Nursing alum makes history as Army Surgeon General
Dear Alumni and Friends,

In this issue of *Carolina Nursing* we celebrate SON alumni, friends, professors and students who are helping to make this world a better place.

In December, I had the distinct honor of attending the promotion and swearing-in of Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho (BSN ’82) as Army Surgeon General. It was very moving to witness history being made as she was sworn in as the first woman and first nurse appointed to a position that dates all the way back to 1775. Horoho is a truly gracious and powerful woman, and she is a shining example of a Carolina Nurse who is changing the world. As head of the third largest health care system in the United States, she will influence the delivery of health care on a large scale. She has taken on responsibility for delivery of world-class care to those who guard our freedom.

Doctoral student Chifundo Zimba is another Carolina Nurse who makes us proud. She is the first nurse sponsored by UNC Project-Malawi to come to the School of Nursing, and once she completes her Ph.D., she will return to her home country to uplift the nursing profession as the only nurse with doctoral training to be part of UNC Project-Malawi.

You can also read about how faculty members in partnership with practice partners at Rex Hospital are charting new territory in undergraduate clinical education with the first dedicated education unit in North Carolina.

**Recognizing our distinguished professors**

In this issue we recognize SON distinguished professors. They conduct world-class research that might not be possible without the funds and protected time that come with named professorships established by Carolina alumni and friends. For example, discretionary funds from the Dr. Frances Hill Fox and Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professorships supported preliminary work that led to the recent awarding of a $1.6 million NIH grant to Drs. Kathleen Knafl and Margarete Sandelowski to study factors that contribute to health outcomes for children with chronic physical conditions and their families.

The professorships also have a real impact on the education of tomorrow’s leaders. The protected time that came with the Sarah Frances Russell Distinguished Professorship allowed Dr. Barbara Mark to secure an NIH training grant. Assistant Professor Anna Beeber was one of the many SON doctoral and postdoctoral students who have been supported by this grant. She is now part of the SON faculty and recently became a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar.

Clearly, the gift of an endowed nursing professorship not only honors the recipient of the distinguished professorship, but it is also an investment in the future—be it through the discovery of new knowledge, the mentorship of the next generation of nurse scientists, or the creation of a hub of discovery that attracts other scholars to Carolina.

As health care reform policy gets enacted and the decisions of two years ago enable many more families to access care, nurses are joining colleagues from medicine, pharmacy and other practice disciplines in the pursuit of innovative solutions that help deliver on the promise of safe, effective and affordable care for all. It is clear that our faculty, students and alums are stepping up, rising to the challenge, and harvesting the gifts of being a Carolina Nurse.

Sincerely,

Kristen M. Swanson, RN, PhD, FAAN
Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor
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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.
Each year the School of Nursing Alumni Board of Directors recognizes alumni and honorary alumni who contribute to nursing, the community, the School and health care. The 2011 Alumni Award winners were recognized at a reception on November 30.

**ALUMNA OF THE YEAR**
Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, BSN ’82, was honored with the Alumna of the Year award for her outstanding service to the field of nursing through her promotion of health care, tireless service, and scholarly efforts. Horoho is the 43rd Army Surgeon General. Read more about her on page 2.

**HONORARY ALUMNA**
Dr. Linda Cronenwett, Beerstecher-Blackwell Term Distinguished Professor and dean of the School from 1999 to 2009, received the Honorary Alumna Award. This award recognizes a non-graduate of the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing who demonstrates distinction in the nursing profession and outstanding support to SON.

During her time as dean, the School began the first and only psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner MSN program in the state and increased its commitment to multiculturalism and diversity. She planned and completed the new addition to Carrington Hall, helped to double the size of the School’s endowment and acquired grants in excess of $3.5 million to support initiatives to improve quality and safety education in nursing curricula. Dr. Cronenwett currently serves as co-director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Executive Nurse Fellows program and is the principal investigator of the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses national initiative, which is in its fourth phase of funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

**GRADUATE OF THE LAST DECADE (GOLD) AWARD**
Clinical Associate Professor Meg Zomorodi, BSN ’01, PhD ’08, received the Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award, which is given to a SON alumna or alumnus who graduated within the past ten years and has made outstanding contributions to the school, profession, community or nation.

Dr. Zomorodi is conducting research at Duke University Medical Center in the surgical, neurological and medical intensive care units. Her research interests include intensive care nursing, leadership skills, nursing competency and all issues related to end-of-life care. She is the course coordinator for SON’s undergraduate leadership and adult health courses and for the master’s level clinical nurse leader program and education curriculum. She is a member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Nurses Association, the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the UNC SON Alumni Board and the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. She has traveled to Uganda twice with Duke Neurosurgical Services, most recently taking eight undergraduate UNC nursing students.

**CARRINGTON AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**
Jennifer Bland, BSN ’09, was honored with the Carrington Award for Community Service in recognition of her remarkable service that reflects favorably on the School of Nursing.

Bland is a clinical nurse 4 and the orientation coordinator on the Intermediate and Step-down Units for Duke’s Neuroscience Center. She received her BSN through UNC Chapel Hill’s RN to BSN program in 2009 and also attended the Watts School of Nursing. She became a staff nurse on an acute care Neurosurgical Step-down Unit at Duke University Hospital in 1995. Through her years as a neuroscience nurse she has grown into a clinical expert, teacher and leader. In 2007, she journeyed to Uganda as a member of the Duke Neurosurgery Medical Mission Team and has since made additional trips to the region.
Kathleen Knafl, Frances Hill Fox Distinguished Professor & Associate Dean for Research, and Margarete Sandelowski, Cary C. Boshamer Professor, have received funding from the National Institute of Nursing Research at NIH to synthesize research findings that address the intersection between family life and childhood chronic physical conditions.

Over the course of the five-year project they will receive $1,642,197 in direct funding. Other members of the research team include Dr. Jamie Crandell, Dr. Jennifer Leeman, and Julia Shaw-Kokot. Dr. Nancy Havill, a recent graduate of the School’s PhD program, and post-doctoral scholar Dr. Cecelia Roscigno are also participating in the study.

An estimated 18% of children under 18 years old have a chronic condition that requires them to use more health-related services than other children. These conditions—which include asthma or diabetes, for example—can increase the risk for adjustment problems related to emotional and behavioral development and functioning. The researchers will integrate findings from published empirical research to identify child, condition and family factors that contribute to health outcomes for children with chronic physical conditions, and their families.

The findings will be disseminated in forms accessible to and usable by researchers and clinical decision makers and will provide an evidence base for developing and testing interventions that support optimal child and family adjustment. They will work with an Advisory Committee of Clinical Decision Makers, who will provide ongoing input on the clinical relevance of findings and suggest additional analyses likely to yield results with substantial clinical impact.

To ensure that findings reach a broad clinical audience, the researchers are partnering with professional organizations representing clinicians who care for families of children with chronic physical conditions. They will work with these organizations to identify a range of dissemination formats tailored to provide relevant information to the organization members. For example, reports might appear in an organization newsletter, website or be presented through interactive continuing education programs. The researchers have established relationships with the Association of Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society, International Family Nursing Society, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Association of School Nurses and the Society of Pediatric Nursing. They also plan to identify additional organizations with whom to partner during the course of the study. Read more about Drs. Knafl and Sandelowski in the feature story on page 11.
Clinical Assistant Professor Diane Yorke recognized a need to improve the way nursing students are oriented to their pediatric rotation, and so she worked with Jason Morningstar, SON’s webmaster, to develop a game that challenges the students to use their existing skills in the context of the pediatric ward and that familiarizes them with the staff, procedures and physical layout of the space.

For the game, pairs of students are given a series of cards with predefined tasks. Each pair must work together to complete ten tasks. These might include locating objects such as pediatric bedpans, taking simple histories, or getting rid of unused medications with an appropriate witness.

The game was implemented as part of the pediatrics rotation supervised by Dr. Yorke and successfully used at UNC Children’s Hospital in place of traditional orientation for student nurses. Dr. Yorke says that making a game out of what was a somewhat rushed and stressful formal orientation improved the students’ retention of essential elements and made the process more engaging.

Morningstar presented the game as a way to incorporate games into pedagogy at the Innovation Learning Network conference in Seattle and at Kaiser-Permanente’s academic summit for nurses. Recently, nurse educators at UNC Hospitals expressed interest in adapting the game for new nurse orientation and possibly for annual competency review.

Doctoresh student Chifundo Zimba is the first nurse sponsored by the University of North Carolina Project-Malawi (UNC Project) to come to the School of Nursing. She wants to leverage her education at the School of Nursing to advance nursing in her home country.

The UNC Project is a partnership between the University and the Malawi Ministry of Health to carry out research, care and training programs in the capital city of Lilongwe. Zimba joined the UNC Project in 2001 as a research nurse for a study examining how to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV.

For her dissertation, Zimba plans to conduct research related to prevention, management, and/or care of women in Malawi with HIV. “I am learning a lot that I think I will be able to translate to knowledge that assists my fellow Malawians,” she says. She is also considering ways that she might work with the University of Malawi to develop programs that will uplift the nursing profession in Malawi.
**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Faculty Practice Plan**

UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp has approved a Faculty Practice Plan for the School of Nursing. Lisa Miller and Dr. Sonda Oppewal were instrumental in the development of the plan, which allows the School to bill Medicaid, Medicare and other third party insurance providers for care provided by SON faculty. The plan will allow Dr. Mary Lynn Piven to move forward with opening an HRSA-funded practice in Chatham County and paves the way for future innovation.

**Technology Updates**

The Sandra G. Funk Conference Room now supports videoconferencing thanks to the generous financial support of a group of SON full professors and funds from the Lucy Conant Endowment, which is administered through the Office of Research Support & Consultation. Computer display and video from the room can be simultaneously sent to and received from remote sites with similar capabilities, or an individual can remotely join a meeting in the room from a computer with special software and a camera. Other new additions to the room include two 55-inch monitors, ceiling mounted speakers, a new computer, and an unobstructed white board.

**International Visiting Scholars**

This year the School of Nursing welcomes 20 Visiting International Scholars—the largest group it has hosted. The SON Visiting International Scholars program gives visitors from around the world the opportunity to experience the innovative educational and research approaches taking place at SON. The international visitors expand multicultural understanding within SON and deepen global research and education connections.

**Student Honors and Awards**

**Undergraduate**

The School of Nursing has maintained its track record of excellence with a 96 percent pass rate for 2011. The School had 190 students test for the first time.

Junior Sarah Kaminer is one of two Eve Carson Scholarship recipients for 2012–2013. The UNC scholarship commemorates and celebrates the life of former student body president Eve Carson, who was murdered in 2008. It provides Kaminer with a stipend for summer enrichment and covers half of her costs of attending UNC during her senior year. Kaminer is from Asheville and plans to use the summer enrichment portion of the scholarship to volunteer in an HIV pediatric clinic in Guatemala, which she visited last year and will return to this summer.

Olga Long (Diane Yorke, adviser), Brittany Napier (Marianne Cockroft, adviser), Virginia Elise Seay (Meg Zomorodi, adviser) and Scott Taylor (Nakia Best, adviser) were awarded undergraduate research awards for their honors projects. These awards come from UNC through a competitive application process that includes SON and campus review.

**Doctoral and Postdoctoral**

Pat Moreland received an American Nurses Foundation grant for her work with young adults with congenital heart disease.

Florence Osita Okoro was awarded a 2011–2012 International Fellowship by the American Association of University Women.
Lixin Song Joins SON Faculty

Dr. Lixin (Lee) Song began her joint position as an assistant professor in the SON and the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in the fall. She received a PhD from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 2009 and then completed postdoctoral training in chronic illness management at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing. Her research crosscuts a range of areas in psycho-oncology, health disparities and cancer care outcomes. Her major lines of work include: 1) stress and coping of cancer patients and family caregivers; 2) communication and interaction between cancer patient, family caregiver, and health care providers; 3) health-related quality of life; and 4) cancer-related health disparities. Dr. Song says that she is committed to decreasing suffering among cancer patients and their family caregivers through education and research.

Faculty Appointments and Awards

Dr. Rumay Alexander was appointed to one of ten Regional Health Equity Councils by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health. These Councils are part of a federal commitment to address health equity and close the health gap for racial, ethnic and underserved communities.

Dr. Debra Barksdale is a member of the 2011 cohort of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellows Program, a highly competitive leadership training program for nurses in executive positions.

Dr. Debra Barksdale and Shielda Rodgers wrote the top-cited article in The Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners for 2010: “Barriers to health care access and health seeking behaviors faced by Black men.”

Dr. Linda Beeber received the Laurel Archer Copp Literary award for the paper “Short-Term In-Home Intervention Reduces Depressive Symptoms in Early Head Start Latina Mothers of Infants and Toddlers” published in Research in Nursing and Health.

Dr. Diane Berry was appointed to the North Carolina Alliance for Health Obesity Prevention Policy Committee. She was also appointed as Chair of the Obesity Society’s Diversity Section.

Tom Bush was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) at the AANP 26th National Conference.

Dr. Barbara Carlson was selected as a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America.

Sara Hubble was selected for the 2012 North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) Leadership Academy.

Beth Lamanna received the 2011 GlaxoSmithKline Child Health Recognition Award for work she did with SON students to assess barriers to blood lead screening in Chatham County. Based upon their results, she and the students proposed new policies that have since been adopted.

Dr. Maggie Miller received a University level “Excellence in Management Award.”

Dr. Sonda Oppewal was appointed to a three-year term on the Education Board of the American Public Health Association.

Dr. Victoria Soltis-Jarrett was elected to the North Carolina Nurses Association Board of Directors and will chair the association’s Commission for Advanced Practice Nursing.

Dr. Mary Tonges was elected to the American Organization of Nurse Executives Board of Directors by the organization’s membership.

Megan Williams is president-elect of the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Nurses Association.

Dr. Marcia Van Ripper was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) at the Academy’s annual meeting last October.

Dr. Meg Zomorodi was selected for the Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy (NFLA), which was developed by Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) in partnership with the Elsevier Foundation to enhance the personal leadership development of new nurse faculty.

Promotions June to December 2011

Diane Berry: associate professor with tenure
Nokia Best: clinical assistant professor
Suja Davis: clinical assistant professor
Lisa Miller: associate dean for administrative services
Betty Nance-Floyd: clinical assistant professor
Victoria Soltis-Jarrett: clinical professor
Meg Zomorodi: clinical associate professor

Retirements

Jane Kaufman: clinical associate professor
Gail Mazocco: clinical associate professor & statewide AHEC liaison
Dr. Beverly Foster, Ms. Renee Hill, and Dr. Marilyn Oermann received a Clinical Site Development grant from Wake AHEC to develop a dedicated education unit (DEU) in partnership with Rex Healthcare. A DEU is a model of clinical education that partners a school of nursing with a health care agency. The unit at Rex Hospital in Raleigh is the first DEU in North Carolina. It serves as a clinical site in the capstone nursing course, with a SON faculty member facilitating learning and ensuring that students achieve course objectives.

Hill offered various educational programs to prepare the nurse clinicians and other unit staff for their role as clinical teachers. She also developed a website that provides educational materials to nursing faculty and clinicians who are interested in this new model of clinical education. SON faculty member Christina Leonard worked closely with the nursing staff as the unit began operation and throughout the fall 2011 semester. In addition, the SON team is developing guidelines for establishing DEUs in health care settings throughout North Carolina and will evaluate project outcomes.

FUNDING AWARDS

DR. ANNA BEEBER received a competitive grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to inform best practices for assisted living. The three-year $350,000 Nurse Faculty Scholar award is given to junior faculty who show outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing. She also received a UNC Junior Faculty Development Award to explore services and staffing in assisted living settings and their relationship to resident outcomes.

DR. DIANE BERRY received $75,000 from the Duke University Hospital System Charitable Grants to develop and implement diabetes group medical visits at the Alliance Medical Ministry in Raleigh, N.C.

DR. CORETTA JENERETTE received a NC TraCS grant to develop the Nurse Subscale of the Sickle Cell Health-Related Stigma Scale and also received funding by the University Research Council for her project “Using Actigraphy to Explore Relationships between Sleep and Pain in Young Adults with Sickle Cell Disease.”

DR. DEBORAH MAYER is a co-investigator for the CDC-funded study “Developing Support and Educational Awareness for Young (<45) Breast Cancer Survivors,” which aims to improve supportive care services for younger women with breast cancer.

DR. MI-KYUNG SONG received $1.7 million in NIH funding for a study to examine the multi-dimensional trajectories of patients with end-stage kidney disease who are at a high risk of experiencing acute life-threatening events and mortality within a year. Dr. Song also received a bioethics supplement grant for her study, “Representational Intervention to Promote End-of-Life Decision-Making Preparation.” The supplemental funding will allow her to describe patients’ perspectives on making their decisions to start dialysis. Additionally, a $50,000 grant from the Greenwall Foundation, the Kornfeld Program in Bioethics and Patient Care, will support her research to examine management of ethical issues in free-standing dialysis facilities.

DR. SUZANNE THOYRE received funding from NINR to conduct a two-year study, “Guiding Mothers to Co-Regulate Oral Feeding with Very Preterm Infants.” The study will teach mothers a feeding intervention that has been delivered by nurses in previous studies.

DR. JIA-RONG WU received a UNC Junior Faculty Development Award to explore the precipitating factors of hospitalization for heart failure exacerbation, including non-adherence to medical recommendations.
In 1956 Carolyn White London graduated as a member of SON’s second class and began her career at Children’s Hospital in Boston. Having a BSN degree distinguished her from her peers, and she has since worked tirelessly to ensure that future graduates would always enjoy the distinction that came with being a Carolina nurse.

Several years ago, Carolyn and her husband Will included the SON in their estate plans by designating funding for an undergraduate scholarship. They recently decided to fund the scholarship and see first-hand how their support could help today’s nursing students. This year, the first scholar supported by this scholarship will graduate from the SON.

“When I heard there would be a brand new innovative School of Nursing at UNC Chapel Hill opening in the fall of 1951, I knew I wanted to be admitted,” Carolyn recounts. “My four years and two summers there were some of the most challenging of my life. I forged friendships with classmates that will last a lifetime, met my husband of 55 years and gained a superb education that opened doors to many opportunities in my life.”

Carolyn’s service to the University and the School has been extraordinary. In 1983, she organized the School of Nursing Foundation, Inc., an independent fiscal entity that manages the investments of the School’s endowments. Along with colleagues, her goal in creating the Foundation was to build an endowment large enough to provide for the School’s future needs to fund student scholarships, professorships and academic programs. She served as the first president of its Board of Directors, and her leadership and service over the past 28 years has helped the School of Nursing Foundation build the endowment it holds today.

“Will and I have had the pleasure of knowing most of the deans of the School of Nursing and are not surprised that our School is consistently ranked one of the best in the country,” she says. “It has been my pleasure to establish the UNC School of Nursing Foundation and to create this undergraduate scholarship in the Foundation so that others can achieve their goals.”

SON DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT RETIRES

Norma Hawthorne, who came to UNC Chapel Hill as the SON’s director of advancement in 2001, has retired after a 30-year career in higher education.

“These last ten years have been some of my most fulfilling and valuable. I have helped make a lasting contribution to nursing education, practice and science by securing funding to support students, faculty and programs,” Hawthorne says. “There is no better way to retire than to know that one has made a huge difference in people’s lives.”

During the Carolina First Campaign Hawthorne and her colleague Anne Webb raised $15.8 million for the SON, and they raised more than $20 million over the last 10 years. The endowment funds have nearly doubled in value, providing for more scholarship support. In her role as executive director of the School of Nursing Foundation, Hawthorne worked with a group of dedicated volunteers who offered important advice and made leadership gifts.

She says that she is grateful to everyone for giving her the opportunity to be associated with the Light on the Hill—The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—and the outstanding School of Nursing.”
DIANE GORDON, '59, GIVES BACK TO SON

Diane Snakenburg Gordon established the Diane Snakenburg '59 Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship Fund in October 2011. Her desire was to give back to a school to which she feels forever indebted.

A Wilmington native, Diane remembers falling in love with Chapel Hill when she was just 12 years old. Without the financial means to attend UNC after high school, she enrolled in the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Charlotte. She graduated with a diploma in nursing and shortly after became an RN. Just a week after graduating, Diane moved to Chapel Hill to fulfill her dream of receiving a BSN from the UNC School of Nursing. Struggling to balance the BSN coursework with her job at North Carolina Memorial Hospital, she was beyond relieved to receive a scholarship her senior year. “I thought I had died and gone to heaven,” Diane says. The scholarship allowed her to stop working and focus on her classes.

After attaining her BSN, Diane had a long career in public health and nursing education. She describes her days at the School of Nursing as some of her happiest. She says that the faculty members were extremely interested in the students and treated each one as an individual. In particular, she remembers her advisor Alice Gifford, who helped her get the scholarship. “She was a jewel of a lady,” Diane says. “I will be forever indebted to her for how helpful and kind she was.”

Diane would like to provide undergraduate nursing students with the same benefits she received while in school. Having struggled to attend school and support herself, she knows firsthand what a scholarship can mean for someone in need. She is proud of the School’s high standards and is truly thankful she can help ensure that these standards are maintained.

“I have been greatly blessed with everything I need—good health, a wonderful family and awesome friends,” she says. “And I truly believe in that old adage, ‘To whom much is given, much is expected!’ ”

BN '07 ALUMNI RAISE MONEY IN MEMORY OF CLASSMATE

Alumni from the BSN class of 2007 gathered this fall to remember their dear friend and fellow classmate Matt Fields, who passed away last August. Matt graduated with honors from the SON before moving to New York City to work in the pediatric intensive care unit (ICU) at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Fellow nursing graduates and other friends from the class of 2007 raised more than $2,000 for the School of Nursing Honors Program in Matt’s memory by selling t-shirts and raffle tickets and holding fundraising events in Chapel Hill and New York. SON’s Honors Program is completely funded by private giving, and the support given in Matt’s memory will enable future undergraduates to undertake research initiatives. Alumni can contribute by contacting Anne Webb at (919) 966-4619 or Anne_Webb@unc.edu.

Written by Maddy Carlson, an editorial intern in the SON Advancement Office
Carolina alumni and friends have generously given to create named professorships that support School of Nursing faculty who strive for continued health care discovery and breakthroughs. Each named professorship creates a legacy, a story about someone who believed in the promises of nursing research, teaching and practice. Those legacies will get retold for generations to come as the professorships create opportunities for the School of Nursing to recruit and retain faculty who have distinguished themselves as being amongst the best the discipline has to offer.

Professorships come with protected time and/or funds for advancing scholarship and professional development. These benefits become an investment in excellent faculty and their promise of creating a better future for patients and their families and for the delivery of health care.

“Given the increasing national nursing faculty shortage and the reality that 69% of our tenure-line faculty will be eligible to retire in the next 10 years and 43% in the next five years, these professorships are very important to assuring the level of excellence for which Carolina Nursing stands,” says Kristen M. Swanson, Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor.

ALUMNA RETURNS TO UNC
Yolande E. Beerstecher created the Beerstecher-Blackwell Distinguished Professorship in memory of her daughter Carol Anne Beerstecher-Blackwell, a pediatric nurse who was also very interested in the care of the dying. The professorship supports interdisciplinary work aimed at the management of life-threatening illness, end-of-life care or palliative care in adults or children. It helped us convince Sheila Santacroce, the current Beerstecher-Blackwell Distinguished Scholar, to return to her alma mater.

Dr. Santacroce says that she feels a responsibility to honor the intention of the professorship. This led her to take a leadership role in the process of renewing the NIH chronic illness training grant that supports SON doctoral students. “As an alumna of the SON’s doctoral program and knowing how important this grant is to the overall academic and research mission of this School, I wanted to participate,” she says. The protected time meant that she had more time to contribute to this endeavor than most associate professors.

Dr. Santacroce studies adolescents and young adults who survived childhood cancer. She seeks to understand whether they have an increased risk of future cardiovascular disease because of chronic psychological stress and the uncertainty they feel about their future. She used the professorship’s discretionary fund to conduct a pilot study that adds a new component to her research. “I wanted to look at more than their psychological health by adding a biological component that would indicate the physical health of the children,” she says. “Federal and foundation funding is so competitive that you cannot submit grant proposals without some preliminary work, which requires time and money.”
CAMPUS-WIDE RECOGNITION

Established through an endowment in 1917 by Mary Lily Kenan Flagler Bingham, Kenan professorships support outstanding faculty members across the campus. In 1996, Dr. Merle Mishel was appointed a Kenan Professor in recognition of her work in uncertainty management. She developed the Theory of Uncertainty in Illness, which refers to the patient’s ability to understand the illness situation, to provide meaning to the situation and to participate productively with their provider in a plan of care. The scales she developed to help investigators measure uncertainly in illness are used in 30 countries and have been translated into many languages.

More than a decade after receiving the professorship, Dr. Mishel says that the Kenan Professorship is so woven into her professional life that it is sometimes hard to separate out the direct benefits. She has directed the NIH chronic illness training grant since 1996 and says that the Kenan Professorship likely helped her gain the letters of support from across campus needed to successfully renew the grant. “A Kenan professorship is acknowledged as an achievement across the whole university,” she says.

Margarete Sandelowski also holds a University professorship; she is the Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor in the School of Nursing. Drs. Mishel and Sandelowski competed with professors from across UNC Chapel Hill for these prestigious professorships. In addition to the stature that comes with all distinguished professorships, having Kenan and Boshamer Professors in the School of Nursing serves as an important recognition for nursing within a top-tier research institution.

Cary Carlisle Boshamer established the Boshamer Distinguished Professorships to support UNC professors who achieved reputations of national and international success. Dr. Sandelowski’s SON colleagues nominated her to compete for the professorship. “It was an honor to be acknowledged in this way,” she says. “The buyout of time left me more time to work on my scholarship, and the accompanying stipend allowed me to purchase professional materials and services.”

Her research is focused on developing methods to synthesize the findings from the many reports of qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods studies published each year in targeted domains of research. Synthesizing research findings establishes an evidence base for practice and identifies knowledge gaps and areas for future inquiry. Although it is challenging to pull together findings from methodologically diverse studies, without the effort, research findings will remain isolated and will not contribute to practice.

COMBINING RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION

The Dr. Frances Hill Fox Distinguished Professorship was established by Dr. Frances Hill Fox, a physician who served the School of Nursing for 38 years. She was a member of Elizabeth Scott Carrington’s Advisory Board, which established the School in 1950, and was a charter director of the School of Nursing Foundation. This professorship made Carolina attractive to Dr. Kathleen Knafl. “I liked the combination of being in a dual administrative and faculty role,” says Dr. Knafl, Associate Dean for Research and Frances Hill Fox Distinguished Professor. “It gave me the opportunity to be involved in a premier research office and to have a distinguished professorship that provided me with time to further develop my research and that included mentoring as an expectation.”

Dr. Knafl hired a research assistant with the funds that are part of the

“The resources that came with the professorship were a significant factor in making it possible to be in an administrative position and stay productive as an investigator.”
professorship. “The resources that came with the professorship were a significant factor in making it possible to be in an administrative position and stay productive as an investigator,” she says. Together with colleagues, Dr. Knafl has developed the family management style framework, a conceptual framework for understanding how families incorporate a child’s chronic condition into their everyday family life. She and Janet Deatrick, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, were invited to serve as guest editors of the February 2012 issue of the Journal of Family Nursing, which is focused on applications of the family management style framework to new populations in new cultural contexts.

Recently, Drs. Knafl and Sandelowski received a $1.6 million dollar NIH grant for a study that will make use of Dr. Knafl’s expertise in children and the family as well as the methods for synthesizing research that Dr. Sandelowski and her research team refined. “The discretionary funds that Dr. Sandelowski and I had from our professorships jointly supported the preliminary work that in the end generated the NIH grant,” Dr. Knafl says. Read more about the grant on page 4.

COMMITTED TO HEALTHY AGING

When Mary Happel Palmer was recruited for the SON’s Helen Watkins and Thomas Leonard Umphlet Distinguished Professor in Aging, she was intrigued by the remarkable story of Helen and Tom Umphlet. “They fell in love and married when they were each in their 70s, not knowing that they would have only 18 months together before he would die of cancer,” she says. Mrs. Umphlet established the endowed professorship to honor her husband because he so valued the nurses who had worked with him. He was affectionately known as “Dr. Tom” during his 40-year career in internal medicine.

Dr. Palmer stays in touch with Mrs. Umphlet and has shared the couple’s story of love and generosity across the United States and as far away as Australia. “The Umphlet Professorship helps support my involvement in multiple interdisciplinary projects and efforts to increase the SON’s visibility,” Dr. Palmer says. She advocates for interdisciplinary work within geriatrics and aging and educates many on preparing for the aging population. For example, Dr. Palmer is currently interim co-director of the UNC Institute on Aging with Dr. Dilworth-Anderson from the School of Public Health. She also co-directed the Rand-Hartford Interdisciplinary Aging Research Center with faculty from the UNC Schools of Social Work and Medicine. Two SON faculty members were among the mentees who received interdisciplinary research training through the center. Dr. Palmer has also mentored a medical student participating in the School of Medicine’s Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program, which is administered by the National Institute on Aging and the American Federation for Aging Research.

“I am proud to be the steward of the Umphlet endowment here at UNC Chapel Hill,” says Dr. Palmer. “It has provided me the opportunity to work with colleagues and students towards making a real difference in the lives of older adults.”

ADVANCING HEALTH CARE

Dr. Barbara Mark was recruited to UNC Chapel Hill to become the Sarah Frances Russell Distinguished Professor in Nursing Systems. This professorship was established in 1996 through a gift from Carl Vernon Russell in honor of his wife, Sarah Frances Russell, a 1959 alumna of SON’s master’s degree program.

Dr. Mark says that the most important aspect of the professorship is the dedicated time it includes. When she arrived at UNC in 2001 she used that time to reestablish a focus on nursing health services research in the doctoral program. This area of research
applies the unique perspective of nursing to questions involving health care, including its quality, effectiveness, and cost as well as access to care, workforce issues, and dissemination and translation of research into practice. She went on to use the protected time to achieve funding for the NIH institutional training grant “Research Training: Health Care Quality and Patient Outcomes.”

This interdisciplinary grant includes nurses, physicians, social workers and pharmacists. Dr. Mark says that the doctoral and postdoctoral fellows who were supported with this grant have been very successful in gaining faculty positions and beginning their own funded programs of research. Dr. Mark also uses the protected time to mentor faculty, postdoctoral fellows and international visiting scholars. “Each of us operationalizes our professorship time a little differently,” she says. “I try to bring my strengths to the unique opportunities at UNC to enhance research in ways that probably wouldn’t be possible without the professorship.”

Dr. Linda Beeber  
Frances Hill Fox Term Distinguished Professor

Dr. Beeber has taught and practiced psychiatric nursing for over 35 years and was instrumental in beginning the School’s psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program. Her research centers on depression in various patient populations. Most recently, she developed and tested an intervention that provides home-based counseling to low-income Latina mothers who have young children and who are experiencing depression.

Dr. Linda Cronenwett  
Beerstecher-Blackwell Term Distinguished Professor

Dr. Cronenwett, SON dean from 1999 to 2009, is the co-director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Executive Nurse Fellows program and the principal investigator of the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) national initiative, now in its fourth phase of funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She chairs the North Carolina Quality Center Board of Trustees and serves on the boards of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation.

Dr. Sandra Funk  
Frances Hill Fox Term Distinguished Professor

Dr. Funk has a distinguished career in nursing science and a sustained legacy of mentorship to faculty and doctoral students. She led the development of the School of Nursing Research Support Center and has served on multiple NIH study sections. She is an expert in research methods and measurement, has co-edited multiple books and has collaborated on essential research on chronic illness management. She is also co-developer of the BARRiERS to Research Utilization scale.

Dr. Marilyn Oermann  
Frances Hill Fox Term Distinguished Professor

Dr. Oermann has a long and sustained career of mentorship to faculty and nurse educators around the world and a prolific program of innovative scholarship pertaining to nursing education. She has written 13 books, many chapters and more than 130 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Oermann has led nursing education through her national contributions as a leader in the National League for Nursing.

Dr. Mi-Kyung Song  
Beerstecher-Blackwell Term Distinguished Scholar

Dr. Song’s research pertains to end-of-life decision making and palliative care for patients with chronic illness and their caregivers. At this early point in her career, she has already had remarkable success with obtaining funding and has published multiple articles. Her research provides patients, their families, and critical care providers with guidelines that enhance the likelihood that crucial conversations will occur in a timely fashion and with honesty and sensitivity.

TERM DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS AND SCHOLARS

Five SON faculty members are distinguished term professors or scholars, appointments offered based on exceptional contribution to nursing scholarship, practice and engagement. Term professorships come with many of the same resources as endowed professorships but are limited to a shorter renewable term, typically three years. Those with the designation of “scholar” are associate professors.
2011 ALUMNI AWARDS AND DONOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION

The UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing held its Alumni Awards and Donor Recognition Reception on November 30. See page 3 to read more about the Alumni Award winners. Photos by Paul M. Braly

Landon, ’56, and Tom Fox helped underwrite costs for this year’s alumni award and donor recognition event. That evening they also met Caroline Johnson, the first Fox scholar.

2011 Jimmie Butts Scholar Sherece Dyer with Carl and Jimmie Butts. Virginia and John Sall established the scholarship to honor Jimmie as the nurse practitioner who began the innovative SAS Institute employee health care clinic.

Coleman and Carol Ross, a member of the SON Foundation Board, celebrate with Eunice Morde Doty Scholarship recipient Hamda Awan (left) and Carrington Graduate Scholar Danielle Lingle (right), who received the scholarship as an undergraduate. Ross established the endowment fund to honor her mother Eunice, who was an RN.

BSN student Audrey Boyles (left) is the first recipient of the Melinda Kellner Brock Public Health Nursing Scholarship. She met donor Eunice Brock (right) who created the scholarship to honor the memory of her daughter. Both Audrey and Eunice gave remarks as part of the evening’s program.
SON Alumni Start New Homecoming Tradition

SON alumni gathered beneath the Bell Tower for some Tar Heel fun on Saturday Oct. 29, at our first annual Homecoming tailgate.

The combination of a new partnership with the General Alumni Association, great food, fun and time to mingle with fellow nursing alumni in a prime location by the stadium resulted in a spectacular game day. Watching the Old Well Walk and marching band added to the spirit of the day, as did climbing the Bell Tower or visiting with Rameses. A victory over Wake Forest capped off a great Homecoming celebration.

Donna Laney enters her second year as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She is a nurse informaticist who specializes in computers for the operating room and currently works for McKesson in Charlotte, N.C. Laney believes strongly in advocating for nursing within the university and actively represents our School on the General Alumni Association Board of Directors.

This year she wants the SON Alumni Association to “keep reaching out to our alums so that they are up-to-date on life at the School.” She emphasizes involvement and participation. “Our School needs our support in this challenging financial environment. Continuing to give back at any level is vitally important.” A key initiative during her presidency is strengthening the relationship between the SON Alumni Association and the SON Foundation.

Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

The SON Alumni Association Board of Directors met on October 28th in Chapel Hill as part of an overall weekend of alumni activity. Led by President Donna Laney, ’80, the board creates opportunities for regional alumni networking and contributes to student learning through sharing experiences in the classroom. Board members undertook a thorough bylaws revision this year. Comprehensive annual reports were presented by the public relations, special events, long range planning, scholarships, and awards working committees. Future plans include gathering feedback from alumni to enhance future programming and continuing the new Homecoming events.

The 2011–2012 Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Class Notes

2001 Amanda Womble Greer, BSN ’01, and David Greer gave birth to their first child, a boy named Polk Truan Greer, on April 25, 2011 in Richmond, Virginia. David and Amanda helped start the Katherine Wilson Scholarship Fund in 2005. Amanda was Katherine’s roommate.

1993, 2001 Tonya Rutherford-Hemming, BSN ’93, MSN ’01, graduated from Northern Illinois University with a doctoral degree in education (EdD) in December 2011. Dr. Rutherford-Hemming’s dissertation was titled “Learning in simulated environments: impact on learning transfer and clinical skill acquisition in nurse practitioner students.”

1984, 1987 Ellen Davis Jones, BSN ’84, and Gale Adcock, MSN ’87, were inducted as fellows of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. The FAANP program recognizes nurse practitioner leaders who make outstanding contributions to clinical practice, research, education or policy. Adcock directs the Health Care Center at SAS, and Jones is an associate professor at the UNC Greensboro School of Nursing.

In Memoriam:

Dr. Shirley C. Mason, BSN ’57, graduated as a member of SON’s third cohort in 1957 and taught public health/community health nursing at SON for many years. She was devoted to her clinical site in Chatham County and taught many classes for the AHEC continuing education programs.

Sara Buie Coffey, BSN ’57
Patricia Brown Crist, BSN ’61
Blonnie Lou Carlisle, BSN ’66
Ruth Wood Jack, BSN ’68
Carol Elizabeth Powell, BSN ’75, MSN ’99
Christine Susanne Dale, BSN ’98

Alumni Enrich the Classroom

The School of Nursing Alumni Association invites Carolina nursing grads to come “home” and share their expertise with current learners. During the fall semester two alumni panels inspired and challenged the undergraduate leadership course, which was facilitated by Drs. Meg Zomorodi and Shielda Rodgers.

“Inspiring, educational, motivating, informative, and enlightening” are just a few of the words undergraduate students used to describe Michelle Brooks, BSN ’83, Ashley Leak, PhD ’11, Wendell John, MSN ’03, and Susan O’Dell, BSN ’77, MSN ’95 (pictured). They shared experiences and provided valuable advice on leadership that the students can use as they transition into practice.

Students discuss common clinical scenarios with SON alumna and Foundation Board Director Jean Hix McDonald (left), BSN ’83, and her husband Dr. Cary McDonald (middle), a physician and UNC alum. This session provided real world examples of interdisciplinary communication and conflict.
Connect with the School of Nursing

Are you a graduate of the SON’s master’s program in the area of Health Care Systems? We'd love to connect with you if your degree was focused in administration, clinical nurse leadership, education, informatics, or outcomes and quality or if you have professional or academic interests in any of those areas.

Please join our LinkedIn group at linkd.in/xgVsJY to see what your SON colleagues are up to!

There are many ways to get involved with the School of Nursing and with your fellow alumni. The SON Alumni Association Board of Directors would like to learn more about the great work our alumni are doing and assess interest in its many programs. Please take a moment to fill out this quick online survey: surveymonkey.com/s/SONAlumni. As opportunities arise, we’ll contact you with more information.