson said. "So I sent an application to a hospital in Memphis and one to Hillman Hospital in Birmingham. I told myself, 'Whichever one accepts me first is where I'm going.'"

That turned out to be Hillman. Mrs. Wilson was 17 years old when she entered the nursing program in 1932. "I remember that I was the youngest one in the class, so I never got blamed for anything," she told *UAB Magazine*. "I really did enjoy my three years there. I was real proud of my RN degree from Hillman, and I still am."

Prior to the University of Alabama School of Nursing's move from the Tuscaloosa campus to UAB in 1967, a diploma school of nursing was associated with University Hospital. That school started as the Hillman School of Nursing, then became the Jefferson-Hillman School, and finally was named the University Hospital School of Nursing. For a short time in the 1940s, a second diploma program, the Jefferson School of Nursing, also existed. The Hospital School closed shortly after the UASON moved to Birmingham. In 1990, the graduates of all four named diploma programs were formally invited to become members of the UASON Alumni Association. Each year in the Vignette, a diploma graduate is featured in this section.

With Honors

HELPING STUDENTS STRETCH THE BOUNDARIES

By Cheryl Sloan Wray

When Ellen Buckner (BSN, 1975; MSN, 1983; DSN, 1987) first envisioned an honors program for the School of Nursing back in 1997, she wasn't sure how much impact such a program would have. But now, signs of the program's progress are apparent.

Student participation has increased significantly each year since the program was founded, and students have presented research

cants must have grade point averages of 3.0 or better at the end of their sophomore years.

Working with faculty mentors, honors students select research or clinical tracks. They choose projects and work with experienced clinicians and nurse researchers.

"The program encourages and energizes undergraduate students, and it gives them an appreciation for research," Dr. Buckner says.



(Below) UASON honors student Kayla Edge presents her poster at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.



(Above) Attending the National Conference on Undergraduate Research at Whitewater, Wisconsin, are Olaf Bothe, Karen Rushing, Kelly McAfee, Wendy Mallory, Julie Foster, Kayla Edge, Heather Harvey, Jackie Ingram, and Dr. Ellen Buckner.

projects in a number of forums. Students, faculty, and professionals have found common ground in pursuing a variety of projects.

"It's exceeded anything I ever imagined for it," Dr. Buckner says. "I'm just thrilled with the quality of work that has been done through the program and with the relationships built between nursing students and their mentors."

Dr. Buckner's original idea was developed by the UASON faculty, approved in 1999, and formally launched in 2000. Initially six students were admitted, and last semester 16 new honors students began the program.

ENERGIZING UNDERGRADS

Applications for the honors program are reviewed each semester. For consideration, appli-

"They come out of the experience understanding the work involved in research."

Honors students have produced a number of research and clinical papers. "These are studies that address important questions," Dr. Buckner says. "Encouraging undergraduate students to develop meaningful research projects, think through clinical challenges, and solve patient problems adds value to their educational experiences."

Honors students have studied a number of issues, including attitudes related to organ donation, exercise during pregnancy, pain assessment, burn support groups on the Internet, and diabetes.

Recent graduate Christina Allegretti (BSN, 2001) is a product of the honors program. "She knew she wanted to work with children

in some way and developed a project to study the effects of a hearing-impaired child on the family," Dr. Buckner says. Ms. Allegretti worked with representatives from the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, along with doctors at the speech and hearing clinic at Children's Hospital in Birmingham. There, she observed the surgical procedure, cochlear implant, that restored the child's ability to hear, and then followed the child during rehabilitation.

Ms. Allegretti and other nursing honors students published abstracts in the *Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science* and full-length papers in the *Proceedings of the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research*. "All of the work has been outstanding," Dr. Buckner says.

CHARTING A NEW COURSE

Barbara Woodring, EdD, associate dean for undergraduate studies, says the honors program benefits both students and faculty. Students, she says, learn in a unique and challenging way. "In place of the electives required of our traditional students, honors students are enrolled in focused research and clinical seminars," Dr. Woodring says. "They are also mentored through the process by highly qualified nurse educators and researchers, and they still are allowed to develop their own special interest areas."

The program enhances interaction between faculty members and undergraduate students, Dr. Woodring says. "Having honors students within the school has led some of our research-focused faculty to become more involved with undergraduate students. And I know that our faculty have exhibited great pride in the accomplishments of our honors students as they have presented their work at both local and national forums."

That pride extends throughout the School of Nursing. "The program has become more than I ever expected," Dr. Buckner says. "I'm very pleased with how it has evolved."

Supporting Scholarships

Making Gifts That Keep on Giving

Donors of UASON scholarships—and the nursing students who are the recipients of their generosity—were honored at an afternoon reception on Sunday, April 14.

Hosted by Dr. Rachel Z. Booth and organized by the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, the event included a brief ceremony recognizing these outstanding students and the donors who fund their scholarships, followed by refreshments in the UASON lobby. Students and their families enjoyed meeting the donors of their scholarships and had the chance to personally express their appreciation for the opportunity those scholarships represent.

Endowed scholarships are a primary focus of development and stewardship activities at the UASON because they provide students with the opportunity to receive a top-quality nursing education. The minimum amount required for an endowed scholarship is \$25,000, according to UA System Board of Trustees policy.

When that amount is received, the scholarship is approved by resolution of the Trustees, and awards may be given from income on the endowment. Monies may be added to the principal after a fund

is endowed, thereby increasing the income and the amount of the scholarship award. The goal is to have all UASON scholarships endowed at the \$100,000 level.

Other sources of scholarship funds include annual gifts from foundations, including the Comer Foundation, the SOS Foundation, and the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. Each of these contributions is used for a sponsored scholarship.

The UASON is most grateful to the individuals, families, corporations, and foundations that provide scholarship funds for our students.



At the reception are Jason Hitchcock, recipient of the Jernigan Nursing Scholarship; Noel Harvey; and Heather Harvey, who received the Mary Josephine Harwell Nursing Scholarship.



Dr. Rachel Booth with Dr. Bettye Jane Smith, who endowed the Ethel M. and Jesse D. Smith Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship in memory of her parents



Elizabeth Eversmann, recipient of the John Wilson Rodgers Memorial Scholarship, with retired UASON faculty member Dr. Marguerite Kinney, who endowed the scholarship in memory of her father



Board of Visitors member Wanda Simon (second from right) with Kayla Edge, Diane Von Ah, and Kisha Coleman, recipients of the Board of Visitors Endowed Scholarships



Recipients of the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation Scholarships (from left): Ann Shelton, Fateka Anderson, Amy Wright, Christina Dees, Laura Frizzell, Cassandra Sims, Tajuana Johnson, Heather Cobb, Myesha Banks, Valerie Collins, Giovana King, Sharmien Bagley, and Amy Williams

HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS

The School of Nursing has a major presence each year in UAB Homecoming events. Whether it's participating in the building decoration contest, walking in the parade, or hosting events for alumni and friends, the School of Nursing and its students are in the middle of the action. Homecoming 2001 included a UAB football victory over the Tulane Green Wave, and the UASON helped the campus get ready to "Dam the Wave."





Ross Leads Alumni Relations



Carolyn C. Ross joined the School of Nursing staff in May in the new position of alumni relations officer. A native of Guntersville and a graduate of the University of Alabama, Ms. Ross comes to the UASON with experience in marketing and fund development, including the campaign to restore the old Town and Gown Theater in Birmingham, now known as the Virginia Samford Theatre.

As alumni relations officer, she will lead efforts to connect with UASON graduates and students through events, class reunions, and other activities. She will provide support to the UASON Alumni Chapter of the UAB National Alumni Society and its board, and will assist with the annual fund campaign. She can be reached at (205) 975-2443, or [rossc@uab.edu].

"I am very enthusiastic about the School of Nursing alumni program," Ms. Ross says. "The School is privileged to have such an outstanding and talented group of alumni. There is so much to look forward to with the UASON, and it will be exciting to watch the alumni program develop to its full potential."

Homecoming 2002

The UASON Alumni Association will be involved in several activities during Homecoming week (October 8-12), and we invite you to join us for all of the excitement. On Thursday, October 10, the Alumni Association will host Alumni Night. This very special evening, the first of its kind at UAB, will include dinner, an Alumni Awards Celebration, the 2002 Annual Meeting, and more. Please mark your calendars for this special event. And make plans to bring your family to the UASON alumni tent at Blazer Village prior to kickoff of the Homecoming football game against the University of Houston. The game will be on Saturday, October 12 at Legion Field. For information, contact Carolyn Ross in the Office of Alumni Affairs at (205) 975-2443 or [rossc@uab.edu].

President's Report

BY SUZI WILSON MCDONALD (BSN, 1987)

P R E S I D E N T , U A S O N A L U M N I C H A P T E R



It is an honor to serve as president of the School of Nursing Alumni Association Chapter.

Assisting me as officers are Phillip Bowden, president-elect; Joy Deupree, vice president; Debra Knight, secretary; Greta Trimm, treasurer; Pat Cleveland, archivist; and board members Monica Payne Bush, membership; Lyn Reilly, nominations; and Velma Denson, awards and scholarships.

A special thanks to Greta, who has agreed to remain as treasurer for another year, allowing the board time to prepare someone for her office.

HOMECOMING HAPPENINGS

October was an exciting month as the alumni chapter joined with the student body to make an impressive showing during Homecoming Week. Thanks to Joy Deupree and the student body, led by Kristen Jacobs, president of the Association of Nursing Students, and Sam Pellegrine, president of the Undergraduate Student Association. Many students, along with faculty and staff members, volunteered to help with the festivities.

The week began with an open house at the UASON. Pat Cleveland was among the alumni leaders who helped host the event. Refreshments were provided by the School, and the event was held in conjunction with the building decoration competition, in which we took third place. UAB's football opponent, the Tulane Green Wave from New Orleans, prompted the Mardi Gras theme. The School of Nursing Building sported large Mardi Gras masks, and students threw beads during the judging process. Students, faculty, and staff (including Dr. Booth) wore masks and hats to get into the spirit.

The UASON took first place overall in the annual gurney derby and the mascot contest.

The annual Homecoming parade was on Friday, with the UASON's "Good Luck Fairy" waving to the crowd atop a beautifully decorated convertible, continuing with the Mardi Gras theme. Our entry in the parade won third place.

Saturday wrapped up the week, with Joan Carlisle coordinating the school's alumni booth at Blazer Village. She and other alumni applied

hundreds of Blazer mascot temporary tattoos and offered recruitment material to potential students. The school's banner was proudly displayed at Legion Field, and Sam Pellegrine represented the UASON during the halftime ceremony as the School received the annual overall spirit award.

The awards are in a display case across from the UASON student lounge. We invite you to stop by and view them the next time you visit the School.

CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS

In December, the alumni association chapter welcomed 40 new graduates to alumni status at the Senior Recognition Ceremony. We look forward to serving you and working with you in your alumni role.

The Alumni Association Chapter serves students in several ways. It provides the engraving fee for each new graduate to place initials on school pins. This year the chapter will provide funds to frame the graduating class picture. This cost has previously been covered by the Undergraduate Student Association. During the spring Honors Convocation, awards were presented to outstanding students, in the BSN, MSN, and PhD programs. Call for nominations went out in February. Also, applications became available in February for the Marie L. O'Koren School of Nursing Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship.

SHOWING SUPPORT

The School of Nursing Alumni Association Chapter would like to thank Dr. Marie L. O'Koren, dean emerita, for her generous support of the school, its students, and the alumni association. As a result of her donations and generous donations from other alumni, the first Marie L. O'Koren School of Nursing Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship was awarded in 1997 and has continued to be presented annually. Dean O'Koren has been devoted to the UASON for more than 30 years, first as a graduate of the master's program and later as a faculty member, associate dean, and dean. As dean, she said the strength

of the school ultimately rests with its alumni. She was present at the first alumni meeting in 1980 and strongly supported the formation of our alumni association. She also initiated this yearly alumni newsletter (now called *Vignette*).

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT

- Thanks to Pat Cleveland for the preservation and maintenance of our archives. She has done an outstanding job with the archives display cabinet in Room G029 at the UASON.
- Joy Deupree has been elected to the Alabama Board of Nursing. She will serve on the Advance Practice Council and the Education Committee.
- The Alumni Association Chapter welcomes Carolyn Ross as the UASON's new alumni relations officer. She brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this position.
- A special thanks to Barbara Sobko in the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs for all she does to serve the Alumni Association Chapter. Thanks also to the chapter officers and board members, and to Dr. Booth, for their support and encouragement.

I look forward to serving you as president and hope to meet many of you personally as we join together this year. The chapter hopes to offer many exciting and creative events, including a student tent event and an alumni reunion. In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support of the UASON, the O'Koren Scholarship, and our annual fund drive. For your convenience, a membership application and scholarship donation form are included in this issue of *Vignette*. Also, we have a great need for volunteers to serve on board committees. These committees are vital for the overall functioning of our chapter, and we encourage you to become involved in this capacity. I look forward to receiving feedback from you. You may contact me at [suzimcd@msn.com] or through the UASON alumni office at (205) 975-8936.

Lucy Box (RN, 1962) has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB). Ms. Box, the Lamar County school board president, represents 12 school boards in nine west Alabama counties. She has served on the Lamar County School Board for nine years. In addition to her work with the AASB, Ms. Box is a member of the University of West Alabama's Inservice Board, and for 15 years has been a member of the board of the Association of Retarded Citizens for Fayette and Lamar Counties.

Joanne Disch, PhD, (MSN, 1976) has received the Dorothy Garrigus Adams Award for Excellence in Fostering Professional Standards, presented by Sigma Theta Tau International. Dr. Disch is director of the Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership at the University of Minnesota. She also holds the Katherine R. and C. Walton Lillehei Chair in Nursing Leadership. Dr. Disch is a specialist in cardiovascular critical care and is a past president of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She recently was named to the board of directors for AARP.

Kathy Martin (MSN, 1977) has been named director of the School of Nursing at Austin Peay State University. She has more than 25 years of nursing experience and is certified in advanced nursing administration and online teaching.

Patricia Starck (DSN, 1979), dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston, was an honoree at the Speaking of Women's Health Conference.

Phyllis Horns (DSN, 1980), Bonnie Pilon (DSN, 1988), and Karen Stanley (BSN, 1983) were inducted as fellows into the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Horns is the interim vice chancellor for the Health Sciences Division and dean at the East Carolina University School of Nursing. Dr. Pilon is senior associate dean for practice at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Ms. Stanley

works as a nursing consultant on cancer care, pain management, and end-of-life issues.

Nancy C. Lovejoy (DSN, 1981) is recipient of the Oncology Nursing Society's Publishing Division 2001 Susan Baird Excellence in Writing Award in Clinical Practice. Lovejoy is an associate professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

Sue Ellen Turner (MSN, 1981), a retired brigadier general with the U.S. Air Force, has been named to the American Battle Monuments Commission. Brig. Gen. Turner was appointed by President George W. Bush. The American Battle Monuments Commission is a small independent agency of the executive branch of the federal government. It is responsible for commemorating the services of the American Armed Forces in countries where they have served since April 6, 1917 (the date of U.S. entry into World War I). The commission establishes suitable memorial shrines and oversees the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of permanent American military burial grounds in foreign countries. Brig. Gen. Turner was the director of nursing services in the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General in Washington, D.C., at the time of her retirement in 1995, following a 30-year military career.

Lydia Andrews (MSN, 1986) and her husband have accepted a call to teach in Kenya. They are teaching at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, a four-year coed boarding school. Andrews is the chair of the nursing department, and her husband is the school counselor.

Lynn M. Stover (BSN, 1989; MSN, 1993; DSN, 2000) recently moved to Savannah, Georgia, to accept a position as an assistant professor of nursing at Armstrong Atlantic State University. She is coordinating the maternal-child health course.

Marcia Hobbs (DSN, 1991) is board president for the Kentucky Board of Nursing and chair of the Murray State University

School of Nursing. Dr. Hobbs is also on the Board of Directors of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

Wipada Kunaviktikul (DSN, 1994) was named dean of the faculty of nursing at Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Brenda Merriweather (BSN, 1996) is director of nursing for Mid-America Rheumatology Consultants in Kansas City, Kansas.

Krista Bragg (BSN, 1997) received the Outstanding Student of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Ms. Bragg received her MSN and SRNA from the University of Pittsburgh in December 2000. She also received the University of Pittsburgh's Susan Nath Bywaters Endowment Award and the Patricia P. Lynch Scholarship.

Andi Parodi (DSN, 1997) has been promoted to the rank of commander in the U.S. Navy. Cmdr. Parodi is a member of the Research Utilization Team (RUT) at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. The RUT was developed by a group of nurses, headed by a nurse researcher. The team is committed to research-based nursing practice.

Diane Von Ah, a PhD student at the UASON, has received the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Award. Her research study was titled "Social Support: Impact on Outcomes in Breast Cancer."

Please send news items to:

School of Nursing
Alumni Affairs
NB 119
1530 3rd Ave S
Birmingham, AL 35294-1210

E-mail: rossc@uab.edu
FAX: (205) 934-0269
(Attention: Carolyn Ross)



Development News

By Virginia Gilbert Loftin,
Director of Development
and Alumni Affairs

*“It is the chance
to serve as the
link between
what is and
what can be.”*

“So, you’re a fund-raiser? Oh, I could never do that for a living, because I could never ask people for money.”

Few of us could, if that’s what being a development officer really meant. But development is so much more than asking people for money:

- It is the process of connecting people and their resources to a cause they care about.
- It is the opportunity to help create a positive and rewarding outcome for those people, as well as for others they may never meet.
- It is the chance to serve as the link between what is and what can be.

Who wouldn’t want to do that for a living?

I am delighted to have joined the UASON staff in December 2001, and I have enjoyed a warm welcome from faculty, staff, alumni, and students. Dr. Juanzetta Flowers, who retired in fall 2001 after 26 years on the faculty—including the last 12 as assistant to the dean for development and alumni—left a legacy of strong relationships throughout the UASON community. I look forward to building on that legacy.

One of our most important goals is to strengthen ties to alumni, who live and work all over the United States and in almost a dozen foreign countries. UASON alumni bring honor and distinction to our School and to the nursing profession, and with the help of our alumni board, we are committed to a renewed and reinvigorated relationship with all of them. In fall 2002, we look forward to welcoming members of the Jefferson-Hillman Diploma Class of 1954, who are planning a reunion weekend in Birmingham. If you are a member of that class, please call us at (205) 934-5483 so we can be sure you receive information about the reunion. And if you would like to organize a reunion for your class, please let us know.

Another goal is to continue to establish endowed scholarships, which help us attract top students and reward their accomplishments while providing a way for a family or an individual to honor a loved one. One example is the scholarship established by Juanzetta

Flowers in memory of her husband. Dr. Charles E. Flowers, Jr., was an internationally recognized physician and leader who chaired UAB’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for 17 years. As the son and husband of nurses, and as a practicing physician for four decades, Dr. Flowers firmly believed that nurses were the heart and soul of medical care. The Dr. Charles E. Flowers, Jr., Endowed Nursing Scholarship, established by his wife and supported by gifts from family, friends, and colleagues, is an especially fitting tribute to his memory, because it allows his lifelong commitment to the nursing profession to endure.

The Campaign for UAB continues to have an impact, with the School of Nursing meeting its stated goal of \$5 million. But our unmet needs—particularly in the area of endowed chairs and professorships—keep us pressing on toward the \$7.75 million we hope to reach by October 2003. If you have not already made a contribution to the campaign, I invite you to consider doing so this year, either as an outright gift or as a part of your estate plan.

Throughout this year, we will continue to work with our Board of Visitors, who support the School of Nursing in countless ways. In 2001, we welcomed four new members: Lanette Crumpton Sherrill, a BSN/MSN alumna who works in palliative care at UAB; Wanda Simon, also of Birmingham; Nancy Meisler (MSN, 1985); and R. Edward Varner, M.D., who heads UAB’s Division of Medical and Surgical Gynecology. Led by Chair Bobbie Parsons, the Board of Visitors will focus this year on ways to expand its reach beyond Birmingham and is laying plans for an exciting new fund-raising event in 2003. So stay tuned—and keep your fingers crossed!

It is an honor to serve the UASON and its loyal supporters as development director, and I look forward to being a part of what can be. Who wouldn’t want to do that for a living?

Honor Roll of Donors

The School of Nursing deeply appreciates the support of its activities provided by alumni and other friends. It is a pleasure and a privilege to recognize, through the following list, supporters whose generosity continues to be of vital importance to the School in achieving its mission.

The following list reflects gifts that were credited to the

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Dr. Marion E. Broome
Dr. Cynthia Brumfield
Rita and Sol Kimerling Advised Fund,
The Community Foundation of Greater
Birmingham
The Denton A. Cooley Foundation
Beverly W. Dunn
EBSCO Industries, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. William M. Ferguson
Larry D. Grimes, M.D.
Robert W. Holloway, M.D.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Carl Jernigan
John C. Malmberg
Mary Adams Antiques, Inc.
Dr. John Owen
Mr. and Mrs. James K. V. Ratliff
Dr. Faye H. Shaffer (MSN, 1981; DSN, 1988)
Elizabeth O'Neal Shannon
Mr. and Mrs. Jack H Shannon
Margaret W. Thompson
Julia H. Williams (BS, 1964)

GIFTS UP TO \$10,000

Altec/Styslinger Foundation
AmSouth Bank NA
Candice R. Bagby
Mr. and Mrs. Herman D. Bolden
James B. Boone, Jr.
Lella C. Bromberg
Buffalo Rock Company/Pepsi Cola
Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital
Karle J. Falkenburg
Dr. Juanzetta S. Flowers (BSN, 1966; MSN,
1983; DSN, 1985)

Charles E. Flowers Society
Robert R. Franklin, M.D.
Billie Grace W. Goodrich
Loretta Goodwin Gallery
Mr. and Mrs. T. Morris Hackney
Bill L. Harbert
B. L. Harbert International, LLC
Everett Hughes Holle
Marie S. Ingalls
Caroline P. Ireland
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Ireland, Sr.
Robert E. Jones, Jr., M.D.
Luckie/Birmingham, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. James W. Mullis, Jr.
Dr. Marie L. O'Koren (MSN, 1958)
Bobbie Jo Parsons
Judy Powell (BSN, 1971)
Protective Life Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Ray, Jr.
RealtySouth
W. Ann Reynolds, Ph.D.
Robert Trent Jones Academy Of Golf
John and Delia Robert Trust
Lavona Price Rushton
John H. Sherman
Dr. Bettye Jane Smith
SOS Foundation of Jeff County
Judith Thompson
Lucille R. Thompson
The Thompson Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Jack O. Tomlinson, Sr.
Jean Riley Tomlinson
Dr. Susan E. Trippet (DSN, 1988)
UAB Educational Foundation
Vulcan Materials Company Foundation
Sabrina S. Williams (BSN, 1978; MSN, 1982)

GIFTS UP TO \$25,000

Pauline S. Hixson Estate
Fay B. Ireland
Eileen N. Mahan Estate

GIFTS UP TO \$50,000

The Comer Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Parsons

GIFTS ABOVE \$50,000

Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation

Alumni by State

Nursing Alumni around the Country

ALASKA	8
ALABAMA	4,823
ARIZONA	13
ARKANSAS	25
CALIFORNIA	78
COLORADO	24
CONNECTICUT	6
DIST. OF COLUMBIA	2
DELAWARE	8
FLORIDA	268
GEORGIA	336
HAWAII	5
IDAHO	4
ILLINOIS	26
INDIANA	11
IOWA	6
KANSAS	10
KENTUCKY	50
LOUISIANA	84
MAINE	6
MARYLAND	36
MASSACHUSETTS	11
MICHIGAN	19
MINNESOTA	7
MISSISSIPPI	127
MISSOURI	21

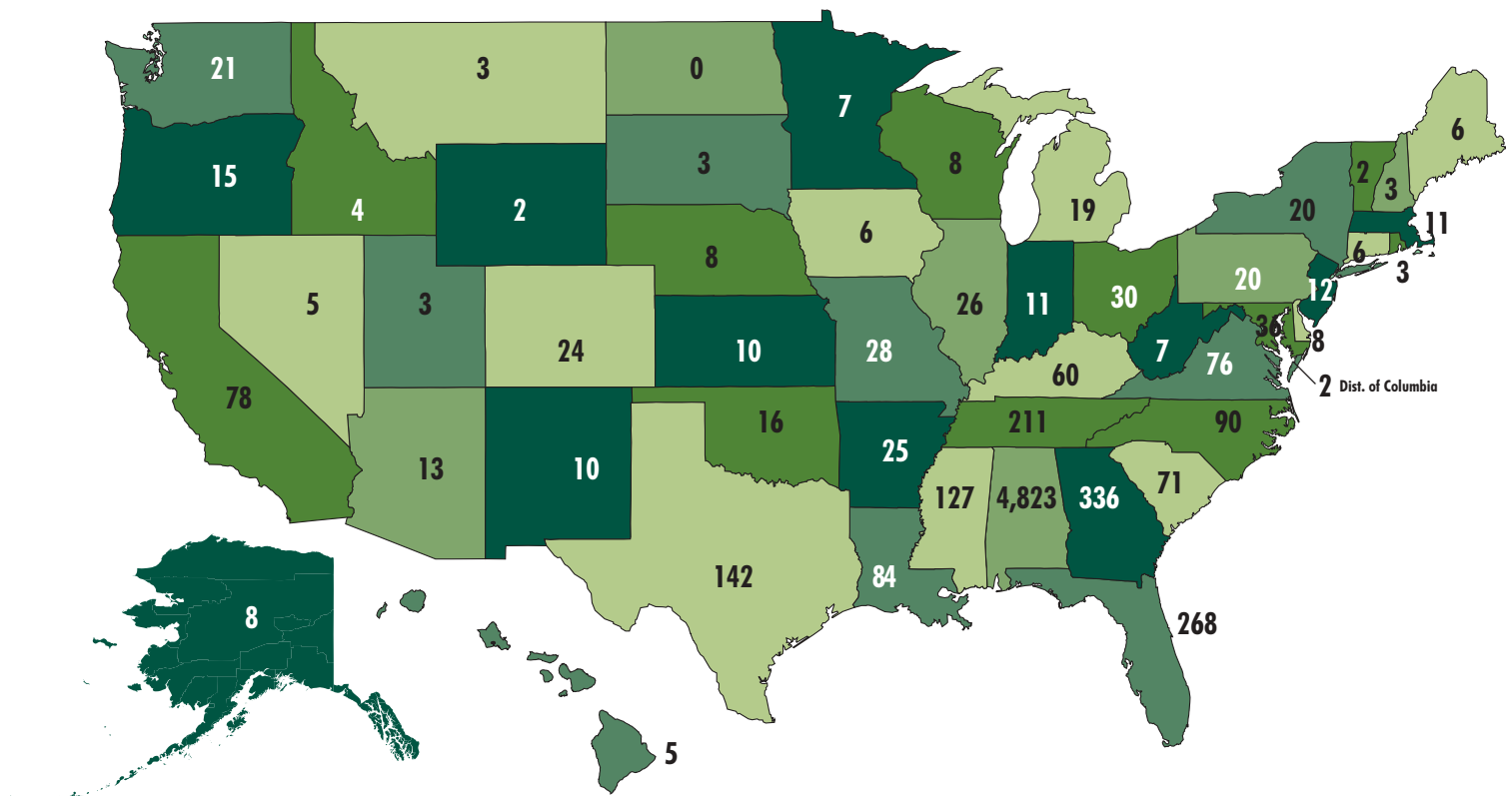
MONTANA	3
NEBRASKA	8
NEVADA	5
NEW HAMPSHIRE	3
NEW JERSEY	12
NEW MEXICO	10
NEW YORK	20
NORTH CAROLINA	90
NORTH DAKOTA	0
OHIO	30
OKLAHOMA	16
OREGON	15
PENNSYLVANIA	20
RHODE ISLAND	3
SOUTH CAROLINA	71
SOUTH DAKOTA	3
TENNESSEE	211
TEXAS	142
UTAH	3
VERMONT	2
VIRGINIA	76
WASHINGTON	21
WEST VIRGINIA	7
WISCONSIN	8
WYOMING	2

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

AFRICA	1
AUSTRALIA	1
BRAZIL	1
CHINA	1
COLOMBIA	1
ENGLAND	1
GUAM	1
ICELAND	1
JAPAN	2
JORDAN	1
PHILLIPPINES	1
SAUDI ARABIA	2
SOUTH KOREA	1
TAIWAN	23
THAILAND	24
VIRGIN ISLANDS	1

TOTAL 6,858

Note: Figures represent alumni whose locations are known. The UASON has more than 10,000 total alumni.



Building a UAB Community Online

The Internet will soon allow UAB alumni to stay more closely connected to the university—and to each other.

The UAB Online Alumni Community will be launched in September. The UAB National Alumni Society and the UAB Office of Alumni Affairs offer the online community through an agreement with Harris Internet Services. The online community will be available through a link at [www.alumni.uab.edu].

"The future for staying in touch with our alumni is on the Internet," says Joe Davidson, executive director of alumni affairs at UAB. "We are very excited about the opportunity to offer the online community to our alumni."

At the heart of the community is the Online Alumni Directory. The searchable directory will include complete contact information for alumni, and it allows alumni to make updates online.

The community includes a

class notes section, where alums can post notes regarding marriages, engagements, births, moves, and career changes.

"The Harris program is a valuable tool for us in Alumni Affairs," Davidson says. "This program allows our UAB alumni to update their personal information and to keep in touch with old friends and constituents at any time, through our Web site."

Harris Internet Services is a component of Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc., which is based in White Plains, New York.

"The Internet has changed the way we interact and the way we stay informed," Davidson says. "We've come to expect instant access to the people and information we need. The UAB alumni membership base is no different. Our alumni expect us to communicate more frequently and deliver more valuable and technologically advanced services than ever before."



Dean Rachel Z. Booth honored Bobbie Jo Parsons and Karle Falkenberg, chair and co-chair of the Board of Visitors, at a recent board meeting. A portrait of Mrs. Parsons was dedicated, and Mrs. Falkenberg accepted a resolution noting an endowment her family established at the UASON.

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