ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT’S AWARD

Leslie L. Davis, MSN, RN, ANP-C

Leslie Davis receives the first ever Alumni Association's President’s Award for her outstanding service to the alumni of the School of Nursing.

Davis, is a fulltime pre-doctoral fellow at the UNC School of Nursing, also a part-time nurse practitioner in cardiology at UNC. As a clinician, she has focused on patients with hypertension, chronic heart failure, and acute coronary syndromes. She has also taught several courses on the undergraduate and graduate level between 1993 and 2006 for the School of Nursing. She continues to teach guest lectures as an adjunct Clinical Associate Professor and serves as a teaching fellow while in her doctoral program.

Among her many achievements, Ms. Davis has been presented four times with the Teaching Excellence Award for Undergraduate Classroom Instruction at the UNC School of Nursing. She served on the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology’s (ACC) task force and writing group for the “Improvement of Care in ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Intervention.” Chosen as one of five faculty experts, she participated in a group lecture series on hypertension for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Ms. Davis's 2004 book, Cardiology Nursing Secrets, won the American Journal of Nursing's Critical Care Book of the Year award.

Davis has been an invited speaker at numerous medical meetings, symposia, community organizations, and continuing education and academic programs. This year, she enabled the Alumni Association to offer free continuing education to UNC School of Nursing alumni by traveling with us to speak to alumni on topics such as “Heart Disease and Women” and “Stress and Hypertension.” Her talent as a speaker, and her knowledge of important topics have allowed the association to reach out and educate alumni in four different regions of the state.

Leslie Davis received both her BSN ('85) and MSN ('89) from Carolina.
Carol Durham receives the Alumna of the Year Award tonight for her exemplary dedication to the profession and visionary work with nursing education. Durham has been involved in nursing education and curriculum development for over 26 years. She has developed simulation experiences for a variety of learners including undergraduate students, nurse practitioner students, practicing RNs, LPNs, and nursing assistants. She and colleagues have taken the patient simulator to Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) nurses, training them on how to use simulation in their programs. In 2007, this work received the Educator Innovator Award from Medical Education Technologies, Inc.

Durham has received many honors for her work including the 2005 Nurse Educator of the Year from the North Carolina Nurses Association. She is involved in a multi-site teamwork and communication research project using simulation. In 2006, she and colleagues received the Educator Award for their work on implementing Safe Patient Handling and Movement (SPHM) in nursing curriculum. SPHM is a collaborative initiative with ANA Handle with Care program and the Tampa VA. In spring 2008, she received the Alumni of the Year Award from Western Carolina University School of Nursing.

Durham is one of nine simulation experts working on a project sponsored by the National League of Nursing and Laerdal Medical that is creating courses for the Simulation Innovation Resource Center for faculty development about simulation. She has provided consultation for schools across the southeast. Ms. Durham has published on various topics including simulation and patient safety and has presented at national conferences on simulation, SPHM, and quality and safety in nursing education.

Carol Durham received her MSN from Carolina in 1982. She currently serves on the faculty as Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Clinical Education & Resource Center.

Nancy Scott Fuller receives the Honorary Alumna of the Year Award tonight for carrying on her family’s legacy of service, and for supporting and promoting the School of Nursing in many different ways.

Fuller grew up in the Hawfields community in Alamance County, near her aunt Elizabeth Scott Carrington, who worked tirelessly to establish the School of Nursing at UNC. From an early age, Fuller remembers hearing about the School and learning of her aunt’s great love for it. Carrington’s desire to elevate nursing and her commitment to the profession made a great impression on her niece, and Fuller has continued this work.

In 1993 when Elizabeth Scott Carrington died, the School became the beneficiary of her generosity through a bequest to establish the Elizabeth Scott Carrington Award for graduate scholarship. As one of her closest relatives, Nancy Scott Fuller stepped in to continue the relationship with the SON representing her aunt’s interests, and stewarding the scholarship program in addition to her own individual support.

She is a current member of the SON Foundation Board of Directors, and began her service to the Foundation in 1995. She promotes the School at every opportunity, taking time to write personal thank you letters to donors and taking interest in our students. She, her husband Erwin and son Scott continue to work to keep this Carrington family tradition going for generations to come.

Fuller received a BS from Meredith, and went on to further her education with a degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has spent the last 15 years as a librarian in different capacities. Currently, she serves as librarian at the First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro.

Rebecca Dewees Olson receives the Carrington Award for Community Service tonight for her tireless efforts on behalf of her community and state, and her lifelong commitment to the care of the underserved.

Olson, born and raised in Sylva, North Carolina, practiced in a variety of specialty areas in nursing before returning home to direct the Staff/Community Education Department at Harris Regional Hospital for several years. She then moved to Western Carolina University as Assistant Professor in the College of Applied Sciences and Director of Continuing Education for Nursing and Health Sciences. After twelve years she began work in Chapel Hill for The UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention on research projects in communities all over North Carolina.

During these years, she served in nurse volunteer, volunteer leadership and board positions with: WNC Health Systems Agency, Jackson County Nursing & Domiciliary Care Advisory Committee, WestCare Home Health and Hospice Agencies, Hospice of Orange County, the WNC AIDS Project, ReACH of Jackson County and the UNC SON Alumni Association Board.

Now, as she has returned home to Sylva, she spends time using her skills to serve the local community. She is a member of the Board of Directors for Jackson County’s Healthy Carolinians Coalition, co-chair of the School Health Advisory Council, and the Executive Director and Clinic Manager for The Good Samaritan Clinic of Jackson County, a volunteer-based free clinic for underserved adults in Western North Carolina. Through her service, Olson continues to epitomize not just the ideal nurse but also the ideal citizen, with her depth of commitment, breadth of knowledge, and unfailing selflessness.

Rebecca Olson received her BSN from Carolina in 1974 and later received a Masters in Human Resources from Western Carolina University.

Patricia Flannery Pearce receives the Graduate of the Last Decade Award tonight for her dedication to the profession and for achieving excellence in the areas of research, teaching, service and practice.

Pearce has excelled in all facets of academia. During her doctoral studies at UNC, she worked intensively for two years with Dr. Margie Sandelowski, who consulted on her dissertation research, and then for three years with Dr. Joanne Harrell, who chaired her Dissertation Committee. During doctoral studies she was awarded a competitive NIH Individual National Research Scientist Award, and an American Nurses Foundation Award.

Following graduation, Pearce accepted a tenure track position as Assistant Professor with the University of Utah College of Nursing in Salt Lake City. Her research focuses on physical activity with middle school children and the development of a psychometrically sound, computer-based physical activity self-report questionnaire that she developed while in her PhD studies (the Children’s Computerized Physical Activity Recall [C-CPAR]). She has received competitive funding at the College and University level, as well as the NIH/NINR. She has completed numerous publications and presentations and has received awards for teaching, service, and research. Her research has been featured in the Deseret News (Salt Lake City newspaper), and in the Channel 13 (Fox) news in Salt Lake City.

Pearce has made a substantial contribution to understanding physical activity in children and adolescents and to the measurement of physical activity. Her work underscores the importance of designing for usability. Pearce’s endeavors showcase the strengths of the UNC-CH School of Nursing in building a strong foundation for PhD students and the extension of that foundation on nursing science.

Patricia Pearce received her PhD from Carolina in 2004.