

# the 2003 *Vignette*

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF NURSING AT UAB



*Every  
Nurse  
Counts*





## *from the Dean*

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**W**e are pleased to bring you news about some of our major activities for the year. Your support and investment in our programs have been instrumental in placing us in the top five percent of U.S. nursing schools, as shown by recent national rankings of our programs.

The National Institutes of Health ranked us No. 16 in research funding, and *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the master's program No. 19. To continue the momentum, a task force of faculty and staff is updating our Vision 2005 Plan to guide us into the future, as well as to be congruent with UAB's overall Plan for the Future. The latter plan addresses five institutional goals, in the areas of undergraduate education, graduate and professional education, research and scholarship, service to community and state, and community/financial support. It is exciting to see the synergistic effect of these plans take shape.

An important issue that we face on a daily basis, both in practice and in education, is the serious nursing shortage. Although our enrollment has increased significantly, it is not enough to meet demand. Joy Deupree (BSN, 1994; MSN, 1997), a nurse recruiter, has joined our staff this year, primarily to augment the recruiting efforts for RN to BSN and the graduate program. Your help in recruiting is becoming more and more important, as our students tell us that you, our alumni, have highly recommended our programs to them. We are most grateful for your help in recruiting outstand-

ing students.

Our School of Nursing Honors Program attracts some of the best and brightest undergraduate students and allows them to excel in either the clinical or research area. These students learn to conduct research, write manuscripts for publication, present papers at regional and national conferences, or provide care in a non-traditional, complex, or highly specialized area of practice. Our students are always a source of pride for us and continue to represent our School in a very positive way.

We are delighted that our World Health Organization Collaborating Center (WHO) for International Nursing was recently redesignated for another four-year term that carries us to 2006. The Center is one of 11 in the United States and 32 in the world. As required by WHO, our Terms of Reference are to assist other countries with undergraduate and graduate education, identify core competencies for research in the Pan American Region, and develop and offer in Spanish a research course at the master's level. Dr. Lynda Harrison has received a Fulbright Award for 2003-2004 and will work with select countries in Latin America to realize some of the objectives of our Center. Dr. Harrison and Dr. Barbara Woodring are co-deputy directors of the Center.

As you read the Development Officer's report, you will note that alumni and friends have generously given of their resources to endow scholarships and support other activities in the School. We have made great progress during the past

year, but have much more to accomplish. Your support enables us to move forward with the recruitment of high quality students and faculty, while awarding scholarships for students in need and expanding our financial base for research, education, and service.

Members of the Board of Visitors are a significant asset to our School and have been so very generous with their time and resources. The M\*A\*S\*H party they sponsored in May was a huge success. We all dressed in our military uniforms and had heaps of fun. Many of you were there, and we hope to see you there again next year. The party's theme was "Make A Scholarship Happen." Indeed, the funds generated by the party did just that, and students will benefit from the generosity of the group in perpetuity.

Finally, we want you to know that three of our loyal and long-term faculty—Joan Carlisle, Ayda Nambayan, and Kuei-Shen Tu—retired this year. We thank them for more than 70 years of teaching in our School and wish them continued success and a bright future.

We are planning a special fall event so you can reconnect with friends and classmates and enjoy a step back in time. We hope to see you there.

Rachel Z. Booth, PhD, RN  
Dean and Professor

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# *Vignette* the 2003

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*On the cover: Whether working in the hospital, clinic, home care, or other setting, "every nurse counts" as the profession continues to move forward.*

# Fulbright Scholar

## Harrison Crosses Cultural Boundaries

By Laura Freeman



(Above) Dr. Lynda Harrison and Sra Urbina, director of National Nursing School, Guatemala; (Left) Dr. Harrison with students at a health center in Guatemala.

Spring will come twice this year for Professor Lynda Harrison, PhD. As summer turns to fall in Birmingham, she will fly south of the equator, to Santiago, Chile, where it will be spring. In Santiago, Dr. Harrison will be on a working sabbatical funded by a Fulbright Scholar Award; her work will be part of an effort to develop new opportunities for nursing education in Latin America.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. In announcing the award, officials noted that recipients are "selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields."

Dr. Harrison's project will focus on developing courses for a new master's degree program, plus a distance-based nursing research course, both in collaboration with nursing faculty at the Catholic University of Chile.

### EXPORTING KNOWLEDGE

The project grew out of a meeting of the World Health Organization Global Network of Collaborating Centers for Nursing, Dr. Harrison says. In a work session, she met M. Soledad Rivera and Rosina Cianelli, faculty members at the Catholic University of Chile.

"In Chile, we'll work with focus groups to

identify research competencies that nurses in Latin America need at the baccalaureate and master's levels," Dr. Harrison says. "Then we'll develop an online master's research course in Spanish that can be used in Chile and other countries that are beginning master's nursing programs. UAB is very strong in distance learning and technology, and that should help us develop these new programs."

Dr. Harrison serves as co-deputy director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for International Nursing at UAB, one of only 32 such centers in the world, with 11 in the United States. The alignment of the center's local efforts with the WHO's international objectives was an important factor in receiving that designation.

"The center promotes global collaboration in nursing education, with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean," Dr. Harrison says. "The project in Chile is in harmony with that goal."

Dr. Harrison has long had an interest in international education. In addition to teaching a course in doctoral research methods in Thailand, she developed and teaches a travel course for UAB students called Culture, Language, Health, and Social Welfare in Guatemala. The course includes 30 hours of lectures and seminars and 30 hours of field trips and volunteer work in Guatemala.

### TOUCHING LIVES

From 1997 to 2002, Dr. Harrison served as associate dean of graduate studies at the School of Nursing at UAB. Her research on the effects of gentle human touch in preterm infants is aimed at promoting a positive relationship between parents and tiny newborns.

"We know the importance of touch in the health and bonding of newborns," she says. "However, lower oxygen levels have been observed in preterm infants after touch, which led many health-care professionals to discourage contact. To get the benefits of touch without the troubling reduction in oxygen levels, I investigated a technique called gentle human touch. Instead of stroking the infant, nurses were encouraged to practice a form of very gentle touch. We found there was no danger from this technique, and it seemed to lessen stress behaviors, such as facial grimaces and clenched fists."

While in Chile, Dr. Harrison hopes to identify projects that will allow future collaboration between nursing researchers at UAB and the Catholic University of Chile. She is particularly interested in efforts to enhance the developmental outcomes of premature infants in Chile.

"Although I'm fluent in the language, I'm hoping the opportunity to live and work in a Latin American country for an extended period will improve my Spanish," Dr. Harrison says. "I'm looking forward to more collaborations in the years ahead."

After six months in Chile, Dr. Harrison will return to Birmingham in late February—just in time for another spring.

# Quality of Life

## Fletcher Targets Sickle-Cell Disease

By Laura Freeman

Pain can be a puzzle—both to patients and the people caring for them. What feels excruciating to a patient, for example, might appear to be only moderately uncomfortable to an observer.

Appearances can be even more misleading in chronic conditions such as sickle-cell disease, which causes pain during vaso-occlusive episodes, when red cells sickle and block circulation. It seems logical to assume that such pain would go away when circulation is restored. However, that isn't always the case. The pain can vary in intensity and last from hours to weeks, with an average pain episode of three to seven days.

“When discomfort isn't relieved by what health care providers see as sufficient medication, they may question the patient's motives, or undermedicate due to concerns about addiction,” says Assistant Professor Cynthia Fletcher, PhD, critical care nurse, educator, and researcher.

“There are no objective measures to guide us. The patient is the only expert in describing the pain he or she is experiencing. If we respond to a report of pain with disbelief, rather than examining the adequacy of pain control, we can set up an adversarial relationship that's counterproductive.”

### THE PARADOX OF PAIN

Another problem for health care providers who have limited experience with sickle-cell disease is the atypical response to pain that some patients with chronic conditions develop.

“For patients with frequent vaso-occlusive episodes, pain becomes such a familiar fact of life that they adapt in order to endure it,” Dr. Fletcher says. “Instead of crying, moaning, or exhibiting the other behaviors we usually expect with acute pain, they might suffer silently, or try to cope with the discomfort by sleeping or distracting themselves.”

Other patients may show the opposite behavior, especially if pain control measures have been inadequate in the past, or if there were delays in receiving medication.

“If patients expect to receive less medication than they need to relieve their pain, or if they believe they may be hurting a long time before they get help, they may compensate by asking for

pain relief early or overstating the level of their discomfort,” Dr. Fletcher says. “That can look like addictive behavior, making it harder for them to get relief, even when the pain is severe and very real. If we can relieve their pain before it becomes unbearable, we can decrease patient suffering and reduce the need for high doses of analgesics.”

### CHARACTERISTICS OF COPING

Dr. Fletcher came to UAB after completing research fellowships at the National Institutes of Health and the School of Nursing at Indiana University. She is a recipient of UAB's Comprehensive Minority Faculty Development Award and teaches high-acuity adult health nursing.

In collaboration with the Sickle Cell Foundation in Birmingham, Dr. Fletcher is studying adolescents with the disease and how they manage problem situations at home, in school, in social situations, and in health care settings.

Another project with the sickle-cell foundations in north and central Alabama, and the sick-

le-cell disease to the areas of Africa and the Mediterranean where malaria was a problem. People who have the trait, but not the disease, seem better able to fight malaria. We need more researchers who are interested in working with sickle-cell disease.”

Investigating genetic modulation of vaso-occlusion is Dr. Fletcher's next research target. She is interested in the influence of cytokines and identifying their role in the initiation, progression, and duration of sickle-cell disease pain.

The Comprehensive Minority Faculty Development Award has provided critical support for her research, Dr. Fletcher says. “The program offers minority faculty the opportunity to have concentrated time to focus on their programs of research and manuscript preparation. This program is crucial to place minority faculty in a favorable position to apply for tenure in due time. Minority faculty members who successfully achieve tenure in schools such as UAB can contribute enormously to the diversity of the aca-



Dr. Cynthia Fletcher (second from right) with Melanie Williams, Michele Montgomery, Abhijit Kontamwar, and Aisha T. Williams

le-cell disease centers at both Children's and UAB Hospitals, focuses on identification of self-care challenges, with the goal of generating a model for moving adolescents to community care.

In addition to improving quality of life for her patients, Dr. Fletcher is interested in the genetics of sickle-cell disease. “There is so much variation in the intensity of symptoms that people experience,” she says. “It's also intriguing to trace sick-

le-cell disease centers at both Children's and UAB Hospitals, focuses on identification of self-care challenges, with the goal of generating a model for moving adolescents to community care.

dem units, serve as role models for minority students, and add to the comprehensive education of non-minority students. “This is particularly significant in health-related programs, where graduates will need to be competent in providing care to a population that is culturally diverse.”

# The *Art* OF TEACHING *Taking a Student- Oriented Approach*

By Tina Tarkington Underwood



Dr. Anne Williams (center) remains mindful of her students' varied needs.

Within minutes of speaking with Assistant Professor Anne Williams, PhD, one begins to understand why she is a recipient of the 2003 UAB President's Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Williams clearly has a passion for teaching and a strong interest in students. She not only provides flexibility in the way instruction is delivered, but also possesses a kind of compassion that places students' needs first on the agenda. She embraces the notion that creating a learning environment where students can thrive results in better nurses and, ultimately, better care for patients and their caregivers.

Within the School of Nursing, Dr. Williams teaches neuroscience nursing and nursing theory, as well as courses dealing with acute care, adult episodic and chronic health problems, and health-promotion theory.

## THE REAL WORLD

The general profile of nursing students requires instructors to be flexible, innovative, and creative in both the classroom and clinical settings, Dr. Williams says. "Typically, our students are mothers or, less often, fathers who also work full-time, and some try to go to school full-time. I try to explain to them that what they're attempting to do is hold down three full-time jobs: parent, student, and employee."

Some students opt to go into the program on a part-time basis. But many choose a full load, so there's a need to make material available in formats that allow students to learn at their convenience, Dr. Williams says. "This is our biggest challenge in teaching: to meet individual needs of the students while providing high-quality education. I think we've done very well with that in the School of Nursing."

Dr. Williams employs online learning tools so that students can download material, and she and her colleagues are looking at Web-enhanced teaching in her live courses. Graduate students can be on campus as seldom as one day per week, with the option of taking all core courses online.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Williams demonstrates her student focus by responding to special circumstances. "I try to be available to students if they have

needs or concerns," she says. "If, for example, a student's spouse gets deployed for military service, I need to work with the student to modify the program of study."

In addition to her teaching role, Dr. Williams serves as coordinator of the clinical nurse specialist (CNS) program within the graduate school. The program fills a vital niche in the health-care community, Dr. Williams says. The CNS is an expert clinician prepared to deliver care to the most complex of patients within a specialized area.

## THE BRAIN AND BEYOND

Neuroscience is the focus of Dr. Williams's research and clinical activities. She is particularly interested in stroke and how the brain adapts once stroke has occurred.

She also specializes in myasthenia gravis, a condition characterized by long-term muscle weakness and fatigue. Patients with the disease have the sensation that their limbs are heavy. "It's as though suddenly there were weights on them," Dr. Williams says.

She serves on the board of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of Alabama and its Nurses' Advisory Board and is a member of the National Stroke Association, the American Academy of Neurology, and the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses. She also serves on the board of advisors for the Epilepsy Foundation.

Dr. Williams expects the role of nurses to change in the near future. She predicts that the number of hospital nursing jobs will decline, with care continuing to shift to the clinic and the home. One need, she says, will be to provide better preparation and support for at-home caregivers. The role of the family caregiver, however, should be somewhat less burdensome, with fewer invasive medical procedures being performed and some surgical procedures being done with very small incisions.

"The reality is that the hospital will be the place for only the very sick and unstable, and the majority of people who need care will be at home," Dr. Williams says. "Nursing will have to respond to the changing health care environment."

# Fresh Faces



**SUSAN APPEL**

**Education:** PhD,  
University of North  
Carolina at Chapel Hill

MSN, University of South Carolina  
BSN, University of North Carolina at  
Charlotte

**Experience:** Earned PhD in 2002 and taught for one year in the adult and geriatric nurse practitioner program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Started teaching nursing in 1982 in Charlotte. Certified in acute care and as a family nurse practitioner and has worked in emergency care, coronary care, primary care, and health department settings. At UAB, will teach in the acute care nurse practitioner program.

**Special Interests:** Metabolic syndrome as a pre-diabetic syndrome and risk factor for cardiovascular disease in minority women; health disparities in Southern women.



**JOE BURRAGE**

**Education:** PhD, Georgia  
State University  
MSN, Northwestern  
State University

BSN, Northwestern State University

**Experience:** Taught medical/surgical (adult health) and leadership/management content for 10 years in nursing programs at Louisiana State University. Has worked as a staff nurse, supervisory nurse, and nursing administrator at hospitals in Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, and Arkansas. Serves as a volunteer and board member with the NOAIDS Task Force.

**Special Interests:** Psychosocial issues confronting people with HIV and other chronic diseases.

# New Faculty Bring an Infusion of Talent



## CYNTHIA FLETCHER

**Education:** PhD, University of Miami  
MSN, Hunter College

BSN, Long Island University

**Experience:** Has more than 30 years of experience as a practitioner, educator, and administrator, focusing primarily on critical care nursing. Will teach the high-acuity adult health nursing course at UAB. Completed a two-year National Institute of Nursing Research postdoctoral fellowship in chronic illnesses and quality of life at Indiana University and a summer genetics fellowship at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Special Interests:** Quality of life for individuals with sickle-cell disease. Current projects include: developing a tool to measure competence in adolescents with sickle-cell disease, developing a transition program for teens with sickle-cell disease, and investigating genetic modulation of vaso-occlusion in sickle-cell disease.



## ELIZABETH STULLENBARGER

**Education:** DSN, UASON at UAB  
MSN, UASON at UAB

MA, Marshall University

BSN, Alderson-Broaddus College

**Experience:** Was first on the faculty at UAB from 1979 to 1995, serving in a variety of positions and eventually becoming associate dean and director of the doctoral program. Served for seven years as director of the School of Nursing at the University of Central Florida before returning to UAB in 2002 as associate dean for graduate studies. Worked as charge nurse and community health nurse at several health care facilities in West Virginia before going into academics.

**Special Interests:** Pediatrics, maternal/child nursing, research methodologies and infrastructure, rural health care, oncology nursing.



## JEAN IVEY

**Education:** DSN, UASON at UAB  
BSN, UASON at UAB

**Experience:** Is an item writer and core curriculum developer for the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and has served as an item writer for the American Nurses' Credentialing Center. Is past president of her local American Nurses Association District, has held several offices in Sigma Theta Tau International, and is a reviewer for several journals. At UAB, coordinates the pediatric nurse-practitioner program.

**Special Interests:** Adolescent mothers and their families. Most recent research examines why adolescent fathers are present or absent from their infants' lives. Has developed a model for promoting resilience in adolescent families.



## JACQUELINE MOSS

**Education:** PhD, University of Maryland at Baltimore

MS, Georgia State University

BS, Georgia State University

**Experience:** Before coming to UAB, held an appointment with the National Study Center for Trauma in the Human Factors and Telemedicine Research Group at the University of Maryland. Worked as an intensive-care staff/charge nurse for 10 years while also working in academic nursing. Served 20 years as an adult critical care nurse. At UAB, serves on the Health Informatics Steering Committee and is a scientist in the Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education.

**Special Interests:** Implementation of new information and communication technologies in health-care practice and education; information needs for trauma and operating room coordination.



## JILL ROSS

**Education:** PhD, University of Kansas  
MLS (Master of Legal Studies), University of Nebraska

MN, University of Florida

BSN, College of St. Catherine

**Experience:** Before coming to UAB, was an assistant professor of nursing at Nebraska Wesleyan University, teaching in the RN to BSN completion program. Also has been a faculty member at the University of Nebraska, the University of North Carolina, the Capstone College of Nursing, and the University of Florida. Teaches obstetric nursing, focusing on complex and high-risk patients. Works as a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), collecting evidence and providing immediate injury assessment and prophylactic STD and pregnancy care for victims.

**Special Interests:** Teen mothers and issues related to sexual consent; domestic violence. Current project focuses on African-American males and sexuality and risk for STDs and pregnancy.



## MARY ANNETTE WRIGHT

**Education:** Advanced Family Nurse Practitioner, UASON

at UAB

MSN, Troy State University, Montgomery

BSN, Auburn University, Montgomery

**Experience:** Pursuing a PhD in education at UAB, with a specialty in health promotion and health education. Served on the faculty at Bessemer State Technical College for nine years and worked as a staff nurse at Medical Center East for six years. Currently teaches full-time at UAB, focusing on obstetrical nursing in the classroom and various content areas in the clinical setting. Has served five years part-time as a certified family nurse practitioner at Alabama Orthopedic and Spine Center.

**Special Interests:** Maternal/child nursing, leadership and management concepts, health care delivery systems, diabetes education, and clinical application in the caregiver role.



# The Investigators

## SEEKING NEW KNOWLEDGE FOR NURSING

By Sandra Bearden

*Research isn't a narrow road with a distinct beginning and a visible end. Instead, it's a far-reaching network of winding highways with sometimes unexpected destinations.*

*At the UASON at UAB, four faculty members head projects with the same general objectives: to ease the pain, strengthen the bodies, and uplift the spirits of those suffering from chronic illnesses and conditions. But they are taking different routes to reach those destinations.*

*Associate Professor Gail Hill, PhD, coordinates a distance-learning training program that's designed to improve health*

*care for Alabama's underserved populations, and, at the same time, to enhance the skills of minority nurses in poor counties. Assistant Professor Vicki Johnson, PhD, works with UAB colleagues to alleviate problems of patients suffering from the sometimes embarrassing problem of incontinence. Professor Barbara Smith, PhD, collaborates with an outside researcher to help HIV patients improve their diets and general well-being. And Assistant Professor Joe Burrage, PhD, studies support groups and how they enhance the health and well-being of people with HIV.*

### ISSUES OF ACCESS

While Dr. Hill's Culturally Competent Online Family Nurse Practitioner Program is educational, not exploratory, it offers learning opportunities for experienced nurses working in the state's Black Belt and Appalachian communities.

"In some areas of Alabama, there's little access to health care," Dr. Hill says. "Having nurse practitioners available will greatly improve the quality of care.

"Although clinics have doctors, sometimes there is only one, and that physician is overworked. Nurse practitioners can treat simple cases, allowing doctors to concentrate on more complicated or serious cases."

Funded by the Bureau of Health Professions, the program's name reveals a major part of its mission. The School of Nursing actively recruits minority students, especially African Americans, to participate in the graduate-level program. "A major goal is to increase the number of minority nurses in our graduate program," Dr. Hill says. "Many now stop after they earn their first nursing degree."

Students in the program participate in interactive online courses, communicating with UAB nursing faculty and fellow students via e-mail, chat rooms, bulletin boards, and a toll-free number. "We're also giving students access to mentors—local nurse practitioners who make regular con-



Dr. Gail Hill is striving to improve access to health care in rural Alabama.

tacts to encourage them," Dr. Hill says. "School faculty members will also be making regular visits to evaluate the clinical development of students."

The program enables nurses to keep their jobs, study at their own pace, and remain in their home communities where they are urgently needed. At the same time, they hone their professional skills. "For really good nurses, there's a hunger and thirst to be able to do more than they're doing," Dr. Hill says.

### INSIGHT INTO INCONTINENCE

In another research program, Vicki Johnson is collaborating with faculty members from other UAB programs to combat a widespread but seldom-discussed health problem: incontinence. "An estimated 25 million men and women have the problem," Dr. Johnson says. "A lot of people don't seek help because they're embarrassed, or they think incontinence is an unavoidable outcome of aging. Unfortunately, some physicians aren't aware of new non-invasive therapies for the problem, such as special exercises or avoidance of food and drinks that irritate the bladder."

Pelvic-floor muscles play a key role in preventing incontinence, and exercises sometimes alleviate the problem,



although they don't work for everyone. Knowing more about the anatomy of pelvic-floor muscles will help determine when exercise is a promising therapy. Under a \$100,000 National Institute for Nursing Research grant, Dr. Johnson is working with other investigators to determine if people with incontinence have pelvic-bone structures that differ from those of people with normal bladder functions.

"It's a relatively small study, with just 30 subjects," Dr. Johnson says. "The more children a woman has had, the higher the risk of incontinence. So we're limiting subjects to women who have never had children."

*"The more children a woman has had, the higher the risk of incontinence. So we're limiting subjects to women who have never had children."*

—Dr. Vicki Johnson

Working with Edward Walsh, PhD, assistant professor of biomedical engineering at UAB, Dr. Johnson has developed a vaginal imaging probe. This device permits researchers to observe, measure, and record how the pelvic-floor muscles function. Johnson, Walsh, and two other UAB faculty members—Bradley Newcomer, PhD, associate professor of radiological sciences, and Mary Grace Umlauf, PhD, professor of nursing—hold a patent on the probe.

Other project investigators include Kathryn Burgio, PhD, professor of medicine; Holly Richter, MD, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology; and Marti Rice, PhD, associate professor of nursing.

#### CROSSING CULTURAL BOUNDARIES

While Dr. Johnson is part of an all-UAB team, Barbara Smith is collaborating with Tuskegee University nursing professor Geneva Turner, PhD, in another research partnership.

"This collaboration supplements a major National Institute of Nursing Research grant dealing with the side effects of treatment that many HIV patients are receiving these days," Dr. Smith says. "One of the things we've found is that HIV patients receiving certain medications redistribute fat in a way that puts them at risk for diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. So we're seeing

how exercise and proper nutrition can be adjuncts to their medical therapy."

With the supplemental NINR grant, Drs. Smith and Turner are working with 84 African-American participants on a study of racial/ethnic differences in bone-density levels among HIV patients.

Preliminary findings indicate that many individuals with HIV have diets deficient in calcium; this can contribute to low bone-density levels and even osteoporosis. One reason for low calcium intake is that some African Americans, who make up more than 50 percent of the sample, are lactose-intolerant and even those who are not lactose-intolerant often don't drink milk. "They think about milk for their children, but they never think about getting it for themselves," Dr. Turner says.

A registered dietitian briefs participants on sources of calcium, calcium supplements, and other means of raising calcium intake. "HIV can be controlled for a long time with proper care and nutrition," Dr. Smith says. "That's where we come in: to help patients manage side effects without taking another pill."

#### CARING ABOUT CARE TEAMS

While Drs. Smith and Turner are dealing with diet and exercise therapy for HIV patients, Joe Burrage is examining the psychological and social well-being of this patient population. Recipient of a School of Nursing Dean's Research Award, Dr. Burrage is studying how care teams can provide support to those afflicted with HIV.

"Care teams are like a buddy program," Dr. Burrage says. "At the 1917 Clinic here in Birmingham, people from different church congregations are assigned to groups of five to seven people. Each group cares for an HIV-infected person. They cook for the person, take him to the doctor, eat with him, provide transporta-



Dr. Geneva Turner of Tuskegee University is working with the UASON's Dr. Barbara Smith.

tion, and help him remain part of society."

The study measures stress levels, social support, and perceived quality of life in 24 patients. "No one has ever evaluated programs like this [the care teams] before," Dr. Burrage says. "We don't know what we might need to change. Since HIV has become a chronic illness rather than a terminal one, its victims need more activities to get them out into daily life.

"I hope this research will help make more care programs available for people who are HIV-positive. It helps us go to bat with funding agencies, and we can use the general findings to help people with other chronic illnesses."

## School of Nursing Reaches No. 16 in NIH Research Funding

The UASON at UAB saw its research funding nearly double in fiscal year 2002, reaching No. 16 among schools of nursing in support from the National Institutes of Health.

Funding climbed to \$2.3 million for nursing research at UAB, an increase of more than \$1 million (86.6 percent) from the previous fiscal year.

"This remarkable achievement is a credit to the talented nurse scientists at the UASON and to their nationally recognized programs of research," says Marion E. Broome, PhD, associate dean for research. "Findings from these investigations will extend the science, and will also make a difference in the lives of patients and their families."

The top five nursing schools in the NIH rankings are the University of Washington, University of California San Francisco, University of Illinois at Chicago, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and University of Pennsylvania.

# A Medical Mission

## Battling the Spread of HIV in Zambia

By Tina Tarkington Underwood

In Zambia, HIV/AIDS is more than a deadly disease. It's a way of life. Twenty-one percent of the sub-Saharan nation's population is infected with the virus, and that figure grows to more than 30 percent in urban areas. On a recent trip to Zambia, UAB nursing faculty members Marion E. Broome, PhD, and Barbara Smith, PhD, came face to face with the disease.

"One night Marion said to me, 'Just about every third person we shook hands with today has HIV,'" says Dr. Smith, who holds the Marie L. O'Koren Endowed Chair in Nursing. "It's sobering to know that about one-third of Zambia's population will be dead in the next few years without intervention."

Zambia is roughly the size of Texas, with a population of 10.2 million. Its high rate of HIV infection is due in large part to widespread misinformation and the stigma associated with the disease. Dr. Broome, who is associate dean for research, notes that the nation's seven different languages present another major obstacle. "Even if you provide a little health education, chances are you'll miss parts of the population," she says.

### OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Because there is little understanding of HIV/AIDS, the disease is associated with fear and stigma. Zambians see entire families and villages wiped out by AIDS, so they become frightened, which only darkens the cloud hanging over the disease.

The country has limited financial resources and also lacks a strong information infrastructure. "Not everybody has a TV, or a telephone," Dr. Broome says. "There are a lot of barriers in Zambia that we don't have in our country."

The cost of HIV medications has fallen, but an enormous gulf remains between the cost of the drugs and the amount the country can afford to spend on each of its HIV-infected citizens. "The cost of treating HIV is well beyond the reach of the developing world," Dr. Smith says.

Despite the daunting numbers and hurdles, Drs. Broome and Smith have not lost their resolve to help stem the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Zambia. With the help of tireless Zambian nurse tutors and renowned nurse midwife Margaret Miambolwa, PhD, Drs. Broome and Smith crafted a grant to the World AIDS Foundation, an arm of the National Institutes of Health, seeking funding for a program to develop research expertise in Zambian nursing faculty. If they succeed in obtaining funding for this "train the trainer" approach, Zambia will secure a core mass of nurses equipped to study AIDS-related problems. "We are committed to developing nursing research expertise worldwide, not just in our own country," Dr. Broome says.



Drs. Marion Broome and Barbara Smith with nurses in Zambia

### A QUESTION OF CULTURE

The first proposed project would measure the effectiveness of existing programs designed to prevent HIV transmission in adolescent girls in Zambia. The rate of HIV infection in this group is more than twice that of boys their age, for two primary reasons, Dr. Smith says. First, in a largely agrarian country, poverty is widespread, and adolescent girls see older men as their way out of seemingly hopeless situations. Also, according to a popular Zambian myth, an HIV-positive man will be cured if he has sex with a virgin.

Once researchers determine the HIV/AIDS knowledge level among adolescent females, an intervention can be developed to dispel myths and communicate the realities of the disease, Dr. Smith says.

The second research project focuses on another vulnerable community: nurses. In Zambia, nurses provide much of the health care and deliver many of the babies. The first part of the project will examine the availability of protective attire and whether it is accessible to nurses. The project also will determine the knowledge level among nurses about the universal precautions needed to curtail the spread of HIV and AIDS in health care settings. Community-based first responders, such as police and firefighters, also will be evaluated because they often come into contact with and transport trauma patients. The goal is to provide gloves and masks and other prophylactic attire where it is not available and to educate nurses and first responders about the importance of wearing protective clothing.

The projects proposed by Drs. Broome and Smith already are stirring interest in other parts of Africa. Officials in Swaziland, which has the world's highest HIV infection rate (38.6 percent), are interested in implementing interventions similar to what these UAB nurse researchers propose for Zambia.

The work in Zambia has been a life-changing experience for Broome and Smith. "We believe that in Zambia we can work with Zambian nurses to truly make a difference in the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people," Dr. Smith says.



# From Red Mountain to Kilimanjaro

## *Reaching New Heights in a Personal Journey*

By Nancy Mann Jackson

For many people, beating breast cancer would be significant enough. But another challenge awaits Penelope Wright, PhD, associate professor at the UASON at UAB and a three-year survivor of breast cancer, who plans to make her mark this fall at the summit of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro.

"I'm a perfectly ordinary woman, and I want to do something extraordinary," says Dr. Wright, a past recipient of the UAB President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. "I want to show women that just because you have cancer doesn't mean you can't do extraordinary things."

Dr. Wright will do just that this September when she climbs Mount Kilimanjaro, along with a group of fellow survivors, in an effort to raise funds for breast cancer research. Madeline Harris, coordinator of nursing resources at UAB's Comprehensive Cancer Center and a School of Nursing alum, is helping organize the trip. The trip offers a chance for the community to support breast cancer research and patient care on a local level. Meanwhile, Dr. Wright and the other participants will get an opportunity to celebrate their survivorship by taking on another formidable obstacle—the 19,340-foot mountain.



Dr. Penelope Wright has been inspired by the writings of cyclist and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong.



### **SURVIVING AND STRIVING**

Four other Alabama women—Jane Webb, Stacey Gordon, Valerie Richardson, and Marilyn McCormick—will make the trip. Ms. Gordon, Ms. Richardson, and Ms. McCormick are also breast cancer survivors, and Ms. Webb will climb in honor of one daughter who died of breast cancer and another who has the disease. In preparation for the trip, which will require five to six days to go up the mountain and another two to come down, all five women are undergoing rigorous training regimens. Dr. Wright lifts weights twice a week and does Jazzercise to stay in cardiovascular shape.

"You can't just walk up that mountain," she says. "We have to have cardio fitness as well as muscular strength. Also, oxygen use is important. We have to learn to use oxygen as effectively as possible, because it will be scarce when we get to the top."

In addition to their strenuous physical preparations, Dr. Wright and her fellow climbers are vigorously

raising funds. Each climber will choose where she wants to distribute the funds she raises—to research efforts, patient care, or breast cancer education—and each climber is raising funds in her own way.

"I'll do anything that's legal and ethical to raise money for this, because it's a really important thing to me," Dr. Wright says. She has written fund-raising letters to family and friends; spoken at community events and "passed the basket," solicited donations from peers, colleagues, and local businesses; and helped organize a Jazzercise expo with all proceeds donated to the cause. The group is selling prayer flags, which are purchased in memory or in honor of other cancer victims, and they plan to read the names of all the honorees once they reach the top of the mountain.

### **PAYING IT FORWARD**

Why is Dr. Wright so dedicated to this cause when her own battle seems to be won? "I believe that cancer survivors have an obligation to

pay something back to the cancer community," she says, adding that her inspiration for giving back came from *It's Not About the Bike*, a book by cyclist and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong. Through her fund-raising efforts and her trip to the top of Kilimanjaro, Dr. Wright will share her hope and zest for living with other cancer patients and those who will come after her.

No matter how high the mountain may look from the bottom, "there's no way it could be harder than going through treatment," Dr. Wright says. "But I am not alone in this trip up the mountain. We've all already done the hardest part."

*Donations can be made to Dr. Wright's Mount Kilimanjaro trip to benefit breast cancer research and patient care by contacting her at (205) 934-6659 or [wrightp@son.uab.edu].*

Photos by Michele Forman

# UAB HealthCorps

## *Students Provide Community Services*

By Michelle Branham

UAB nursing students now have an opportunity to closely interact with students from the other health-professions schools on campus.

UAB HealthCorps is a program designed to bring together students from the Schools of Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Optometry, and Health Related Professions to work on projects that benefit the community.

To the casual observer, projects seem to be at the heart of the UAB HealthCorps program, which was founded in 2002. But a closer look reveals its true mission: helping students gain a better understanding of other medical professions and shaping a more well-rounded background for students to take with them as they head out into ERs, physical therapy facilities, hospital administrative offices, and other health care settings.

At the beginning of the school year, UAB HealthCorps participants attend a weekend retreat at a location of their choice. The event is designed to introduce participants to the program and to each other.

After the retreat, the students return to UAB ready to plan their community project. Students spend the first semester in the planning stage, with the second semester dedicated to implementing the project and fulfilling its objectives.

Participants are committed to devoting at least 40 hours to UAB HealthCorps. In addition to meetings throughout the year, UAB HealthCorps participants enjoy social gatherings that help them overcome misconceptions about, and gain a better understanding of, other health care professions.

“One of the things we noticed consistently with the health professions, and actually human service professions in general, particularly with new graduates, is that they were ‘siloed,’” says Program Coordinator Terry Gunnell, who is based in the UAB School of Public Health. “They had such an absolute lack of understanding of the other professions that they didn’t have a clear vision of how everything flowed together to create the continuum of care.”

UAB HealthCorps was first conceived by Max Michael, MD, dean of the School of Public Health, and inspired by the Leadership Birmingham program and Gunnell’s experience as a former director of AmeriCorps. Its final model was written by the

# Patrick Hubbard

## *Carving Out a Career in Critical Care*

By Michelle Branham



Patrick Hubbard has a legacy to live up to—in both the medical field and at UAB. He entered the School of Nursing with a family history that includes an aunt and uncle who graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine and a mother who earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing at UAB. With this inspiration, it’s no wonder Hubbard became not only a UAB nursing student but also the 2003 choice for the UASON at UAB Dean’s Award as Outstanding Undergraduate in Nursing.

“It is an extremely rewarding experience to provide care for people who are unable to care for themselves,” says Hubbard. “When I have been sick in the past, the nurses I have come across have made a big impact on my life. I remember how kind and caring they were, and for that they have earned my respect.”

Through his nursing studies, Hubbard has rotated through several intensive care units at UAB Hospital, including the Emergency Department, Trauma/Burn ICU, and the Cardiac ICU. Although his primary interest is in critical care for adults, Hubbard also is interested in pediatric critical care. He has already completed a rotation in pediatrics and is enthusiastic about another rotation he will complete at Children’s Hospital before graduating in August.

“How many adults can you make goofy faces at, watch cartoons with, play cards with, color with, and play peek-a-boo

with?” he says. “Being around kids reminds me of being a kid, and that feels great.”

In addition to his clinical training, Hubbard works part-time at the UAB Center for Nursing Research on a project called “Pain, Coping with Pain, and Pain Disability: A Web-Based Survey of Cystic Fibrosis Patients,” under the direction of Marion E. Broome, PhD, associate dean for research. His chief responsibility at the CNR is the development of surveys posted on the site.

Hubbard was given the honor of co-presenting the preliminary findings of this study at the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in Orlando in February 2003. He also is a participant in the newly founded HealthCorps, an innovative program that combines the efforts of six UAB health-related schools. He is one of only three students to represent the School of Nursing within the HealthCorps program.

Hubbard says that ideally, he would like to have a job—perhaps as a pediatric nurse anesthetist—that combines all of his interests: critical care, pediatrics, and nurse anesthesia. At some point in his career, he says he will probably return to UAB for a master’s degree and nurse practitioner certification, or for the nurse anesthesia program. For now, however, he is simply looking forward to doing what he has studied for and what he loves: providing excellent nursing care in a critical care setting.

# Rhonda Smith

## *Caring for Children with Cancer*

By Michelle Branham

Working with children who have cancer would be difficult for many people. But Rhonda Smith has found that, while it can be heart-wrenching, it is deeply rewarding work.

“They need my help,” says Ms. Smith, a student in the MSN program who has worked with cancer patients in the Hematology/Oncology/Renal Unit at Children’s Hospital in Birmingham since 1997. “These kids are really sick, and I feel like I can help them get better and have as close to a normal childhood as possible.”

Although the prognosis for some of Ms. Smith’s patients may not lead them home, she at least knows she is helping them have a better quality of life while in her care and perhaps extending the time they have. And while grieving for patients is part of her job, she also receives cards and letters from many patients once they have left the hospital.

Working with young cancer patients is different from working with adults who have the disease, Ms. Smith says. Children tend not to focus on the possibility of death; instead they think of cancer and cancer treatment as a part of everyday life. “This is their norm,” she says. “One of my little five-year-old patients asked her moth-

er one day, ‘Mom, where’s *your* port?’ ” Smith recalls. The child was referring to the implantable central lines that are inserted into the bodies of children on the unit for chemotherapy treatments.

Health care has long been the focus of Ms. Smith’s career goals. She grew up in Kimberly, Alabama, and graduated from Mortimer Jordan High School in 1991. “I originally wanted to be a physician, but then I realized that their family life can be very limited,” Ms. Smith says. “I decided to go into nursing because I thought it would allow for more family time.” She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1996 and a BSN in 1998.

When working with pediatric cancer patients, Ms. Smith stresses the positive impact of non-medical therapies, such as a pet therapy program called Hand in Paw and the hospital’s “medical play” program that makes some of cancer’s grueling treatment procedures seem less intimidating. Ms. Smith’s patients also look forward to visiting a play area inside the unit.

Ms. Smith says her job can be challenging and sometimes very emotional. However, she also describes working with pediatric cancer patients as something she has always wanted to do.



Rhonda Smith hopes to become a pediatric nurse practitioner after completing her master’s degree.

Ms. Smith, who received the 2003 Dean’s Award for Graduate Students, says she would like to continue her work in oncology as a pediatric nurse practitioner after she receives her master’s degree in primary care pediatrics from UAB in December 2003.



UAB HealthCorps participants Erin Rigney, Betty Etherton, and Patrick Hubbard

12 founding students. Six program alumni (one from each school) serve on UAB HealthCorps’s governing board, along with a staff member from each of the six schools.

“It truly is student-driven,” says UAB HealthCorps participant Betty Etherton, RN, BSN, a School of Nursing graduate student studying to become an

acute care nurse practitioner. “And that’s been the awesome part of it. We could do whatever we saw fit, within reason. And it has worked out beautifully.”

Although she continues to learn from others in the UAB HealthCorps program, Mrs. Etherton also provides a benefit to her fellow participants. Patrick Hubbard, a senior undergraduate nursing

student, has discovered new career options by getting to know Mrs. Etherton.

“Now that I’ve had the chance to meet Betty, I’ve learned a lot about the acute care practitioner program,” Hubbard says. “I knew very little about that program, but she has told me a lot about it, plus other graduate nursing programs.”

UAB HealthCorps’s number of participants will remain at or close to 12, even after it is fully implemented in 2003-2004. But Gunnell hopes the program will attract additional students to help with health projects, as participants spread the word on campus. New participants, including governing board members, will also be added each year as former participants leave UAB, carrying UAB HealthCorps’s integrated concept of health care into their careers.

“In reality, this is what the health care profession is going to be in the future,” Mrs. Etherton says. “We’re doing everything in an interdisciplinary way now. Patient care is not simply a medical model or a nursing model; it’s all interwoven. That is reality, and this is a fun way for students to experience the interdisciplinary nature of health care.”

# The Class of '54

## REMEMBERING THE VALUE OF HANDS-ON LEARNING

By Marlene Ricker

When the 27 members of the Jefferson-Hillman Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1954 arrived in Birmingham—most fresh out of small-town and rural Alabama high schools—they began a three-year program of studying anatomy, chemistry, biology, and many nursing subjects. In their first year, they also were assigned to hospital units, where they received the hands-on training that became a hallmark of their education.

Ruth Ann Tonn Ahrgal (BSN, 1956), who organized an October 2002 reunion of her diploma school classmates in Birmingham, recalls, “Jefferson-Hillman Hospital was a teaching hospital, serving both private and indigent patients. The head nurses and supervisors were excellent role models; some were graduates of the Jefferson-Hillman nursing program. We rotated through all the units and specialties: pediatrics, OR, isolation, and others. For example, polio outbreaks in the 1950s required nursing students on the isolation ward to care for adults and children in iron lungs.

“What we learned in class, we applied on the units. In the second year, we were in charge of units and given a lot of responsibility.”

### REUNITING AND REMINISCING

Fourteen members of the Class of 1954, traveling from as far as California, returned to UAB to reunite and reminisce. The reunion, organized with the assistance of the UASON Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, included a welcoming reception hosted by Dean Rachel Z. Booth, PhD, and walking and talking tours of UAB Hospital. In the almost half-century since the class graduated, Birmingham and the UAB campus had changed dramatically.

Mrs. Ahrgal remembers, “We had housemothers in the nursing residence and had to check in and out. We never knew if the elevator was going to work, and occasionally we had to use the stairs.” The old nursing residence is now known as the Kracke Building and houses UAB laboratories.

“We socialized a lot, although most of the time

we were tired from working on the units and studying,” Mrs. Ahrgal says. “Our meals were provided by the hospital, and sometimes we would walk downtown to see a movie. We played softball together on the corner of 20th Street and 7th Avenue, and we attracted a lot of attention from medical students and passing traffic.”

### PROPER PREPARATION

Mrs. Ahrgal says the academic coursework and hands-on training the nursing students received were instrumental in getting them off to good starts professionally, and prepared the students for many nursing career opportunities. Her own career included completing a BSN at the UASON, then teaching in medical, cardiovascular disease, and emergency nursing, and advancing to administrative director of the Emergency Department of Miami Children’s Hospital, where she received the Hall of Excellence Award. From 1964 to 1992, her accomplishments included developing and implementing disaster and hazardous materials protocols and procedures, the trauma program, the Child Restraint Offender Program, and lobbying for successful passage of a children’s bicycle helmet law in Florida. She also helped guide Miami Children’s Hospital through the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

During this period, she and her husband, Wayne, lived next to their lime grove. For almost 15 years they grew, packed, and shipped limes. In 1996 Mrs. Ahrgal retired from nursing, and the couple now lives in Penney Farms, Florida.

A 50th reunion is planned, and Mrs. Ahrgal and other class members are still working on locating a handful of missing members.

During the reunion most stayed in the same hotel and enjoyed a closing dinner at The Club. All but one are retired now, but as Mrs. Ahrgal quipped, “We all survived our nursing careers very well, and we looked good, too.”

Perhaps at their next reunion, they’ll bring their gloves, balls, and bats for another traffic-stopping game of softball.



1. Joyce Miller West; 2. Gwen Anderson Leo, Dorothy Sheppard Head, Virginia Walker, Martha Nan Lee Handzel, Cynthia Rector Air; 3. Johnnie Riddle Edwards, Jeanette Elmore Nicholson, Gwen Anderson Leo, Dr. Booth and Ruth Ann Tonn Ahrgal; 4. Dr. Booth, Mrs. Ahrgal, and Alumni Association President Phillip Bowden; 5. Class photo at former nursing dorm, now Kracke Building; 6. Pearl Hamilton Henderson and Dr. Booth with the class cape and cap

*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 in 1903, then became the Jefferson-Hillman School, and finally was named the University Hospital School of Nursing. The diploma 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 at UAB Alumni Association. Each year in The Vignette, diploma graduates are featured in this section.*

# Distinguished Alumna 2002

SUSAN GENNARO (DSN, 1983)

Investigator in the Ivy League

By Roger Shuler

Susan Gennaro earned a bachelor's degree in English at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, and went to work for an insurance company. But she found the work unfulfilling.

"After a while, I started to think, 'You know, it doesn't matter if I get up in the morning or not,'" Dr. Gennaro says. "So I spent a lot of time thinking about what I really wanted to do with my life."

Dr. Gennaro naturally started thinking about a career in nursing. She grew up in a nursing family, but her aptitude for the profession appeared to be limited at first.

"My mother was a nurse, and I grew up hearing her say, 'How are you going to be a nurse if you can't feed the cat?'" Dr. Gennaro says.

As teenagers are prone to do, Dr. Gennaro rebelled—by deciding to become something other than a nurse. But after some time in the insurance industry, nursing started to look pretty good.

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*"I love the way nursing allows you to step outside your own experience."*

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"I realized that being a nurse was a great idea," Dr. Gennaro says, "that I could live anywhere and do things for people, and it would make a difference whether or not I got up in the morning."

## A SATISFYING JOURNEY

That realization started Dr. Gennaro on a journey that has taken her to staff nursing jobs in New York and California and to academic positions in Alabama and Pennsylvania. Her career also has had a strong international flavor, with visiting professorships in Taiwan, Jordan, Belgium, and Switzerland, plus research in Africa and the Ukraine.

For someone who originally resisted the call to nursing, Dr. Gennaro has developed a deeply satisfying career in the field. She is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, serving as director of doctoral and postdoctoral studies and as director of the school's International Center of Research for Women, Children, and Families.

Dr. Gennaro is a perinatal nurse, and her current research focuses on a health promotion program in the African country of Malawi. Dr. Gennaro and her colleagues train selected village women who then teach other women about the importance of reducing risks related to childbearing.

"We teach the importance of going for prenatal care, taking antimalarial medication, and getting care early if you have had multiple births in the past or have other factors that may increase the potential for high-risk pregnancy," Dr. Gennaro says. "We are still gathering data, but the people there are convinced that maternal mortality has dropped in the villages since we started the program."

In another project, Dr. Gennaro helps train nurses in Malawi in basic newborn resuscitation. The goal is to reduce the rate of neonatal asphyxia.

## STEPPING OUTSIDE HERSELF

"I love the way nursing allows you to step outside your own experience," Dr. Gennaro says. "For example, I'm not an expert on sustainable interventions in Africa. But I have a certain amount of research expertise that others were able to tap into, which allowed us to learn what works and what doesn't work in that environment."

Closer to home, Dr. Gennaro's U.S. research focuses on the consequences of stress in families with preterm infants. Previous research has shown that in the first four months after delivery, mothers of preterm infants have weaker immune function than mothers who delivered term babies. "We believe part of this is related to stress, and we eventually want to see if stress is a causative factor in preterm labor," Dr. Gennaro says.

The UASON at UAB holds fond memories for



Dr. Gennaro. "I thought the doctoral program was tremendous. I learned a huge amount about research methods—I took five statistics courses—and I didn't realize how important those courses would be. I'm still very impressed with the facilities at UAB. People here at Penn think I'm very computer-literate, but I just started out ahead of the game because of my experience at UAB."

Dr. Gennaro is thankful that family influences led her into a rewarding profession. "There are a lot of nurses in my family," she says. "My mother was in the Nurse Cadet Corps in World War II, and I have an aunt who served in the Pacific and Europe, bringing troops back to the United States on ships. I listened to lots of stories about the kinds of things they had done, and it was clear that nursing was a very noble profession."

"At first, I was resistant because I guess that's what teenagers are supposed to do. But now, I'd be a nurse again in a heartbeat."

## Alumni News

By Carolyn Ross  
Alumni Relations Officer



As I close my first year as alumni relations officer, I am amazed by how much I've learned about nurses—how much dedication it takes to become a nurse, how outstanding nurses strive every day to provide the best for their patients, and how seriously each nurse values his or her education.

I am pleased to have spent this past year working with outstanding nurses. Through my interaction with the UASON at UAB Alumni Association, I met wonderful alumni who are proud of their alma mater. Through my involvement with students, I found that there is much the Alumni Affairs Office can do to help further the careers of these eager, young nurses-to-be.

One of my goals is to continue strengthening ties with alumni and to develop a stronger network of graduates across the globe. One way to accomplish this goal is to establish relationships with current students, our "future alumni." Many of you may remember the time-honored traditions of nursing school, including starched caps, white uniforms, and shiny pins indicating the accomplishment of becoming a nurse. Although caps and white uniforms are becoming a thing of the past, "pinning" continues to be a rite of passage that nursing graduates cherish. Soon, we will announce

plans for a similar tradition for incoming students as an official welcome to the nursing profession.

Another goal is to strengthen ties to alumni through communication. This year, we will begin an e-newsletter, filled with details about upcoming events, alumni activities, and much more. We want to keep you informed about your school, so please send your e-mail address to [nursealum@uab.edu] if you would like to receive the quarterly e-newsletter.

The 2002-2003 Annual Fund continues to receive excellent support, reaching more than \$20,000 to date and growing. Annual Fund gifts support the School of Nursing in so many ways. Every nurse counts in our effort to train outstanding nurses, and we are grateful for our alumni and friends who continue to support these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to get to know so many of you over the past year. I look forward to meeting many more of you. In addition, I look forward to continuing my education about the School of Nursing's outstanding students, faculty, and alumni.

P.S. Please be sure to fill out and return the 2003 Alumni Survey, located in this issue of *The Vignette*. Your feedback will help us plan alumni programs and activities.

## Alumni Chapter News

### *President's Report*

By Philip Bowden  
(BSN, 1992; MSN, 1996)



It has been a privilege to serve as president of the UASON at UAB Alumni Association. I would like to thank the board members for their time and service.

A special thank you to Virginia Gilbert Loftin, Carolyn Ross, and Barbara Sobko in the Alumni Relations Office. Their hard work and dedication have been a big help to the alumni association.

Homecoming was certainly an exciting time for alumni and students. "Yabba Dabba Doo, the Cougars are Through" was the theme of the spirit competition as faculty, staff, students, and alumni gathered in front of the Nursing Building for a Flintstones-style romp over the Houston Cougars. The UASON placed third in the UAB National Alumni Society's building decoration competition, and students gave it their best in the "Gurney Derby" race, carrying a "wounded" stuffed cougar as their patient.

Also during Homecoming week, the UASON and Alumni Association co-sponsored a successful reunion reception and awards dinner at Vestavia Country Club, with more than 150 alumni and friends in attendance. Look for details on page 17 on the Second Annual Alumni Night, set for Thursday, October 30 to honor the classes of 1953,

'58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, and 2003. Also, join us for Family Day activities on Homecoming day, November 1. Whether it's your reunion year or not, we invite all alumni and friends.

We continue to establish connections with current students. We welcome incoming nursing students each term by providing refreshments for their first day of class, and provide breakfast for seniors before their final exam.

We also present annual awards for student excellence. Congratulations to the following award winners: Olaf Bothe, BSN level, fall 2002; Samantha Holland, MSN level student of the year; Diane Von Ah, PhD level student of the year, and Jodelle Martin, BSN level, spring 2003.

I look forward to serving another year as president and hope to see you at many of our upcoming events. This is an exciting time for the Association, as we continue to grow and discover new activities to share with students and alumni.

Finally, we have a great need for committee members, and we invite you to join us. If you are interested, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at [nursealum@uab.edu] or me at [pbowden@uab.edu] for ways to become involved.



# ALUMNI NOTES

**Janet G. Alexander (BSN, 1975; MSN, 1983)**, of Birmingham, received the 2003 George Macon Memorial Award at Samford University in Birmingham. This award is given annually for excellence in teaching. She has been on the Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing faculty since 1991. From 1983-1991, she served on the faculty at the UASON at UAB.

**Christina Allegretti (BSN, 2001)** published a paper titled "The Effects of a Cochlear Implant on the Family of a Hearing-Impaired Child" in the November/December 2002 volume of *Pediatric Nursing*. Ms. Allegretti lives in Seattle, Washington, and is an RN with Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center there.

**Pegge L. Bell, PhD, RN, APN (MSN, 1979)** was named dean of the School of Nursing at Barry University in Florida. Dr. Bell lives in Aventura, Florida.

**Shieu-Ming Chou (DSN, 1997)**, of Taiwan, is senior editor for the *Journal of Nursing Research* and the *Journal of Nursing*. Dr. Chou is the youngest editor in the history of the publications. Both are published by the Taiwan Nurses Association. Dr. Chou is the director of nursing for Chang Jung Christian University.

**Joanne Disch, PhD, RN, FAAN, (MSN, 1976)**, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been elected to serve on the Allina Hospitals and Clinics Board of Directors. Dr. Disch is director of the Katherine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership in the School of Nursing at the University of Minnesota. In addition, she is the first to be appointed to the Katherine R. and C. Walton Lillehei Chair in Nursing Leadership, and holds the rank of professor. Dr. Disch is also a regional coordinator for the Colleagues in Caring Project for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**Rear Admiral Joan Engel (MSN, 1981)** received the 2002 American Academy of Family Physicians President's Award in San Diego, California. The president of the academy gives this award to an individual who is devoted to accepting professional challenges, encouraging individuals to achieve their greatest personal potential, and who serves with compassion, sensitivity, and intelligence. She lives in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

**Sandy Joye Ferguson, RN, CCRN, (BSN, 1995)** was selected as the 2002 National Registered Nurse of the Year for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and the 2002 Nurse of the Year for Doctors Hospital Health System, Nassau. Ms. Ferguson is also the first Bahamian nurse to successfully pass the American Association of Critical Care Nurses' examination.



Sandy Joye Ferguson (second from right)

**Jayne Fernsler (DSN, 1983)**, of Norwalk, Delaware, was named professor emeritus at the University of Delaware School of Nursing. She serves on the editorial boards of *Seminars in Oncology Nursing* and *The Journal of Nursing Education*. Dr. Fernsler is a charter member of the Oncology Nursing Society and is on the board of directors of the Delaware Pain Initiative. She also serves on the advisory council for cancer control of the Delaware Division of Public Health. A volunteer for the American Cancer Society at the local, state, and national levels, Dr. Fernsler is the first vice president of the Mid-Atlantic Division.

**Dr. Pamela N. Fordham (MSN, 1976; DSN, 1989)**, assistant professor at the UASON, received \$660,800 in grant funding for three years by the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing. Her research will focus on developing Advanced Education for Palliative and End-of-Life Care.

**Eleanor V. Howell (MSN, 1981)** was named dean of the School of Nursing at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Beverly Ann Layton (BSN, 1978)** received the Norman Cohn Hope Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The award goes to a person who has exhibited an exceptional level of leadership. She has been involved with the MS Society for more than 15 years as a presenter and coordinator for the MS Second Option Clinic at UAB. Mrs. Layton lives in Birmingham.

**Judith W. Lott (DSN, 1992)** was selected dean of the Louise Herrington School of Nursing at Baylor University in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Lott lives in Rowlett, Texas.

**Marcia McDonnell (DSN, 1996)**, of Suwanee, Georgia, is a postdoctoral fellow at Emory University and has received \$1.9 million in funding over four years from the National Institute of Nursing Research for her research, titled "Motivating HIV Positive Women: Risk, Reduction and ART Adherence."

**Cassandra Miller-Hardwick, MSN, RN, ACRN, (BSN, 1992)** has been elected to serve as the secretary for the Board of Directors of the HIV/AIDS Nursing Certification Board for 2002-2005. Mrs. Miller-Hardwick was also selected by the Board for the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care as an esteemed Distinguished Lecturer for the 2003-04 biennium, and will serve as a member of the ANAC National Chapter's committee. Mrs. Miller-Hardwick lives in Birmingham.

**Dave Sanford (BSN, 2002)**, of Springville, Alabama, wrote the feature article in the June 2003 issue of *Advance for Nurses*, entitled "When Disaster Strikes." The article focuses on UAB's Center for Disaster Preparedness.

**Marcia K. Stanhope, RN, FAAN, (DSN, 1981)**, of Lexington, Kentucky, has been appointed Good Samaritan Professor and Chair in Community Health Nursing at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing. The Good Samaritan Foundation is a Kentucky health-related philanthropy that financially supports quality health care, health education, and research focusing on programs that serve low income and uninsured people in central and southeastern Kentucky. She will work with masters and doctoral students, interns, fellows, and staff of the Good Samaritan Nursing Center in the UK College of Nursing.

**Connie White-Williams (MSN, 1991)**, of Birmingham, was selected for the American Heart Association Excellence in Cardiovascular Nursing Clinical Practice Award.

Please send news items to:  
School of Nursing  
Office of Alumni Relations  
NB 119  
1530 3rd Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-1210

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

# Highlights

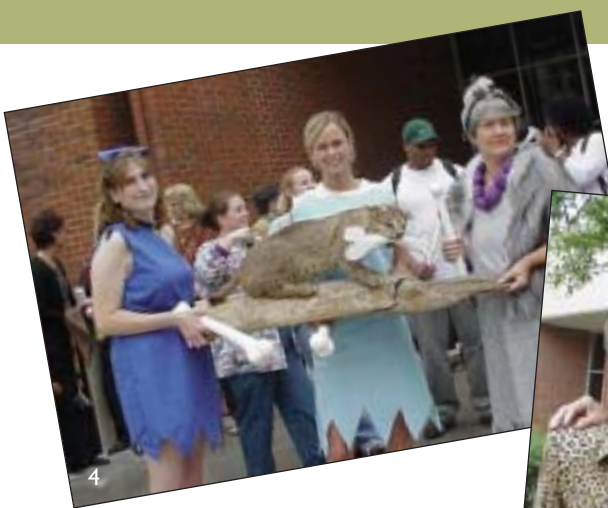
## from Homecoming

The School of Nursing is always proud to participate in UAB Homecoming events, and 2002 was no exception. Students, faculty, and alumni gathered in front of the School of Nursing, donned caveman-era costumes, and waved bones and clubs in the air to prepare to “Cage the Houston Cougars.” This Flintstones-style rally, complete with stuffed and caged cougars, brought the School of Nursing third place in the National Alumni Society annual building decoration competition.

The School of Nursing and the UASON at UAB Alumni Association have planned several activities during Homecoming Week 2003, set for October 27-November 1. All alumni and students are encouraged to bring families and friends to the alumni tent at Blazer Village prior to kickoff of the Homecoming football game against Army on November 1. The Alumni Association will have Blazer face tattoos and much more. For more information, contact Carolyn Ross in the Alumni Relations Office at (205) 975-2443 or [nursealum@uab.edu]. We look forward to seeing you there.



1. & 2. Caging the Cougars at the Nursing Building



4. Nursing students Pamela Wren and Susan Osborne with UASON staff member Judy Argent



3. 2002-03 Undergraduate Student Association Secretary Jared Box and Vice President Patrick Hubbard



5. Dr. Booth, alumni office secretary Barbara Sobko, and associate dean Elizabeth Stullenbarger



## Reunion Reception, *Awards Dinner,* and Annual Meeting



The School of Nursing and the UASON Alumni Association hosted the first annual reunion reception, awards dinner, and annual meeting on October 10, 2002, at Vestavia Country Club in Birmingham. The evening brought together more than 150 alumni, faculty, retirees, and friends to reminisce about their days at the UASON.



This year, we celebrated the BSN, MSN, DSN, and PhD classes of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, and 2002, but many more alumni joined the celebration. UAB President Dr. Carol Z. Garrison (MSN, 1976) spoke to her fellow graduates about being back at her alma mater. Dr. Marion Broome presented the 2002 Distinguished Alumna Award to Dr. Susan Gennaro (DSN, 1983). The Alumni Association welcomed new board members and recapped its successful year. Finally, the inaugural Jo Ann Barnett Awards for Compassionate Nursing Care were awarded to Diane Smalley (BSN, 1990) and Shirley Young (BSN, 1978).



1. Stacia Nan Patrick (BSN, 1987), Joan Carlisle (BSN, 1975; MSN, 1979/1996; DSN 1991), Greta Trimm (BSN, 1972; MSN 1982/1998), and Julie Stone (BSN, 1992); 2. The reunion dinner; 3. 2002-03 Alumni Association President Suzi McDonald (BSN, 1987), Dr. Booth, and Marilyn Johnson (BSN, 1982); 4. UAB President Carol Z. Garrison (MSN, 1976); 5. Mrs. McDonald and Shirley Young (MSN, 1987), winner of the Jo Ann Barnett Award; 6. Alumni Association board member Velma Denson (MSN, 1964) with Outstanding BSN Student Olaf Bothe; 7. Elizabeth Stullenbarger (MSN, 1982; DSN, 1984) and Valorie Brown Krimley; 8. Valorie Tucker (BSN, 1985; MSN, 1993) and Judy Taylor (BSN, 1971; MSN, 1972); 9. Mrs. Denson with Outstanding PhD Student Diane Von Ah; 10. UAB Hospital Executive Director Dr. Mary Nash and Dr. Booth



# Celebrating Scholarships

In April 2003, the School of Nursing hosted its second annual reception to honor scholarship donors and recipients: 1. Shea Dillon, recipient of the Dr. Charles E. Flowers Endowed Scholarship, with Dr. Juanzetta S. Flowers (BSN, 1966; MSN, 1985; DSN, 1985); 2. From left: Board of Visitors member Arlene Henley, BOV Scholarship recipients Sarah Young, Stephanie Rhodes, and Jodelle Martin, and BOV members Jean Tomlinson, Fay Ireland and Nancy Worthington; 3. Jennie Stryker, recipient of a Comer Foundation Scholarship, with her husband, Richard Stryker.



4. Charles and Anita Pritchett, with Dr. Ellen Buckner and Jennifer Pritchett, recipient of the Mary Josephine Harwell Scholarship; 5. Arlene Henley, with Jared McCoy and Lindsay McCoy, recipient of the John & Delia Robert Nursing Scholarship; 6. Recipients of Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholarships.



# MAKING A SCHOLARSHIP HAPPEN AT THE 4077TH

The School of Nursing Board of Visitors hosted “M\*A\*S\*H: Make A Scholarship Happen,” a benefit for endowed nursing scholarships, on May 4 at WorkPlay, an entertainment complex near the UAB campus.

Some 300 guests in scrubs, fatigues, khakis, and camouflage costumes enjoyed the Patrons Party in The Swamp; Chow Time in the Mess Hall; the All-Star USO Show, a live, original revue featuring music from the '40s and '50s; and a six-minute video highlighting three UAB nursing graduates, produced by WBRC/Fox 6 television.

Thanks to significant support from corporate and individual donors and guests, party proceeds brought the Board of Visitors III Endowed Nursing Scholarship to the \$100,000 level.



1. The entrance to the M\*A\*S\*H party included a “Best Care Anywhere” sign and vintage Jeeps loaned by the Dixie Division of the Military Vehicles Club. 2. BOV member Barrett MacKay (MSN, 1979) inspected a vintage Army ambulance with her parents, Jane and Harry Brock, and brother Skip Brock. 3. UAB Hospital’s delegation posed with Dr. Booth, “Father Mulcahy” (party guest Bob Loftin) and a Corporal Klinger look-alike (disk jockey Bobby Tanory). 4. Party Chair Nancy Meisler (MSN, 1985) with husband, Allen. 5. BOV Co-Chair Karle Falkenburg as Major Margaret “Hot Lips” Houlihan, with BOV member Dr. Ed Varner. 6. Party Co-Chair Paula Midyette (BSN, 1977; MSN, 1980) with husband, Mark, in a vintage Jeep. 7. Mallie Ireland with BOV member Jean Tomlinson. 8. Dr. Booth with UAB President Carol Z. Garrison (MSN, 1976). 9. Hall and Lucy Thompson with Tom and Wyona Hamby. Mrs. Hamby joined the BOV in 2002. 10. BOV Chair Bobbie Parsons, Dr. Booth, Co-Chair Karle Falkenburg and Patrons Party Chair Donna Reddinger posed by the sign-post at the entrance to The Swamp.



## *Development Report*

By Virginia Gilbert Loftin,  
Director of Development  
and Alumni Affairs

**T**hey say there's a country song for every occasion, and although most of those tunes tend to harp on heartache and hard times, I heard one a while back that stuck with me for a different reason. The hook was, "Now that's something worth leaving behind."

In my work as director of development and alumni affairs for the School of Nursing, I meet all kinds of people who have something worth leaving behind. Some have built vast fortunes over lifetimes of hard work, and they find tremendous reward in helping others achieve their dreams. Some have inherited wealth along with a family tradition of philanthropy. And some are of more modest means, yet they possess the same level of generosity and commitment—the same desire to leave behind something with lasting meaning.

Gifts to the School of Nursing come from each of these types of people: from wealthy families, individuals and corporations, and from UASON graduates and friends who may never have thought of themselves as philanthropists, but whose decision to make a gift puts them squarely in that category.

Six new scholarships were established at the school during the past year, and they prove the point:

- **The James C. Lee Sr. Endowed Nursing Scholarship**, established by Mr. and Mrs. James C. Lee Jr. and the Buffalo Rock Company in memory of the company founder and longtime Birmingham community leader.

- **The Brock Family Endowed Nursing Scholarship**, established by the Harry B. and Jane H. Brock Foundation in recognition of their daughter Barrett Brock MacKay's nursing career. Mrs. MacKay is a 1979 MSN graduate.

- **The William Groce Campbell Endowed Nursing Scholarship**, established by the late Myrtle Bell Campbell through a bequest in her will, in honor of a niece who became a nurse.

- **The Jarman F. Lowder Endowed Nursing Scholarship**, established by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Lowder and their daughters, Hunter Brooke, Heather Anne, and Kelly Lauren Lowder. Mrs. Lowder is a 1973 BSN graduate.

- **The School of Nursing Faculty and Staff Endowed Nursing Scholarship**, established by the UASON faculty and staff through the Campaign for UAB.

- **The Jo Ann Barnett Endowed Nursing Scholarship**, established in memory of the late neonatal nurse practitioner and UASON graduate, with gifts from hundreds of friends, colleagues, and family members.

Although these scholarships were created in different ways—some with a single large gift, others through planned gifts and bequests, and still others through an accumulation of many small contributions—each creates the same outcome. Each makes it possible for a deserving student to receive a top-quality nursing education at a prestigious four-year university, and ultimately to become a compassionate, highly skilled nurse.

The power of philanthropy belongs not just to those who are considered wealthy by monetary standards. It belongs to every person who writes a check to the Annual Fund, responds to a call during our annual phone-a-thon, buys a ticket to a fund-raising event, or includes a planned gift in his or her estate plan. Regardless of the amount, every gift counts.

Many individuals and families of significant means have supported the School of Nursing, and we are profoundly grateful for their generosity and leadership. But the School also has richly benefitted from those who earned modestly but saved well. In each case, a person with a giving heart believed nursing education was a worthy investment, and chose to direct money into endowed scholarships that will help nurses and their patients for years to come.

Now *that's* something worth leaving behind.

*For information on making a gift to the School of Nursing, please contact Virginia Gilbert Loftin at (205) 934-5483, or via e-mail at [vgloftin@uab.edu].*

# Honor Roll of Donors

The School of Nursing deeply appreciates the support of its activities provided by alumni and 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 individuals, corporations, and foundations made gifts or in-kind contributions to the School of Nursing

between January 1, 2002, and June 30, 2003. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. For corrections, please notify the School of Nursing Development and Alumni Relations Office, NB 119, 1530 3rd Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama 35294-1210; telephone, (205) 975-8936; e-mail, [vgloftin@uab.edu](mailto:vgloftin@uab.edu).

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 Mr. and Mrs. J. Wray Pearce  
 Dr. Virginia Pennington (MSN, 1971; DSN, 1986)  
 Mr. and Mrs. George E. Phillips  
 Nancy Phillips (BSN, 1983)  
 Mr. and Mrs. William P. Phillips  
 Dr. and Mrs. H. Craig Philpot  
 Pamela Pieper (MSN, 1983)  
 Dr. Bonita Ann Pilon (DSN, 1988)  
 Dr. Victoria L. Poole-Moore (DSN, 1991)  
 Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence Pope  
 Bobby Lee Price (BSN, 1969)  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Pritchard  
 Mr. and Mrs. James J. Ransom Jr.  
 Mrs. Thomas E. Rast  
 Mr. and Mrs. William T. Ratliff Jr.  
 Doris B. Reinhart  
 Martha W. Richards (DIPL, 1961)  
 Dr. Mary F. Richie (DSN, 1994)  
 Glenda G. Riles  
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Riley  
 Laura N. Riser (BSN, 1980; MSN, 1997)  
 Margaret I. Ritchey (BSN, 1957)  
 Marilyn Gooch Ritter (DIPL, 1968)  
 Julianna G. Rizo (BSN, 2000)  
 Claire Roane (MSN, 1992)  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Roberts  
 Dr. Mary K. Robinson (DSN, 1995)  
 Brad Rollow  
 Debra S. Rose (BSN, 1979)  
 Carolyn C. Ross  
 Mr. and Mrs. Asa Rountree  
 Jan A. Rowe  
 Royal Cup Coffee  
 Cathy Lee Rudisill (BSN, 1979)  
 Amy A. Sanders (BSN, 1980)  
 Melissa L. Scala  
 Janice B. Scholl (BSN, 1957; MSN, 1971)  
 Dr. Deborah L. Scott (MSN, 1979; DSN, 1989)  
 Patty L. Sears (BSN, 1975)



Dr. Cynthia S. Selleck (DSN, 1987)  
Mr. and Mrs. Leo A. Shaia  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Shannon  
Dr. Sharon E. Shaw  
Juliette B. Shearer  
Deborah B. Shellworth (BSN, 1981)  
Martha G. Shelver (MSN, 1980)  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard B. Shepard  
Jean Shinnors Sherlock (BSN, 1973)  
and Dr. Eugene C. Sherlock  
Dr. Ling-Ling Shih (DSN, 1996)  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Simmons Jr.  
Judge Gloria T. Sinclair  
Dr. Lee Ann B. Skladan  
Janice Slone  
Diane E. Smalley (BSN, 1990)  
Nancy H. Smith (MSN, 1984)  
Sheryl L. Smith  
Wendy A. Smith (BSN, 1987)  
Barbara A. Sobko  
June C. Solley (DIPL, 1939)  
Linda Diane Speegle  
Rita I. Spencer (DIPL, 1965)  
Dr. Patricia L. Starck (DSN, 1979)  
Dr. Barry M. Starr  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stilwell  
Sherry M. Stough (BSN, 1978; MSN, 1987)  
Dr. Elizabeth Stullenbarger (MSN, 1982; DSN, 1984)  
Superior Wines  
Dr. Jason Mathew Tanner  
Edith Tashman  
Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Hill Taylor Jr.  
Tenet Healthcare Foundation  
Sandra Elizabeth Thomas (MSN, 1981)  
Dr. Sandra Paul Thomas  
Dr. Anne L. Turner-Henson (DSN, 1992)  
Linda T. Twelves  
UAB Department of Physical Therapy  
UAB Occupational Therapy Faculty  
UAB School of Health Related Professions  
UAB School of Nursing Faculty Fund  
Dr. and Mrs. Marshall M. Urist  
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Vandavelde  
Dr. and Mrs. Luis O. Vasconez  
Lynda J. Baker Vest (BSN, 1989; MSN, 1990)  
Vicki A. Vicaldo  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Waitzman, Sr.  
Renece Waller-Wise (BSN, 1981)  
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn T. Wellman  
Catherine L. Whelton (BSN, 1972)  
Mrs. Elliott T. Williams Jr.  
Gloria J. Winters  
Dr. Lillian A. Wise (DSN, 1997)  
Virginia G. Yates and Edward Hanz

#### GIFTS TO \$99

Mr. and Mrs. Gary A. Abrams  
Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Ackley  
Donna J. Adkisson (MSN, 1976)  
Kim Aldridge  
Lauren A. Antia  
Margaret J. Appelbaum (BSN, 1994)  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith B. Arendall  
Peggy Argent (DIPL, 1965)  
Doris W. Armenaki (MSN, 1975)  
Dr. Pamela S. Autrey (BSN, 1976)  
Ethel Jones Avery (MSN, 1981)  
Linda S. Baas (MSN, 1980)  
Angel J. Bailey  
Natalie Chappell Baker (BSN, 1985; MSN, 1990)  
Patricia U. Baker (DIPL, 1963)  
Beth D. Baldwin (MSN, 1985)  
Andrea L. Barczak (MSN, 1981)  
Pamela J. Barksdale (BSN, 1978; MSN, 1982)

Maj. Carrie B. Barnes (BSN, 1986)  
Kay Barnett (DIPL, 1969)  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Bartholomew  
Erica D. Battle (BSN, 1997)  
Katherine D. Battle (MSN, 1981)  
Brenda Messer Beasley (BSN, 1968)  
Gayle T. Becker  
Barbara L. Beland  
Pegge L. Bell, PhD (MSN, 1979)  
Jane E. Bennett (BSN, 1979)  
Kimberlee W. Benos (BSN, 1986)  
Bice Motors, Inc.  
Tonnette M. Bishop (BSN, 1990)  
Catherine Duncan Boardman (MSN, 1987)  
Jennifer S. Boatwright (BSN, 1985)  
Maryann Bonventre  
Daniele Boulet (BSN, 1982)  
Pamela R. Bourgoin (BSN, 1979)  
Joan F. Bramlett (BSN, 1980)  
Ashley Brantley (BSN, 1997; MSN, 2001)  
Dr. Sylvia S. Britt (MSN, 1975; DSN, 1981)  
Charlisa Renea Brooks  
Claudia A. Brown (MSN, 1977)  
Susan H. Brunssen (MSN, 1977)  
Arlene D. Bulger (BSN, 1980)  
Tamara M. Bunn (BSN, 1998)  
Louise Sanders Burton (DIPL, 1959)  
Shari W. Busby (BSN, 1979)  
Mary B. Byram (BSN, 1984)  
Elizabeth L. Cain (BSN, 2001)  
Stephen A. Calabro  
Dr. Gloria Weber Calhoun (DSN, 1985)  
Stella Mae Camp (DIPL, 1953; BSN, 1957)  
Dr. Joan B. Carlisle (BSN, 1975; MSN, 1979; DSN, 1991)  
Susan P. Carney (BSN, 1996)  
Candis Carrillo (MSN, 1984)  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven F. Casey  
Dr. Jane E. Castle  
D. Jean Chandler (BSN, 1981)  
Jacqueline A. Childs (MSN, 1981)  
Mary J. Cipolle  
Jo A. Clelland  
Carla P. Clements (BSN, 1985)  
Catherine D. Clements (MSN, 2001)  
Patricia J. Cleveland (BSN, 1973; MSN, 1975)  
Dr. Bridget Arnold Cobb  
Lisa Cochran  
Julia G. Cole (BSN, 1987)  
Karan A. Coleman  
Laura M. Coleman (BSN, 1994; MSN, 1996)  
Dr. Janet M. Collins (DSN, 1992)  
Barbara Duncan Cook (BSN, 1964)  
Nancy H. Cook (BSN, 1995)  
Sherry S. Cooper (BSN, 1973)  
Karla Corbitt (BSN, 1993)  
Margaret J. Cosby  
Shirley Sauls Cosby (BSN, 1992)  
Townley O. Crowe (MSN, 1998)  
Nicole W. Curtis (BSN, 1997)  
Robin Curtis  
Clyde L. Daigle (MSN, 1997)  
Cathy Sue Dailey (BSN, 1989)  
Ann Daniel (MSN, 1996)  
Patricia S. Daniel (BSN, 1979)  
Carol J. Dashiiff, PhD  
Patricia R. Davidson (MSN, 1974)  
J. Alana Davis  
Jane S. Davis (MSN, 2001)  
Jennifer D. Davis, DMD  
Linda Kay Davis (BSN, 1992; MSN, 1997)  
Janice C. Dean (MSN, 1981)  
Larry Wayne Dean (MSN, 1987)  
Starla K. Debord (BSN, 1983)  
Mary Ann Degges (BSN, 1993; MSN, 1994)

Suzanne G. Deloach  
Patricia J. Devens (MSN, 1983)  
Alana Shea Dillon  
Dr. Reed A. Dimmitt  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Dixon  
Annetta R. Dolowitz  
Josie E. Dorman (MSN, 1979)  
Patricia H. Dorsett (MSN, 1982)  
Dr. L. Margaret Drake  
Brandi L. Duke  
Peggy A. Duke (BSN, 1979; MSN, 1981)  
Susan F. Duncan (BSN, 1978)  
Leslie L. Dunn (BSN, 1999; MSN, 2002)  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Eastman  
Joy R. Ebaugh (MSN, 1982)  
Katina M. Edge  
Deborah L. Edmonds-Jones (BSN, 1996; MSN, 2002)  
Donna Ellington-Latham (MSN, 1978)  
Secalle Hunter Dale Espada (BSN, 1984)  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry L. Evangelista  
Timothy P. Fagan (MSN, 1994)  
Tracy Faircloth  
Kathryn C. Fallon  
Julie C. Faught (BSN, 1987)  
Carri J. Featheringill (BSN, 2002)  
Lt. Barry L. Felt (MSN, 1980)  
Etta L. Felton (MSN, 1994)  
Lisa S. Findley (BSN, 2000)  
Karen M. Fite (MSN, 1982)  
Dr. Dorcas C. Fitzgerald (BSN, 1965; MSN, 1969)  
Terri S. Fliegel  
Natalie A. Floyd (MSN, 1989)  
Diane M. Foley (BSN, 1987)  
Beverly B. Forbes (MSN, 1999)  
Dr. Doris C. Ford (MSN, 1979; DSN, 1978)  
Carol Anita Foster (MSN, 1981)  
Kristi L. Francis (BSN, 1994; MDN 1998)  
Paula E. Franklin (BSN, 1996)  
Jacqueline M. Frederick (MSN, 1981)  
Donna L. Friday  
Audrey L. Garcia (BSN, 1958)  
Anne T. Garrett (BSN, 1983)  
Kathy M. Gaston (MSN, 1984)  
Dr. Dorothy K. Gauthier  
Kelly Glosston  
Ann H. Goldforb (MSN, 1974)  
Myna D. Goldston (BSN, 1972)  
Marilyn D. Graham  
Mary E. Graves Chiles (BSN, 1972)  
Dr. Phyllis B. Graves (DSN, 1979)  
Dianne Greene (BSN, 1966)  
Yolanda J. Green (MSN, 1983)  
Dr. Mary Lucia Gregory  
Esther Griffin  
Nancy Griffin  
Amye W. Groves (BSN, 1998)  
Dr. Sarrah H. Gueldner (DSN, 1983)  
Dr. Barbara Habermann  
Deborah S. Hall  
Alicia E. Hall (BSN, 1978)  
Carol Ann Harrelson (MSN, 1984)  
Betty G. Harris (BSN, 1962; MSN, 1963)  
Vicki Amelia Harris (BSN, 1981)  
Gayle W. Hart (BSN, 1976)  
Connie C. Hartley (BSN, 1982)  
Lora Lacey Haun (MSN, 1980)  
John Scott Hawkins (MSN, 1986)  
Dr. Doris Jean Heaman (MSN, 1979; DSN, 1991)  
Sara E. Henderson  
Marilyn M. Henry (MSN, 1981)  
Ernie Deta Herring (MSN, 1984)  
Alice C. Hicks (BSN, 1979)  
Dr. Gail Hill (BSN, 1973)  
La Glorée Dawn Hill (BSN, 1982)

Deborah R. Hodge  
Ashley L. Hodges-Segars (MSN, 1997)  
Melissa D. Holloway (BSN, 1978)  
Lynda S. Holt (BSN, 1981)  
Mr. and Mrs. William S. House  
Patricia J. Householder (BSN, 1979)  
Charney Howell (DIPL, 1969)  
Patrick A. Hubbard (BSN, 2003)  
Jana M. Huber (BSN, 1990; MSN, 2001)  
Kathy Hudgens (BSN, 1981)  
Whitney Hudson (BSN, 2002)  
Cherie P. Huey (BSN, 1985)  
Anita C. Hull (BSN, 1982)  
Sherry J. Hunt (BSN, 1991)  
Jennifer R. Jackson (BSN, 1998)  
Kristen Jacobs (BSN, 2002)  
Terrilyn B. Jacobs (MSN, 1978)  
Dr. Nadine T. James (PhD, 2001)  
Carthenia W. Jefferson (BSN, 1985)  
Isabelle C. Joffroin (BSN, 1982)  
Gara M. Johnson (BSN, 1991)  
Mattie R. Johnson (MSN, 1975)  
Suzanne G. Johnson (BSN, 1977)  
Tynisha Johnson (BSN, 2002)  
Marian R. Jump (DIPL, 1955)  
Lt. Col. Wanda D. Katinszky (BSN, 1978)  
Amy Kelly (BSN, 2002)  
Kimberly D. Kelly (BSN, 1994)  
Dr. Norman L. Keltner  
Wendy W. Kendrick (BSN, 1975; MSN, 1983)  
Jane Kesavavilas (BSN, 1977)  
Barbara Williams Kilbourne (BSN, 1978)  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Kline  
Elizabeth A. Lagrone (BSN, 1974)  
Audra U. Lalisan (BSN, 1990; MSN, 1993)  
Dianne M. Lameier (MSN, 1983)  
Rebecca D. Langston (DIPL, 1955)  
Lisa Larson-Hoyt (BSN, 1979)  
Laura A. Lepor  
Virginia B. Lester (MSN, 1981)  
Lena L. Leverette (DIPL, 1942)  
Laura W. Lewis (MSN, 2000)  
Daria W. Lightfoot (BSN, 1977)  
Katie E. Lightsey  
Dr. Patricia A.P. Lillis (DSN, 1985)  
Janet Locke (BSN, 1996; MSN, 2000)  
Carol H. Lockhart (BSN, 1984; MSN, 1986)  
Deborah Maudlin Lynch (BSN, 1978)  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Mallory  
Ms. Verona A. Hulgan Marbut (DIPL, 1955)  
Gale C. Marsh (MSN, 1980)  
Jacquelyn Y. Martinek (BSN, 1979)  
Allan Paul Mayes (BSN, 1982)  
Judy M. McAlister (MSN, 1979)  
Linda B. McAllister (BSN, 1985)  
Traci Fancher McArdle (BSN, 1991)  
Dr. K. Alberta McCaleb (BSN, 1977; MSN, 1981; DSN, 1991)  
Arlene L. McDavid (BSN, 1984)  
Dr. Joan McGill (DSN, 1991)  
Myrna A. McGimsey (BSN, 1971)  
Janette McGinnis (BSN, 2002)  
Nancy Elizabeth McGreevy (MSN, 1982)  
Marianne McLaughlin (BSN, 1973)  
Jacqueline H. McQueen (BSN, 1973)  
Elizabeth A. Melcher  
Nancy L. Metzler  
Diane C. Middlekauff  
Gina M. Mikkelsen  
Judy E. Mink (BSN, 1982)  
Dr. Beth C. Montigue  
Dr. Nancy Butch Moody (DSN, 1991)  
Brenda K. Moore  
Karla R. Moore  
Le Ella C. Moorer (DIPL, 1951)  
Jennifer Gordon Moreland (BSN, 1997)  
Carol D. Morris (MSN, 1976)  
Victoria J. Morrison (BSN, 1980)  
Wanda C. Mosley  
Dr. Jacqueline A. Moss  
Cynthia B. Mulvehill (BSN, 1984)  
Dr. Linda D. Norman (BSN, 1977; DSN, 2001)  
Cheryl A. Norris (MSN, 1988)  
Nancy Norris  
Jean W. Norris (BSN, 1982; MSN, 1985)  
Lynn G. North  
Dr. Gregory T. Odrezin  
Jean W. O'Kelly  
Dr. Rees E. Oliver  
Georgia A. O'Neal (BSN, 1971; MSN, 1976)  
Mr. and Mrs. Milton O. Orwell  
Suzanne D. Pappas (BSN, 1983)  
Cynthia D. Parker (BSN, 1981)  
Essie J. Parker (MSN, 1994)  
Sandra K. Parker (BSN, 1981)  
Marilyn S. Patterson (BSN, 1979; MSN, 1994)  
Mary Katherine Peacock (MSN, 1971)  
Renita Jo Pearson (BSN, 1983)  
Pfizer Foundation  
Karen N. Phillips (BSN, 1973)  
Vivien A. Phillips (BSN, 1992)  
Lora Holliman Poe (BSN, 1983)  
Kay C. Pomeroy  
Janis E. Porter (MSN, 1994)  
Terri S. Porter (BSN, 1984)  
Worawan Prachakul (MSN, 2000)  
Julie K. Preskitt  
Mary S. Price (MSN, 1984)  
Kyle Albert Puchta  
Ginger S. Quinn (BSN, 1974)  
Charles N. Quintero (BSN, 1992)  
Penny R. Ramsey (BSN, 1994)  
Julie A. Reardon (BSN, 1994)  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Reed  
Barbara L. Reichard  
Dr. Mary Lyn Reilly (BSN, 1967; MSN, 1977)  
Claude E. Reynolds (BSN, 1982)  
Julia R. Reynolds (BSN, 1972)  
Rosseta L. Richards (BSN, 1977)  
Suzanne Fitzpatrick Richards (MSN, 1979)  
Willia Jean Richeson (BSN)  
Riverside Mini-Warehouses, LLC  
Dr. Brenda Roberts (MSN, 1978; DSN, 1986)  
T. Charlene Robertson (MSN, 1980)  
Lisa L. Robinson (BSN, 1988; MSN, 1990)  
Cheryl S. Rodgers (BSN, 1979)  
Theresa Flint Rodgers  
Bobbie S. Rodriguez (BSN, 1986)  
Karen D. Roper  
Linda F. Rose (MSN, 1980)  
Sylvia J. Ross  
Nancy A. Ryan (BSN)  
Terri L. Salter (BSN, 1983; MSN, 1995)  
David Samuels Jr.  
Dr. Robert L. Schelonka  
Deborah Scheufens (MSN, 2000)  
Patsy H. Schmith (MSN, 1983)  
Bonita A. Scott (BSN, 1992)  
Susan L. Seegmiller (MSN, 1984)  
Margaret B. Serio (BSN., 1972)  
Carolyn M. Shadeed (BSN, 1980)  
Judith Spell Shanks (MSN, 1982)  
Sabrina R. Sherrill (BSN, 1979; MSN, 1981)  
Alanna M. Shiflett (BSN, 1993)  
Katherine Miller Shulman (MSN, 1982)  
Cassandra Sims (BSN, 2002)  
Carlette Evarne Clark Smith (BSN, 1982)  
Katrina H. Smith (BSN, 1983)  
Dr. Myra A. Smith (BSN, 1973; MSN, 1980)  
Nancy H. Smith (MSN, 1984)  
Rhonda C. Smith (BSN, 1998)  
Sheryl C. Snow (MSN, 1998)  
Leslie Sobko  
Maj. Dorothy L. Sparks (BSN, 1975)  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Spencer  
Mindy L. Spigel (MSN, 1980)  
Debbie F. Spivey (BSN, 1984)  
Norma Kay V. Sprayberry (MSN, 1975)  
Dr. and Mrs. Sergio Stagno  
Louann M. Standifer (BSN, 1996)  
Frances Q. Stanfield (BSN, 1984)  
Sheryl Stansil (MSN, 1992)  
Lorie Maxwell Startup (BSN, 1990)  
Sandi Sternberg (BSN, 2002)  
Lillian Stevenson  
Lisa M. Stevenson (BSN, 1989)  
Marilyn S. Stewart  
Regina B. Stewart (BSN, 1982)  
Terry M. Stewart (DIPL, 1969)  
Beth Stokes  
Donna Stott  
Lee Ann Street (MSN, 1990)  
Barbara J. Stroock  
Vicki C. Swann  
Karen Ann Talton (MSN, 1984)  
Audrey G. Tangye (BSN, 1994)  
Tina W. Tapley  
Jeri Ellis Tennis (BSN, 1993)  
Carolynn J. Thomas (BSN, 1986)  
Mary W. Thompson (BSN, 1960; MSN, 1965)  
Sara Thompson (DIPL, 1969)  
Donna L. Thrower  
Dr. Beverly B. Tidwell (BSN, 1969; DSN, 1996)  
Cindy S. Tidwell (BSN, 1978)  
Sherri C. Tidwell (BSN, 1999)  
Mr. and Mrs. Rune Toms  
Elizabeth Toomey (BSN, 1992)  
Greta V. Trimm (BSN, 1973; MSN, 1982; MSN, 1998)  
Sharon Tucker (BSN, 1997)  
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Bryant Tyson  
Jennifer B. Tysse-Warram (BSN, 1999)  
Tara C. Underwood (BSN, 1994)  
Susan Marie Utley (BSN, 1988)  
Eleanor R. Vance (BSN, 1996)  
Jennifer M. Vanderwerf  
Dorothy Veasley  
Jacqueline D. Walker (BSN, 1989)  
Anita B. Wallinger (BSN, 1975)  
Iris C. Walliser (BSN, 1970; MSN, 1973)  
Patsy I. Watson (BSN, 1973; MSN, 1987)  
Dianne Watts (BSN, 1973)  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael T. Weaver  
Adrienne Martin Webb (BSN, 1977)  
Cynthia S. Weeks (BSN, 1981)  
Dr. Sara J. Weisenberger (MSN, 1981)  
Judith D. Weismann  
Melissa Whaley  
Brenda M. Whatley  
Mary E. Whitehead-Dickinson (DIPL, 1952)  
Melissa M. Wilbanks (BSN, 1995)  
Angela Z. Williams (BSN, 2000)  
Janis S. Williams (BSN, 1971)  
Jeffrey L. Williams (BS 2000)  
Gloria R. Wilson (BSN, 1985)  
Jennifer L. Wilson (BSN, 1998)  
Jacqueline L. Wimbleduff  
Mary Ann Winokur (MSN, 1996)  
Marilyn Wolford  
Jeanette Woodall (BSN, 1980)  
Pamela Wren  
Elizabeth A. Yates (MSN, 1980)  
Mary M. Yeilding (MSN, 1984)  
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin L. Yost  
Mary R. Zamarripa (MSN, 1979)  
Amy H. Zogby

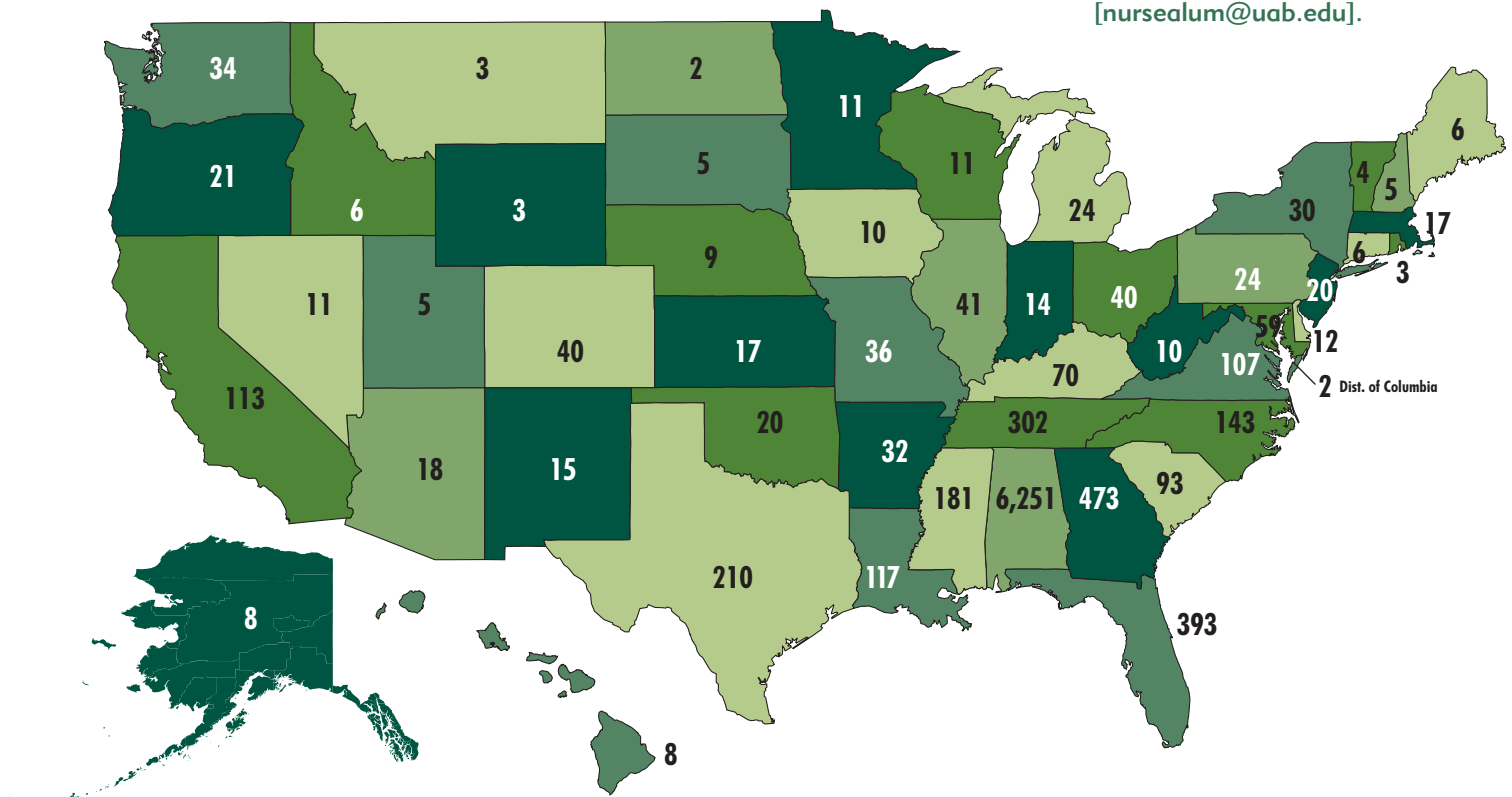
# Nursing Alumni Around the World

ALASKA	8	MONTANA	3
ALABAMA	6,251	NEBRASKA	9
ARIZONA	17	NEVADA	11
ARKANSAS	32	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4
CALIFORNIA	113	NEW JERSEY	20
COLORADO	39	NEW MEXICO	15
CONNECTICUT	6	NEW YORK	30
DIST. OF COLUMBIA	2	NORTH CAROLINA	143
DELAWARE	12	NORTH DAKOTA	2
FLORIDA	393	OHIO	40
GEORGIA	473	OKLAHOMA	20
HAWAII	8	OREGON	21
IDAHO	6	PENNSYLVANIA	24
ILLINOIS	41	RHODE ISLAND	3
INDIANA	13	SOUTH CAROLINA	93
IOWA	10	SOUTH DAKOTA	5
KANSAS	17	TENNESSEE	302
KENTUCKY	70	TEXAS	210
LOUISIANA	117	UTAH	5
MAINE	6	VERMONT	5
MARYLAND	58	VIRGINIA	107
MASSACHUSETTS	17	WASHINGTON	34
MICHIGAN	24	WEST VIRGINIA	10
MINNESOTA	11	WISCONSIN	11
MISSISSIPPI	181	WYOMING	3
MISSOURI	36		

## INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

AFRICA	2
AUSTRALIA	1
BRAZIL	1
CHINA	1
COLOMBIA	1
ENGLAND	2
FRANCE	1
GUAM	1
ICELAND	1
JAPAN	3
JORDAN	1
PHILIPPINES	1
SAUDI ARABIA	2
SOUTH KOREA	1
TAIWAN	23
THAILAND	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,153</b>

**Note:** Figures represent alumni whose locations are known. The UASON has more than 10,000 total alumni. Total as of 6/30/03. If your address has changed, please contact us at [nursealum@uab.edu](mailto:nursealum@uab.edu).



## Alumni Notes

- Make plans to attend the UASON at UAB's second annual **Alumni Night**, which will include a reunion reception, awards dinner, and Alumni Association annual meeting, set for **Thursday, October 30, 2003**, at 6:30 p.m. at Vestavia Country Club in Birmingham. The event will honor the BSN/MSN/DSN/PhD classes of 1953, '58, '63, '68, '73, '78, '83, '88, '93, '98, and 2003. Even if it's not your reunion year, you are invited to attend. For details, see page 17 or call (205) 975-8936. Or visit our Alumni Web page at [[www.uab.edu/son](http://www.uab.edu/son)].
- Please complete and return the **2003 Alumni Survey** on the insert in this issue of *The Vignette*. Your feedback will help us plan alumni programs and activities for the coming years. The survey form is also available on our Web site at [[www.uab.edu/son/takesurvey.htm](http://www.uab.edu/son/takesurvey.htm)].
- Know a great nurse who is a UASON at UAB graduate? Consider nominating him or her for the second annual **Jo Ann Barnett Award for Compassionate Nursing Care**, to be presented on October 30 at Alumni Night. For details on how to nominate a nursing graduate, contact the Alumni Office at (205) 975-2443, or via e-mail at [[nursealum@uab.edu](mailto:nursealum@uab.edu)]. Or visit our Alumni Web page at [[www.uab.edu/son](http://www.uab.edu/son)].

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