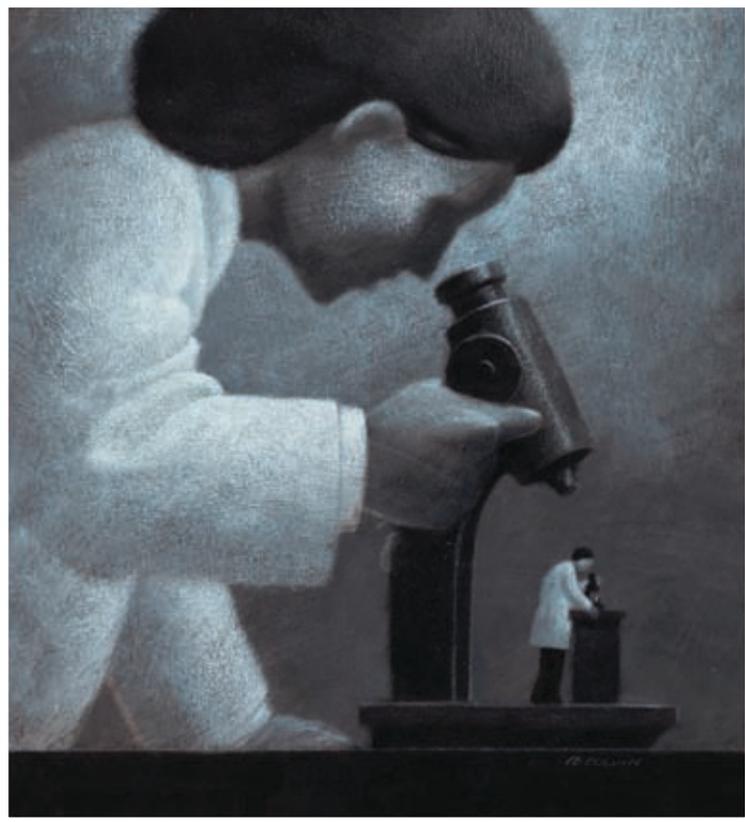


# NURSE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI OF THE UF COLLEGE OF NURSING



## 2020 VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE: What will tomorrow bring?

As the U.S. population continues to age, worries increase among those who lack faith in the quality and safety of the country's health care system. By the year 2020, will this system be irrevocably broken, or can changes be made today to prepare us for the challenges ahead?

Some 400 nurses and nursing educators gathered at the University of Florida College of Nursing to consider just that issue as part of the Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Conference, which took place January 17 and 18 in Gainesville.

*continued on page 2*

College Honors Alumni with Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Awards

5

Nursing Researcher Studies Side Effects in Prostate Cancer Patients

8

Saying Goodbye to a College Friend

10

Recognizing Our Friends and Supporters

12

Alumni Updates

14



PHOTOS BY JEFF KNEE, CAPTURIMAGE



## “There’s no room at the inn: fewer faculty members to teach, less classroom space and fewer practice sites for learning.”

— Joanne Disch, PhD, RN, FAAN,  
Dorothy M. Smith Conference Keynote Speaker

Joanne Disch, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director of the Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership at the University of Minnesota, presented the conference’s keynote address Thursday.

“Things are getting a little different out there,” Dr. Disch told the group. Trends “are moving us inexorably toward a whole new health care system.”

Examples of new trends included the fact that women are now outpacing men in income growth (although not necessarily in income), that mini-clinics now offer “mall medicine” in many parts of the country, and that some states now offer compensation to relatives who serve as caregivers for family members.

Dr. Disch, who chairs the National Board of AARP, said health care and financial security are the most pressing domestic issues facing the nation. Unless consumers make their wishes known, she warned, health care reforms that presidential candidates are touting in an election year will “go to the bottom of the pile after the election.”

Focusing specifically on changes in the field of nursing, Dr. Disch emphasized that the numbers of people being turned away from nursing programs is going up, despite a continuing shortage of nurses.

“There’s no room at the inn: fewer faculty members to teach, less classroom space and fewer practice sites for learning,” she said.

Thursday’s panel discussion, “Nurse Work Environments: Strategies to Improve Patient Outcomes,” featured Linda H. Aiken, PhD, RN, FAAN, FRCN, Director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research and the Claire M. Fagin Leadership Professor of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania; Christopher Friese, PhD, RN, Research Fellow, Center for Outcomes and Policy Research, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute; and Donna Neff, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, UF College of Nursing.

Aiken presented a national review of research findings by discussing the “Multi-State Nursing Care and Patient Safety Study: Identifying Solutions to the Nurse Shortage.” Dr. Aiken’s study examines nurse workforce and patient outcomes data in California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and now Florida.

[1] Keynote Speaker Dr. Joanne Disch discusses the changing face of health care; [2] Conference speaker and awardee Bobbi Kimball interacts with Debbie Pusateri, Alice Jackson and Diane Andrews; [3] Attendees included health care and nursing professionals, faculty and students.

Dr. Friese's presentation illustrated in depth how the multi-state study can answer important clinical questions in nurse practice environments and cancer patient outcomes. Finally, Dr. Neff discussed how the Florida study will contribute to addressing the nurse shortage in the state and nationally. Her study is one of the first major initiatives of the new UF-Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Center for Health Care Access, Patient Safety and Quality Outcomes.

On Friday morning, Bruce Kone, MD, Dean of the UF College of Medicine, and Kathleen Long, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of the UF College of Nursing, jointly presented on challenging the status quo in health professions education, and introducing ideas for innovation in education that will prepare the next generation of physicians and nurses to address our growing health care problems.

Dean Long stressed new options to embrace in a time of shortage, including more education for every nurse, expansion of interdisciplinary practices, and teams for patient safety.

"Change will demand strong nursing leaders," Dean Long said, "who are willing to speak out about the need for new models of health care delivery."

Dr. Kone echoed Dean Long's call for more collaboration and teamwork to shape health care in 2020.

"Education systems in general breed the creativity out of us," Dr. Kone said. "Standardization does not raise standards."

Under the current system of medical education, Dr. Kone added, "We don't teach collaboration well, or communication about problem solving."

Continuing the discussion on education were Melanie C. Dreher, PhD, RN, FAAN, John L. and Helen Kellogg Dean, College of Nursing, Rush University and C. Fay Raines, PhD, RN, Dean, College of Nursing, the University of Alabama in Huntsville and President-elect, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, who jointly presented on the Clinical Nurse Leader and Doctor of Nursing Practice revolution.

The nursing shortage is a quality problem, not just a quantity problem, Dr. Dreher pointed out.

"There is a need to truly distinguish technical from professional nursing responsibilities and re-credential accordingly, as well as a need for consistency with other health professionals," Dr. Dreher said while discussing the Clinical Nurse Leader movement.

The Clinical Nurse Leader role is a master's level nursing generalist prepared to provide the best possible client care in all settings. CNLs collaborate with the client's family members, seek consultation with other members of the health care team and serve as the client's advocate in the health care system.



*Dr. Bruce Kone, College of Medicine Dean and College of Nursing Dean Kathleen Long jointly present on challenging the status quo in health professions education.*



*The panel on nurse work environments sparked discussion amongst the audience. Seated are panelists Dr. Linda Aiken, Dr. Chris Friese and Dr. Donna Neff.*

*The Gator Nurse* provides information about our wonderfully successful Dorothy Smith Leadership Conference. Dr. Bruce Kone, the new dean of our College of Medicine, and I had the opportunity to share a presentation at that conference. Our message was the same:



KATHLEEN ANN LONG  
PHD, RN, FAAN

the status quo is not good enough—either in patient care or in the health professions education programs that are preparing our future clinicians. Reports from the Institute of Medicine indicate that 50 to 100,000 persons are harmed in our health care systems, and thousands killed by error, every year.

**With almost 2.5 million registered nurses in the U.S. workforce, one wonders what prevents nurses from simply changing the status quo and insuring safe care for patients across this country.** I believe there are two major barriers: education and courage. Our U.S. nursing workforce overall remains undereducated for the critically important roles nurses hold in today's complex care systems. At the UF College of Nursing, we espouse the philosophy that every nurse needs more education—whether this is an RN pursuing a BSN, a new BSN graduate going on for graduate education, a seasoned faculty member seeking a DNP or PhD, or a nursing leader attending continuing education sessions. The rate of change in today's and tomorrow's health care settings insures that no one is well prepared for very long. Never has life-long learning been more essential.

I believe that the kind of education we provide at the UF College of Nursing instills courage as well as knowledge. Today's nursing graduates need courage to assume leadership in preventing patient care errors, changing the systems that cause them and developing the teams that make lasting change. The faculty members and alumni whom I encounter everyday are role models for courageous actions that improve patient care. I hope that when I am a patient, well-educated and courageous nurses will keep me safe. I invite you to share that hope and join me in supporting the UF College of Nursing in providing the kind of education that instills courage while imparting knowledge.

*Kathleen Ann Long*



“Today’s patient-care delivery model has not kept up with reality, and expanding the supply of workers is not sufficient to address changing health care needs.”

—Bobbi Kimball, MBA, RN  
Dorothy M. Smith Conference speaker and awardee

Dr. Dreher emphasized optimizing competencies with new models of patient care that leverage educated nurses as a scarce resource.

Dr. Raines presented an overview of the Doctor of Nursing Practice movement. She discussed how changes in nursing education and practice are a response to the dramatic changes in health care, changes requiring more knowledge on the part of nurses.

The need to develop advanced competencies for increasingly complex clinical and leadership roles is coupled with the fact that credits and time invested in master’s programs are not congruent with the credential earned, thereby spurring the DNP movement, Dr. Raines outlined.

Both movements in nursing education are poised to change the face of nursing education, and the presentation prompted a flurry of questions and discussion among the audience.

Also presenting on Friday was Bobbi Kimball, MBA, RN, Healthcare Management Consultant and Executive Coach, and Senior Fellow at the Center for the Health Professions at the University of California San Francisco, who said the key to resolving health care issues lies in innovative approaches to delivering care.

“Today’s patient-care delivery model has not kept up with reality,” she said, “and expanding the supply of workers is not sufficient to address changing health care needs.”

Kimball foresees an elevated role for nurses (who will serve to integrate care), a team approach to that care, and care that will continue from the hospital to the home.

Successful strategies will target the growing number of elderly, who will be “high users” of health care.

Note: The conference also featured the Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Awards. For more on the awardees, see page 5.

[1] Administrative Director of Profession Practice Ginger Pesata and Dr. Rose Rivers, Chief Nursing Officer of the Shands Healthcare System; [2] Senior Vice President Health Affairs Dr. Doug Barrett and College of Nursing Executive Associate Dean Dr. Dee Williams talk with Dr. Paul Duncan of the College of Public Health and Health Professions; [3] Conference attendee Dr. Karla Schmitt chats with Catherine Kelly, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Vice President of Public Affairs, and conference speaker Dr. Linda Aiken; [4] Dr. Aiken, conference speaker Dr. Melanie Dreher, Dean Long and conference speaker Dr. Fay Raines.

# College Honors Alumni Who Embody Dorothy Smith's Visionary Spirit

The University of Florida College of Nursing honors those outstanding alumni who continue to uphold Dean Smith's vision for nursing and health care. These awards are given during the Dorothy M. Smith Conference to those who exemplify four diverse areas of nursing achievement Dean Smith helped to unite.

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## Education

**LINDA MOODY** [ PHD, MSN, MPH, FAAN, BC ]

Linda Moody retired in 2007 as a distinguished professor emeritus from the University of South Florida. She previously served as a faculty member and co-director of the PhD program at the UF College of Nursing. While at UF, she started the first computer lab for faculty and graduate students and was one of two faculty to first receive NIH research funding in 1984.

At USF, Dr. Moody served as Director of Research and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. In 1997, she was instrumental in developing the school's PhD nursing program after receiving a federal grant from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Dr. Moody's research interests have long been focused in the areas of palliative care and end of life, especially aging issues. She is also interested in the development and testing of clinical informatics applications to improve patient care and patient safety. Having received numerous state and national awards, including the Florida Nurses Association Researcher Award and the University of South Florida Distinguished Scholar Award, Dr. Moody remains active in research and consulting and serves as an editorial board member of *Holistic Nursing Practice*, *Nursing Science Quarterly*, and *Healthcare Quality of Life International*. She received her BSN, MN and PhD from the UF College of Nursing.

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## Research

**BOBBI KIMBALL** [ MBA, RN ]

Bobbi Kimball is a health care management consultant and executive coach with 25 years of experience designing, implementing and promoting innovative change across the healthcare spectrum. An experienced public speaker and writer, Ms. Kimball co-authored a prominent intensive national study on the American nursing shortage published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Prior to starting her own business, Ms. Kimball served as a vice president and chief nursing officer at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, where she was formally recognized as a visionary and advocate for the nursing profession.

Her progressive management career includes leadership roles in clinical, educational, research and administrative services that span the continuum of care including acute, tertiary, ambulatory, hospice and a major health plan. Known as an innovative leader and implementer of new consumer-driven services, Ms. Kimball was active in early hospice program development and implemented the first Planetree



(L-R) Carolyn Steadham, Linda Jenkins, Dean Kathleen Long, Bobbi Kimball and Dr. Linda Moody.

Model Hospital Unit, a humanistic, patient and family-driven model of health care delivery and patient education.

She currently serves as a Senior Fellow at the Center for the Health Professions at the University of California San Francisco.

Ms. Kimball received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Florida and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco.

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## Practice

**CAROLYN STEADHAM** [ MSN, RN ]

Carolyn Steadham is currently the Vice President of Pediatric Nursing and Patient Services at Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach, CA. In this role, she has directed the growth of this hospital from 198 beds to 308 beds, including the addition of 83 beds dedicated to the care of women and newborns.

Ms. Steadham taught pediatrics at UF for a year before becoming the Nursing Director at Sunland Center in Gainesville (now named Tacachale). During this time, she provided administrative leadership for the opening of community residences for children with developmental disabilities as well as complex medical problems. Ms. Steadham also taught both undergraduate and graduate students at the College of Nursing.

She moved to Southern California in 1989, where she was a Pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and participated in the development of standards of care for hospitalized pediatric patients.

Ms. Steadham received her MSN at the UF College of Nursing in 1979.

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## Community Outreach

**LINDA JENKINS** [ BSN ]

Linda Jenkins teaches prepared childbirth classes using a pragmatic, modified Lamaze method and has done so since the birth of her second child in 1967. Director of BirthPrep.com, which provides training and preparation to health care providers in this method, she is author of the book *Pregnancy, Birth & You*, and has been intimately involved in the translation of this book into Spanish.

Ms. Jenkins has researched and filmed births in the United States, South and Central America, Europe and Japan. Her professional background includes eight years on the faculty of the University of California at San Francisco.

Ms. Jenkins received her BSN from the University of Florida.

# Poe Receives 2007 International Educator Award

By Katie Phelan



Alice Poe, DSN, CNM, Associate Professor, was chosen as a 2007 recipient of the UF International Educator Award. The University of Florida International Center recognizes professors from each College who have shown exceptional international contributions to their respective fields for the year.

Eligible awardees must have demonstrated excellence in at least two of the following factors: research, teaching, and service. Each awardee received \$1,000.

Dr. Poe serves as coordinator of the nurse midwifery master's degree track. She teaches nurse-midwifery and research with graduate students and offers a maternity care practicum for undergraduate students at the College's Jacksonville campus.

Dr. Poe's research focuses on predictors of spontaneous lacerations during childbirth among women having their first child. Her primary goals include greatly improved health outcomes for new mothers and decreased cost for their health care. She has presented her findings at international conferences in six countries, and her research is easily translated to various international health care systems.

During the past two years, Dr. Poe has been collaborating with nurse midwifery professor Ania Michalik, from the Medical University of Gdansk, Poland on international nurse midwifery. They will present their findings at the International Confederation of Midwives in Scotland in the summer of 2008.

Dr. Poe was honored to have received the award and believes that international collaboration is healthy for advanced research.

"I benefited a lot from working internationally—the more we collaborate, the stronger we all will be in our research and skills," she said.

## Honor Students Find Hard Work and Dedication Pays Off

By Christa Wagers

Exceeding the required 40 hours to spend on a class research project has paid off.

Claire Lewis and Elida Benitez are two of 12 UF undergraduate nursing students who presented their findings at the Southern Nurse Research Society conference in Alabama in February.

"It was great exposure and a wonderful experience," Lewis said.

When the pair was looking for a topic, Lewis's adviser introduced her to Maude Rittman, PhD, RN, chief nurse for research at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Affairs Health System. Dr. Rittman allowed the UF students to analyze some of her survey data about caregiving of post-stroke veterans. Lewis and Benitez chose to focus on the relationship between the amount of time a caregiver spends with a patient and how that patient views the caregiving experience.

The regional conference is primarily an opportunity for nurses in academic and clinical settings to present their research and network, said David Stumph, Executive Director of the Southern Nursing Research Society. Undergraduate participation in research presentations is unusual, but Stumph said he hopes it becomes more common.

The project Lewis and Benitez are presenting will fulfill a requirement for an honors nursing course.

"[The research project] really lets them know the kinds of things beyond what you learn in the classroom," said Josephine Snider, EdD, coordinator of the Honors Program for 35 years.

However, attending and presenting at conferences are not required.

"It is a little bit nerve-racking, but at the same time it's an honor," Benitez said.



Senior BSN students Elida Benitez and Claire Lewis.

# UF Faculty Member Named to Nurse Association Board of Directors



**Gloria McWhirter**, MSN, RN, Clinical Assistant Professor, was recently elected to the National Black Nurses Association Board of Directors. McWhirter teaches nursing courses to undergraduate students and also coordinates academic student services in the College. She developed and continues to implement a preparation program for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

McWhirter devotes much of her time to the recruitment, mentoring and retention of students from minority groups or disadvantaged backgrounds. She also serves as the liaison between the College and the Bethune-Cookman College of Nursing in a pipeline program focused on developing opportunities for nursing students from BCC to pursue graduate study at UF.

The National Black Nurses Association represents more than 150,000 black nurses in the United States, Eastern Caribbean and Africa. It encourages members to learn about the health care needs of black people and other minorities in an effort to reduce disparities.

## accomplishments in brief

**Clinical Laboratory Coordinator Donna Jeanne Pugh** completed the 3rd edition text, *Medical Assisting-Administrative and Clinical Competencies*.

**Assistant Professor Dr. Bryan Weber** has three manuscripts in press or published on men's health issues in *American Journal of Men's Health*, *Urologic Nursing* and *Journal of Aging & Health*.

**Associate Professor Dr. Joyce Stechmiller** was awarded one of the highly competitive VA Employee Education System Innovation Grants. She will be developing a Skin and Wound Healing Clinical, Education and Research Program. The award is one of two in the "Innovation in Instructional Design" category and a related manuscript was recently accepted for publication in *Wound Repair and Regeneration*. She has also been invited to review for the NIH Behavioral Medicine: Interventions & Outcomes Study section.

**Annabel Davis Jenks Endowed Professor Dr. Beverly Roberts** currently has two articles in press: "Feeding Difficulties among Persons with Dementia" in *Journal of Clinical Nursing* and "Predictors of Modification in Instrumental Activities of Daily Living in Persons with Heart Failure" in the *Journal of Heart Failure*. Dr. Roberts will also be working with visiting faculty member from University of Korea, **Dr. Rhayun Song**, on new studies of tai chi.

**Dr. Maude Rittman** will be presenting a poster at the VA Health Services Research & Development Conference in Baltimore, MD, on "Subjective Sleep, Burden, Depression and Health among Caregivers of Veterans Post Stroke," for her work at the NFSGVA.

**Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Research Dr. Ann Horgas and Assistant Professor Dr. Sunny Yoon**, and two other co-authors, recently had their manuscript, "Relationship Between Pain and Functional Disability in Black and White Older Adults," accepted for publication by *Research in Nursing & Health*.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Laura Sutton** chairs the Fall Prevention Task Force at Shands at UF. They are currently negotiating use of copyrighted fall assessment tools and educational package.

**Courtesy Assistant Clinical Professor Professors Carla Anderson, Courtesy Assistant Clinical Professor Dr. Beverly Childress and Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Deborah Ingram** will be presenting a poster at the VHA Nursing Leadership Conference in Seattle, WA. Their poster is on "Innovative Approaches to Promoting Recruitment and Retention of Nurses and Evidence-Based Practice."

**Associate Professor Dr. Andrea Gregg** was elected chair of AACN OLN steering committee.

A number of faculty members presented at the Southern Nursing Research Society conference in February 2008. **Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Lori Thomas** presented her work on "Dyspnea Assessment by Family Caregivers of Elders with COPD."

**Assistant Professor Dr. Sunny Yoon with Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Susan Schaffer** presented on "Dose Adjustment of Prescribed Medications Related to Smoking Cessation: Is it Necessary?"

Several of the College's faculty members recently renewed or obtained certification.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Laura Sutton** recently renewed her certification as an Adult CNS.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Sharon Bradley and Clinical Assistant Professor and Department Chair Dr. Maxine Hinze** successfully completed the CNL certification exam.

**Visiting Assistant Professor Dr. Sandra City** recently became ANCC certified as an FNP.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Denise Schentrup and Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Jane Gannon** recently received their Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees.

**Visiting Assistant Professor Bonnie Carlin** presented a poster at the Fifth Annual Magnet Conference in Clearwater, FL in February 2008. The poster is based on her research project in her "home unit" at Shands at UF.



## Urinary Dysfunction Troubles Men Who Undergo Prostate Removal

**M**en with prostate cancer who have their prostate removed cite sexual dysfunction as the most common side effect after surgery, but urinary dysfunction troubles these patients most, reports a University of Florida College of Nursing researcher. What's more, many aren't emotionally prepared to face these complications.

The study findings, published in a recent issue of *Urologic Nursing*, underscore the need for health-care practitioners to educate their patients about the physical and psychological effects the surgery will have on their everyday lives.

"The effects of this treatment are quite immediate and can lead to depression and frustration," said Bryan Weber, PhD, ARNP, an assistant professor in the UF College of Nursing and the study's lead author. "After an initial diagnosis of prostate cancer, men may be so focused on eradicating the disease that they don't realize the effects the treatment will have on their quality of life, both for them and their families."

Prostate cancer is the No. 1 cancer among men, excluding skin cancer. With more baby boomers reaching their 50s and 60s, it is expected to grow even more prevalent, with more than 200,000 cases diagnosed in 2007. Given the various treatment options for prostate cancer, men who undergo radical prostatectomy may initially decide that the risk of physical dysfunction is worth the benefit of improved likelihood of survival. But many don't know what to expect in the months after surgery, Dr. Weber said.

Physical side effects of prostate cancer treatment limit daily activities and may interfere with a man's sense of masculinity and self-confidence. Urinary incontinence, for example, requires the use of pads that add considerable bulkiness to clothing and create concern about leakage and odor. Sexual dysfunction interferes with a man's sense of self and may limit the relationship he has with his significant other, Dr. Weber said.

In the study, UF researchers evaluated 72 men six weeks after undergoing prostatectomy. In addition to measuring participants' physical function and assessing for urinary/bowel symptoms and sexual dysfunction, the researchers also evaluated measures of self-confidence, social support and uncertainty about the disease and treatment.

Fifty-seven percent of the men reported low to moderate social support, indicating that many of the topics proved embarrassing for them to discuss with others, Dr. Weber said. The level of social support was significantly related to urinary problems, revealing that men with urinary incontinence may need more support than those with more control.

"Within the first 100 days of diagnosis, men may be so distressed and so focused on curing their cancer that they don't focus on these side effects, which is what makes it imperative for health care professionals to educate them about ways in which their lives will change and how they can cope," Dr. Weber said. "Almost immediately after treatment, men may experience depression, awkwardness and emasculation, which greatly affect on their quality of life."

Dr. Weber suggests that clinicians assess men and their support systems, identify changes in physical function that may occur as a result of treatment, and direct them to products and services designed to help them cope with the immediate effects of sexual dysfunction and urinary and bowel incontinence.

For example, Dr. Weber said numerous medications aim to ease sexual dysfunction, but men may not realize how expensive these drugs are or be aware of their potential side effects. Similarly, a number of options for urinary incontinence exists, such as boxer shorts designed to hold urinary pads, lessening the embarrassment of having to wear such items.

"Education and counseling should be provided to these men to better inform and prepare patients for the physical side effects they are likely to experience postoperatively," Dr. Weber said. "Since we know that men are less likely to rely on support groups or be more embarrassed to discuss these items with family and friends, it's even more vital for health-care professionals to stress these issues and include options for patients. Men need to be introduced to different options, make choices and regain control over their lives."

**"Men need to be introduced to different options, make choices and regain control over their lives."**

— Bryan Weber, PhD, ARNP, Assistant Professor



# In the Womb:

## UF Nursing Researcher Awarded Grant to Study Fetuses' Ability to Learn and Remember

Can fetuses learn and remember what they hear while in the womb? College of Nursing Assistant Professor Charlene Krueger, PhD, ARNP, was awarded a three year grant for \$330,000 by the National Science Foundation to support her program of research directed at answering this question. Dr. Krueger's study seeks to describe the development of fetal ability to learn and remember while in the developmentally appropriate uterine environment. Findings will be compared with results from her previous study of preterm infants in the altered hospital environment of the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Previous research in this area shows that the fetus responds to auditory stimulation around 20 weeks. The mother's voice is a unique auditory stimulus because the fetus experiences her speech in multiple ways. Not only does the fetus hear the mother's speech, but as she speaks, her vertebral column vibrates and her diaphragm gently rocks her baby in sync with her speech.

The study will use a sample of 40 women, with 20 in the experimental group and 20 in the control group. Fetuses of the 40 women will be tracked from 28 weeks' fetal gestational age to 24-48 hours after birth.

The mothers will be randomly assigned to one of two groups and will recite a rhyme to their unborn babies from 28 to 34 weeks' gestation.

Fetuses will be tested with a CD recording of a female stranger reciting either the familiar rhyme (experimental



Can fetuses learn and remember what they hear while in the womb? Dr. Krueger's study will try to shed light on fetal recognition of maternal voice.

group) or an unfamiliar rhyme (control group) in an effort to describe how the fetus learns and remembers a passage of speech. The primary outcome measures are heart rate, heart rate variability, and movement. Pilot findings suggest that the fetus will respond with a heart rate change or cardiac orienting response by 34 weeks of age (primary measure of learning). So at 34 weeks of age, the researchers will ask mothers to discontinue reciting the nursery rhyme and continue testing at 36 and 38 weeks, and at 24-48 hours after birth. This will test the ability of the fetus and infant to remember the nursery rhyme.

Study objectives are to record fetuses' heart rate responses to the CD recording of an unfamiliar female reciting a rhyme, and to determine if a change in heart rate or cardiac orienting response will be detected by 34 weeks in the experimental group (but not detected in the control group). Relationships between heart rate, heart rate variability and movement from 28 weeks' gestation to 24-48 hours after birth will be examined, and whether fetuses are capable of remembering the rhyme weeks after mothers stop recitation will also be tested.

Dr. Krueger's study aims to provide a basic description of the emergence of learning and memory in the fetus. She believes that a comparison of data generated from this study and findings from her earlier studies in the preterm infant will help researchers design interventions that incorporate exposure to maternal voice for preterm infants at risk for learning disabilities.

## COLLEGE SAYS GOODBYE TO DEAR FRIEND BETTY WARNER

A dear friend of the College of Nursing, Betty Warner, retired educator, wife and mother of four children, passed away on December 19, 2007 at the age of 92. Betty's daughter, Linda Aiken, is a distinguished alumna of the University of Florida and the College of Nursing.

Betty was a teacher and a pioneer in her field of remedial reading. She had a passion for teaching that was evident throughout her life.

"My mother graduated from the College of William and Mary at a time when only four percent of American women held college degrees. Just like College of Nursing founding Dean Dorothy M. Smith, she was a woman ahead of her time. And also like Dean Smith, she literally changed the life course of many of her students," Dr. Aiken said.

Betty was committed to life-long learning and received her master's degree from the University of Florida in 1966 at the same graduation her daughter Linda received her master's degree from the College of Nursing.

The College of Nursing named a classroom after Betty Warner, in 2005, which was revealed to her as a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday surprise from her family. The Harman and Aiken families made a substantial gift to the College to support the Dorothy M. Smith Professorship.

The family decided to give back to UF in honor of both their mother and her devotion to education and teaching and in support of Dean Smith who was a close mentor to Dr. Aiken.

"My mother and Dorothy Smith were so much alike. I was so fortunate to have them both contribute to shaping my life," Dr. Aiken said.

Betty was a devoted Gator fan since moving to Gainesville in the 1940s. One could often find her decked out in orange and blue cheering the Gators on at football games, Gator Growls, and Homecoming parades. She was active in Alpha Chi Omega sorority and worked to get the current sorority house built some years ago. Betty truly loved Gainesville and the University. Although Betty moved from Gainesville to Stuart in later life, she continued to support the Gators.

Betty was loved by many, including her large family of 4 children, 6 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

"It was a privilege to know Betty Warner. Her accomplishments, and those of her children, are an inspiration for others, and we are honored to have a classroom in the College that bears Betty's name. It is a lasting reminder of what determined, committed women contribute to our world," Dean Long said.

She will be greatly missed by all.



Betty Warner, MEd  
(born Grace Elizabeth Philips)

OCTOBER 6, 1915 – DECEMBER 19, 2007



*Ms. Warner and her family with first lady Chris Machen and Dean Kathleen Long after the classroom dedication ceremony in Betty's honor. (L-R) Mr. Will Harman, Ms. Warner's son, and his wife, Cheryl; Dean Long; Mrs. Chris Machen; Ms. Betty Warner; Dr. Linda Aiken, Ms. Warner's daughter; Ms. Judy Ware, Ms. Warner's daughter; and Mr. Rob Harman, Ms. Warner's son, and his wife, Linda.*

## Alumna Honors Her Mother with Bequest to College of Nursing Gift will Benefit Graduate Scholarships

By Katie Phelan

Alumna Gayle Boyer Olson and husband Dr. Gary Olson are honoring Gayle's mother, Margaret Giles Boyer Housel, with a bequest that half of their estate go to the College of Nursing. An endowment fund will be established to provide scholarships and fellowships for graduate nursing students. It is the Olson's wish that the UF Foundation will apply for matching funds from the State of Florida Trust fund.



*Margaret Giles Boyer Housel*

The endowment is named for Gayle's mother to honor her work in nursing and her commitment to advanced nursing education. Mrs. Housel graduated from the Kahler School of Nursing in Rochester, Minnesota, and worked in nursing throughout her life, including many years at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater and as a public health nurse for Pinellas County. After retiring, she worked as a volunteer at ChannelMarkers, an agency that assists people with visual impairment. Dedicated to nursing and to public health, Mrs. Housel's belief in the importance of advanced education for nurses was forged over a long and highly service-oriented career.

The Olson's desire to contribute to the UF capital campaign has been influenced by Dean Kathleen Long's vision and dedication to the advancement of nursing education and the exciting educational opportunities the College offers.

"We have been impressed with the knowledge and leadership of Dean Long. She has imparted to us the great need for nurses with graduate degrees to help alleviate the severe and worsening nursing faculty shortages in Florida and across the country. It is our desire that the College of Nursing have funds available to attract and retain top students who will go on to make significant contributions in research and teaching. We are privileged to be part of the Florida Tomorrow Campaign," Mrs. Olson said. "It is our belief that UF contributes greatly to the economic livelihood of Florida and to the overall health and well-being of Florida's citizens. The College of Nursing is a vitally important component of the University."

Dr. and Mrs. Olson currently live in Palo Alto, CA. Dr. Olson is a psychologist in private practice, and Mrs. Olson works as a residential real estate agent. Mrs. Olson graduated from the College of Nursing's second graduating class and worked as a psychiatric nurse at Shands and later at psychiatric hospitals in the West.

The Olson's are avid Gator fans and continue to be involved with the University of Florida.

## Chamings' Experiences as a Faculty Member and Student Inspires Her to Give Back

Inspired by her experiences as both a student and a faculty member at the University of Florida College of Nursing, Patricia Chamings, PhD, RN, FAAN, and her family recently gave a gift to establish a nursing scholarship.

Dr. Chamings and family gave an initial donation of \$25,000 to the College, which she plans to supplement with an annual gift of \$20,000 for the next four years — a gift totalling \$105,000. The Chamings Family Nursing Scholarship will benefit UF nursing students.

Dr. Chamings currently serves as Dean of Nursing at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

She received her diploma in nursing from Orange Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Orlando. She wanted to continue her nursing education but was not sure where to attend. That was made easy after founding Dean Dorothy Smith visited her diploma class and cemented her decision.

Dr. Chamings earned her BSN from UF in 1964 and began working in the surgical specialties unit at Shands. However, after a summer of working she returned to the College and joined the first class to graduate with their master's degree in nursing from UF in 1965. Dr. Chamings remained in Gainesville working in a Nurse III position in General Surgery at Shands. It was not long until Dr. Chamings returned to the College for a third time; however, this time not as a student, but as a full time member of the faculty. She remained at UF until 1969.

Dr. Chamings has continued to work in various facets of nursing for the past 50 years. Along with working in clinical settings, she has served as a faculty member at five different universities in teaching and administrative roles, including Dean of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Dr. Chamings also has held faculty positions at Vanderbilt University and Emory University and served in the US Air Force Reserve Nurse Corps officer for 30 years. She retired at the rank of Colonel.

The gift Dr. Chamings and her family bestowed upon the College was in honor of both her and her mother's commitment and dedication to the field of nursing.

"I have had a very fulfilling and rewarding career and would not change any part of it. The University of Florida College of Nursing has been very meaningful to me, and I believe it is important to give back. I never really thought I would have the means to provide an endowment, but since I do it is a pleasure to give back to UF nursing," Dr. Chamings said.

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## 1960s

**Janice Botwin**, BSN 1964. Janice will retire after 28 years of working as a Staff Development Specialist in the Department of Clinical Education and Research at Virtua Health System in southern New Jersey. She was hired as the first full time in-service education coordinator at a large hospital in northern New Jersey one year out of school. She remained in that position for 5 years until her husband was transferred to Philadelphia. She stayed home for 10 years with her two daughters, one of whom is now a UF graduate. Janice took a refresher course and returned to nursing as a unit based educator in 1978 and has since worked full time. Janice says she is moving into a new period of her life but may someday find herself living in Florida once again.

## 1990s

**Robert O'Byrne**, BSN 1992. Robert is a Commander in the US Navy Nurse Corps. He received his MSN in 2004 from the University of Virginia. Robert is an Adult Mental Health Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist. He was recently assigned as Director of Mental Health at the Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina serving the Second Marine Expeditionary Force. Robert can be reached at [rtobyne@cox.net](mailto:rtobyne@cox.net).

**Shawna (Mills) Greiner**, BSN 1992. Shawna is an active duty major in the U.S. Air Force and has received her MSN in Nurse Anesthesia through the US Army Graduate Program at the University of Texas Health Science Center. She has two children and her husband is an attorney.

**Jon Decker**, BSN 1996, MSN 2001, and his wife, Alicia, (PharmD 2003), welcomed their second daughter, Adeline Rose, on December 18, 2007. She joins big sister, Hailey (2 1/2). Jon is working on his PhD in nursing at UCF and Alicia is a clinical pharmacist at the Orlando VA.

## 2000s

**Leslie (Sass) Griffen**, BSN 2003. Leslie is currently working as a PRN at Shands at UF.

She is also a mom and wife, with a 2-year-old son Talan, a 6-month-old son Noah and another baby due in August 2008. She is married to a pediatrician who keeps her extremely updated in the pediatrics field.

**Nicole Klesmit Karcinski**, BSN 2003. Nicole recently graduated with a Master of Science in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing from UNC-Chapel Hill. Once she passes her boards she will be a Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and a Child and Adolescent Psychiatric-Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist. She has just accepted a position at North Carolina Neuropsychiatry which is a private practice in Chapel Hill.

**Jennifer Brown**, BSN 2005. Jennifer has recently taken a position at Duke Children's Hospital in the PICU. Previously, she was employed in Tampa at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in the PICU.

**Sandra (Briggs) Raab**, BSN 2003. Sandra is working as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at St. Joseph's Women's Hospital in Tampa.

**Kay M. Hood**, PhD, ARNP, PhD 2003. Kay was appointed Director of Graduate Nursing Programs at Jacksonville University in May 2007. She serves on the Board of Directors of Northeast Florida Planned Parenthood and the Board of Directors of US, furthering the health care needs of women and girls in Northeast Florida.

**Deana (Guido) Angel**, ARNP, BSN 2003, MSN 2004. Deana has worked as a full-time Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Stuart for the last 2 and a half years. She and her husband are expecting their first child in November.

**Alexandra Quispe**, BSN 2004. Alexandra is currently in the Nurse Anesthesia program at Barry University in Miami Shores and expects to graduate in May 2009.

**Ruth Yohana (Payes) Moore**, BSN 2004. Ruth is currently a critical care nurse at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, a Level I Trauma Center Facility.

**Erica (Norton) Francois**, BSN 2005. Erica has been working in the Intensive care unit since graduation at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Indiana. She was chosen as Nurse of the Year in her unit last year.

**Nancy Johnson**, MSN 2005. Nancy is a Navy Nurse deployed to the Detention Hospital in GTMO, Cuba. Her primary job is part of the Joint Task Force, Joint Medical Group providing quality care.

**Jamie (Short) Lisak**, BSN 2005, MSN 2006. Jamie is currently working with two other doctors in Oviedo, Florida at Alafaya Woods Family Medical center. She is board certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

**Lindsay Sherrill**, BSN 2005. Lindsay started a company called Atlanta Family Coaching and is working at a pediatric GI office in Atlanta, Georgia. Lindsay is also the Class Representative for 2005. She can be reached at [Lindsay.Sherrill@gmail.com](mailto:Lindsay.Sherrill@gmail.com).

**Christina (DeMarco) Curran**, BSN 2006. Christina is currently working in labor and delivery at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater.

**Michele (Dees) Masson**, BSN 2006. Michele is currently working at Shands at UF in the Neonatal ICU in Gainesville.

**Stefanie Smith**, BSN 2006. Stefanie is currently working in Labor and Delivery at St. Joseph's Women's Hospital in Tampa. Stefanie was also born at St. Joseph's.

**Meghan Bullard**, BSN 2007. Since graduation Meghan has been working in the Pediatric ICU at Florida Hospital in Orlando.

**Melanie White**, BSN 2007. Melanie is currently working at Mayo Clinic in the Department of Neurology working with patients who have Multiple Sclerosis.

**Do you have an update to share?**

Please contact Anna Miller Harper at [aemiller@ufl.edu](mailto:aemiller@ufl.edu) or call (352) 273-6360.

# Alumni Council Board Adds New Officers, Members

The Nursing Alumni Council Board held elections this past November, and elected Karen Hanson (BSN 1966, MSN 1986) as secretary, and Ann P. Smith (MSN 1967) as treasurer.

Patricia Sassner (BSN 1997) will serve as the Nominating Committee Chair, Dee Goff (BSN 1971) is the new Membership Committee chair and Bonnie Pepper (BSN 1980) will be the Reunion Committee chair. Rita Kobb (BSN 1981, MSN 1996), returns to the board as chair of the Silent Auction Committee.

If you are interested in joining any of these committees, please contact the appropriate chair:

**Nominating Committee:** Pat Sassner, eaglei23@aol.com

**Membership Committee:** Dee Goff, dgoff11@tampabay.rr.com

**Reunion Committee:** Bonnie Pepper, gatorbonnie@yahoo.com

**Silent Auction Committee:** Rita Kobb, rita.kobb@va.gov

## Welcome to the two newest members of the Nursing Alumni Council: Cleo Stern (BSN 1965), and Debbie Pusateri (MSN 1996).

### Cleo Stern [ BSN 1965 ]



Since graduation, Cleo has held nursing management positions at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Mt. Sinai, Miami Beach, University Hospital, Oklahoma City and Lawnwood Regional Med Center, Fort Pierce.

Cleo serves on the boards of St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, St. Lucie Habitat for Humanity, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, and University of Miami Organ Procurement Team.

Cleo recently retired from acute hospital practice, and is pursuing a faculty position at her local community college. Her husband, Richard, is a UF College of Medicine grad and daughters Sheryl and Ellen are also UF alumni. Cleo resides in Ft. Pierce and can be reached at: cleostern@att.net

### Debbie Pusateri [ MSN 1996 ]



Debbie has worked at Florida Hospital in Orlando Florida since 1990. Her current role is as Nursing People Officer/Assistant Vice President of Critical Care Services. She is responsible for developing critical care services to meet a safety agenda by implementing evidenced based practice, rapid response teams and the intensivist model. She is also responsible for nurse recruitment, development and retention. Her scope includes

11 ICUs, a \$143 million budget and 547 FTEs. Debbie is very passionate about being a Gator Nurse and is very excited to be joining the Alumni Council. Debbie can be reached at Debbie.Pusateri@FLHOSP.org.

### Join the UF Nursing Alumni Council!

The Alumni Council will be holding their Spring Board Meeting during UF's Spring Weekend on April 12th. Anyone interested in attending the meeting who would like more information about becoming a member of the Alumni Council, please contact Anna Harper at aemiller@ufl.edu, or 352-273-6360 by March 28, 2008. The council also meets monthly via conference call, and those who are interested in sitting in on one of our calls should contact Anna.

## president's message

Dear Gator Nurses!

The Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Conference was a huge success. Although I was unable to attend the conference in person, I have heard great things about the two-day event.



MARYSE PARRINO

I want to thank Bonnie Pepper, President-elect of the Nursing Alumni Council, for stepping in for me to introduce our fellow Gator Nurse and guest speaker, Ms. Bobbi Kimball, and for Bonnie's outstanding job in introducing and handing out the Leadership Awards with Dean Kathy Long. The four recipients, Linda Jenkins, Bobbi Kimball, Carolyn Steadham and Dr. Linda Moody, are all great representatives of what it truly means to be a Gator Nurse. Their acceptance speeches were truly inspirational.

The Alumni Council is happy to have new members Cleo Stern and Debbie Pusateri join us, as well as Rita Kobb return to the Council. Rita has already begun collecting donations for the silent auction held during Reunion Weekend. Her efforts are appreciated, and show just how passionate she is about the College of Nursing.

Our entire group works hard to reconnect Gator Nurses and reignite their passion for the College. We hope to see you at some of the College events throughout the year and especially at our Reunion which will be held on September 27, 2008. Look for a save the date card to come this summer!

Remember, we can always use Gator Nurse volunteers to help us reconnect our alumni and bring them back to campus. If you are interested in joining one of our committees, the Alumni Council, or becoming a class representative for your graduation year, please contact Anna Miller Harper at aemiller@ufl.edu or 352-273-6360.

We hope to hear from you!  
GO GATOR NURSES.

Sincerely,  
Maryse Parrino (BSN 1974)

Spring 2008 | Vol. X, No. 4

*The Gator Nurse is produced three times a year for the alumni, friends, faculty and staff of the University of Florida College of Nursing.*

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**Design**

JS Design Studio

**Printer**

StorterChilds Printing Company Inc.



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College of Nursing

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2008 COLLEGE OF NURSING REUNION WEEKEND

September 26 – 27, 2008



Reconnect with your classmates and Gator Nursing!  
Cheer the Gators on to victory against Ole Miss!  
Watch for materials heading your way...

[www.nursing.ufl.edu](http://www.nursing.ufl.edu)

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