



Horoho recently returned from deployment to Afghanistan, where she was special assistant to the commander, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command in Kabul.



Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho was sworn in as Army Surgeon General in December.



Horoho is pictured with Bette Davis, BSN '55, who joined other D.C.-area alumni in nominating Horoho for the Alumna of the Year award.

SON ALUM MAKES HISTORY AS ARMY SURGEON GENERAL

In December Army Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, BSN '82, made history as she was sworn in as the 43rd Army Surgeon General. She is the first nurse and first woman to serve in this position. Her duties and responsibilities cover all facets of Army medicine, including overseeing U.S. Army Medical Command, the third largest health care system in the United States. She also directs the Army's medical and health care professional education, scientific research, medical material logistics and training of all combat medics.

Bette Davis, a member of SON's first graduating class and a retired U.S. Air Force nurse, met Horoho at a 2010 event for SON alumni in the Washington, D.C. area. "She was such a charming person, and the group was so proud of her work," Davis says. Davis and other D.C.-area alumni went on to nominate Horoho for the SON Alumna of the Year award. "These alumni events keep us connected and aware of the great things alumni are doing," she adds.

The School of Nursing presented Horoho with the Alumna of the Year award in November. "UNC is an outstanding academic institution that has established name recognition for its cutting-edge health care training and research, and for growing leaders who are focused on improving our world," Horoho says. "So much talent has walked the halls of this prestigious university, and to join the list of past award recipients is a recognition that I cherish."

Her many achievements include being honored by Time Life Publications for her actions at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. She was among 15 nurses selected by the American Red Cross and Nursing Spectrum to receive national recognition as a "Nurse Hero" in 2002 and was the USO's "Woman of the Year" in 2009. "The Great 100" selected her as one of the top one hundred nurses in North Carolina in 1993, and she served as the Head Nurse of Womack's Emergency Department when the hospital was awarded the Superior Unit Citation for work during the Pope Air Force Base crash in 1994.

While on campus to receive the alumni award, Horoho took time to speak with students from the School of Nursing and Kenan-Flagler Business School. She gave them insights into her leadership style as well as how she transitioned from clinical to administrative work. She says that it is important to know your weaknesses and to understand the knowledge, skills and abilities of the members of your team so you can make the most of them.

Horoho says that while she was a student at UNC she learned that nurses can influence health care delivery and the lives of patients in all environments through direct and indirect care, policy, legislation and the business aspects of health care. "The professors in the UNC School of Nursing and general studies instilled a strong appreciation for incorporating the theoretical basic skills and principles of being a nurse and the desire to continue on a path of lifelong learning," she says. ■