

THE GATOR SUMMER 2006 | VOLUME IX, NUMBER 2

# NURSE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI OF THE UF COLLEGE OF NURSING

## Celebrating 50 Years



## a time of change and growth: 1970★1989



2nd of 3 Commemorative 50th Anniversary Covers



**GATOR NURSES**

**50**  
YEARS

care  
lead  
inspire

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

# The Times They are a Changin'

by Tracy Brown Wright

*Amidst the tumultuous landscape of change occurring across the country, the College of Nursing began the 1970s with uncertainty. It would face challenges with leadership, encounter rapid changes in the health care system and nursing education, and face social issues that would dramatically transform the dynamics of the nursing profession and the university educational system.*

This would take the evolving College into the 1980s, where its leaders would learn from the challenges in the previous decade and begin to build upon its very solid roots. Expansion in graduate education, the foundation of a nursing research program and the addition of satellite campuses helped the College of Nursing establish itself as the flagship nursing school in the state.

## Change and Uncertainty

In 1972, founding Dean Dorothy Smith stepped down but remained as faculty. This shift in leadership caused a lot of strife in the College's faculty. A driven and courageous leader, Dean Smith had inspired her faculty and students. Following her would be no easy task, said M. Jo Snider, a young faculty member at the time who has since served at the College for more than 30 years.

"Dean Smith was a legend even then," Dr. Snider said. "It was a challenge for our College to assume a different identity after her



*Dr. Lois Malasanos, Dean of the College from 1980 to 1995, supervises a student taking a patient's blood pressure.*

tenure. A lot of the old leadership from the Health Center and the hospital had also changed. So it was a matter of us redefining ourselves, so to speak."

As ideal as life on the campus may appear, sometimes the institution does not exist in a bubble. Rarely was this more evident than in the 1970s, when Vietnam War protests, civil rights sit-ins and the feminist movement deeply affected student life. Many of the "radical" ideas of the 60s gained wider acceptance in the new decade, and were mainstreamed

into American life and culture.

Major trends included a growing disillusionment of government, advances in civil rights, increased influence of the women's movement and a heightened concern for the environment.

The struggle for meaningful racial integration at the University of Florida peaked in April 1971, when black students occupied President O'Connell's office, demanding significant changes in

### 1970

- ▶ Begun in 1969, College continues use of **quarter system** instead of trimester schedule.
- ▶ April 10 – Paul McCartney announces that the Beatles have disbanded.
- ▶ April 11 – US spaceflight Apollo 13 launches for the moon. On April 13, an oxygen tank in the spacecraft explodes, forcing the crew to abort the mission. The crew returns to earth safely on April 17.
- ▶ May 4 – The Kent State shootings: Four students at Kent State

University in Ohio are killed and nine wounded by National Guardsmen at a demonstration protesting against the incursion into Cambodia.

- ▶ The College of Nursing summer master's program developed in 1968, will be offered until 1972.

### 1971

- ▶ *The Federal Nurse Training Act* provides funding source for Nurse Practitioner programs.
- ▶ April – *Black Thursday* – A sit-in at the UF president's office in protest of the low numbers and treatment of

African-American students culminates in the arrest of 66 students.

- ▶ June – The New York Times begins to publish the *Pentagon Papers*, a 47 volume, 7,000-page, top-secret United States Department of Defense history of the United States' political and military involvement in the Vietnam War from 1945 to 1971.
- ▶ July – The voting age in the United States is reduced from 21 to 18.
- ▶ October 1 – Walt Disney World opens.

### 1972

- ▶ The College of Nursing uniform is replaced with an all-white uniform (with cap optional).
- ▶ June – College of Nursing faculty contribute to the start up of the ACORN clinic which continues to serve clients to this day.
- ▶ September – *Munich Massacre*: Eleven Israeli athletes at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich are killed after eight members of the Arab terrorist group *Black September* invade the Olympic Village; five guer-



Dr. Betty Hilliard with a nurse midwifery student as they care for a new mother and her baby.



admissions and the social environment on campus. Afterwards, 171 black students withdrew from UF. Students also participated in Vietnam War protests, once shutting down 13th street at the entrance of the university.

“The mood that existed at the time on campus and in the country contributed to the uncertainty of our College’s future,” said Jo Irving, Assistant Professor who began at the College in 1965.

While the College of Nursing searched for a new dean, Judy Moore served as Acting Dean from 1972 to 1973. Meanwhile, major changes in the College had already been implemented. The College changed from the trimester system to the quarter system, graduating a class each quarter. This shift meant a truly different experience for the students.



“Since we were such a small group, I felt like the program had a larger impact on our lives,” said Bonnie Pepper, who received her BSN in 1980 and is now an active member of the UF Nursing Alumni Council. Her class consisted of only 42 students. “We thought we were a subculture of the College of Nursing; we even did our social activities together.”

### The Evolving Profession

In 1973, Blanche Urey, EdD, RN, was named the College of Nursing’s second dean. Dean Urey was a nursing professor from the Medical University of South Carolina.

One of the first changes Urey made was reorganizing the baccalaureate curriculum into an integrated one. The integrated curriculum did not have defined specialties and tried to follow a more holistic model. Instead of learning about nursing, students learned nursing more as processes. Urey also divided faculty into undergraduate and graduate levels.

At the time, major changes were occurring in nursing and health care. Nursing professionals who had served in the Vietnam War were returning with a much wider scope of knowledge and experience, and desiring more out of their nursing careers. This and other factors helped to accelerate the nurse practitioner program, which had begun at the University of Colorado in 1965.

There was resistance to the nurse practitioner movement in the health care system because of the fear that they would be replicating physicians, Irving said.

Beginning in the mid 1970s, the College followed the trend and began to expand its master’s program with more nurse practitioner specialties, providing leadership for the state. By 1989, the College had expanded to 12 nurse practitioner clinical tracks.

One of these was the nurse midwifery track. Considered one of the pioneers of Florida nurse-midwifery, Dr. Betty Elizabeth Hilliard founded the midwifery track at UF in 1982 after spending

rillas and one policeman are also killed in a failed hostage rescue.

- ▶ September – Dean Dorothy Smith steps down as Dean and remains as faculty. Judy Moore serves as acting Dean from 1972 to 1973.

### 1973

- ▶ College reorganizes and plans for integrated baccalaureate curriculum.
- ▶ January – Supreme Court of the United States rules on *Roe v. Wade*.
- ▶ U.S. involvement in Vietnam War ends with the signing of peace pacts.

- ▶ August – Blanche Urey becomes the College of Nursing’s second dean.

- ▶ October – Arab Oil Embargo against several countries which gave support to Israel, triggering the 1973 energy crisis. The effects of the crisis would linger through the 1970s, in which a rationing of gasoline caused long lines at gas stations nationwide.

### 1974

- ▶ August – Richard Nixon becomes the first President of the United States to resign from office, an action taken to avoid being impeached in response to his role in the Watergate scandal.

### 1976

- ▶ July 4 – United States Bicentennial

### 1977

- ▶ May – *Star Wars* opens in cinemas.
- ▶ June – The first Apple II computers go on sale.
- ▶ August – The UF Registered Nurse to Bachelor’s Degree program (RN to BSN) is established.

- ▶ The College of Nursing graduate program begins to grow. By 1989, the master’s clinical specialties will include 12 options: adult critical care,

adult health, child health, community health, family health, gerontological health, neonatal intensive care, nurse-midwifery, nursing administration, pediatric primary care, psychiatric and mental health nursing, and women and newborn infants’ nursing.

### 1978

- ▶ July – First human birth from in vitro fertilization (test tube baby).
- ▶ December – Dr. Amanda Baker becomes Acting Dean due to the death of Dean Urey.

two decades laying the foundation for the program. Dr. Hilliard directed it until she retired in 1990.

In the early 1970s, the College's faculty was also instrumental in the founding of the ACORN (Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs) Clinic, which for hundreds of nearby low-income residents still offers the area's only accessible, primary health care services. The clinic was one of several community clinics staffed by faculty of the College through the 70s and 80s, giving faculty a chance to expose their students to real world experience in grassroots nursing.



Dr. Blanche Urey, Dean of the College from 1973 to 1978.

"My experience at UF showed me that education promotes quality health care and that nursing faculty can have a broad impact on their students' careers," said Kristy Kiel Martyn, who received her MSN in pediatric nursing in 1981 and her PhD in 1998. "I saw how excellent faculty members can help produce quality nurse practitioners."

Sadly, in 1978, Dean Urey unexpectedly passed away.

Professor Amanda Baker became Interim Dean until 1980, when Dr. Lois Malasanos was named Dean. She was a professor and associate head at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

## A New Energy

A new decade and a new dean brought energy and promise to the College. Dean Malasanos was an administrator who brought great strength in nursing research. During her tenure as Dean, the College strengthened its research mission and implemented Florida's first doctoral program in 1984. At the time, nursing doctoral programs were still very new, with only 24 in the country.

Dean Malasanos was instrumental in making the case for a doctoral degree in nursing at UF, due to dynamic changes in health care practice and service, and the need for theories and methodologies in nursing science.

Since its inception, the doctoral program has produced 109 graduates, many of whom have gone on to become major leaders across the state and nation. The doctoral program allowed the College to grow in stature and expand the curriculum on all levels.



"Each year the number of doctorally prepared faculty members in the College increases as well as the number approved by the Graduate College to supervise dissertation research. I'm certain the doctoral program has influenced this trend," Dean Malasanos said in a 1988 newsletter. "The quality of the students is commendable. These are exciting people who give me courage that the nursing profession will be better for their being part of it. The students are determined to learn the skills that will improve the care of patients."



Along with the expansion of graduate programs came a major strengthening of the research arm of the College. In 1985, the College was awarded a biomedical research grant from the National Institutes of Health. To qualify, a school must receive at least \$200,000 in annual grant support. Graduate students enhanced research productivity as well.

## Leading the Way

The College of Nursing was embracing new technologies with the development of a simulation laboratory and enhanced learning with computers and audiovisual equipment. Dean Malasanos also oversaw the expansion of the College with satellite campuses in Jacksonville and Orlando.

The 1980s saw UF grow in size and in stature. UF was attracting better students and breaking down boundaries—the student

### 1979

- ▶ November 4 – Iran Hostage Crisis begins: 3000 Iranian radicals, mostly students, invade the United States embassy in Tehran and take 90 hostages (53 of whom are American). They will be released after being held captive for 444 days.

### 1980

- ▶ February – The United States Olympic Hockey Team defeats the Soviet Union in the semifinals of the winter olympics in the Miracle on Ice.

- ▶ April – The Mariel boatlift, mass exodus of refugees who departed for the United States from Cuba's Mariel Harbor, begins.
- ▶ August – Dr. Lois Malasanos becomes the third dean of the UF College of Nursing.
- ▶ September – College of Nursing establishes satellite campus for the graduate program; the Jacksonville Health Education Program/University of Florida Health Science Center.

- ▶ December – John Lennon is shot outside his New York apartment, by Mark Chapman.

### 1981

- ▶ August – MTV (Music Television) is launched.
- ▶ US President Ronald Reagan appoints the first female US Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor.
- ▶ September – Established satellite campus for the graduate program in Orlando, Florida.

### 1982

- ▶ September – The graduate program expanded with the Nurse Midwifery Program.
- ▶ December – *Time Magazine's* Man of the Year was for the first time given to a non-human, a computer.
- ▶ Honors program established for baccalaureate students.

### 1983

- ▶ September – The graduate program expanded with the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program.

body elected its first female president and female black president, in 1983 and 1986, respectively. UF had a major capital campaign during the decade. Increased funding allowed the university to hire more faculty and construct new buildings.

The College increased its private funding when it secured several large endowments from donors such as Earl and Margo Powers and the Thomas M. and Irene B. Kirbo Foundation, the latter funding the College's first Endowed Chair, focusing on Oncology Nursing.

The College had weathered through the rocky times to enter into the next decade with a renewed strength and purpose as the flagship program in the state, producing many of the next generation of leaders, those who are leading students today.



Dr. David Williams, Professor of Family Nursing, gets a heart check from a young patient at the ACORN clinic.

## 1970s: Bell bottoms, war protests and streaking...

**The Times** – Amid war, social realignment and presidential impeachment proceedings, American culture in the 1970s flourished. Indeed, the events of the times were reflected in and became the inspiration for much of the music, literature, entertainment, and even fashion of the decade.



**The Fashions** –The fashion influence of 60s hippies was mainstreamed in the 70s, as men sported shoulder length hair and non-traditional clothing became the rage, including bellbottom pants, leisure suits, hip huggers, hot pants, platform shoes, clogs and gypsy dresses. Knits and denims were the fabrics of choice. The movie *Annie Hall* inspired a fashion trend with women sporting traditional men's clothing.

**The Technology** – The floppy disc appeared in 1970, and the next year Intel introduced the microprocessor, the "computer on a chip." Atari produced the first low-priced integrated circuit TV games, and the videocassette recorder (VCR) changed home entertainment forever.

**The Fads** – Mood rings, lava lamps, Sea Monkeys, smiley face stickers, and pet rocks all captured the imagination of Americans during this decade.

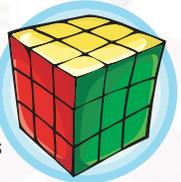
The wildest fad was streaking nude in public. Even the College of Nursing was not immune to this outrageous event. In 1972, an anonymous nursing student streaked through the College's pinning ceremony at the Medical Science Building Auditorium. All we know about the identity of the streaker was that she was a female student wearing a nude body stocking who flung aspirin into the crowd and shouted something unintelligible, according to witnesses. To this day, only a handful of people know the true identity of this streaker. Will the College of Nursing streaker please stand up?



## 1980s: Yuppies, spandex and the computer

**The Times** – Referred by many as the "me decade," 1980s culture celebrated opulence, as yuppies—coined for young urban professionals—burst onto the scene. Video games, aerobics, "lite" foods, minivans, camcorders, and talk shows became part of everyday life. The country declared a war on drugs, E.T. phoned home, and at the very end of the decade the Berlin Wall was completely torn down. At the turn of the decade, many agreed the eighties were "totally awesome."

**The Technology** – Large numbers of Americans began using personal computers in their homes, offices, and schools. By 1989, 60 percent of American households with televisions received cable service. Major advances in genetics research led to the 1988 funding of the Human Genome Project.



**The Fads** – Collectibles were big in the 80s. Smurf and E.T. paraphernalia, Cabbage Patch dolls, camcorders, video games and Rubik's Cubes were popular.

**The Fashion** – The miniskirt made a major revival. The *Flashdance* look had young and old in tank tops, tight-fitting pants or torn jeans, and leg-warmers. Teens not wearing designer clothes opted for Michael Jackson's glove or Madonna's fish-net stockings. Big hair was back and many young women could be seen teasing their bangs to high levels and maxing out their hairspray supply.

### 1984

- ▶ August – The College of Nursing doctoral program is established, the first in Florida.

### 1985

- ▶ The University of Florida becomes a member of The Association of American Universities, a prestigious higher-education organization comprising the top 63 public and private institutions in North America. UF's placement serves as recognition for an outstanding research university.

- ▶ The College of Nursing receives its first ever biomedical research grant from the National Institutes of Health.

### 1986

- ▶ The Thomas M. and Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Trust commits \$600,000 to the UF College of Nursing to support education of nurses and research in the care of cancer patients. The gift will fund the College's first endowed chair, the Kirbo Chair in Oncology Nursing.
- ▶ The College celebrates its 30th anniversary.

- ▶ January 20 – The first federal Martin Luther King Day, honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

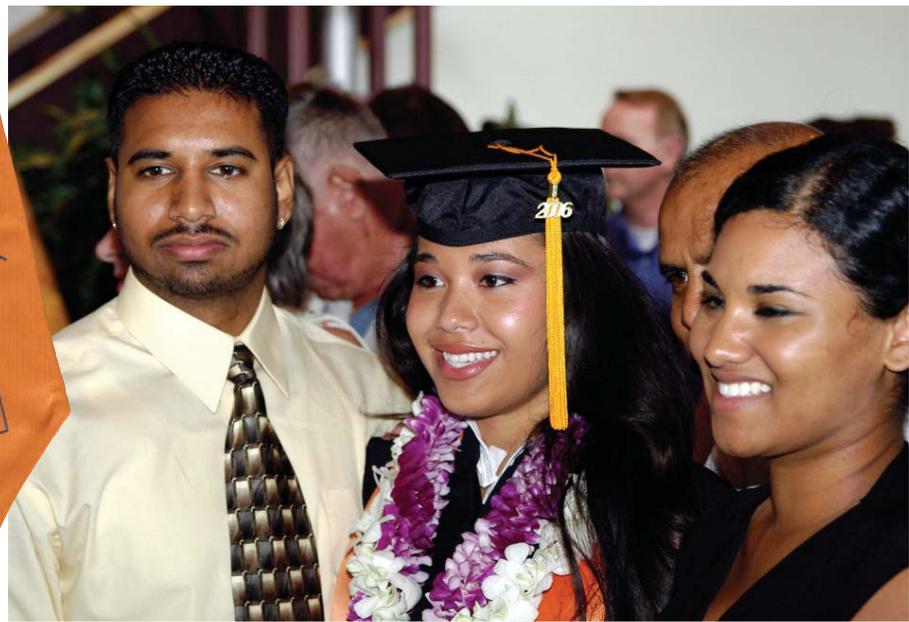
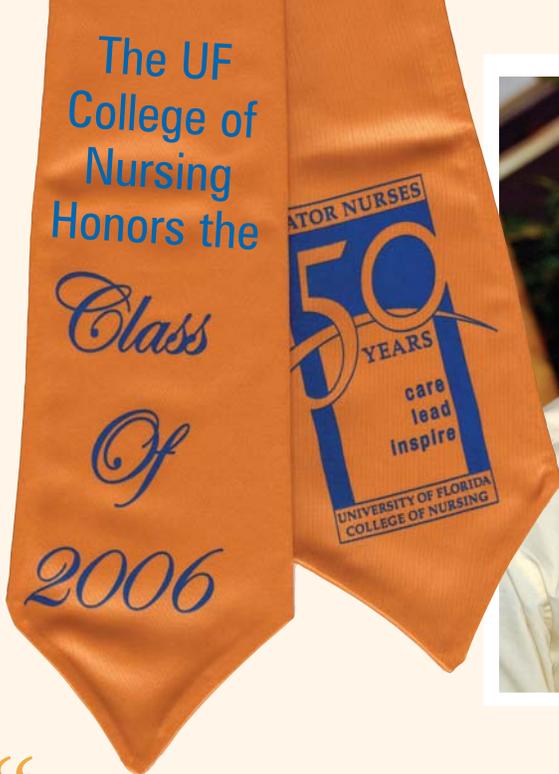
- ▶ January 28 – Space shuttle Challenger disintegrates 73 seconds after launch.

### 1987

- ▶ October 19 – Black Monday: stock market levels fall sharply on Wall Street and around the world.
- ▶ First doctoral degree recipient, Rose Kearney, graduates.

### 1989

- ▶ March – Exxon Valdez oil spill: In Alaska's Prince William Sound the Exxon Valdez spills 240,000 barrels (11 million gallons) of oil after running aground.
- ▶ November – East Germany opens checkpoints in the Berlin Wall, allowing its citizens to freely travel to West Germany for the first time in decades (the next day celebrating Germans began to tear the wall down).

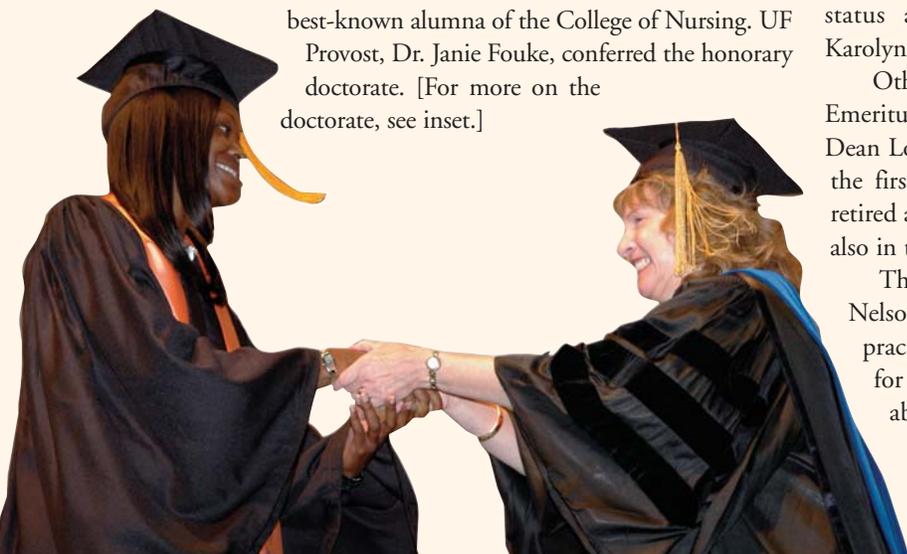


“A College, regardless of the expertise of its faculty or the competence of its staff — in the final analysis — is ultimately judged by its graduates. You are the future of professional nursing and the future of our College.”

Dean Kathleen Ann Long left the Class of 2006 with those words as students took their place in a line that spanned 50 years of College of Nursing graduates. This year's College of Nursing commencement ceremony, which took place May 5, 2006, was particularly special because it celebrated the 50th anniversary of the College. To mark the event, a number of special guests were in attendance, and significant events highlighted the ceremony.

Serving as keynote speaker was Dr. Clair Martin, a notable College of Nursing alumnus who has held a number of esteemed academic positions, including President of Cumberland University and Dean of Nursing at Emory University, the University of Colorado and the University of Alaska. During his time as a student at the College, he worked closely with many of the founding faculty, including Dean Dorothy Smith.

The College had the privilege of presenting an honorary doctorate to Dr. Linda Aiken, one of the most successful and best-known alumna of the College of Nursing. UF Provost, Dr. Janie Fouke, conferred the honorary doctorate. [For more on the doctorate, see inset.]



Preceding the ceremony on Thursday afternoon, the College hosted a festive commencement barbecue to honor the graduates. Albert and Alberta, UF mascots, greeted both students and faculty and helped cut the College's official 50th birthday cake, with a little help from Alberta.

The following day, at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 244 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree graduates walked across the stage to enter the next stage of their nursing careers. Platform guests included Mr. Russell Armistead, UF Associate Vice President for Health Affairs and Carol Reed Ash, EdD, RN, FAAN, retired Eminent Scholar, who received faculty emeritus status at the ceremony. Dr. Karolyn Godbey also was conferred emeritus status.



Other special guests included Dr. Anna Shannon, Dean Emeritus of Montana State University School of Nursing and Dean Long's professional mentor, and Judy Wyatt, a graduate of the first class of the College of Nursing. A number of other retired and emeritus faculty as well as friends of the College were also in the audience.

The Alumnus of the Year award was given to Dr. Audrey Nelson (PhD 1990) a nationally recognized leader in clinical practice and research who has magnified the scope of practice for patient safety and is a tireless advocate for those with disabilities. (For more on Dr. Nelson, see page 12).

The College honored outstanding students with College of Nursing Excellence Awards, chosen by facul-

## UF Awards Prestigious Honorary Doctorate to Esteemed Alumna

The University of Florida awards an honorary degree as a recognition of eminent achievement in scholarship or high distinction in public service exemplifying the purposes and ideals of the University. The College of Nursing had the distinct pleasure of hosting the awarding of a Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, to Linda Aiken, PhD, RN, FAAN, FRCN, one of the College's most renowned alumna.

Dr. Aiken received both her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from UF and is now the Director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research and the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor of Nursing and Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Aiken is known worldwide for advancing quality patient care through research and health policy work. She has been a dominant and influential leader and researcher in the field of nursing outcomes research for the past two decades. She has been awarded more than \$12 million in extramural funding for her research programs, and results of her groundbreaking studies have been reported nationally and internationally.

Dr. Aiken proudly proclaims herself a Gator Nurse and is an outstanding representative of the accomplishments that are possible with a UF education.



Honorary Doctorate recipient Dr. Linda Aiken (left) and UF Provost Dr. Janie Fouke.



ty members based on students' performance in caring for particular patient populations as well as research. In addition, awards were given by Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha Theta Chapter and the class of 2006. The Academic Excellence awards were given to the top scholars from the Generic, Accelerated and RN to BSN tracks, as well as the MSN and PhD programs.

In addition, students from the graduating class gave out outstanding faculty awards to Anna Kelley, Clinical Assistant Professor in Women's, Children's and Family Nursing and David Derrico, Clinical Assistant Professor of Adult Nursing.



## College of Nursing Excellence Awards

- Audrey Clark Quarles Award for Clinical Excellence in Maternal-Newborn Nursing – **Amy Leigh Greer**
- Jennet M. Wilson Award for Academic Excellence in Maternal-Newborn Nursing – **Allison Christine Bruner**
- Excellence in Pediatric Nursing Award – **Hillary Nicole Bess**
- Virgie Pafford Award for Excellence in Community Health Nursing – **Laura Chime Swetland**
- Catherine Bell Award for Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing – **Allison Christine Bruner**
- Excellence in Community Service Award – **Teresa Marie Jacks, Elizabeth Christine Jacks**
- Excellence in Research Award – **Alexis Nicole Johnson**
- Lois Knowles Award for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing – **Amanda Floetke Elliott**
- Hilliard Award for Leadership and Scholarship in Nurse Midwifery – **Nancy DeMaio**
- Excellence in Medical-Surgical Nursing – **Allison Christine Bruner**

## Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society Excellence in Clinical Practice Awards

- Clinical Practice – **Hillary Bess, Kathryn Evans**
- Scholarly Activity – **Patricia Robinson**

## Academic Excellence Awards

- BSN-Generic Track – **Allison Christine Bruner**
- BSN-RN to BSN Track – **Jacqueline Sue Hart**
- BSN-Accelerated Track – **Jamie Lynn Mater**
- MSN – **Susan Donaldson**
- PhD – **Amanda Floetke Elliott**

## Student Awards

- Excellence in Doctoral Research – **Jennifer Rene Dungan**
- UF Nursing Student Association Recognition Award – **Hillary Bess**
- Nursing College Council Recognition Award – **Cassidy Bell**
- Outstanding Senior Student – **Hillary Bess**
- Outstanding Senior Mentors – **Hillary Bess, LaKenna Parsley**

## COLLEGE OF NURSING '06 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

**161** Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates  
(includes accelerated degree students)

**75** Master of Science in Nursing graduates

**8** Doctorate of Nursing Science graduates

**244** Total Graduates

(includes Fall 2005, Spring and Summer 2006)

# Celebrating a Heritage of Inspiration

SAVE THE DATE FOR  
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF NURSING'S  
50TH ANNIVERSARY

## Gala & Reunion

NOVEMBER 17-18, 2006

VISIT OUR WEB SITE [WWW.NURSING.UFL.EDU/50](http://WWW.NURSING.UFL.EDU/50) OR CALL (352) 273-6614



# Honor a Nurse

WHAT NURSE HAS TOUCHED YOUR LIFE?

Maybe it was a parent or grandparent, a friend or faculty member, or a nurse who helped you or your family while you were sick. If you are a nurse, it may be that person who inspired you to become one. Or perhaps you are married to an incredible nurse. Now is the time to recognize these special people who have made such a difference

in our lives and touched countless others.

During this special occasion of our 50th anniversary, we encourage you to **honor someone who exemplifies the spirit of nursing**, one who upholds the characteristics that embody a Gator Nurse...one who cares, leads and inspires.

- Your gift of \$1000 will allow you to honor a nurse with his/her name on a 4 x 8 brick in the courtyard in front of the college. Their name and a special message from you will also be placed in the 50th Anniversary Gala program and the final commemorative issue of *The Gator Nurse*.
- A gift of \$250 will allow your honoree's name to be recognized in the 50th Anniversary Gala program.
- In addition, the College will notify the honoree of your tribute.

All proceeds go directly to the Dorothy M. Smith Chair. Dorothy Smith, the founding dean of the College of Nursing, brought national and international attention to the University of Florida for her pioneering ideas that served as the basis for the development of advanced practice nursing and evidence-based nursing practice.

Bringing the Dorothy Smith Professorship to Chair status will not only honor Dorothy Smith's legacy but will allow the College to take credit for the innovations that have revolutionized nursing and health care. Truly, her work established the characteristics for all Gator Nurses to Care, Lead and Inspire.

### I would like to make my gift:

In Honor of...       In Memory of...

Name of Nurse:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name/Address to send acknowledgement card:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Personalize your honorary or memorial message here (Limit to 20 words):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*If making a \$1000 gift, pledge cards must be received by September 15, 2006 to ensure installation of brick for the 50th Anniversary Gala.

[WWW.NURSING.UFL.EDU/50](http://WWW.NURSING.UFL.EDU/50)

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE NURSE WHO HAS TOUCHED YOUR LIFE!

Please send this pledge form to: UF College of Nursing, Austin Geiger, PO Box 100197, Gainesville, FL 32610-0197

## College of Nursing Honors its Heritage at Malasanos Lectureship and Research Day

The University of Florida College of Nursing's Second Annual Research Day, held recently in conjunction with its Distinguished Malasanos Lectureship, honored the college's 50th anniversary by celebrating a heritage of nursing science at UF.

The Malasanos Lectureship featured Anna Schwartz, PhD, RN, FAAN, noted researcher in exercise and cancer treatment and faculty member at the Arizona State University School of Nursing. Schwartz spoke to faculty, students, consumers and other health professionals about her scientifically based program for physical activity and symptom management in cancer patients and implications on nursing research and practice. She recently published "Cancer Fitness: Exercise Program for Patients and Survivors," a culmination of years of research.

Top honors for graduate research went to doctoral student Melissa Dodd Inglese, MSN, ARNP, for her poster "The Pain Experience in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: New Caregiver Insights." Inglese's faculty mentor was Associate Professor Jennifer Elder, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Top honors for undergraduate research went to two students. The first was senior nursing student Meghan Bullard for her poster "A Secondary Analysis of Parent-Child Play Behaviors in Children with Autism." Bullard's faculty mentor also was Elder. The second undergraduate research poster winner was Jessica Casselberry whose poster was titled "Facial Expressions of Pain." Her faculty mentor was Associate Dean for Research Ann Horgas, PhD, RN, FAAN.



Top: (L-R) Dean Kathleen Ann Long, Malasanos Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Anna Schwartz, Dean Emeritus Lois Malasanos and UF First Lady Chris Machen, a retired nurse. Bottom: (L-R) Jennifer Elder, Associate Professor and Department Chair, and Melissa Dodd Inglese, doctoral student and poster winner for the College's Research Day.



A group of sixth graders pal around with the NRC skeleton during their field trip to the College of Nursing.

## Sixth-graders Experience Life as Nursing Students

A class of sixth-grade students from Jacksonville's Northwestern Middle School were able to experience a taste of life as nursing students when the yearlong Future Gator Nurse program culminated in a tour and demonstration at the UF College of Nursing. Students had the opportunity to view and participate in demonstrations with "Sim-Man," a lifelike mannequin programmed to mimic an array of illnesses, as well as take part in a learning exercise for nursing students. Throughout the school year, the middle-school students have met twice a month with Norma Cooper, College of Nursing educator and recruiter as participants in the Future Gator Nurse program.

The Future Gator Nurse program was created to encourage students – regardless of gender, race and culture – to view a career in nursing as a possibility and as an achievable goal. Northwestern Middle School is located in a medically underserved area of Jacksonville and many of its students are from underrepresented groups in the health-care field.

The Future Gator Nurse program was originally funded through a federal grant in 2004 when Cooper visited a Jacksonville kindergarten class. During the 2005-06 school year, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida donated \$50,000 to sustain and expand the program to a class at Northwestern Middle School to introduce sixth-graders to careers in nursing. A College of Nursing doctoral student, Pam Turner, is also using some of the funding to study and evaluate the program as part of her dissertation work.

Students toured the building and took part in interactive demonstrations in the Iona M. Pettengill Nursing Resource Center. Immediately after the demonstrations, College of Nursing graduate Hillary Bess, Dean Kathleen Ann Long, Shelley Meyer, first lady of Florida football and a master's prepared psychiatric nurse, and Catherine Kelly, Vice President of Public Affairs Signature Programs, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, spoke to the students. Several of the sixth grade students also stood up and thanked the College and Prof. Cooper.



Senior Lab Teaching Specialist Danielle Kistler instructs students on the Cath-Sim, an intravenous simulation program.

# Don't Ask, Might Not Think to Tell: Communication Key to Preventing Risky Drug Interactions

Older women who regularly mix prescription, over-the-counter and herbal medications are risking their health, University of Florida nursing researchers warn. Many also don't think to tell their health care providers about the non-prescription medicines they are taking — and too often practitioners fail to ask.

That lack of communication is especially alarming, researchers wrote in the current issue of *Geriatric Nursing*.

"Many of these older women do not consider over-the-counter and herbal medications 'real drugs' and therefore don't report them," said Saunjoo Yoon, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor and the study's principal investigator. "However, it is clear that many health-care providers are not following through to learn their patients' complete medication histories."

Recent research has shown that nearly half of people aged 65 years or older take a total of five or more prescribed, over-the-counter and herbal medications, while 12 percent take a combination of at least 10 medications. Yet little research has focused on drug-drug interactions among these three types of medications in elderly people, who are more susceptible to their harmful effects.

Using a Web-based pharmaceutical program, Dr. Yoon and co-investigator Susan Schaffer, PhD, ARNP, a Clinical Assistant Professor, studied 58 older women who had reported taking at least one herbal product while using at least one over-the-counter or prescribed drug. The study's participants were a subsample of 143 women from previous published studies. Seventy-four percent of the study's participants were in danger of experiencing adverse effects from a moderate- or high-risk drug interaction. Common over-the-counter medications like ibuprofen or calcium supplements, when taken in combination with certain prescription medications, were among the most common culprits.

The researchers used Gold Standard Multimedia's Clinical Pharmacology Drug Interactions program, which defines a drug interaction as an altered drug effect occurring when one drug is taken with another drug or herb. An interaction is considered high risk if it has the potential for harm in most cases. A moderate risk requires careful monitoring and possible dose adjustment.

Of the 136 drug interactions detected, 41 percent were deemed high risk and 58 percent were moderate risk.

The greatest number of high-risk interactions occurred among participants who took two or more nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to treat muscle pain and arthritis, or who combined them with the herbal drug ginkgo. NSAIDs are offered by prescription or in over-the-counter formulas, such as ibuprofen.

"It is commonly known that nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can cause gastrointestinal bleeding, and many women are combining these drugs, which increases that risk significantly," said Dr. Schaffer. "Older adults are at a higher risk for GI bleeding even when the drugs are taken appropriately. There is a lack of understanding about these drugs and their effects when mixed together, especially when so many of them are offered over the counter."

Mixing standard doses of acetaminophen with a narcotic pain medication that also contains acetaminophen in combination with propoxyphene can damage the liver. Some drug combinations, meanwhile, dilute the effects of prescription medications. UF researchers found that calcium supplements, routinely recommended to older women for prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, interacted with many drugs, causing them to lose their effectiveness. That proved true for study participants taking calcium in conjunction with high blood pressure, thyroid medications, or antacids.

...continued on page 15



## Rowe Named a UF Research Foundation Professor



College of Nursing Researcher **Meredith Rowe**, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, has been named a University of Florida Research Foundation Professor for 2006-2009. Rowe was one of 33 faculty members University-wide recognized for having a distinguished record of research and a strong research agenda that is likely to lead to continuing distinction in her field.

The selection is based on recommendations from deans and department chairs, as well as evaluation of recent research accomplishments as evidenced by publications in scholarly journals,

external funding, honors and awards, and other measures appropriate to the researcher's field of expertise.

Dr. Rowe is committed to finding strategies to lessen the inherent dangers associated with Alzheimer's and dementia patients who frequently wander away from home. She has been funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research to study a Night Alert Prompting System, designed by Dr. Rowe to identify and alert caregivers to unsafe nighttime activity in home-dwelling individuals with dementia.

The three-year award carries with it a \$5,000 annual salary supplement and a \$3,000 grant.

# UF Nursing Student Chosen as National Geriatric Scholar

by Lori M. Spicer



Doctoral student **Judy Campbell**, MSN, ARNP, received the “Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity” pre-doctoral scholarship, funded by the John A. Hartford Foundation and administered by the American Academy of Nursing. The scholarship, which provides \$40,000 a year for two years, will enable her to concentrate on her research full-time. She was one of a selective group of 18 recipients nationwide to receive the scholarship.

Her research goal is to study interventions that can possibly delay placement of those with dementia in long term care.

Campbell’s primary mentor is Associate Professor Meredith Rowe, PhD, RN, who has guided Campbell in her research track.

“Judy has great potential to conduct research that will improve the lives of persons with dementia, such as Alzheimer’s disease,” Rowe said. “She has learned many aspects of the researcher’s role by working with me on our Night Alert Prompting study in which we developed a home monitoring system, called CareWatch.”

Campbell will be using data from the Dr. Rowe’s study, as well as her own data, for her dissertation research.

Founded in 2000, the Hartford Scholar program seeks to produce gerontological leaders in the areas of research, academics and practice who will ultimately improve elder care. Campbell is one of four UF students and faculty members who have been awarded a pre-doctoral or post-doctoral award since 2002.

## accomplishments in brief

Associate Professor **Sandy Seymour** was elected chairperson of the Shands/UF Allied Health Professionals Credentials Subcommittee. Dr. Seymour was also invited to speak at the 14th annual Congress on Women’s Health in June 2006.

Associate Professor **Sharleen Simpson** had her symposium accepted for the 2006 National STD Prevention Conference where she served as moderator and presenter with Dr. Kay Hood, Rachel McMahan (PhD candidate), Paula Warrington (PhD candidate) and Research Associate Professor **Karla Schmitt**. She also gave a presentation at the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) meeting on “Narratives of Male and Female Adolescents with Repeat Sexually Transmitted Infections.” Her recent abstract was accepted on “Gender Issues in the Delivery of Sexually Transmitted Disease Services in Three Florida Counties,” for an oral presentation at the International Nursing Midwifery Research Conference.

Clinical Assistant Professor **Leslie Parker** will be presenting on “Review of Metabolic Function in the Newborn: Part I and Part II” at an upcoming neonatal conference. Her abstract submission entitled “Birth Trauma” was selected for a concurrent track session presentation at the National Association of Neonatal Nurses 22nd Annual Conference.

Clinical Assistant Professor **Susan Schaffer** and Assistant Professor **Sunny Yoon** gave a presentation at the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) on “Assessing Drug-Herb Interaction Risks in Older Women: Results of a Secondary Analysis.”

Assistant Professor **Charlene Krueger** gave a presentation at the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) on “Normative Changes in Heart Rate Variability in the 28-34 Week Old Preterm Infant.”

Visiting Assistant Professor **Susan Salazar** is publishing a feature article in the May edition of the professional journal, *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*, entitled “Assessment and Management of the Obese Adult Female.”

Assistant Professor **Deborah Popovich** and Allison McAlhany recently produced their Grand Rounds article that is in the final editorial process of *Clinician Reviews*: “Girl, 13, with Swollen Uterus and Pelvic Pain.”

Associate Professor and Department Chair **Veronica Feeg** recently wrote the Foreword for the new Springer book from the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) Expert Panel on Children and Families. Her abstract was accepted for a poster presentation at Academy

Health, a large interdisciplinary health services research association annual meeting.

Visiting Assistant Professor **Norma Cooper’s** project abstract, “Future Gator Project,” was selected for a paper presentation at the 2006 annual meeting of the SREB Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing.

Assistant Professor **Linda Sigsby** was appointed by the Perioperative Nurse’s Association to the Perioperative Academic Curriculum Development National Task Force. She also was notified that her manuscript entitled “Practicum in an ambulatory surgical center” was accepted for publication in the *AORN Journal*. Sigsby published two book chapters, one in *Perioperative Nursing Data Set* and the other in *Concepts of a Profession*.

Annabel Davis Jenks Endowed Professor **Beverly Roberts** was notified that she was the recipient of one of the Opportunity Fund grants. This interdisciplinary proposal entitled “Effects of Tai Chi on Physical Performance, Functional Limitation and Disability” also involves **Dr. James Jessup**. Dr. Roberts was also elected to serve a 3-year term on the Academic Freedom, Tenure, Professional Relations and Standards Committee by the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee.

Associate Professor **Joyce Stechmiller** has been asked to be a reviewer for *Geriatric Nursing*.

Clinical Assistant Professor **Lori Thomas** was recently recredentialed with the ANCC as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and an Adult Nurse Practitioner.

Clinical Assistant Professor **Laura Sutton** has been notified by *Cancer Nursing* that her manuscripts “Effects of mutual dyad support on quality of life in women with breast cancer” has been accepted for publication.

Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor **Mary Rockwood Lane** will be speaking at the Women’s Health Conference, Religion and Nature Conference, and working with Jean Watson in Boulder, Colorado on the “Art of Caring”.

Associate Professor **Meredeth Rowe** traveled to Huntsville, Alabama to present at two conferences that assist in providing law enforcement training for working with persons with dementia and finding individuals who are lost.

Assistant Professor **Dr. Bryan Weber** recently presented at the American Psychosocial Oncology Society’s annual scientific conference.

## Nelson's Passion for Nursing Research in Clinical Care Improves Patient Lives

by Lori Spicer

### Audrey Nelson loves her job.

As the Director of the Patient Safety Center and Associate Director of Nursing Service for Research at the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital in Tampa, FL, Dr. Nelson (PhD 1990) is able to pair her two loves: nursing research and clinical service. Her work to improve the quality of care delivered to people with disabilities has led to a number of clinical, educational and policy tools which have had a profound effect nationally.

Dr. Nelson had the special distinction of being chosen the 2006 UF College of Nursing Alumnus of the Year.

By serving as a researcher at the point of care, Dr. Nelson's position is unique but one that she hopes will continue to multiply at hospitals across the country. Dr. Nelson also holds the position of Associate Director for Research in the University of South Florida College of Nursing, and Research Professor in the USF Colleges of Engineering and Public Health and Aging Studies.

Dr. Nelson got her first taste of nursing research when she completed a small funded project during her undergraduate program at USF.

Eventually she decided to further her education by pursuing her PhD in Nursing Science at UF, which proved to be, literally, a challenging road. Every day she made a 2 hour and 20 minute commute with fellow alumna Dr. Pat Quigley, who she now works with at the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital.

But her commitment paid off. The College had faculty who matched her research interests, particularly her mentor, Dr. Sally Hutchinson, a qualitative researcher who studied spinal cord injury.

"The UF College of Nursing was a wonderful foundation for research," Dr. Nelson said. "My experiences there prepared me for my position at the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital. I felt extremely fortunate to take on a position following my program, because during that time it was rare for a student to instantly matriculate into the working world."

Dr. Nelson has received funding for over 45 research projects. She was awarded the John M. Eisenberg Award for Patient Safety and the Bernice Owen Award for Research in Patient Care Ergonomics.

Outside her work, Dr. Nelson loves to travel and learn new languages. In a few months she will be traveling to England, and she hopes to also visit the Picasso Museum in Spain and the Costa Rican Rainforest.



Alumnus of the Year Audrey Nelson with Imogene King, a pioneer of nursing theory.

## College Honors Couple Devoted to Supporting Nursing

This spring, the College dedicated a classroom in honor of a couple devoted to supporting nursing education and health care, Jerry and Nancy Cross Hamilton. The naming of this classroom is spurred by a generous gift from the Hamiltons to support the Brightest Students to Faculty Fund, which assists highly capable and motivated BSN students in pursuing doctoral education.

Alumna Mrs. Hamilton is one of the founding members of the UF chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the nursing honor society. She graduated with her BSN in 1964 and received her Master of Nursing in 1966 as a Pediatric Clinical Specialist from what, at that time, was its newly established program. Mrs. Hamilton attributes much of the success of her nursing career to the



Dean Kathleen Ann Long with Jerry and Nancy Cross Hamilton during the classroom dedication ceremony.

opportunities she received at UF College of Nursing.

For 30 years, Mrs. Hamilton taught the nursing care of children to students at St. Petersburg College, until she retired in 2000. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have been close supporters of the Seminole Largo Branch of the Guild of All Children's Hospital, the clinical partner of St. Petersburg College. Mrs. Hamilton is also an active supporter and participant of the Ronald McDonald House.

Mr. Hamilton worked for General Electric under contract for the Department of Energy (DOE) and retired after 35 years of service.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton hope that their gift will extend the legacy of excellent nursing education, with emphasis on quality patient care, at the University of Florida.

# A "New" Rite of Passage: Alumni Hosts Pinning Ceremony

Graduating BSN students were able to celebrate a new rite of passage with a modernized version of a storied tradition in the nursing profession. The UF College of Nursing Alumni Council hosted a Pinning Ceremony for the BSN Class of 2006, the first such ceremony in over two decades. Eighty-two BSN students participated.

The Pinning Ceremony is a time-honored nursing school tradition that dates back to the nineteenth century. The Nursing Alumni Council chose to reintroduce the ceremony to graduates, not only as a way to mark the completion of their BSN program, but more importantly, to signify their entrance as alumni of the College of Nursing.

"Our pinning ceremony is unique in that it has become a way to formally welcome new graduates as alumni of the UF College of Nursing," said BarBee Geiger, UF Nursing Alumni Council President. "Regardless of where the new graduates' nursing careers take them, their pin will always represent their steps from student to professional nurse."

Dean Kathleen Ann Long welcomed the students and detailed the significance of the ceremony. Recognition of students was led by

the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Joanne Richard. The presentation of pins was led by Geiger and a revised version of the Nightingale pledge was given by Cassidy Bell, one of the graduating seniors.

The tradition of the nursing pin and the ceremonial pinning originated in the 1860's at the Nightingale School of Nursing at St. Thomas

Hospital in London. As the profession developed, individual institutions chose a unique pin to be awarded to students completing their programs, and the pin became a public symbol of pride in various schools, worn by nursing graduates.



Alumna Alice Jackson pins a student during the ceremony.

## Remember When...

### GATOR NURSES FONDLY REMEMBER THEIR TIMES AT THE COLLEGE OF NURSING

We had a "contest" and all selected the College pin. Only 12 of the original 50 nursing students actually graduated. There were 13 transfer students that graduated in the first class with the original 12. There were also 50 medical students and 48 of them graduated. My psychiatric instructor was Vergie Pafford. She started me off in the right direction as did our dean Dorothy Smith. We corresponded for years.

#### – Portia Elizabeth Williams, BSN '60

Three of my clearest memories were of Dr. Willa May Whitner, who taught us all a basic course in research and statistics. I still remember her patience in trying to explain a three dimensional 'normal curve.'

I also remember Carol Taylor who was half-time faculty for the College of Nursing and half-time for the Department of Anthropology. She would have fascinating dialogues with the students in class about organizational strategies to get things accomplished for their patients. Her book *In Horizontal Orbit* still appears on reading lists as a classic.

Lastly, I remember Dr. Joan O'Brien who would challenge us to research the literature to justify what we would believe.

#### – Ann Smith, MN '67

I remember how helpful & friendly all the faculty were to me as a brand new and nervous faculty member in 1987. What memories I have of working on course materials with Gloria Chiras and Audrey Field – piles stacked everywhere. Team Teaching Nur 3255L lectures with Joe Burley also makes the list.

I share fond memories with the following nursing faculty: Arlene Nichols, Gloria Chiras, Linnea Schramm, Audrey Field, Barbara Ogden and Julie Samples.

#### – Faye Medley, MSN '87

When the government funded Medicare in 1964, Dean Knowles became a celebrity – an "expert" in care of the elderly and in great demand. Dean Knowles' Geriatrics rotation ranked somewhere near LAST in popularity with my classmates. She realized this, and I felt bad about it! I feigned intense interest when I noticed someone falling asleep in her lecture.



When we did our turn at an old run-down "nursing home," I happened to draw a patient whose care resulted in an extremely successful and amusing little story. Dean Knowles seized the opportunity, and until I graduated, I accompanied her on all her speaking engagements, warming up the crowd with my tale of Mr. Hollister. We spoke at colleges, developer's conventions, and government meetings!

Dean Smith and Dean Knowles did it the hard way. I love them still, and they are HEROES never to be forgotten!

#### – DeLena May BSN '66

I still remember Dr. Jo Snider telling me during my BSN years, "If you want to make a difference, then you will." Ever since I graduated from my BSN program, I have worked to make a substantial contribution, to truly make a difference to patients and their families.

#### – Rita Kobb, BSN '81 and MN '96

I always appreciated Dr. Snider's response when we were all complaining about having to take the required undergraduate research course... "Quite frankly, the only reason you need to have a basic understanding of research is so that when you start working, you do not 'screw' up someone else's study." This was so inspiring I went on to become a research nurse after graduation.

#### – Mitzi Tucker, BSN '94 and MSN '02

# Nursing Students Break New Ground in Poland



Each spring semester, College of Nursing BSN seniors complete an intensive clinical practicum as the culmination of their studies. This past spring, for the first time, a group of students had the chance to complete their practicum in a different country.

Senior students Rani Ridenour, Laura Chime Swetland, Sara Wilson and Lori Yontz traveled to Gdansk, Poland as part of a formal exchange between UF and the Medical University of Gdansk. They completed a six-week practicum in March and April. Two faculty members, Joan Castleman, MS, RN, Clinical Associate Professor, and Veronica Feeg, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Department Chair of Women's, Children's and Family Nursing, accompanied the students.

College of Nursing students and faculty were engaged in a number of activities, most notably sharing nursing experiences with their Polish peers. The students underwent extensive preparation in Gainesville before they left, spending time in the Alachua County Health Department, in order to observe how services were provided locally and compare them to services they would observe in Poland.

Once in Poland, students collaborated with health professionals in Gdansk on a variety of health promotion/disease prevention and community assessment activities.

"It was an amazing experience for our students to be able to connect with other nursing students and learn both similarities and differences in nursing and health care," Castleman said. "They met with not only faculty and students, but patients and their families, to gain a better understanding of the Polish culture and health care system."



The Polish health care system has undergone major changes in the past 50 years. A national physician's strike was actually occurring while the group was in Poland. The transition from communist rule and a state-provided system to a combination of public and private services in health care has impacted nursing education as well.

"Our students had the opportunity to observe and fully appreciate how the context of the health care system drives the services that are provided and how nurses and physicians are challenged when the political structure shifts," Dr. Feeg said.

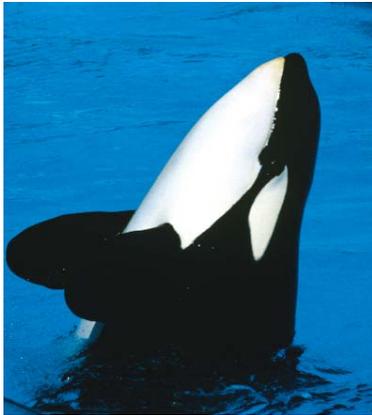
The students and faculty were able to share insights with the Polish faculty and students in nursing education at the baccalaureate and graduate levels.

While language barriers certainly existed, UF faculty and students found ways to communicate with their counterparts. Observing clinical situations also provided a common language for both the Polish and UF students who found that the language of nursing was universal, Dr. Feeg said.



(Above and left): UF nursing students and faculty see the sights in Gdansk, Poland and interact with their peers from the Medical University of Gdansk.

# Sea of Gators



Shamu invites Gators from across Florida to invade Sea World for an evening of fun and adventure. As part of its 100 year celebration, the University of Florida Alumni Association will host "For Gators Only," an after-hours party at Sea World Orlando on Saturday evening, July 15. Kraken, Journey to Atlantis and the Penguin Encounter will be open during the event. Attendance is free for UF Alumni Association members. If you are not already a member, membership applications will be accepted at the door. For more information on the event, visit [www.ufalumni.ufl.edu](http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu).

## Are you Connected? Join the Gator Nation Network

The Gator Nation Network (GNN), a private, online community allowing UF alumni and friends to securely connect with friends is for Gators only. This is the perfect opportunity to contact a long lost classmate or to network with fellow alumni. Just visit <http://gnn.ufalumni.ufl.edu> to fill out your profile and get started. Once you're there, you can:

- ▶ Find your UF friends and colleagues
- ▶ Network with alumni about events, housing and jobs
- ▶ Invite new friends to join or accept invitations from fellow Gators
- ▶ Have event reminders displayed when logged in
- ▶ Be reminded of friends' birthdays
- ▶ And much, much more!



GNN is now available, courtesy of the UF Alumni Association. The service is free of charge to all UF alumni and there are no strings attached. Visit <http://gnn.ufalumni.ufl.edu> to access your account and begin growing your Gator network today.

### Drug Interactions...continued from page 10

The herbal medication St. John's wort reduces the effectiveness of hormone replacement therapy and contraceptive medication as well as albuterol, an asthma medication, and fentanyl, a narcotic pain medication.

Carefully timing when these drugs are taken can prevent these effects. For instance, patients should take calcium at least one to two hours before taking high blood pressure medication, Dr. Schaffer said.

"It's so important for health-care providers to take a careful medication history to evaluate all prescribed, over-the-counter and herbal drugs to monitor interactions in older women, particularly because these women have been shown to take a number of different types of medications," Dr. Yoon said. "Although it is difficult to determine the impact of the drug interactions for any given individual, prevention of possible interaction is the safest practice."

## president's message

Dear Gator Nurses,

As you can see in this publication of *The Gator Nurse*, we are very busy recognizing students as they leave the educational program here at the UF College of Nursing. By hosting both the College of Nursing Pinning Ceremony and Graduation BBQ, the Nursing Alumni Council has generated excitement about being a proud Gator Nurse.



BARBEE GEIGER

What you might not know is that it is the Nursing Alumni Council's goal to connect with *all* graduates, young and old. And, we have many wonderful events happening this year to help us reconnect with others while commemorating our 50th Anniversary.

Speaking of events, do not be surprised if you get a letter or phone call from your class representative inviting you back to campus for the 50th Anniversary Gala and Reunion on November 17 & 18, 2006. There are many great activities planned throughout the week-end, including the Fall Alumni Council Board Meeting; College of Nursing Tours; "Celebrating a Heritage of Inspiration" Gala; Saturday Pre-game Tailgate Party and many more. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with fellow classmates and to help us celebrate a history of caring, leading and inspiring.

Act now to make sure you can enjoy all of the festivities. Be sure to block off Friday, November 17th through Saturday afternoon, November 18th on your calendar. Look out for your Gala & Reunion registration form from the alumni office this summer and be sure to sign up. Prepare to have an amazing time!

The Nursing Alumni Council invites you to share with us how we can help keep you connected with the College of Nursing. We aspire to continue our strong association with the College and to help make your interactions with the Nursing Alumni Association meaningful. I look forward to seeing you during Reunion Weekend in November.

BarBee Geiger,  
BSN 1974  
Nursing Alumni  
Council President



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In the Next Issue...

1990s and 2000s

at the UF College of Nursing



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