

# NURSE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI OF THE UF COLLEGE OF NURSING



## Innovation through Collaboration:

UF and VA partner to address nursing shortage, education and quality care

*UF College of Nursing and Veterans Affairs faculty member Carla Anderson supervises nursing students Melissa Shepard (left) and Megan Cutter (right) while they examine James R. Pendlebury, a patient at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center.*

**“Old friends are the best friends.”** A truer adage could not be found when it comes to the partnership of the UF College of Nursing and the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS).

A shortage of nurse educators hampers efforts to address the nursing shortage contributing to the overall health care crisis. In addition, a souring economy in the state and nation could not come at a worse time to tackle these issues.

Fortunately, a longstanding partnership with the NF/SGVHS has enabled the College of Nursing to continue its mission of improving the future of health care through better education of nurses and reforming care delivery models.

*continued on page 2*

College Addresses Budget Cuts	3
UF Nursing Research Takes Center Stage	4
College of Nursing Commencement 2008	6
Meet the College’s Campaign Advisory Board	10



(L-R) VA residents Louisa Chen, Rachel Villicana, Andrea Pe Benito and Shea French review a patient's charts. Chen, Villicana and Pe Benito are UF BSN graduates.

That history of collaboration was strengthened when UF and the NF/SGVHS were selected as one of four partnerships nationwide to form the VA Nursing Academy, a five-year, \$4 million pilot initiative. The partnership has just wrapped its first year.

The partnership forms the VA-UF Nursing Center of Excellence under the direction of co-directors, Maude Rittman, PhD, RN, NF/SGVHS and Maxine Hinze, PhD, RN, UF College of Nursing. It has allowed UF to expand nursing enrollment in its baccalaureate program by 28 students the past fall semester and to add 10 more nursing students in its accelerated bachelor's degree program which began in the summer semester. The partnership has funded new faculty who have given students more opportunities to gain clinical experiences at the VA.

### More Faculty, More Clinical Experiences, More Students

"A unique feature of our program is that we hired dedicated faculty to the partnership instead of assigning existing faculty or adding another assignment to their workload," said Maxine Hinze, PhD, RN, co-director of the center and an assistant professor and department chair in the College of Nursing. "In this way we are really adding to our faculty pool which helps us to more effectively educate more students and addresses the faculty shortage."

This includes three faculty members embedded on three nursing model units at the NF/SGVHS (two medical and one surgical with an additional planned for the community/psychiatric program). The goal of the faculty on the model units is to promote evidence-based nursing care for patients while implementing clinical supervision for nursing students and encouraging staff development to boost recruitment and retention of nurses. These faculty members are Carla Anderson, Tom Bedard, and Julia Tortorice. The fourth faculty member, Beverly Childress, BSN to PhD alumna of the College, serves as the evidence-based practice program director.

Recruitment is underway for a psychiatric nurse faculty member as well as five additional faculty for the second year of the program. Three additional faculty members have already been hired to be embedded on medical units. Three more faculty members will be added prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

The national VA reports that the VA Academy has helped these four schools increase their numbers of nursing student experiences by 534 nationally. Of these, 225 come from the VA-UF partnership.

In addition to the increase in students and faculty, the VA-UF center also implemented a BSN internship program, a graduate nurse residency program, education via clinical simulation for VA nurses, an evidence-based nursing program, a perioperative clinical preparation program and a skin and wound healing research program.

"Of the four partnerships funded the first year, the VA-UF partnership is among the most innovative and comprehensive. The VA-UF nursing center of excellence not only addresses expanded enrollment of nursing students and increasing faculty but also focuses on enhancing nursing practice through the model units as well as increased preparation for staff nurses," Hinze said.

### Unique Residency Addresses Retention

The graduate nurse residency is a yearlong program that pairs new graduates with a preceptor and exposes the residents to different nursing units at NF/SGVHS so that by the end of nine months they will have identified a unit they would like to be placed in after the residency. They also have an orientation period, a core curriculum and ongoing support group assistance.

"It is estimated that 35 to 60 percent of new graduate nurses quit within one year of graduation. They do not feel supported or clinically confident of their ability to do their work," said Tortorice, the VA-UF residency program coordinator. "This residency allows us to orient the nurses at a slower pace so that they may gain the proper assessment and communication skills as well as priority decision making."

Forty new graduates make up the first residency program, which just began in the summer. Seventeen of these are BSN graduates and 23 are associate degree graduates. Last year NF/SGVHS hired only 16 new graduates. An important component of the program is the RN to BSN to CNL program, where associate degree graduates who are part of the residency will complete courses to receive their BSN degree at UF with the option to go on to the Clinical Nurse Leader master's degree program. Currently six of the residents are enrolled in this special program.

The academy will seek accreditation of the residency program through the CCNE (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education).

### Students Add Energy to VA Nursing

The VALOR (VA Learning Opportunities Residency) program also received a boost through the VA Nursing Academy. The VALOR program gives outstanding BSN junior nursing students an opportunity to develop competence in a clinical nursing specialty while exploring the world of nursing at the VA. The program usually has about 8-10 VALOR students per year. This past year the NF/SGVHS increased the number of VALOR students to 30.

"People are very excited to have the students and new graduates on the units," said Maude Rittman, PhD, RN, Chief of Nursing Research and co-director of the center. "The use of the college's nursing resource center and simulation laboratory has been very helpful in enhancing our staff's skills."

Bedard has recently completed training on the use of simulation equipment and will be assisting the college and NF/SGVHS nurses to use simulation education to improve nursing practice.

Associate Professor Joyce Stechmiller, PhD, ARNP, supported by local funds, joined the initiative to improve education on chronic wound healing and conduct research to improve wound healing. Stechmiller will complete a pilot project to refine methods to use telehealth to manage chronic wounds for veterans with spinal cord injuries who live in rural areas without easy access to health care.

She has also implemented a staff education program to decrease pressure ulcer incidence at the VA. Through the acronym “R.I.S.E. above pressure ulcers—Risk Assessment, Inspect Skin Daily, Support Surfaces, Eat Nutritionally”—Stechmiller and her team made educational presentations to nursing staff which included handouts, buttons and placing signs around the units to remind staff. This program will be implemented nationally to improve wound healing education across the system.

The evidence based practice (EBP) program is spearheaded by Childress who provides ongoing education on EBP and works with all existing staff as well as incoming nurses, including the academy residents. Each resident will implement an EBP project prior to the end of the residency program. Already Childress has seen a shift in interest; many nurses are calling her about resources for EBP and applying it to their units.

Even with the multitude of programming and successes, the most beneficial part of the VA-UF Center has been the strengthened collaboration of the UF College of Nursing and the VA, both Hinze and Rittman agree.



*Dr. Maxine Hinze and Dr. Maude Rittman, co-directors of the VA-UF Center of Excellence.*

“It’s sort of like a pebble in the pool, where the pebble creates a ripple effect.” Rittman said. “So many positive things have come out of the collaboration. Our staff is better prepared to work with students and it’s been wonderful to expose the students to our services at the VA. I anticipate our partnership to grow even stronger.”

The pilot phase is five years, and Hinze and Rittman anticipate that funding will continue beyond that. A key piece that they expect to implement next is a research study to determine if simulation education of staff nurses increases nurses’ ability to recognize early warning signs of rapidly changing patient conditions and decrease failure to rescue, an increasingly recognized quality of care indicator. In addition, the partnership will continue to participate in the NF/SGVHS journey towards obtaining the magnet status.

## UF Budget Reduced by \$47 Million Due to State Budget Cuts

### *College of Nursing Feels Impact*

In response to the budget adopted by the Florida Legislature, UF recently announced cuts that correspond to declining state revenues.

Each vice president, dean and director was asked to reduce spending by 6 percent for the fiscal year that began July 1. Taken together, these cuts totaled \$47 million. The cuts are the result of weeks of very difficult discussions and decisions at the college and administrative unit levels.

Unfortunately, the College of Nursing is not immune to the budget crunch being felt at the university and state levels. A moratorium was placed on the RN to BSN program, and some cuts to services at Archer Family Health Care were among the areas affected. In addition, the College has had to reduce their numbers of temporary clinical faculty, who play a vital role in clinical education of undergraduate students.

The College will use alternate sources of funding to maintain undergraduate enrollment during this very difficult budget year. Private funding and clinical partnerships are vital to ensuring the quality of our programs.

The College of Nursing will maintain its focus on graduate enrollment and research, with an emphasis on the new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. This is in keeping with UF’s standing as an AAU (Association of American Universities) research institution and with UF’s overall strategic plan. In addition, an emphasis on graduate education will help to prepare the new faculty members who will serve the entire state, as well as the clinical leaders greatly needed to reform health care delivery.

## VA-UF Academy.... by the NUMBERS

**4** schools of nursing chosen nationally in the academy grants’ first year, including UF, San Diego State University; University of Utah in Salt Lake City; and Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

**10** additional faculty members that will be added by year two of the Academy, boosting nursing education and clinical experiences.

**30** BSN students enrolled in the VALOR (VA Learning Opportunities Residency) program through the VA Academy. Normally the VA would enroll 8-10 VALOR students.

**40** new graduates in the VA Academy residency program; **6** of the associate degree graduate residents are enrolled in the special UF RN to BSN to CNL program.

**225** additional student experiences at the local VA made possible through the academy; **44** additional UF nursing students were added in the first year of the academy.



KATHLEEN ANN LONG  
PHD, RN, FAAN

As the College ended another academic year and celebrated the commencement of our nursing graduates, we had much to be proud of, in particular, a new class of nursing professionals educated to compassionately care for patients while at the same time becoming leaders and change agents in our health care system. We look to them to help reform our systems of care—encouraging innovations that improve patient safety and quality outcomes.

This year we have seen our fair share of challenges, and these will continue into 2009. While the country faces a dire nursing shortage and an even more critical shortage of nursing faculty, a faltering economy in our state and our nation are forcing major budget cuts everywhere, including in our universities. While we at the College of Nursing remain committed to upholding the high quality of our educational programs, some of our programs and services will have to be reduced.

It is at times like these, that we recognize more than ever the value of our partners, donors and friends. An Academy grant with our local VA health system is and will continue to be a major help in funding clinical faculty lines—while strengthening our ties with nursing experts at our local VA. Our cover story tells you about the VA Academy—we are one of four colleges of nursing nationwide initially selected to work with a Veterans Affairs system in a five-year, \$40 million pilot initiative. We are proud of our partnership with the VA and excited about the results of this collaboration. The nursing leadership at Shands at UF has also committed to assist us by providing funds and expertise for clinical teaching.

Because of the generous private gifts we have received in the

past, we can provide supplemental support for our students at all levels, and for our faculty members to ensure that they remain professionally active and engaged in scholarship and research to improve care. Encouragement, ideas and suggestions from our friends are appreciated. During these challenging times, it is critical that we find the *opportunities* to work more efficiently and to partner in achieving goals. As I interact with our faculty members, our College staff and our students, I am struck by how fortunate we are. No one ever assumes that we will do less for our students or our patients. Everyone is creatively engaged in moving our education, research and practice programs forward.

This *Gator Nurse* issue features some of the more innovative ways we are addressing funding needs for our program. We have also recently launched the public phase of our capital campaign. Our College Campaign Advisory Board consists of outstanding College friends and nursing leaders who are guiding and inspiring our fundraising efforts, and you can read about them in this issue as well. Through our capital campaign we will garner the resources needed to further our College goals. I am confident we will continue to develop new generations of expert nurses who can provide the quality care so desperately needed in our hospitals, clinics and communities. We will continue to lead in improving health delivery systems and conducting research that saves lives. We will produce the excellent future faculty members needed to teach others to be caring professionals.

Budget cuts are a reality we must face. But through partnerships and with the ongoing help of our friends, we will not change our trajectory, nor slow it. *Gator Nurses* will continue to “Care, Lead, Inspire”—and we thank you for your support.

*Kathleen Ann Long*

## UF Nursing Research Takes Center “Stage” for Hartford Institute Film

Associate Professor **Meredeth Rowe**, PhD, RN, FAAN recently was asked to participate in the *How to Try This* series, a John A. Hartford Foundation-funded project provided to the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing in collaboration with the American Journal of Nursing. This project translates the evidence-based geriatric assessment tools in the Try This assessment series into cost-free, Web-based resources including demonstration videos, and a corresponding print series featured in the AJN, developed to build geriatric assessment skills.

Dr. Rowe has a federally funded program of research that explores the causes of wandering in Alzheimer’s and other dementia patients, and strategies to lessen the inherent dangers associated with wandering.

Dr. Rowe’s part of the series deals with persons with dementia who wander away from care facilities and how the staff can work to prevent these occurrences especially as many of those who become lost may die before being found. The critical elements of prevention and action are accurate assessment of at risk individuals, provision of intensive supervision and implementation of a standardized search plan if a person with dementia is missing.



As part of the Hartford project, Dr. Rowe worked in the 6500 Neuro unit of Shands at UF and collaborated with nursing administration and staff to film the video as well as assess their protocol and procedures for dealing with wandering and lost patients with dementia.

She found that the unit was already using many of the best practices recommended including having alarms on external doors and excellent coordination between nursing staff, security and the police department. Dr. Rowe will use the remainder of the grant to stimulate further practice changes in the hospital.

<http://www.hartforddign.org/resources/education/tryThis.html>

## Joyce Stechmiller Named Fellow of American Academy of Nursing



University of Florida College of Nursing associate professor **Joyce Stechmiller**, PhD, ARNP, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing.

The academy awards fellowships to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to effective nursing through practice, research, creative projects, scholarly work, the influence of public policy or a combination of these. Fellows must show the potential to continue making significant contributions to the field of nursing.

Stechmiller, a national expert in wound care, teaches didactic and clinical courses to master's degree students and mentors doctoral students. She also holds secondary appointments at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System as director of skin and wound education and research and as a member of the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center.

Stechmiller's translational research is focused on chronic wound healing, nutrition, immune function and the health outcomes of older adults. She has worked with national organizations to develop evidence-based guidelines — for example, she chaired a task force of the international Wound Healing Society to develop prevention guidelines for pressure ulcers, which were published in *Wound Repair and Regeneration* — and she consults with industry in the development of wound care therapies. Her work has been funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and industry groups.

She also serves as an editorial consultant and peer reviewer for the *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, the *International Journal of Quality Health Care*, *Biological Research in Nursing*, *Clinical Nutrition* and the *American Journal of Critical Care*.

### accomplishments in brief

**Professor Jennifer Elder's** abstract, "Novel Approaches and Technology in Training for Fathers of Children with Autism: A Summary of Year 3 Findings," has been accepted for presentation by the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science Abstract Review Committee. Her abstract will be presented at Congress in Washington, D.C. on October 2-4, 2008. Dr. Elder's abstract, "In Home Training for Fathers of Children with Autism: A Summary of Year 3 Findings," has also been accepted for presentation. This abstract will be presented at the International Meeting for Autism Research. Dr. Elder also received the University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship Award for her research and scholarly achievements.

Recent College of Nursing BSN graduate, **Andrea Pe Benito**, won a campus wide competition for best paper on her paper titled "Sleep Poverty in Caregivers of Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease." Her paper was based on her work as a university scholar.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Susan Donaldson** and PhD student **Erica Hilliard Self**, recently had their poster accepted for presentation at a conference in London. Their poster, "The Fathers' Role in the Development of Children with Autism," was developed with the guidance of Professors Sharleen Simpson and Barbara Lutz.

**Assistant Professors Carmen Rodriguez** and **Lori Thomas** and **Associate Professor Meredith Rowe** received funding for a grant for their project titled "Technology to Assist Speechless Patients' Communication with Hospital Staff."

**Clinical Assistant Professor Jane Gannon** was recently selected to receive a Divisional Superior Accomplishment Award for 2007-2008 for the Health Science Center.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Barbara Little**, **Clinical Associate Professor Joan Castleman**, **Associate Professor Dr. Shawn Kneipp**,

**Assistant Professor Dr. Barbara Lutz**, **Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Russ Metler**, **Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Nancy Tigar**, and **Assistant Professor Dr. Dinah Welch** had their abstract accepted for a paper presentation at the 136th American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Exposition in October. The paper is titled, "Without Borders or Walls: Developing Online Master's Education for Public Health Nurses".

**Assistant Professor Dr. Lori Thomas** and **Clinical Assistant Professor Cynthia Figueroa-Haas** submitted an article to the spring issue of *House Calls*, a quarterly publication of the Alachua County Medical Society. This issue was about "allied health" providers. Their article is titled "Nurse Practitioners: Can They Contribute to Your Practice?" They addressed the process of finding an "appropriate" NP for a practice as well as the impact that NPs have on patient care.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Karen Reed** is working on a number of articles related to her mission work and rehab nursing. "Teaching Rehabilitation Nursing in Cambodia" by Dr. Karen Reed, was featured in the Florida Spinal Cord Injury Newsletter. Karen is a certified rehabilitation nurse and taught rehab nursing principles to the nursing staff at Sihanouk Hospital of HOPE.

The Hartford Summer Series program will feature **Associate Professor Dr. Meredith Rowe** as one of the featured speakers and mentors for aging research and education.

**Clinical Assistant Professor Dr. Sandra City** presented a poster at the 5th Annual Nursing Magnet Research Conference in February. "Exemplars of a Practice/Education Partnership: Assessing Pressure Ulcer Prevalence and Improving Care at the Bedside" was the title of the poster and was presented in conjunction with her North Florida Regional Medical Center colleagues.

...accomplishments continued on page 15

## COLLEGE OF NURSING SP

The College of Nursing Class of 2008 celebrated in style as they commenced their nursing education on May 2, 2008 at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. And those presiding over the ceremony reminded the students of their responsibilities as Gator Nurses. Commencement Keynote Speaker Peggy Rodebush challenged the Class of 2008 to be trailblazers to fix the broken health care system, and Dean Kathleen Long reminded the graduates that they were expected to be leaders in nursing and to stay connected to their alma mater.

Rodebush is an MSN graduate of the College of Nursing who is an accomplished leader in both health care administration and consulting. Throughout her career, Rodebush has designed and led highly successful clinical teams in an effort to improve the quality of care, safety of patients, and operations of health care organizations. She most recently served as the Clinical Transformation COO and Healthcare Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) at Perot Healthcare.

The Alumnus of the Year award was given to Dr. Elizabeth A. Nelson (MSN 1983) who has held leadership positions in nursing and hospital administration, academia, research, policy analysis and development and clinical practice. She is the founder of Informed Practice International, a company that provides comprehensive, innovative approaches to incorporate research and state-of-the-art science evidence into health care organizations and systems. Dr. Nelson has served as the Chief Programs Officer for



### College of Nursing Excellence Awards

- Audrey Clark Quarles Award for Clinical Excellence in Maternal-Newborn Nursing – **Jennifer Kuretski**
- Jennet M. Wilson Award for Academic Excellence in Maternal-Newborn Nursing – **Sarah Godfrey Russell**
- Excellence in Pediatric Nursing Award – **Kimberly N. Lakey**
- Virgie Pafford Award for Excellence in Community Health Nursing – **Anastasia Albanese-O'Neill**
- Catherine Bell Award for Excellence in Psychiatric Nursing – **Whitney Salem**
- Excellence in Community Service Award – **Catrice Ackerman and Emily Ryan**
- Excellence in Research Award – **Andrea Pe-Benito and Judy Campbell**

- Dr. Mary Elizabeth Hilliard Award for Leadership and Scholarship in Nurse Midwifery – **Corinne Audette**
- Excellence in Medical-Surgical Nursing – **Minh-Nguyet Nguyen**
- Lois Knowles Award for Excellence in Gerontological Nursing – **Brandy L. Lehman**

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

- BSN Generic – **Leah Bridges**
- RN/BSN – **Jayne Hedrick**
- BSN-Accelerated – **Faith Makka**
- MSN – **Kathryn Evans**

2008

# SPRING COMMENCEMENT

the American Nurses Association, Director of Patient Care Services, Chief Nurse and Interim Hospital Administrator for Shriners Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, founding Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at Yale University School of Nursing and founding Director of the Research Center at the American College of Physicians. She has held faculty appointments and visiting lectureships at six universities. Dr. Nelson was a Robert Wood Johnson

Executive Nurse Fellow and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Theta Tau. She received her BSN from the University of Delaware and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

The College honored outstanding students with College of Nursing Excellence Awards, chosen by faculty members based upon students' performance in the care of particular patient populations as well as research. In addition, awards were given by Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha

Theta Chapter and the class of 2008. 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.

The College of Nursing Teacher of the Year, Assistant Professor Linda Sigsby, was recognized at the ceremony. In addition, students from the graduating class gave out the outstanding faculty awards to Clinical Assistant Professor Sharon Bradley and Associate Professor Dr. Jo Snider.



## Student Awards

- Excellence in Doctoral Research Awards – **Andrea Boyd, Melissa Dodd Inglese, Bill Warrington**
- Outstanding Faculty Member – **Prof. Sharon Bradley and Dr. Jo Snider**
- Nursing College Council Recognition Award – **Christy Givens**
- UFNSA Recognition Award – **Emily Ryan**
- Outstanding Senior Student Award – **Andrea Pe-Benito**
- Outstanding Senior Mentor – **Kristen MacConnell and Kaitlin McCann**

## Academic Excellence Awards

- BSN Generic Track – **Leah Bridges**
- RN to BSN Track – **Christy Wagner**
- BSN Accelerated Track – **Faith Makka**
- MSN – **Kasey Brandt**
- PhD – **Melissa Dodd Inglese**

## COLLEGE OF NURSING '08 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

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

**81** Master of Science in Nursing graduates

**6** PhD in Nursing Science graduates

**288** Total Graduates

(includes Fall 2007, Spring and Summer 2008)



# One on One...

## with Alumna Jessica Roberts Williams

The Gator Nurse profiles Jessica Roberts Williams, who graduated from the College of Nursing with her BSN in 2003, and recently became the youngest PhD graduate in the history of Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing when she graduated in May.

As an undergraduate, Williams pursued a dual degree of nursing and sociology. Her doctoral dissertation dealt with identifying patterns in adolescent relational aggression and violence in dating. Throughout her studies at Hopkins, Williams has helped adolescents to develop healthy relationships and prevent violence. She has worked on an intervention program aimed at preventing bullying in schools and has served as a health educator for Fellowship of Lights, an organization that provides emergency shelter and services to youth who are runaways.

### How did UF shape your future?

UF was instrumental in shaping my future and providing me with the educational and personal support to be where I am today. It was during my first semester in the nursing program that Dr. (Jo) Snider introduced me to the possibility of pursuing doctoral education and it was because of the continued encouragement and guidance of many of the College of Nursing faculty throughout my baccalaureate nursing education that gave me the confidence to obtain my PhD.

### What were your most memorable experiences at the College of Nursing?

There are so many, where do I begin! My most memorable experiences all stem from the wonderful relationships I developed with both students and faculty. I remember walking down the halls of the College and seeing all of the faculty office doors open and always being able to stop in for advice. Rarely was anyone too busy to help a student. I also remember all of the great times I had with my classmates—from late night study sessions, to the excitement of the state convention with so many of my classmates there to support my resolution on differentiation of practice, to all of the Nursing College Council social events, I developed friendships that will last a lifetime.

### Why did you want to become a nurse?

I've always had an interest in the health care field and helping people when they are the most vulnerable. I specifically became interested in public health nursing through my sociology education at UF. My sociology education helped me to understand how societal and

structural determinants can influence the health and well-being of individuals and communities and it was through nursing that I felt I could best use this knowledge to change and improve health.

### Describe your current research and future plans.

My research interests and experiences include identifying the causes and consequences of risky health behaviors among children and adolescents as well as the design and evaluation of school and community based prevention and intervention programs aimed at eliminating risky health behaviors among youth. My doctoral dissertation is entitled "Relational Aggression and Dating Violence among Young Urban Adolescents" and it examines the relationship between relational aggression and dating violence among predominately African American inner-city youth, as well as the psychosocial and physical health symptoms associated with relational aggression.

### What are your future plans?

My future plans include building upon this research by developing clinical screening tools for relational aggression, examining the role of coping as a mediator of the relationship between relational aggression and health outcomes, and developing interventions to prevent relational aggression and its adverse outcomes.

### Anything else you would like to be included?

I got married 2 ½ years ago to a wonderful man, Weston, whom I met my first semester at Hopkins. We now have a baby girl, Whitney Olivia, who will be one year this July.



## Pinning Ceremony Marks Students Entrance Into Professional Nursing

Graduating baccalaureate students once again took part in what is becoming an honored tradition at the UF College of Nursing. Hosted by the Nursing Alumni Council, the pinning ceremony was held on campus at the historic University Auditorium. One hundred and thirty seven graduating students from the BSN, RN to BSN and accelerated BSN nursing programs were presented with their College of Nursing pins to signify their passage from student to alumnus and professional nurse.

The nursing pin is a tradition that dates back to 1880 when Florence Nightingale chose the Maltese cross as the badge to be worn by the first graduating students at her school of nursing. As

# DIRECT IMPACT: Maren Foundation Gift Supports Nursing Education and Practice

When the Thomas H. Maren, MD Foundation decided to make a gift to the UF College of Nursing, the members of the foundation had a twofold desire: to both improve nursing education and enhance health care for the underserved of the local community. They found a perfect match in the College's Health Care for All Fund, which benefits faculty practice endeavors and student experiences in rural and underserved communities, including Archer Family Health Care. Archer Family Health Care is the College of Nursing's comprehensive, nurse managed health center, which provides primary care and psychiatric-mental health services to underserved adults, children, and families in Alachua County and surrounding areas.

In addition, their gift supports an endowment for doctoral student fellowships, which addresses the major shortage of nursing faculty hampering schools of nursing nationwide.

The Maren foundation has been able to see the impact their gift has made and will continue to make in the education of students and the improvement of care for the underserved.

Funds from the Maren gift allowed the College to award a \$25,000 fellowship to doctoral student Catherine Greenblum. Greenblum, who had been employed full-time as a family practice nurse practitioner, was able to reduce her hours to pursue her dream of obtaining a PhD in nursing and master's degree in public health.

In addition to funding tuition, books and software, the gift has enable Greenblum to defray the costs of travel from her home in Amelia Island and to support her research.

"I am grateful to be a recipient of the Thomas H. Maren Fellowship," Greenblum said. "With the generous support of the Maren family, I have been able to focus on my studies and maintain a 4.0 GPA."

Peter Maren, Thomas' son, and his wife Eileen, had the pleasure of meeting Greenblum at a special endowment luncheon in March.

The Maren foundation's contribution to the Health Care for All

Fund will allow the College to continue the vital education and clinical services at Archer Family Health Care when its federal grant runs out in 2008. In recognition of their gift, the clinic's reception area was named the Thomas H. Maren MD Reception Area.

Peter and Eileen were able to witness the impact of their gift firsthand at the dedication of Archer Family Health Care's new facility in October. The clinic, which had originated in a small house in Archer, Florida, was able to triple patient examination space in order to expand services to needy patients. Most patients have limited income and no health insurance coverage.

Many of these patients attended the facility's dedication where the Marens had an opportunity to speak to these patients and the dedicated staff who have done so much to improve the quality of health care for many who cannot otherwise afford it. Since 2001,

*"With the generous support of the Maren family, I have been able to focus on my studies and maintain a 4.0 GPA."*

*-Catherine Greenblum, PhD student and Thomas H. Maren fellowship recipient*

Archer Family Health Care has seen almost 4000 different patients and provides more than 3000 patient visits each year.

"We are excited about the gift and interested in its progress and the impact it will have on nursing education at the University of Florida," Peter Maren said.

The Maren Foundation gift is just one example of the way that private philanthropy can have a direct impact on education and practice. To learn more about how you can support the UF College of Nursing's programs, contact Anna Miller Harper at [aemiller@ufl.edu](mailto:aemiller@ufl.edu) or (352) 273-6360.



*Eileen and Peter Maren with Dean Kathleen Ann Long at the Archer Family Health Care dedication.*

the nursing profession developed, each school of nursing developed a pin unique to their school to be presented to the graduating students.

The UF College of Nursing pinning ceremony signifies the ending of the graduate's time as students as they embark on their careers as alumni of the University of Florida.

Maryse Parrino, UF College of Nursing Alumni Council President and Dean Kathleen Ann Long welcomed the students and spoke of the importance and significance of the event. The ceremony continued with the recognition of the students and later the pin presentations, presented by Dr. Karen E. Miles, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs. The students, pinned by faculty members and members of the

alumni council, donned their pins placed on orange and blue ribbons.

In addition, Florida Hospital, a sponsor of the College of Nursing, gave an outstanding student award to accelerated BSN graduate Faith Makka. Betty Nelson, the College of Nursing's Alumna of the Year, also dispensed some special words of wisdom to the graduates.

Emily Ryan, graduating senior and President of the UF Nursing Student Association, spoke on behalf of the student body on the significance of the pinning and Christy Givens, graduating senior and President of the Nursing College Council, let the students in the Pledge for Professional Nursing, a revised form of the original Florence Nightingale Pledge.



The College of Nursing Capital Campaign is in full swing and the College has enlisted the guidance and support of an advisory board of faculty, alumni, friends and supporters to assist with campaign efforts. Recently members of the board visited the College to tour facilities, learn more about recent programs and initiatives and interact with faculty and students. The advisory board will be a key part of our capital campaign.

Meet the members of our campaign advisory board, some of whom shared personal thoughts about serving on the board. We are grateful to all of our members for their support.



**Dr. Carol Ash, EdD, RN, FAAN**  
*Professor Emeritus*

Dr. Ash retired in 2006 and was a University of Florida eminent scholar and professor for 14 years. Dr. Ash served as Associate Director of Cancer Control and Population Sciences for the University of Florida Shands Cancer Center. Dr. Ash has led the development of a public awareness program to educate elementary school children and their parents about skin cancer (GatorSHADE®) She also led a 15 year program to educate international nurses in cancer prevention and control.



**Dr. Andrea Gregg, DSN, RN**  
*Associate Professor and Jacksonville Campus Director*

Dr. Gregg spent her first 20 years in hospital settings working in clinical and administrative roles. During the latter part of her career, she has served as a faculty member of the UF College of Nursing and as Director of the College's Jacksonville Campus. Currently she is President of the Florida Nurses Association, Chair of the AACN Organization Leadership Network Steering Committee, and a governor-appointed member of the Florida Center for Nursing Board of Directors.

### ***Why am I a member of the College's Campaign Advisory Board?***

"When asked why? My response is why not? As a faculty member, I want to spread the word about our wonderful college's contributions to nursing, nurses and the Gator Nation."



**Barbara "BarBee" (Emmel) Geiger, BSN, MBA, BSN 1974**

BarBee currently works for the NF/SG Veterans Health System in Gainesville, Florida as the Chest Pain Center Coordinator/ Systems Redesign Coordinator. She is past president of the Nursing Alumni Council. She has been married 33 years to Chuck and has three grown children, Macy, Austin and Kent, and a 2 year old grandson, Max. Her hobbies include reading, golf, sewing, cooking and gardening.

### ***Why am I a member of the College's Campaign Advisory Board?***

"The current nursing shortage underscores the need for us to financially support in any way we can Dean Long's vision of nursing leaders improving the future of the health care system. I choose to be a member of the campaign advisory board to promote this vision and to keep the UF College of Nursing at the forefront of educating future nurse leaders."



**Dr. Mary Kay Habgood, BSN 1967, MSN 1971**

Dr. Mary Kay Habgood is a retired professor of the College of Nursing, where she was on faculty from 1998-2001. She also served as an Educational Researcher and instructor of the nursing program at St. Petersburg College. She currently holds the position of Vice Chair for the Florida Board of Nursing. She previously served as director and past president for the Florida League for Nursing. Dr. Habgood is now retired and spending summers in North Carolina and winters in St. Petersburg, Florida.

### ***Why am I a member of the College's Campaign Advisory Board?***

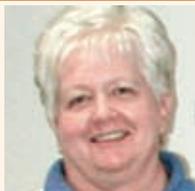
"As a graduate of UF College of Nursing in the BSN and later the MSN program I have always valued the contributions that the university has made to my life. My husband, John, and I feel that we would like to help other young people benefit from the great resources available at U of F."

# CAMPAIGN ADVISORY BOARD



**Nancy Cross Hamilton**, BSN 1964, MSN, 1966

Nancy Cross Hamilton became one of the founding members of the UF chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, the nursing honor society. Nancy received her Master of Nursing in 1966 as a Pediatric Clinical Specialist at UF's newly established program. For 30 years, she taught the nursing care of children to students at St. Petersburg College, until she retired in 2000. Both Nancy and her husband have been close supporters of the Seminole Largo Branch of the Guild of All Children's Hospital, the clinical partner of St. Petersburg College.



**Karen Hanson**, BSN 1966, MSN 1986

Karen serves as a regional representative for the Nursing Alumni Council and has been very connected with the college since graduating. In the late 1970s, she worked with other Central Florida nurses to bring graduate nursing education to Orlando. She currently works at Florida Hospital in Orlando as a Process Architect with the MIS department. Karen is an avid Gator fan, having had season football tickets for 30 years.



**Jodi Irving**, MS, ARNP, CS

Assistant Professor Jodi Irving is advisor and coordinator of the RN/BSN track. She teaches professional socialization, therapeutic communication and psychiatric-mental health clinical nursing at the undergraduate level as well as family theory/therapy and family therapy clinical experiences at the graduate level. In addition, she engages in a private practice that she established in 1973. She joined the Nursing Alumni Council in April 2007 and serves as the Philanthropy Committee Chair.

## *Why am I a member of the College's Campaign Advisory Board?*

"As a faculty member, it's a privilege to contribute to the leaders for tomorrow. In addition, to assist with the visibility of the College of Nursing and promote its missions and to help ensure the educational legacy seemed like a natural fit for me to be a part of the campaign advisory board."



**Catherine Kelly**

Catherine Kelly previously served as the Vice President for Public Affairs at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, where she was instrumental in spearheading the funding of nursing education through the Generation RN program. A great supporter of the College of Nursing and the nursing profession, she played a key role in the establishment of UF-BCBSF Center Health Care Access, Patient Safety and Quality Outcomes.



**Peter and Eileen Maren**

Peter Maren is the son of the late Dr. Thomas H. Maren, a founding faculty member of the UF College of Medicine whose research led to the development of Trusopt, an important drug for the treatment of glaucoma. Peter is a member of the board of the Thomas H. Maren, MD Foundation, named in honor of Thomas Maren and his contributions to the medical field. This foundation has generously donated millions of dollars to health care and education, recently to the UF College of Nursing to support both education and practice. Peter's wife Eileen is a retired nurse.



**Linda Moody**, PhD, MSN 1969, MPH, FAAN, BC (BSN 1965)

*Chair of the Campaign Advisory Board*

Dr. Moody retired in 2007 as a distinguished professor emeritus from the University of South Florida. At USF, Dr. Moody served as Director of Research and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. She previously served as a faculty member at the UF College of Nursing where she was co-director of the PhD program. While at UF, she was one of two faculty members to receive the first NIH research funding in 1984. Dr. Moody remains active in research and consulting.

## *Why am I a member of the College's Campaign Advisory Board?*

"I have a strong need and desire to give back to the University of Florida because of all the wonderful benefits I have reaped from having been a student and a faculty member at the College of Nursing. I would like to help support the College's philosophy of 'care, lead, and inspire' in ways that continue to benefit current and future students."



**Gayle Olson, BSN 1961**

Gayle Olson graduated from the University of Florida College of Nursing's second graduating class and worked at Shands Hospital as a psychiatric nurse after graduating. She relocated to the west coast and worked in psychiatric nursing in a state and private psychiatric hospital. Gayle and her husband, Dr. Gary Olson live in Palo Alto, CA. She currently sells residential real estate in Silicon Valley. The Olsons attend University of Florida events that are held in the San Francisco Bay Area whenever possible and are avid Gator fans.

***Why am I a member of the College's Campaign Advisory Board?***

"I am very pleased to be part of the College of Nursing Campaign Advisory Committee and be assisting in building the Campaign Fund for the College. The challenges faced by nursing and the opportunities for improving and expanding nursing education are very exciting. There is a great need for more highly qualified nursing educators and the College of Nursing has the leadership and commitment to work to meet that need."



**Maryse (dela GRANA) Parrino, BSN 1974**

Maryse currently works at her husband Jack's busy allergy practice in Tampa, Florida. She has two children, Adriana, 24, who is presently in graduate school at UCF studying communication disorders. David, 20, is in his third year of pre-med at the USF. She also volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the American Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of America.



**Marguerite Powers**

Marguerite Powers is known for her tireless work and support of the University of Florida, Shands HealthCare and the Gainesville community. Both Margo and her husband Earl, now deceased, are synonymous with UF and Gainesville. Margo is active in numerous local organizations. She has served on the Board of Directors of Shands Hospital and has been active in organizations such as Alachua General Hospital Auxiliary, the Alachua County Medical Auxiliary and the Junior Women's Club.

***Why am I a member of the College's Campaign Advisory Board?***

"I am not a nurse, but being a member of a medical family I was aware very early that good nursing was necessary to good patient care. This was also very evident when I have been the patient. Today the wonderful strides in research need nurses to deliver the benefits to the patients. When my husband Earl planned to contribute to the University and asked me which college we should consider – I didn't hesitate – I said the College of Nursing."



**Ann Smith, MN (MN 1967)**

As Director of Nursing Services and Health Care Risk Manager at North Florida Regional Medical Center for 23 years, Ann is now retired from active nursing practice. She is an active historian for the UF Sam Proctor Oral History Program, Alachua County Historic Matheson Museum, and private clients.

She serves on the Board of Retired Faculty, Matheson Board, and the College of Nursing Alumni Council.

# FAREWELL TO MEG HENDRYX

We would like to bid a fond farewell to Meg Hendryx, who served as the College of Nursing Director of Development since 2001. Meg has moved onto the UF College of Engineering, where she serves as Senior Director of Development. She made an indelible mark on the College's advancement program and we wish her well in her new endeavors. All of us at the College will miss Meg very much!

The College is currently searching for a new development officer. In the interim, Anna Miller Harper, associate director of alumni affairs, will assume all development activities for the College. She can be reached at 352-273-6360 or [aemiller@ufl.edu](mailto:aemiller@ufl.edu)





## BELOVED ALUMNI AND FRIEND ELLEN EELLS PASSES AWAY

Ellen Eells (BSN 1964) a College of Nursing alumna and supporter, recently passed away. We join Ellen's family and friends in bidding a sad farewell to this wonderful woman and nurse.

Ellen and her husband Bill had a very special connection, which began here at the UF Health Science Center as students. Below, we have included the eulogy that Bill read at Ellen's funeral. A special thanks to Bill for allowing us to reprint this.

## *In Memoriam:* COLLEGE SAYS GOODBYE TO ALUMNAE

**LINDA RUTH CROSBY**, (MSN 1985), 59, passed away Saturday, March 29, 2008, at Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. Linda worked extensively with chemically dependent nurses, and in the early 1980's, she developed, directed and successfully implemented the first community-wide peer assistance program for impaired nurses, in Tampa. Linda went to nursing school at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center, New York, received her BA at St. Leo's College in Florida and her MSN from the University of Florida.

Linda was the senior author with Dr. LeClair Bissell of "To Care Enough—Intervention with Chemically Dependent Colleagues", and collaborated with colleagues on several journal publications.

More recently, Linda discovered a love for nursing education. At the time of her death, she was a nursing instructor at Winston-Salem State University.

**VIVIAN JACELYN DININNY** (Jacie) (MSN 1975) passed away on April 13, 2008 in Albion, Michigan. She was at home under the loving care of her family and Great Lakes Hospice. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Robert, two sons, Robert (Vicki) of Concord, Michigan and David (Nevia) of Chagrin Falls, Ohio and one daughter Kathleen (Tony) Hutchins of Albion. In addition she is survived by seven grandchildren, six step grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Jacie was a Registered Nurse who graduated from Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She also held a Master's degree in Maternal and Child Health from the University of Florida. She finished her nursing career by opening her own practice in Women's Health in Jackson, Michigan. She was one of the first, if not the first, nurse practitioners in the state of Michigan to open her own practice. She was a great friend and nurse to all who knew her and she will be sorely missed.

**LESLIE STABLEIN** (BSN 1968) passed away in October 2007. Leslie began her nursing career as head nurse on the neurology unit at Shands. After receiving her MSN, she went on to be a professor of nursing at the University of Maryland and University of Nevada-Reno. Leslie was a fantastic nurse and always felt gratitude and pride when it came to her education at the UF College of Nursing. Leslie's sister Nancy Stablein Spring is also an alumna of the College (BSN 1965).

*Forty-four years ago there was a University of Florida nursing student dressed in her light blue student nurses uniform. She was right at the top of the hill which goes from the main campus down to the Health Center. It was obvious she was late for class (she was always late) and "The Hill" was a major obstacle, coming or going.*

*Just at that time, a dashing senior pharmacy student, with a car on campus, pulled up and offered her a ride. She eagerly accepted the ride and checked out the pharmacy student who was wearing a camel hair blazer, white shirt and tie, and she approved.*

*After the short ride, names were exchanged and a ride back up the hill was offered for later that day.*

*In mid-afternoon, the nursing student found the pharmacy student in one of his labs and needed transportation back to her dorm. The pharmacy students said "here's my keys, take my car." The little nurse was dumbfounded, but couldn't say no to the offer. The pharmacy student knew how to impress!*

*When she returned the car and keys, a date was made.*

*The nursing student was Ellen Granberg and the pharmacy student was me.*

*From that chance meeting grew a deep relationship. Shortly after she graduated in 1964 we were married and in exchange for that ride down the hill, Ellen helped put me through dental school, gave me three fine children and seven grandchildren.*

*In between there were the Air Force years, the Vietnam year, the Pensacola years, the Gainesville and High Springs years, the Melbourne Beach and Indiatlantic years and lastly the Merritt Island years.*

*At all these times and places, Ellen was a shining light and helper to all she touched. Ellen was always there for everyone.*

*I have told everyone that she was the most loyal and loving wife anyone could ever have.*

*I shall miss her forever.*

## 1990s

**Erin L. Peterson**, BSN 1990. Erin is an active duty major in the U.S. Air Force currently assigned to Aviano Air Base, Italy. She received her MSN in 2006 from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a dual degree in Nursing Education and Family Nurse Practitioner. She is currently the Flight Commander of Education and Training for the 31st Medical Group at Aviano. She has two children, Lydia, 8, and Noah, 6.

**Alice P. Carlisle**, BSN 1992, MSN 1995. Alice received her PhD in nursing in May 2008 from the University of Florida. Alice also received a certificate in Midwifery through the MSN program at UF.

**Connie S. Chappelle**, MSN 1995. Connie spoke to 700 Certified Legal Nurse Consultants (CLNC) at the 13th Annual National Alliance for Certified Legal Nurse Consultants (NACLNC) in Las Vegas NV March 17–18, 2008. Her presentation was on how CLNCs can assist attorneys to develop their bariatric surgery cases to win. Connie is President of Medical-Legal Consulting and works with attorney clients (plaintiff and defense) on a variety of medical cases.

**Melissa Brown Faciane**, BSN 1999. Melissa has been a cancer survivor for three years after being diagnosed in December of 2004 with breast cancer and going through chemotherapy and radiation in 2005. She has been married four years to a pediatric physician assistant, Mekal, and they have a 5-month-old son, Evan Christian. Melissa has been a pediatric nurse at Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida for seven years where she is now an Assistant Clinical Nurse Leader.

## 2000s

**Fatima C. Mitch**, BSN 2000, MSN 2004. Fatima has been working for almost three years

in the Hematology/Oncology Bone Marrow Transplant Program at Shands at the University of Florida as a Nurse Practitioner. She has recently become certified as an Advanced Oncology Nurse Practitioner by ONCC.

**Luisa Rossa Valdez**, Accelerated BSN class of 2005. Luisa has been working in labor and delivery for almost three years at Plantation General Hospital in South Florida. She also works with risk management and records the monthly delivery statistics. Luisa married Raul Valdez, a fraud investigator, in September 2006. She is currently a student in Florida Atlantic University's Master's Family Nurse Practitioner program part-time, and is due to graduate in May 2009. Luisa was also recently inducted into Sigma Theta Tau in April.

**Jillian Kolsky**, BSN 2006. Jillian is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for Children's Healthcare of West Georgia in Carrollton, Ga., located about an hour outside of Atlanta. She started this past April and is very excited to be in Georgia...“although it's tough being a Florida Gator in bulldog country!”

**Nicole Oostenbrink**, BSN 2007. Nicole is currently at Shands at the University of Florida, and is on 94 ICU/IMC. She plans to move to the new Neuro IMC/ICU that's opening up.

**Becky St. George**, BSN 2007. Becky is currently in the NICU at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. Becky says “If any Gator Nurses are ever interested in Georgetown, tell them I'd love to answer questions because there aren't many Florida nursing grads up here, and it's a great hospital!”

**Stevie Maher**, BSN 2007. Stevie is still in Gainesville and is working at Shands at UF in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit.

**Amanda McCracken**, BSN 2007. Amanda is in the part time master's program at the UF College of Nursing to become an Adult Nurse

Practitioner. She is also working full time on the oncology floor at the Malcom Randall VA until she finishes school in 2009.

**Carissa Stanley**, BSN 2007. Carissa is attending Emory University to obtain her Master's in women's health to be a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner.

### CLASS OF 2008!

**Christine Grassel**, BSN. Christine will be working at the Neuro ICU at Shands in starting in July and plans on continuing to graduate school next year.

**David Robbins**, Accelerated BSN. David will be starting at the Malcom Randall VA in the nurse residency program in July. He is also working on facilitating healthier living, and plans to keep in touch and work with the College of Nursing in that regard.

**Andrea Pe Benito**, BSN. Andrea will be working for the Malcom Randall VA in Gainesville and hopes to go to grad school in 1–2 years for a master's and a doctoral degree.

**Melissa Jacquelin**, BSN. Melissa accepted a position at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida on the Med-Surg floor.

**Erika Dmytryk**, BSN. Erika will be working at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida.

**Tanaya Lindstrom**, BSN. Tanaya will be working at the Malcom Randall VA in their residency program.

**Christy Givens**, BSN. Christy will be working for the pediatric unit of Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

**Catrice Ackerman**, BSN. Catrice will be working at St. Vincent's Medical Center on the Orthopedics unit. She plans to attend graduate school at UF in the Public Health Nursing MSN program part-time.



the  
**ART & SCIENCE**  
*of* **Nursing**  
**Reunion Weekend 2008**  
September 26-27

Registration materials have been mailed. Go to [www.nursing.ufl.edu/reunion](http://www.nursing.ufl.edu/reunion) to register today!

**Jenks Endowed Professor Dr. Beverly Roberts** has had seven different collaborative papers, posters and/or presentations that have been completed. All of these are with either students, colleagues and/or international/ interdisciplinary faculty. The publications and/or presentations vary in scope and discipline ranging from *Journal of Clinical Nursing* and *Journal of Heart Failure* to presentations at the Southeastern American Society of Biomechanics and Society of the Cognitive Aging Conference.

**Associate Professor Dr. Bryan Weber** and **Dr. Roberts** published a manuscript in the *American Journal of Mens Health* on “Physical and Emotional Predictors of Depression after Radical Prostatectomy.”

VA Faculty Liaisons **Dr. Beverly Childress** and **Clinical Assistant Professors Julia Tortorice** and **Carla Anderson** had their presentation “Innovative Approaches to Promote Recruitment and Retention of Nurses and Evidence-Based Practice” accepted for the June FONE Conference in Tampa.

Associate Professor **Dr. Sunny Yoon** and a number of her students – graduate and undergraduate – presented several posters at the Southern Nursing Research Society including “Self-practiced CAM use in minority middle-age and older adults; Complementary or alternative?” and “Mindfulness meditation for pain in older adults: A pilot study.” Yoon also has accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the review panel for the *Journal of Holistic Nursing*.

Additionally **Dr. Yoon** and **Associate Professor and Department Chair Susan Schaffer** presented a paper at the SNRS conference on “Dose adjustment of prescribed medications related to smoking cessation: Is it necessary?”

Honors student **Larissa Galante** and **Assistant Professor Linda Sigsby** presented a co-authored poster on “Perceptions of Perioperative Caring Behaviors” at the 55th Annual AORN Congress in Anaheim, CA. The poster won an Award of Merit. Sigsby recently had a manuscript accepted by *AORN Journal* on “Teaching for the Love of Perioperative Nursing.”

**Dr. Sheau Huey** had her first-authored manuscript titled “Skin-to-skin Contact for Culturally Diverse Women having Breastfeeding Difficulties during early Post-partum” accepted for publication in *Breastfeeding Medicine*.

**Assistant Professor Dr. Charlene Krueger** has had her manuscript titled “Neonatal heart-rate variability and intraventricular hemorrhage: A Case Study” accepted for publication in *Pediatric Nursing*.

**Clinical Assistant Professors Charlotte Spellacy** and **Michele Brimeyer** presented a poster on timing of umbilical cord separation and the relationship to breastfeeding status at the 26th Anniversary Research & Scholarship Day at Valdosta State University.

## president's message

Congratulations to the class of 2008! It was an honor to be a part of this year's Pinning Ceremony sponsored by the Alumni Council. It was great to see the class of 2008 at the open house prior to pinning celebrating with their family, friends and former faculty.



MARYSE PARRINO

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to see our Gator Nurses go from students to professional nurses as they were pinned by myself and other Alumni Council members such as Jodi Irving, Rita Kobb, Pat Sassner, Ann Smith, and alumna and faculty member, Debbie Popovich. The Alumni Council truly appreciates the support of the College and its faculty.

Even though the University of Florida and more specifically the College of Nursing are faced with severe budget cuts this year, it is the support received by alumni and friends such as you that help keep the College thriving and equipped to continue to provide the quality education that the College is known for. If you are interested in supporting the College through the Dean's Excellence fund, please contact Anna Harper at 352-273-6360, or [aemiller@ufl.edu](mailto:aemiller@ufl.edu). The Dean's Excellence fund allows Dean Kathleen Long to use funds at her discretion so that she may address the emergent needs of the College now. You may also make a gift online at <https://www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/Nursing.asp>. Please select Dean's Excellence fund, or a funding priority of your choice. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Finally, please be sure to save the date for the College of Nursing's Reunion Weekend on September 26-27, 2008. This year's theme is “The Art and Science in Nursing.” We have a fun filled weekend planned and this is a great time to catch up with former classmates, faculty and to make new friends.

We hope to see you Reunion Weekend! Have a happy and safe summer! Go Gator Nurses!

Maryse Parrino, BSN 1974  
Nursing Alumni Council President

## CLASS CHALLENGE:

Show your class pride and Gator Nurse spirit!

The class with the most attendees will receive special recognition and a Gator prize.

The University of Florida is in Gainesville...

Gator Nurses are everywhere

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THE GATOR  
**NURSE**  
THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI OF THE UF COLLEGE OF NURSING

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College of Nursing



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