Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is truly an honor to serve as Interim Dean during this time when we have so many exciting initiatives, so many wonderful ideas, and so much energy to make them a reality. The future of our School is immensely promising.

Yet I feel I must acknowledge that the last few months have been challenging for our community. Our School suffered two very sad losses with the deaths of applications analyst Brett Coleman and BSN student Olutoyosi Fatolu. They enriched our community with their kindness and compassion, and we will miss them both very much. Additionally, our university has had to come to terms with troubling aspects of our history in the wake of the report released by former federal prosecutor Kenneth Wainstein. The findings are very serious and Chancellor Folt has instituted numerous reforms to prevent misconduct of this magnitude from happening again. The SON proudly stands with her in the commitment to take responsibility for the past and move the university forward—persevering over challenges.

In spite of these difficult events, our School of Nursing has continued on a trajectory of nationally recognized excellence. We are on an exciting journey to “write our next chapter,” forging a path that will position us to shape and launch innovations in research, education, and practice. For example, we are reaching across disciplines to form unique collaborations and create novel educational programs that will equip our students and scholars to significantly influence the quality of health care.

As you read this issue, you will find many examples of how our School is pushing traditional boundaries. You will see how together with the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation, we compressed the traditional length of a PhD program and combined it with the SON’s accelerated BSN program so that outstanding undergraduate scholars can attain their BSN and PhD in as little as five years. We are honored to have been selected as one three nursing schools in the nation to collaborate on this trailblazing initiative. You will read how we are leading the way towards an interprofessional practice future through a unique course for undergraduates and the efforts of our very first Josiah F. Macy Scholar, Dr. Meg Zomorodi, PhD, CNL, RN. You will learn how our researchers are engaging numerous disciplines to form unique collaborations to tackle complex questions targeting improved health care for all.

Yes, we have encountered challenges this year. However, our resilient community is emerging—like it always does—stronger and more dedicated to moving towards a brighter future together—our next chapter. We look forward to working with you to make this happen!

Very Sincerely,

DONNA S. HAVENS
Interim Dean and Professor
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In Memoriam

On the Cover: The SON is one of three schools in the country participating in the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation. Learn more about the program and our current scholars on p. 8.
The SON received a three-year, $1.5 million award from the Health Resources and Services Administration—Division of Nursing to provide interprofessional collaborative practice training in the emergency departments of four rural North Carolina hospitals.

In the fast-paced environment of an emergency department, the opportunity for error is high. Decisions are made rapidly, and the quality of care a patient receives depends on how well emergency care providers function as a team.

“In emergency departments, it is essential that care is highly organized,” said Interim Dean Donna Havens, PhD, RN. Yet in a recent study of communication between nurses and other health professions, Dr. Havens and her colleagues found a significant number of nurses in emergency rooms reported less communication and collaboration between them and other health professionals or departments. “If emergency personnel don’t feel they are collaborating or communicating well, that raises some red flags.”

Dr. Havens and her team plan to use the funding to implement interprofessional collaborative practice. They’ll be working with teams of nurses, physicians and other providers from emergency departments in four NC partner hospitals, including Chatham Hospital, Pardee Hospital, Southeastern Regional Medical Center, and Transylvania Hospital. Many strategies will be used, including bringing the teams together a few times a year to participate in discussions, role-playing exercises, simulations, and other evidence-based activities designed to give them a sense of how they can learn from each other and their patients.

“Often, if providers haven’t examined others’ roles together, they don’t know what people in other roles are capable of contributing,” said Dr. Havens. “They don’t know what’s complementary, what’s duplicative, or where challenges might arise. We plan to help them understand how their roles relate to each other and how they can fit together to meet their shared goal of providing excellent care.”

According to Dr. Havens, emergency departments in rural areas are often overcrowded because many people come in who have nowhere else to go for care. The high demand for services increases stress on staff, making it especially critical to have a team of emergency care providers who work well together. The four partner hospitals Havens and her team will be working with serve over 330,000 rural residents, and more than two-thirds live either in a health-provider shortage area or a medically underserved area of North Carolina.

“Previous projects have shown that interprofessional collaborative practice leads to better coordinated care, which results in better health for people served by our partner hospitals,” said Havens. Her team will collect data over three years to determine if their most recent initiative is associated with a better patient experience and improved communication between providers. “Our hope is by bringing these teams together and enabling them to build their capacity as teams, they will become self-organizing groups that flourish on their own as time passes.”

Collaborators from the SON include Drs. Rumay Alexander, EdD, RN, FAAN, Carol Durham, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, Jennifer Leeman, DrPH, MDIV, Gwen Sherwood, PhD, RN, FAAN, Debbie Travers, PhD, RN, FAEN, Hugh Waters, and Meg Zomorodi, PhD, CNL, RN. Ms. Goia Palmieri will coordinate the project.
For five years, applicants to graduate programs at the SON will not be required to submit GRE scores. Faculty leaders from the PhD, DNP, and MSN programs collaborated to petition the Graduate School to have the GRE requirement waived for a limited time. During that time, data collection and analysis will examine the impact on admission and progression of applicants to the School’s graduate programs.

“The GRE has never been the primary component of our application process; we consider many factors in student admission. However, we have not found clear evidence that links the GRE to success in graduate programs in nursing, and we know it is sometimes perceived as an admissions barrier,” said Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Gwen Sherwood, PhD, RN, FAAN. “In line with our goal to make high-quality graduate nursing education available to as many qualified applicants as possible, we felt it was prudent and necessary to request a five-year moratorium.”

Dr. Toles explained that researchers currently don’t know how many of these rehospitalizations and emergency room visits are preventable. Because the Affordable Care Act penalizes hospitals for readmitting Medicare patients, there has been more focus on improving patients’ transition from the hospital to their home. Toles hopes this study will convince decision makers to pay attention to transitions from nursing facilities as well.

“The role of nursing homes in communities has changed,” he said. “These facilities are increasingly dedicated to transitioning older adults from the hospital back to their own homes. Short-term use of nursing facilities has grown tremendously over the past ten years and we have to examine interventions that will improve that transition.”

GRE Requirement for Graduate Admission Waived for Five Years

Nursing homes are widely used by Medicare beneficiaries who require rehabilitation after hospital stays. But according to a recent study led by assistant professor Mark Toles, a high percentage of Medicare patients who are discharged from nursing homes will return to the hospital or the emergency room within 30 days.

“Nearly two million older adults use this benefit every year,” said Dr. Toles, PhD, RN. “Before this study, we didn’t recognize the large number of older adults who require additional acute care after they’re discharged from a nursing home.”

The study, published in the January 2014 issue of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, included more than 50,000 Medicare beneficiaries who were treated at skilled nursing facilities in North and South Carolina. Analyses conducted in collaboration with the Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence and investigators at Duke University revealed that approximately 22 percent of beneficiaries required emergency care within 30 days of discharge and 37.5 percent required acute care within 90 days.

Dr. Toles and his colleagues also examined whether factors such as race and diagnosis increased the likelihood that older adults discharged from a nursing facility would return to the hospital. They found that men and African Americans were more likely to need additional acute care along with older adults with cancer or respiratory diseases. Other factors associated with a higher need for acute care included a high number of previous hospitalizations, comorbid conditions, and receiving care from a for-profit facility.

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MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES RETURN TO EMERGENCY ROOMS AFTER NURSING HOME DISCHARGE

Dr. Mark Toles
SON Hosts Inaugural White Coat Ceremony

At the beginning of the Fall semester, 146 BSN students marked the beginning of their nursing education in a White Coat Ceremony at Memorial Hall.

During the ceremony, students heard inspiring remarks from Thelma M. Ingles Professor of Nursing Marilyn H. Oermann, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN. Following Dr. Oermann’s remarks, each student crossed the stage to receive a white coat from six “cloakers”.

The cloakers included Julianne Page, MSN, RN, Eric Hodges, PhD, RN, and Shielda Rodgers, PhD, RN, who represented the SON faculty, along with UNC Hospitals Director of Nursing Practice William Bevill, MSN, RN, SON Alumni Association President Roulhac Johnson, BSN ’00, and President of the SON Foundation Margaret Raynor, MEd, BSN ’67. After receiving their coats, the students and nurses in the audience were invited to recite a pledge dedicating themselves to the delivery of compassionate care.

The SON is one of 100 nursing schools selected to receive funding from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to hold a White Coat Ceremony. By supporting ceremonies at nursing schools, the foundation is hoping to symbolically demonstrate the value of all members of the health care team.

Two Doctoral Students Named Jonas Scholars

Kayoll V. Galbraith and Lauren Hamilton have been selected as 2014 Jonas Scholars. The Barbara and Donald Jonas Family Fund started the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence in 2006. They created scholarships to support doctoral nursing students and promising nursing faculty who have the potential to become leaders in their field.

As a Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar, Ms. Galbraith will complete a leadership project under the guidance of associate professor Coretta Jenerette, PhD, RN. She is planning to form a peer-to-peer advising program for first-year PhD and DNP students.

With the support of the Jonas Veterans Healthcare program, Ms. Hamilton, RN, is pursuing her DNP so she can devote her advanced-practice nursing career to the challenge of improving mental health care services for veterans. With her advisor, professor Linda Beeber, PhD, RN, CS, FAAN, Ms. Hamilton hopes to be a part of a new generation of providers who will deliver more accessible and affordable quality care to this population.

Outstanding Staff of the Year 2014

Six staff members received Staff Merit Awards in 2014 for superior performance at the SON. Graduate admissions counselor Jennifer Moore and information and instructional technologies supervisor Karen Echols were honored for their extraordinary Customer Service. Undergraduate admission specialist Carlee Merritt and associate director of enrolled student services Deannie Holt received Effectiveness Awards. Business and operations manager Sue Snyder and research specialist Megan Goodwin earned the Extra Mile award for their dedicated service.

All six Merit Award winners were eligible for the Outstanding Staff of the Year Award. After a vote by faculty and staff, Karen Echols was named Outstanding Staff of the Year. She was awarded a check, a plaque, and two extra vacation days.

Above, left: Mr. William Bevel cloaks a student in the Class of 2016.

Above, center: Kayoll V Galbraith (left) and Lauren Hamilton (right).

Above, right: Karen Nichols (middle) celebrates her award with the Staff Merit Award committee (from right to left), Adrian Gerstel, Sam Deal, Grace Chen, Eric Hodges. Not pictured: Brett Coleman.
THE SON HONORED FOR LONG-RUNNING CHAPTER OF AAMN

The UNC-Chapel Hill chapter of the American Assembly of Men in Nursing (AAMN) received an award honoring their twenty-fifth anniversary. The chapter is one of the longest-running chapters in the AAMN.

The SON’s AAMN chapter is dedicated to increasing diversity in nursing. The group offers opportunities for men and women at the SON to come together and discuss challenges that men encounter in nursing, organizes service projects, and helps to connect men in nursing school with men who are pursuing nursing careers at UNC Health Care and other health care organizations.

“Our AAMN chapter has made a difference,” said former chapter president and associate professor emeritus Edward Halloran, PhD, RN, FAAN. “I hope it will continue to inspire men for years to come.”
Diane Berry was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She also received a Global Partnership Award from UNC Global for a collaboration with faculty from the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas School of Nursing in Tampico, Mexico.

Ashley Leak Bryant presented her research at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing Emerging Scholars forum. This invitation-only event is designed to bring together the next generation of leading nurse scientists.

Tom Bush was awarded scholarships by the North Carolina Nurses Association and the American Nurses Foundation.

Jamie Crandell was invited to collaborate on an NIH-funded study based in the School of Journalism. As part of a team led by primary investigator Joan Cates, Dr. Crandell will help investigate whether electronic communication can help increase the rate of preteen vaccination for human papillomavirus.

Jean Davison was selected to participate in the North Carolina Nurses Association’s 2015 Leadership Academy.

Tamryn Fowler was accepted into the 2015 National League for Nursing LEAD program, a year-long leadership program for nurse educators.

Cheryl Giscombé was selected to be a Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholar. She was also the co-recipient of a pilot grant from the Center for Health Equities research with Dr. Sharon Elliott-Bynum.

Chris Harlan published her first book, **Global Health Nursing: Narratives From the Field**, through Springer Publishing. The book features stories told by nurses about their experience in global health. (See p. 20 for full story.)

Donna Havens is one of 25 alumni over the past 125 years from the University of Maryland School of Nursing who will receive a Visionary Pioneer Award at an award ceremony in April 2015.

Coretta Jenrette’s proposal to test the effectiveness of a web-based intervention for adolescents with sickle cell disease was funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research.

Shawn Kneipp was awarded two federal grants—one from the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), and another from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Todd Schwartz is a co-investigator on the NIMHD study (see p. 18 for more on this project).

Rhonda Lanning received a Uelschi Course development grant funded by APPLES and the Carolina Center for Public Service to continue developing a doula course for undergraduate students.

Jennifer Leeman and her colleagues at the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (HPDP) received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention research to continue their innovative public health research. Dr. Leeman launched a new website, Research4NC, through HPDP that is designed to give clinicians easy access to UNC research.

Sonda Oppewal earned her APHN-BC certification through the ANCC credentialing center.

Mary Palmer received a Faculty Scholars Award from the Carolina Women’s Center.

Gwen Sherwood was inducted as a Fellow in the National League for Nursing Academy of Nurse Educators.

Theresa Raphael-Grimm published her first book, **The Art of Communication in Nursing and Health Care: An Interdisciplinary Approach**. The book is available from Springer Publications.

Lixin Song received a 2014-15 Cancer Prevention Control Intervention Research Pilot Proposal Grant Award to develop a web-based symptom management tool.

Jessica Zegré-Hemsey was invited to join the Critical Interprofessional Cardiovascular Committee at UNC Health Care. She also received a Cardiovascular and Stroke Early Career Research Travel stipend to present at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions.

Meg Zomorodi was selected to be UNC-Chapel Hill’s very first Macy Scholar. (See p. 17 to learn about her plans to create an innovative interprofessional certificate program with the Foundation’s support.) She also received an NC AHEC Clinical Site Development Grant.
DEBORAH MAYER NAMED UNC LINEBERGER DIRECTOR OF CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

Professor Deborah K. Mayer is now the UNC Lineberger Director of Cancer Survivorship. In her new position, Dr. Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN, is leading efforts to enhance clinical and research initiatives for cancer survivors for the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“As a leader in cancer survivorship and oncology nursing, Dr. Mayer is uniquely positioned to bring our cancer survivorship efforts together,” said Shelton Earp, MD, Lineberger Professor and Director of UNC Cancer Care. “Dr. Mayer brings the clinician’s perspective, a distinguished academic record, and experience in setting the national agenda for the nation’s almost 14 million cancer survivors.”

Dr. Mayer is collaborating with Dr. Donald Rosenstein, who leads the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Support Program (CCSP), to optimize plans for patient care, research, and training efforts. She has also been charged with ensuring UNC Health Care meets the new standards for cancer survivorship care established by the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Mayer’s new duties will allow her to develop programs for cancer survivors treated across North Carolina and the nation. “This position is a natural extension of my research, teaching, and clinical work aimed at improving cancer care for survivors. It will allow me to extend the efforts already underway through the Comprehensive Cancer Support Program. We have a critical mass of clinicians and researchers interested in the impact cancer and its treatment has on the long-term health of survivors.”

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS AS OF JANUARY 2015

JOSEPHINE ASAFO-ADJEI: Research Assistant Professor
DEBRA BARKSDALE: Professor
RENEE EDKINS: Clinical Instructor
SHANNON FORD: Clinical Instructor
ELIZABETH GRIFFIN: Clinical Instructor
JILL HILL: Clinical Assistant Professor
CHERYL JONES: Professor
SAIF KHAIRAT: Assistant Professor
NANCY HO: Clinical Instructor
REBECCA KITZMILLER: Assistant Professor
ELIZABETH ROCHIN: Clinical Instructor
DEBBIE TRAVERS: Associate Professor
VIRGINIA TYSINGER: Adjunct Assistant Professor
JULIE JACOBSON VANN: Adjunct Assistant Professor
JULEE WALDROP: Clinical Associate Professor
HUGH WATERS: Associate Professor

RETIREMENTS

BEVERLY JOHNSON: Business Services Coordinator
PAM SILER: Accountant
Nursing innovation, leadership, and research can play a key role in making health care systems more effective, patient-centered, accessible, equitable, and affordable. The Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation is a new approach to PhD-level education to produce nurses with the knowledge and vision to influence health care early in their careers. UNC is one of only three schools in the nation to receive funding from the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation to implement this innovative program. The other programs are at the Universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania.
The Hillman Scholars Program removes many of the barriers present in nursing education today by integrating BSN education with PhD-level study in nursing science. Hillman Scholars learn to be attuned to problems in the health care system and are prepared with the tools, techniques, and strategies to address these concerns in innovative ways. Undergraduate nursing students accepted into the UNC Hillman Scholars Program take an academic path that leads to a PhD in Nursing in three to four years after they complete BSN requirements.

“Many nurses are drawn to direct care and think that the only way they can make a difference is by taking care of patients one by one,” said Hillman National Program Director Linda Aiken, PhD, RN, FAAN, FCRN. “We are focused on the power of nurses to reach hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of patients through research and innovation that influence practice and policy.”

A NEW PIPELINE TO NURSING SCIENCE

At Carolina, the Hillman Scholars Program is directed by professor Cheryl Jones, RN, PhD, FAAN, who also chairs the School’s Division of Health Care Environments. Dr. Jones is a recognized leader in nursing and health services research, and she has devoted her career to studying the nursing workforce and its influence on the organization, delivery, quality, and financing of nursing and health care.

“The Hillman Scholars program offers a new pipeline for developing doctorally prepared nurse scientists,” explained Dr. Jones. “It means that instead of thinking about nursing education as advancing from the BSN to MSN to PhD, or even from the BSN to PhD, the Hillman Scholars Program offers qualified candidates opportunities to develop research, leadership, and professional skills sooner in their careers. We hope that prospective scholars will see a career as a nurse scientist as a reason to come into nursing.”

The School of Nursing currently has seven Hillman Scholars in the program. It is attracting top students to the School, such as Esita Patel, who said that the Hillman Scholars Program is providing a way to merge her passion for inquiry with her passion for caring for people.

“I foresee it opening many doors in my professional life,” Ms. Patel said. “Whether it be working in healthcare policy to influence changes in our healthcare systems, becoming a professor to inspire students during their educational journeys, or leading research projects that change practice, I know a PhD will be an invaluable asset to move me forward in my career.”

Leah Morgan decided to join the program after several faculty members told her that it would be a great opportunity for her. “They saw something in me that I did not see in myself, and I am forever grateful,” she said. “I believe this program will give me all the tools I need to be a successful nurse researcher, professor, and ultimately a leader in the field.”

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Focused mentoring is one foundational element of the Hillman Scholars Program. From the time they enter the Hillman Scholars Program as undergraduates, each scholar becomes embedded in the research of a mentor. This structure exposes the scholars to research opportunities and gives them skills to help shape their future doctoral research.

Laura Britton said that her mentor, Dr. Beth Black, has given her great insight about how to be rigorous, creative, open-minded, ethical, confident, resilient, and successful.

“My professors and advisors have confidence in me, and it makes me feel like I can be incredibly ambitious,” Ms. Britton said. She adds that she wanted to be a Hillman Scholar to learn how to conduct research that addresses patients’ greatest needs, develop interventions that are realistic in practice, and advance the ethics of patient-centered care.

Highly interactive seminars help the scholars to integrate and reflect on nursing practice while also exposing them to scientific discovery. During these seminars, the scholars learn from today’s innovators, including Hillman Scholar mentors, campus entrepreneurs, visiting scholars, colleagues from the Research Triangle, and other research consultants. Scholar Sallie Allgood is constantly amazed by the opportunities the scholars have, even as undergrads, to network with leaders in the health care arena through the Hillman Seminar. “If you can dream it, you can do it in the Hillman Scholars Program,” she said.

Although many undergraduate nursing students carry out an honors project, the Hillman scholars use the honors project to position themselves...
to move into doctoral study. Bill Smith has found it rewarding to work with his mentors to refine the focus of his research and establish the foundation of his future program of research. “My mentors, Dr. Shawn Kneipp and Dr. Diane Berry, have been invaluable in introducing me to new approaches to research, in pushing me to hone my research, and in my development as a future nurse researcher,” he said.

**THE SCIENCE OF PATIENT CARE**

As the Hillman Scholars Program enters its third year at Carolina, two scholars have finished their BSN degrees, successfully completed the NCLEX RN licensure exam, and begun the doctoral portion of the program. They are now in a two-semester clinical immersion experience, known as the Clinical Scholars Courses, which pairs them each with a preceptor to help them gain skills needed by a new nurse as an “advanced beginner,” along with the broader skills necessary to understand care delivery, the flow of nurses’ work, the systems in which nurses practice, and the interactions and relationships that nurses develop when delivering care to patients and families. This unique two-course series is possible thanks to a partnership between the Hillman Scholars Program and UNC Hospitals, which is employing the scholars during this clinical experience.

“While they get clinical experience, we are also asking them to do things such as talk to staff to identify major obstacles nurses encounter when delivering care, observe patient interactions with care providers to see what is working and what could be improved,” Dr. Jones explained. “Then they reflect on how they might improve patient care based on their observations. The idea is to get them to think about blending care delivery, nursing practice, and research.”

**CONNECTION TO A BIGGER WORLD**

The Hillman Foundation brings together the faculty and scholars from all three Hillman Scholars Program schools for a joint Hillman Scholars Annual Meeting. During this meeting, the students connect with other scholars and faculty and also provide input that helps shape the program.

“Through the Hillman Foundation, we are able to open the scholars to an even bigger world,” Dr. Jones said. For example, during the 2014 annual meeting, the Hillman Foundation invited a group of researchers from MIT to spend the day with scholars to examine how to bring creativity and innovation to health care. The MIT researchers are funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for a project, MakerNURSE (makernurse.org), which is studying how to tap into nurses’ creativity to bring innovations to health care.
The UNC Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research (Sheps Center) also provides a route through which the Scholars are exposed to innovation and important issues in health care. The Sheps Center seeks to improve the health of individuals, families, and groups of people by understanding the problems, issues, and alternatives in the design and delivery of health care services. Erin Fraher, PhD, MPP, of the Center serves as the Hillman Scholars Program policy consultant. She works with Dr. Jones to give scholars experiences that expose them to interdisciplinary research and partnerships.

Exciting things are ahead for the program and scholars as Drs. Jones and Fraher continually seek new ways to broaden the experiences and perspectives of the Hillman Scholars. For example, they recently hosted the Hillman Scholars at the Sheps Center to discuss opportunities for the scholars to become more engaged in various programs within the Center, access various data sources available there, and explore ways to partner with other interdisciplinary researchers to improve health care delivery.

“The Hillman Scholars are receiving educational, clinical, and leadership experiences that will culminate in a cadre of nurses that can, early in their careers, use science and inquiry to make practical and impactful improvements in health care systems and delivery of patient care,” Dr. Fraher said. “The Hillman Scholars will be powerful innovators as tomorrow’s researchers, leaders, and educators.”

For more information on the UNC Hillman Scholars Program please visit nursing.unc.edu/hillman. Learn more about the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation at rahf.org.

THE CAROLINA HILLMAN SCHOLARS

Sallie Allgood
Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Leeman
Research interests: Health care related decision making in chronic diseases

Laura Britton
Mentor: Dr. Beth Black
Research interests: Health policy, health disparities, and reproductive health in the context of chronic illness management

Martha Grace Cromeens
Mentor: Dr. Mark Toles
Research interests: Transitional care in burn patients

Leah Morgan
Mentor: Dr. Eric Hodges
Research interests: Pediatric care and improving patient-family experiences in the pediatric population

Esita Patel
Mentor: Dr. Cheryl Giscombé
Research interests: Models of maternal care delivery in the US and impacts on health care costs and outcomes

Bill Smith
Mentors: Drs. Diane Berry and Shawn Kneipp
Research interests: Improving health of underserved populations in the community setting

Adria Spinell
Mentors: Drs. Gwen Sherwood and Margaret (Peggy) Bentley
Research interests: Childhood obesity and childhood malnutrition
DR. DONNA HAVENS has a mantra: Shaping systems to promote desired outcomes. She does her best to live that mantra every day she serves as the Interim Dean for the School of Nursing.

“To help people do what they need to do to make good things happen, you have to put the right support structures and policies in place,” she said. “This has been my mantra since the early 90s.”

Nursing has been a core part of Dr. Haven’s life ever since she first volunteered to be a candystriper in her hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts.
She became an RN through a diploma program at Yale, but the work she did in the Yale Medical Center cardiovascular recovery room wasn’t enough for her. She returned for her BSN, then her MSN, and then her PhD. “At the time I was in graduate school, there was evidence that the environment in which nurses practiced affected health outcomes for their patients and the well-being of nurses,” she said. “I became very passionate about the quality of nursing practice environments, and I still am.”

Her dissertation focused on Professional Nursing Practice environments and as part of this work, she developed the Decisional Involvement Scale (DIS). Dr. Havens created the DIS to measure nurses’ involvement in workplace policy and practice decisions. Dr. Havens has used the scale to demonstrate that involving nurses in decisions that shape workplace culture is a key factor for improving outcomes for health organizations and patients. The tool has been used by hundreds of organizations and has been translated for use in at least eight countries.

As a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Havens first coined the mantra that would guide her research, leadership, and nursing practice for the rest of her career. At the time, she was working with her mentor Dr. Linda Aiken, PhD, RN, FAAN, FRCN, and together they penned the paper “Shaping Systems to Promote Desired Outcomes: The Magnet Hospital Model” for the Journal of Nursing Administration. The paper was a turning point for Dr. Havens and she doubled her efforts to identify systematic strategies for improving nursing practice environments.

Dr. Havens moved on to the Pennsylvania State University School of Nursing, where she was named the Ebberly Endowed Professor of Research and served on the school’s interim leadership team when they were searching for a new dean. During her time at Penn State, she started pursuing funding to translate her research into the evidence-based organization of nursing practice on a larger scale.

In 2003, Dr. Havens was recruited to the UNC-Chapel Hill SON to serve as a Division Chair, and she brought her blossoming research program with her. She took advantage of calls from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to submit two proposals to promote nurse retention and quality patient care. “Over a period of 10 years, my team and I collaborated with 11 hospitals to enhance staff nurses’ involvement in critical patient care and workplace decisions. Our projects also targeted building strengthened communication and collaboration amongst the health care team members in the hospitals.”

Building on her previous implementation science work, Dr. Havens recently received $1.5 million in HRSA funding to implement similar projects focusing on interprofessional collaborative practice in emergency departments (EDs) of four, rural NC hospitals (see p. 15 for the full story). “I built on my prior federally funded research, which highlighted the need to enhance the communication and collaboration amongst ED health providers and also between ED staff and other units in hospitals to improve the quality and safety of care.”

For her leadership in national professional organizations and her research, Dr. Havens has received numerous awards and honors, including the Pennsylvania Nightingale Award for Research Excellence and the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) Nurse Researcher Award. Most recently, she has been named...
“Leading our outstanding community as we write this next chapter together in the venerable history of our School is a tremendous honor. I am working hard to facilitate the creation of processes to help us achieve that goal and set our School on a course that will both maintain our tradition of excellence and challenge us to reach new heights.” —DONNA HAVENS

one of 25 alumni over the past 125 years from the University of Maryland School of Nursing to receive a “Visionary Pioneer Award.”

Her research ultimately took her in an international direction, and in 2012, Dr. Havens traveled overseas to Britain, where she spent her Carrington Leave (a funded sabbatical) as a visiting professor at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery at Kings College London. Her time abroad helped her to gain valuable perspectives on the similarities and the differences in the nursing practice environments of another country. She also formed valuable partnerships with researchers in the National Nursing Research Unit.

Her efforts to shape practice environments for the better distinguished Dr. Havens as a leader. In her early years at the SON, she served as Chair of the SON’s Health Care Environments Division. She is currently serving as the chair of the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Commission and she is chairing the American Academy of Nursing expert panel on “Building Health Care System Excellence.”

Dr. Havens says that without a doubt, her most important role to date is serving as the Interim Dean for the SON. As the School’s leader, she is continuing to live her mantra by helping SON faculty, staff, and students prepare the School to search for a new leader. “Our desired outcome is to recruit an outstanding Dean who shares the values and mission of our School,” said Dr. Havens. “Leading our outstanding community as we write this next chapter together in the venerable history of our School is a tremendous honor. I am working hard to facilitate the creation of processes to help us achieve that goal and set our School on a course that will both maintain our tradition of excellence and challenge us to reach new heights.”

During a special interprofessional panel on Ebola, Interim Dean Havens reflected on the evening’s discussion. Read more about how the SON raised Ebola awareness on Page 21.
On the first day of his elective course “Interprofessional Teamwork and Communication: Keys to Patient Safety,” Stuart Smith was put into a group made up of nursing students, medical students, and pharmacy students. Their teachers presented them with a “patient” and asked the students to treat the patient together as if they were a real health care team working in a hospital.

The students achieved their primary goal. The patient received the treatment they needed. But every student in the class still got a terrible review.

“I remember feeling like they were being so strict by the way they were reviewing us in that first simulation,” Smith said. “I was worried I might not even pass the course.”

To Smith’s relief, the first simulation wasn’t graded. According to clinical professor Carol Fowler Durham, EdD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, the point of the first day is to make the students realize how much their training influences their approach to health care. “They approach patient care just as they have been prepared,” Dr. Durham said. “They are nurses, pharmacists, or doctors. They are not a team. Even though we tell them ahead of time we are going to grade them on teamwork, they are very

AN INTERPROFESSIONAL FUTURE

TEACHING TEAMWORK

SON alum Stuart Smith, BSN ’11, (left) says the interprofessional course he completed at the SON prepared him well to collaborate with colleagues like Dr. Reid.
individualistic in how they deliver their care.”

In many national reports, including the Institute of Medicine report To Err is Human, experts have cited communication failures among health care teams as one of the largest contributors to decreases in health care quality and patient satisfaction. Part of the problem, said Dr. Durham, is that doctors, nurses, and pharmacists don’t often get a chance to work with each other before they leave school. Many times, they learn their teamwork and communication skills on the job, and the strategies or “unwritten rules” they learn may be less than ideal.

In 2009, Dr. Durham teamed up with Dr. Kelly Scolaro from the UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy and Joey Woodyard, then Dr. Benny Joyner, MD, from the UNC School of Medicine to craft a course for students to learn evidence-based teamwork skills while they are still in school. They based most of the course on national accreditation standards and a program administered by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality called Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS).

As a part of TeamSTEPPS, students learn strategies that help them point out problems in situations where they are less likely to speak up. As a new employee, for example, they might not feel empowered to bring a problem to the attention of a more-experienced colleague. They learn to use CUS words to help them communicate “I am Concerned, I am Uncomfortable, and I feel this is a patient Safety issue” when they are speaking about errors or potential problems.

Another major part of the course is learning the different types of knowledge and skills each profession contributes to the team and how these different roles can enhance patient care. Drs. Durham, Scolaro, and Joyner make a point of modeling collaboration by being present for every class. “We didn’t divide it up so that Pharmacy had one night, nursing had another, and medicine had yet another,” said Dr. Durham. “We were all present to show students how professionals can work together and to emphasis the value of teamwork.”

By the end of the course, Smith and his fellow students were receiving better grades for their teamwork. He passed the course, graduated in 2011, and took a position at UNC Health Care. He currently works the night shift in the hospital’s gastrointestinal surgery unit. “I think back to that course frequently,” he said. “It provided me a change in mindset.”

The skills he learned were particularly useful when UNC Health Care switched to a new electronic charting system called Epic@UNC. Unused to the new system, a physician accidentally ordered a test with a medication the patient was allergic too. Smith and the pharmacist on duty spoke up, and they worked with the physician to figure out how the error occurred. “Because we worked together, we were able to avoid a possible allergic reaction,” said Smith.

It is stories from former students like Smith that convince Dr. Durham of the importance of interprofessional education. She hopes to work with her colleagues to expand interprofessional offerings at the SON and ultimately incorporate them into the curriculum. She has worked closely with Professor Kathy Alden to offer interprofessional gynecological simulations in which students from obstetric nursing, medicine, and pediatric medicine work together to deliver babies.

“We are figuring out how to remove barriers and ways to encourage interprofessional education,” said Dr. Durham. “I don’t think it’s fair to graduate from our programs without opportunities to immerse yourself in interprofessional activities. I would like every student to have a chance to experience being part of a health care team before they graduate.”

The current team behind the interprofessional elective course is (from left to right) Dr. Benny Joyner, Dr. Kelly Scolaro, and Dr. Carol Durham.
Clinical associate professor Meg Zomorodi, PhD, CNL, RN, applauds current interprofessional learning opportunities, yet she has a vision to take interprofessional education to a new level. “Our healthcare system is changing, and we need to respond to this change through education,” said Dr. Zomorodi. “Few providers are currently trained to employ a system-based approach. Improving individual and population health outcomes requires providers who are educated in informatics, finance, and leadership as well as population-health outcomes assessment and team-based management.”

Dr. Zomorodi met Dr. Robert Gianforcaro, who is the Executive Director of the UNC Physicians Network. Together, they recruited colleagues in the professional schools to address the educational gap. Faculty and practice partners are working collaboratively to create an educational program that would bring together students from the schools of nursing, medicine, pharmacy, nutrition, and social work.

Dr. Zomorodi applied for a highly competitive grant awarded by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, a foundation dedicated to identifying and nurturing the careers of educational innovators in medicine and nursing. In July 2014, Dr. Zomorodi was informed that she was named UNC-Chapel Hill’s very first Macy Faculty Scholar. She is one of only two nurses chosen for the honor, and one of six scholars selected out of 91 applicants. The two-year program will provide her with professional development opportunities and $100,000 each year to support her salary while she develops the interprofessional certificate program under the guidance of Thelma M. Ingles Professor of Nursing Marilyn Oerman, PhD, RN, ANEF, FAAN, from Duke University and her Macy Foundation mentor, Afaf Meleis PhD, FAAN from University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Dr. Zomorodi has already made substantial progress towards launching the program. She has met with all of the deans from UNC’s professional schools as well as the executive director of the UNC Physicians Network. Over the fall semester, she worked with faculty from each of the schools to develop the educational content outline for the program and discuss curriculum integration. In the spring, Dr. Zomorodi will work with key personnel in the other professional schools to create modules with the goal of enrolling a small cohort of graduate students from all the health professions in Fall 2015. Students will complete two components: a course focused on intercollaborative practice in primary care from a healthcare system management perspective and a clinical immersion experience in which students carry out a high-impact project as a team in select practices within the UNC Physicians Network.

“I can’t wait for the day when interprofessional education is the norm in a classroom rather than the exception, and I want to be on the forefront of that change,” said Dr. Zomorodi. “Education is my passion, and this opportunity to be a Macy Scholar has given me countless opportunities to pursue that passion. I am so grateful for having a network of dedicated colleagues, both in the Macy program and at UNC, who are helping me make this curriculum a reality. The energy I feel when I connect with them and when we pursue our passion together, it’s beyond words.”

“Education is my passion, and this opportunity to be a Macy Scholar has given me countless opportunities to pursue that passion. I am so grateful for having a network of dedicated colleagues, both in the Macy program and at UNC, who are helping me make this curriculum a reality. The energy I feel when I connect with them and when we pursue our passion together, it’s beyond words.” —MEG ZOMORODI
TO BREAK NEW GROUND in a field, to shift paradigms, and to escape old ideas, nurse researchers are increasingly reaching out to collaborators whose specialties lie outside of health care to achieve their goals. Funding agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, have recognized the value of different disciplinary perspectives and have developed initiatives to encourage researchers from various disciplines to team up.

TRANSDISCIPLINARY ASPIRATIONS

Ever since her graduate school days, associate professor Shawn Kneipp, PhD, ARNP, FAANP, has been interested in the complex interplay between the social, economic, and policy factors that affect the health of disadvantaged people. She has especially focused on women who are attempting to leave welfare and move into employment. Understanding the health challenges these women face is no simple undertaking, and Dr. Kneipp realized that any meaningful investigation would require the perspectives of professionals from disciplines outside of health care.

“I am currently collaborating with an economist as well as a social worker who specializes in welfare policy,” she said. “Our team also includes a program manager from the Work First program in Orange County, which is North Carolina’s welfare-to-work program, and a staff attorney from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice.”

From the beginning, Dr. Kneipp wanted her team to aim for a transdisciplinary collaboration. Transdisciplinary work is one of the most difficult forms of team science to manage. Unlike multi-disciplinary or interdisciplinary teams in which team members maintain some degree of individuality regarding the theories and methods they use to approach research questions, transdisciplinary teams completely integrate their concepts, theories, and methods in a way all team members can understand regardless of their discipline.

This form of collaboration presented Dr. Kneipp and her colleagues with some challenges. When they were writing their first proposals together, they struggled to create a testable model based in a common language. An economic theory the economist wanted to incorporate into their model contradicted parts of the model.
the social workers proposed. Team members also found they tended to communicate with different analytical terms. Though they spent much of their time sorting out how to even speak about the research problem, Dr. Kneipp believes the extra work will lead to a bigger payoff.

“I am a true believer that team science is where innovative approaches to solving problems and paradigm shifts take place,” said Dr. Kneipp.

For her team, their latest big development is a grant they received from the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities. Disadvantaged women are more likely to have a criminal record history and have persistently poor health compared to women who have more resources. They plan to use the funds to study how lack of access to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and/or an inability to find a job due to a criminal record contributes to the poor health of disadvantaged women.

Dr. Kneipp highly recommends team science to health researchers. “There are significant personal benefits in terms of being a scientist on a team,” she said. “At the end of the day, you feel very proud of the obstacles you have overcome for the sake of knowledge.”

**A HUB FOR INNOVATION**

Over 26 years, the SON’s Biobehavioral Laboratory (BBL) has expanded from one room to six rooms dedicated to advancing biobehavioral science. Though the BBL was founded to support researchers within the SON, the scope and the focus of the laboratory has grown to include researchers from departments across the UNC campus.

“The demand for interprofessional research is increasing,” said Interim Director Eric Hodges. “I believe the BBL can function as a matchmaker of sorts that not only brings researchers with similar interests together, but gives them the resources they need to pursue successful projects and collaborations.”

The laboratory has much to offer researchers. As one of only eight Centers of Excellence in salivary hormone analysis worldwide, the BBL offers high-quality saliva sample testing as well as training for researchers who want to analyze their own samples. The facilities in the laboratory include two sleep monitoring rooms, dedicated space for cell culture and molecular biology as well as a state-of-the-art behavioral observation suite with six in-wall cameras so research subjects can be monitored from various angles. In the suite, researchers can adapt the layout and furnishings to accommodate the developmental needs of infants through adults. Beyond the lab setting, the BBL is also equipped with dozens of devices researchers can use to collect data in the “real world” as a person goes about their normal routine.

Their focus on non-invasive techniques is one of the laboratory’s main strengths. According to Dr. Hodges, that unique research approach is strongly influenced by the nursing ethos on which the lab was founded. “Because our background is in nursing, we constantly ask ourselves what the burden will be on the research subject,” Dr. Hodges said. “We really try to minimize the burdens on people so they will want to participate in the study while also producing high-quality data.”

So far, the BBL has attracted several collaborators from UNC Health Care, the UNC department of psychology, and the Center for Developmental Science while also supporting 12 core researchers from the SON. Dr. Hodges aspires to bring many more researchers to the lab.

“Our doors are open so that any researcher can come in with an idea and we work to decide how to operationalize it for them,” he said. “Give us a puzzle and we’ll help you figure it out.”
Charles Sessoms Returns to Africa With Cronenwett Global Scholarship

North Carolina native Charles Sessoms felt he had taken a wrong turn in his life. He earned a chemistry degree, but the work he was doing didn’t seem like the right fit for him. Feeling restless, he volunteered for a Peace Corps mission in Africa. Thousands of miles from home, spending his days teaching math and digging latrines, Sessoms felt more satisfaction serving others than he had when he pursued chemistry. He came home with a renewed purpose. “I wanted to do more than teach,” he said. “This experience showed me that changing a community requires a lot more than educating people about your ideas.”

Realizing the impact he could have as a nurse, Mr. Sessoms applied to several schools. When he realized how strong the global health program was at the SON, UNC-Chapel Hill moved to the top of his list. “The global health opportunities made me want to come to Carolina,” he said. Mr. Sessoms came to the SON planning to have a global health experience, whether it was through the global health course or another program. He was humbled when he was chosen as the 2013-14 Linda R. Cronenwett Global Health Scholar. The $3,000 scholarship, he said, made it possible for him to return to Africa with Carolina for Kibera.

As one of only four Carolina students who volunteered with the program that summer, Sessoms had plenty of work to do. He spent most of his time doing community outreach for the Tabitha Health Clinic. He spoke with people about family planning, told them how they could get tested for HIV, and helped refer women to the clinic for cervical cancer screening. Mr. Sessoms also assisted with the clinic’s efforts to seek out malnourished children in the community and enroll them in a nutrition program. When he wasn’t helping people with their health, he helped them improve their living space by picking up garbage and working on infrastructure.

Each time he traveled to Africa, Mr. Sessoms came home with enhanced humility and a better appreciation for the simpler things in life. “I don’t think I’ve eaten at a fast food restaurant since 2009,” he said. “And I am managing to get through nursing school without a cell phone. I don’t need much anymore to be happy.”

For Mr. Sessoms, the call to serve is strong. He is considering a career in international health care so he will have opportunities to help improve the lives of others. “I look forward to going into international health care,” he said. “I want to go to a place where my skills are needed, where I am welcomed into the community, and I can live the simple life I love.”

Tales of Nursing Around the World

A career dream became reality on October 28 for clinical assistant professor Chris Harlan when Springer Publishing released her first book. Called Global Health Nursing: Narratives From the Field, the book features stories written by nurses who have traveled around the world to provide care to the poor and ailing.

“My dream for many years was to write a global health nursing book,” said Ms. Harlan. “I didn’t want it to be a textbook. I wanted it to be a collection of narratives.”

Ms. Harlan, MA, RN, brought together 23 nurses who traveled to locations as remote as the jungles of Indonesia or as accessible as Boston, MA to share the challenges and rewards that come with delivering care in foreign countries. In each chapter, the authors tell stories about the cultural differences as well as the emotional struggles they went through as they adapted to new cultures. They also provide advice for nurses who are considering serving overseas.

Of those 23 authors, some were Ms. Harlan’s former students in Nursing 489, a summer course designed to give students experience in global health. Jane Calthrop, BSN ’14, described how her upbringing abroad inspired her to volunteer for a service trip to Guatemala. Mike Olufemi, BSN ’14, who is originally from Nigeria, wrote about his experience working with AIDS patients at a men’s health center in Melbourne, Australia. In the last chapter of the book, Ruth Anne McClendon, BSN ’14, shares her SON Honors project. After working in a hospital in Senegal, she developed “Nous Sommes Ensemble,” a resource to help nurses prepare for practicing in cross-cultural settings.
SON alums Christina Kim, BSN ‘06, MSN ‘11, Naomi Blackman, BSN ‘06, and Kim Larson, PhD ’11 also shared their global health stories. Ms. Kim recalls a move to Ghana with her husband and how it influenced her work with Spanish-speaking patients in the United States, Ms. Blackman recounted the beginning of her career as field nurse with Doctors Without Borders, and Dr. Larson wrote about how her early Peace Corps work in Honduras has influenced her career in public health. Former SON adjunct professor Pamela McQuide also contributed a chapter on her work in Haiti and several countries in Africa.

“This book has the whole range of nursing,” said Ms. Harlan. “From pediatrics to psych-mental health, from students to doctorally prepared nurses, I wanted there to be something every reader could relate to. These stories are compelling and a wonderful resource for any nurse or nursing student who wants to gain experience in global health.”

Raising Ebola Awareness at the SON

With the Ebola virus continuing to impact thousands in Africa, and concerns growing in the United States, the SON stepped up to educate and inform people about the virus in two events open to health care providers as well as the general public.

The first event, organized by clinical assistant professor Jean Davison, DNP, RN, FNP-C, focused on the pandemic in Sierra Leone. Prior to the Ebola outbreak, there were only 0.3 doctors per 10,000 citizens and 1.7 nurses or midwives per 10,000 citizens. Many health care workers have died of Ebola, and Dr. Davison invited a panel of experts to discuss the health crisis. A special guest, Director of the Hope Medical Mission Dahan Sheref spoke about his plans to build the first school of nursing and encouraged students to consider serving overseas.

Caring for patients with Ebola requires meticulous cooperation between health care providers. Professor Carol Durham brought together an interprofessional group of experts to share their expertise in a town-hall style event called “Ebola: Will Facts or Fear Determine Our Future?” Representatives from UNC Health Care joined faculty from the SON and the UNC School of Medicine to address key concerns about Ebola and answer questions from audience members about how health care workers in the United States have prepared to care for Ebola patients.

Top: Jean Davison (second from left) invited Ronald Herring (far left), Dahan Sheref (second from right), Pamela Bonner (far right), and Isata Scott (not pictured) to speak about the health care crisis in Sierra Leone. Bottom: The interprofessional panel of speakers included (from left to right) Dalton Sawyer, Benny Joyner, Rumay Alexander, Donna Havens, Carol Durham, and William Fischer. Mary Tonges (not pictured) also gave remarks.
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Giving By Class

1955

BSN
Donna Blair Booe
Gwelyn Huss Butler
Winnie Williams Cotton
Bette Leon Davis
Geraldine Snider Laport
Mary Anderson Leggett
Janet Merritt Littlejohn
Gloria Huss Peele
Ramelle Hylton Starnes
Louise Norwood Thomas

1956

BSN
Evelyn Farmer Alexander
Natalie Salter Baggett
Lee McCarter Cranford
Elizabeth Hamilton Darden
Landon Lewis Fox
Peggy Needham Heinsohn
Emily Robeson Hubbard
Patricia Bassett Jackson
Carolyn White London
Jane Kelly Monroe
Jane Snyder Norris
Billie Dobbs Rogers
Geneva File Williams

1957

BSN
Ruth Holmes Benedict
Mary Lou Norwood Booth
Frieda Bryant Bruton

Barbara McSwain Cox
Donna Dopler Geiger
Jean Crisp Jackson
Anne Glenn Johnson
Sara Burt Mursch
Katherine Randall Peck
Barbara Hedberg Self
Martha Lentz Waters
MSN
Audrey Joyce Booth

1958

BSN
Ann B. Allen
Cloydia Carstarphen Dixon
Carolyn Roberts Greene-Wright
Geraldine Y. Haynes
Gail G. Hudson
Marjorie Staub Mosher
Sally Price Ormand
Nancy Charles Rawl
Patricia Russell Raynor
Frances Ader Read
Rosemary Lemmond Ritzman
Elizabeth Sumner Sanders

1959

BSN
Alvene Williams Buckley
Bess Chandler DeLaPerriere
Elizabeth Nicholson Fisher
Jo Ann Sowers Mason
Ashton Johnson Medina
Martha Oliver Metre
Phyllis Greer Nolan
Lois G. O’Keef
Virginia Hassell Poindexter
Patricia Kline Robertson
Celia Strader Sabiston
Nancy Turner Sturdivant
Anita Edwards Taylor
Faye Mewborn White

1960

BSN
Margaret Evans Adams
Harriette Zimmerman Beaven
Claudia Barnes Deese
Opal Shepard Hips
Anita Whitener Hoffler
Catherine Carden Long
Sandra Roberts Montgomery
Jean Sutherland Pridgen
Beverly Ann Segee

1961

BSN
Jeanne Crewee Carroll
E. Elaine Curtis
Nancy Robison Dickinson
Carolyn Mayo Holloway
Frances Coltrane Hutchinson
Ann Linville Jessup
Alice F. Keiger
Linda Ann Lewis
Charlotte Andrews Lloyd
Karen Magnuson Mauro
Carolyn Nifong Morgan
Alice Kent Roye
Patricia Long Vaughan
Mabel Broadwell Yelvington

1962

BSN
Paula Kirby Benway
Mary Alice Willwerth Blevins
Lillian Ward Bryant
Jane Hob Clara
Judith Buxton Collins
Elise Deana Cross
Beverly Desmond Davis
Anne Hopkins Fishel
Shirley Snyder Frantz
Undine Caulder Garner
Nancy Gilliland
Carla Van Zett Hiat
Nancy Wills Hudock
Patricia Ann Hunter Key
Elizabeth Finley Macfie
Carolyn Houchins Meyer
Ann Bennett Poppert
Linda Trembracht Reeder
Esther Mae Tesh

1963

BSN
Elaine Gettman Bourdeaux
Katharine Pickrell Bryson
Barbara Caldwell Fletcher
Elizabeth Lusk Gregg
Faye Mills Haas
Mary Shaw Hambright
Mary Pleasants Hogg
Sylvia Vincent Jackson
Carol Ellidge Koontz
Catherine Johnson Lee
Lynn Humphrey Lochen
Patricia Barlow Lowery
Martha Tate Roberts
Stephanie Biggs Roberts
Margaret Sutton Wade
Barbara Jo Philipp Warren
Eugenia Hruslinski Weeks
Kay White Weeks
Joanne Hogg Welborne
Judith Clifton Wright

1964

BSN
Susan Thorpe Bonham
Mary Green Buie
Jayne Crumpler De Fiore
Carolyn Mitchell Elgin
Frances Booth Hart
Patricia Hildebrand Horton
Beverley Haynes Johnson
Dershie Bridgford McDevitt
Margie Mayo Oldham
Laura Carlo Piver
Mary Coleman Rose
Mary Hamrick Saunders
Mary Roberts Shapiro
MSN
Opal Shepard Hips
Elizabeth Finley Macfie

1965

BSN
Beth Ann Rendell Abbott
Nancy Riemann Caldwell
Sharon Kennedy Casey
Wanda Toy Constantines
Vercie Massengill Eiler
Karen Hopkins Coley Harrison
Jo Ann Zaron Hiti
1966

BSN
Carole O’Breint Bordelon
Mary Howard Dunn
Martha Zink Gibson
Anne Barbee Houston
Sara-Louise Camlin Krantz
Marion Ross Leiner
Kay Goodman McMullan
Leith Merrow Mullaly
Jerri Moser Oehler
Anne Whicker Peedin
Elizabeth Cox Perry
Nancy Hurst Reaves
Suzanne Bennett Reilly
Rebecca Story Wilson
MSN
Amie Modigh
Stephanie Biggs Roberts

1967

BSN
Elena Codispoti Asetline
Anne Elizabeth Belcher
Rene Clark
Nancy Rankin Crutchfield
Barbara Jo Lorek Foley
Mary Bowsher Friedman
Olivia Womble Griffin
Nancy Rogers Harrison
Patricia Dodson Hayes
Alene Fuller Cooley
Phyllis Walker Newman
Marjorie Williams Phillips
Sallie O’Keef Simpson
P. Kay Wagoner

MSN
C. JoAnn Foust Cardarella
Marjorie Huitt Hawkins
Patsy Littlejohn Hawkins
Gwendolyn Dorminey Sherwood
Vivian Harris Varner

1968

BSN
Judith Reavis Beauchamp
Lois Greenfield Boyles
Elizabeth Margaret Carr
Susan Barber Culp
Carol Malcolm Davis
Kathryn Robinson Kuykendal
Julia Knott Prasse
Joan Frances Reinhardt
Johana Renfro Roberts
Frances Blackwell Smith
Linda Hamlin Titus

1969

BSN
Christine Budd Cassidy
Linda Kibler Cockrell
Judith Van Dyke Egg
Patsy Ruth Farlow
Susan Louise Folk
Judith Hoskins Haupt
Patty Maynard Hill

Vivian Harris Varner

1968

BSN
Carole O’Breint Bordelon
Mary Howard Dunn
Martha Zink Gibson
Anne Barbee Houston
Sara-Louise Camlin Krantz
Marion Ross Leiner
Kay Goodman McMullan
Leith Merrow Mullaly
Jerri Moser Oehler
Anne Whicker Peedin
Elizabeth Cox Perry
Nancy Hurst Reaves
Suzanne Bennett Reilly
Rebecca Story Wilson
MSN
Amie Modigh
Stephanie Biggs Roberts

1967

BSN
Elena Codispoti Asetline
Anne Elizabeth Belcher
Rene Clark
Nancy Rankin Crutchfield
Barbara Jo Lorek Foley
Mary Bowsher Friedman
Olivia Womble Griffin
Nancy Rogers Harrison
Patricia Dodson Hayes
Alene Fuller Cooley
Phyllis Walker Newman
Marjorie Williams Phillips
Sallie O’Keef Simpson
P. Kay Wagoner

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C. JoAnn Foust Cardarella
Marjorie Huitt Hawkins
Patsy Littlejohn Hawkins
Gwendolyn Dorminey Sherwood
Vivian Harris Varner

1968

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Lois Greenfield Boyles
Elizabeth Margaret Carr
Susan Barber Culp
Carol Malcolm Davis
Kathryn Robinson Kuykendal
Julia Knott Prasse
Joan Frances Reinhardt
Johana Renfro Roberts
Frances Blackwell Smith
Linda Hamlin Titus

1969

BSN
Christine Budd Cassidy
Linda Kibler Cockrell
Judith Van Dyke Egg
Patsy Ruth Farlow
Susan Louise Folk
Judith Hoskins Haupt
Patty Maynard Hill

1970

BSN
Annette Beam
Nancy Gibbs Chapman
Allene Fuller Cooley
Lynda Law Harrison-Wilson
Kathryn Minton Holloway
Alene M. Mercer
Barbara Ann Nettles-Carlson
Phyllis Walker Newman
Marjorie Williams Phillips
Patricia Cox Rogers
Sallie O’Keef Simpson
P. Kay Wagoner

MSN
C. JoAnn Foust Cardarella
Marjorie Huitt Hawkins
Patsy Littlejohn Hawkins
Gwendolyn Dorminey Sherwood
Vivian Harris Varner

1971

BSN
Nancy Nelson Caddy
Lynn Grier Coleman
Judith Barnes Gardiner
Kerry Allen Hensley
Charlene Blake Knapp
Catherine Packard Licata
Kay McNeill-Harkins
Doris Ann Dixon Reavis
Jane Hackney Schulz
Marian Crane Sharpe
Deborah Thompson
Mary Vallier-Kaplan
Carole Barrow Warren
Mary Grace Crist White

MSN
Russell Eugene Tranbarger

1972

BSN
Linda Santorum Byers
Beverly Tedder Esick
Virginia Elaine Fox
Nina Whitaker Hackney
Betsy Newton Herman
Patricia Pittman Hotz
Janith Jones Huffman
Nancy Ann Laughridge
Anne Lowe Murphy
Lynne Ann Oland
Christa Parks Sexton
Bonnie Kellam Smith
Jo Marie Abbott Taylor

MSN
Leigh Andrews
Anita Stoddard Hammerbeck
Elizabeth Foster Meyer
Carolyn Morgan Inman
Debra Gay Kiser
Susan Ruppalt Lantz
Colleen Harrison Lee
Janet Opp McPherson
Linda Doub Morgan
Holly Dearstyn Norwood
Catherine Clooingtner Perry
Ona Mercer Pickens
Ann Marie Polk
George I. Rand
Nancy Morton Smith
Suzanne Limparis Ward
Jane Clark Williams

1973

BSN
Ann Davis Brown
Anne Smith Cole
Cynthia Lee Earthman
Teresa Weaver Foster
Nancy Barrett Freeman
Betty Jean Haddock
Jolyn Edwards Hurwitz
Carolyln Morgan Inman

1974

BSN
Margaret Folsom Ainsley
Diane Nichols Boger
Nancy Johnson Dewhirt
Cathy McGonigle Hamill
Frieda Byrum Harrington
Jane Mayes Link
Brenda Ray Martin
Wendelin Jones McBride
Rebecca Dewees Olson
Sara Kollins Ramsey
Gary Steven Reese
Laura McLeod Sorrell
Patsy Schupper Theobald
Diane Carol Wilson
Kathryn Payne Wueste

MSN
Elizabeth Wenhold Black
Frankie Duncan Brock
Margaret Begley Bryan
Linda Lindsey Davis
Lauren Sue Froismon
Nancy Siegel Katich
Margaret Riggan Light
Betty Ann Taylor
Rebecca Story Wilson

1975

BSN
Jean Gail Allen
Catherine Crane Bouboulis
Preston Noe Comeaux III
Ann Cox Hutchins
Sharon Caston Mc Dow
Louise Shook Nezelek
Gaynelle Bass Nichols
Evelyn Rose Paul
Sheila Arrington Prevatte
Diane Marie Shaffer
Sally Tapp Williford

MSN
Annette Beam
Elizabeth Burke Goodbye
Betty Jean Haddock
Betty Mickey McDowell
Patricia Cox Rogers
Deborah Thompson

1976

BSN
Frances Mervin Andringa
Elizabeth McKinney Bailey
Donna Davis Bost
Debra Huffman Brandon
Kathi Roberts Byrne
Mary Redfern Creed
Cynthia Reid Dearmin
Charlene Caulkins Eason
Patti Barnes Farless
Mary Louise Caviness Faucette
Deborah Webb Frye
Maera Newton Golombik
Rachel Brugh Holmes
Sue Baker Isaac
Pamela Ellis Jameson
Christine Earle Jones
Jimmie Drennan McCamie
Sue Shirar Morrow
Diane Phillips Smith
Mary Victoria Spanihour
Joyce McKeon Wynia

MSN
Elizabeth Margaret Carr
Virginia Elaine Fox
Linda Cade Haber
Sue Greenwood Head
Patricia Bassett Jackson
Diane Carol Wilson

1977

BSN
Susan G. Baker
Cynthia Wimberley Brashhear
Patti Sue Burke
George Washington Butler III
Denise Taylor Darden
Lynn Harris Davis
Susan Benbow Dawson
Judyth Torrington Dingfelder
Leigh Watson Garrison
Natalie Cumston Gray
Linda Allen Hammert
Elaine Merchant Jeffcoat
Linda Sherman Kimel
Melissa Ann D. LeVine
Margaret Ann May
Brenda Kay McCull
Scarlett Kimmball Mueller
Sally Van Nelson
Susan Gatlin O’Dell
Mabeth Vanessa Smith
Lynn Peacock Spaw

MSN
Emily Scovit Eklund
Marianne Frances Marlo
Patty Sue Sanders
Diane Gray Vester
Louise Elsner Watts

1978

BSN
Nancy Jane Ashe
Deborah Smith Ellis
Elizabeth Simpson Friedman
Friends and family of BSN alum Katherine Wilson ‘04, continue to honor her memory by supporting the scholarship they established in 2006. Katherine, who passed away after a five-year battle with small-cell lung cancer, continues to be an inspiration to those who knew her and to the students who carry on her legacy as Katherine Wilson scholars. This year, for the first time ever, the School was able to award three Katherine Wilson scholarships. Scholar Nichole Gehmann took a few moments to speak with Carolina Nursing about her career goals and how the scholarship is helping them become a reality.

What inspired you to pursue a degree in nursing?
My whole life I have provided care to others. I started out with my father, who was ill ever since I was young, and now I have two small children of my own who I care for. I wanted a career where I could continue to do what I know best and get better at it. I feel like nursing is where I belong, and I couldn’t imagine pursuing any other field.

What are your career plans?
I initially started out wanting to do neonatal care. But since I have started nursing school, I have been considering other specialties, such as operating room nursing, palliative/end-of-life care, or pediatrics.

How has the Katherine Wilson scholarship made a difference for you?
The Katherine Wilson Scholarship has made a huge impact on my life. Being a mother of two young children and living solely on my husband’s income, funds have been tight while I finish up my degree. Because of Katherine’s legacy and the support of her friends and family, I have been able to pay my childcare bills and tuition fees for this semester.

Why do you think nursing scholarships are important?
Scholarship support for nursing students as well as any other health care providers is extremely important because we need these professionals in our communities. Nurses are essential to good patient outcomes, and sometimes the only factor standing between a potentially great nurse and quality nursing education is financial burden.

Nichole Gehmann

Carolina Nursing
1982
BSN
Tamarah Hinson Barker
Josie Allen Bowman
Paula Goets Bruening
Julia Stout Dyer
Sharon Speer Gentry
Jill Bridgette Hamilton
Reena Grigg Hathcock
Laura Pugh Bliley
Laura Liebert Weisner
Leslie Ellis Kieffer
Linda B. Ellington
Debra Huffman Brandon
Mary Ann Carr
Linda B. Ellington
Melissa Ann D. LeVine
Marlee Schmelzer
Elizabeth Brooks Spangle

1983
BSN
Kathleen Murphy Baum
Laura Pugh Billey
Pamela Davis Rock
An Elgin Van Meter Rudeen
Mary Gray Gilchrist Sachtjen
Jordan Von Lehmend Senter
Laura Liebert Weisner
Glenda Sue Wooten

1984
BSN
Dorothy Peterson Burchall
Janet Peele Crumpler

1985
BSN
Linda Bertsch Barber
Catherine Elaine Bell
Ellen Ahern Buchanan
Janet Ruth Cutler
Leslie Louise Davis
Lisa Gentry Duncan
Sara Mitchell Edwards
Jennifer Faris-Bailer
Madonna Mason Goodwin
Kay Sutton Hollowell
Kathryn Mochyn Jefner
Cynthia Cumbo Klaess
Janet Oakes Rankin
Osa McCoy Redding
Heather Domville Scarff
Marriane Kankowski Spinola
Elizabeth Sawyer Webber

1986
BSN
Perriah Stowitts Anderson
Susan Bremer Anna
Felecia Bruton Bucanan
Rizza Hermosissima de la Guerra
Rita Pepin Esterwood
Robin Tate Harper
Frankie Watson Keen
Phyllis Akin Renke
Anne Bodach Serody
Susan Ludeman Zarzar

1987
BSN
Jennifer Byrd Horton
Karla Jean Brown
Constance Lee Carroll
Marion Harrison Dreifuss
Karen Susan Glass
Renee Hardy Hinnik
Carolyn Susan Huffman
Glenda Marette Jeffries
Wendy Williard Jenkins
Crystal Lee Kelly
Amy Fryar Kennedy
Janet Allen Marable
Diana Nielsen Moore
Sarah Jeanette Parker-Springs
Ann Shinn Rhodes
Maryanne Salerni
Dorothy R. Smith
Joanna Weathers Smothers

1988
BSN
Elaine Crobby Matheson
Teresa Blackwell Myers
Patricia O'Keefe Odell
Elizabeth Buchanan Paranoome
Jeanelle Starling Price
Mary Mann Sappenfield
Joyce Breeden Smith
S. Mary Ann Tormey
Elizabeth Parker Wright

1989
MSN
Stewart Michael Bond
Amanda Lynn Greene
Nina Whitaker Hackney
Jean Boyd Williams

1990
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Brewer
Carol Livingston Coughenour
Ellen Hampton Davis
Richmond Lee Griner II
Patricia Cole Little
Carolyn Stewart McCurry
Dea Del Paggio Roberts

1991
BSN
Robert Thomas Dodge
Kimberley Cameron Fagan
Mary Elizabeth Haire
Sherrry Evelyn Page
Vanessa Harrell Yencha

1992
BSN
Jennifer Byrd Horton
Crystal Lee Kelly
Diane G. Littlefield
Sarah von Aspern Ostwalt

1993
MSN
Maryanne Salerni

1994
BSN
Jennifer Osborne Collier
Terri Corbett Freidhoff
Linda Sue Hale
Lisa Sherry Halstead
DeLeslie Walden Kiser
Caryl Wasserman Powers
Cherie Ann Smith-Miller

1995
BSN
Jane Rouse Ellison
Michelle Snyder Gruver
Susan King-Zeller
Carol Voigt Marriott
Amanda Kier Nichols
Ronald Stephen Riggle

1996
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire
Sherrry Evelyn Page
Vanessa Harrell Yencha

1997
BSN
Jennifer Jorgenson

1998
BSN
Kimberly Anne Carpenter
Teresa Lynne Collins
Debra Hearn Freeman
Robert Franklin Jessup
Jennifer Brown Kaczynski
Teri Aragbright Keller
Karen Lee McDonald
Anita Vann Royal
Alisha Wood Smith

1999
MSN
Leslie Louise Davis
Jill Bridgette Hamilton

2000
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Brewer
Carol Livingston Coughenour
Ellen Hampton Davis
Richmond Lee Griner II
Patricia Cole Little
Carolyn Stewart McCurry
Dea Del Paggio Roberts

2001
BSN
Robert Thomas Dodge
Kimberley Cameron Fagan
Mary Elizabeth Haire
Sherrry Evelyn Page
Vanessa Harrell Yencha

2002
BSN
Jennifer Byrd Horton
Crystal Lee Kelly
Diane G. Littlefield
Sarah Von Aspern Ostwalt

2003
BSN
Elizabeth Thomas Ashe
Cheryl Moseley Conway
Kristi Leigh Dreyer
Rhonda Michelle Messer

2004
BSN
Alyshia Wood Smith

2005
BSN
Gena B. Johnson

2006
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2007
BSN
Patricia Cole Little

2008
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2009
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2010
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2011
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2012
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2013
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2014
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire

2015
BSN
Mary Elizabeth Haire
SON ALUMNA’S RECURRING GIFTS HELP HER “PAY IT FORWARD” AND SUPPORT CURRENT NURSING STUDENTS

Jennifer Pothoven Dougherty (BSN ’08) is grateful for her nursing education and feels fortunate not to have been encumbered with student debt along the way. As a Morrison Scholar, private giving enabled Jennie to achieve her undergraduate goals. Similarly, her husband Michael was awarded scholarships throughout medical school at Carolina.

With work experience from both UNC Health Care and Duke University Medical Center in her background, Jennie worked at Dupont Children’s Hospital as a travel nurse when she and her husband relocated to Philadelphia for his medical residency and she completed graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania in 2012. She and Michael continue to live and work in Philadelphia where Michael is doing an internal medicine residency and she is a pediatric nurse practitioner at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Despite the distance and their busy schedules, Carolina remains firmly on their minds.

“My husband and I feel fortunate for our relatively debt free education and want to pay that forward,” Jennie said. Setting up a monthly recurring gift via credit card was a convenient way for Jennie and Michael to give back and provide a steady source of support throughout the year. Recurring gifts make the process of giving easy and the impact strong.

“We truly appreciate the consistent support and the vote of confidence that support implies,” said Anne Webb, Assistant Dean for Advancement at the School of Nursing. “We are so fortunate that alumni, particularly those early in their careers like Jennie, are making such a difference for our nursing students.”

Recurring gifts can be made via credit card or bank draft. For more information on setting up a recurring gift for the School of Nursing, please contact Katisha Paige or Anne Webb at (919) 966-4619 or sonalum@unc.edu in the Office of Advancement.
The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust awarded clinical associate professor Mary Lynn Piven nearly $750,000 to expand Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression, Empowering Activities for Seniors) for Depression, an evidence-based program for older adults living in the community, in as many as 15 North Carolina counties through 2016.

“We hope Healthy IDEAS will fill the gap for depression care that exists in North Carolina’s services network for older adults,” said Dr. Piven, Director of the Healthy IDEAS-North Carolina Initiative (HI-NC). “Once recognized, depression is very treatable in older adults. But it must be detected to be addressed. Healthy IDEAS will benefit older North Carolinians by educating community staff to intervene effectively.”

The program was designed to be easily integrated with the current network of aging and social services in North Carolina. A certified Healthy IDEAS trainer prepares case managers who work at senior centers and social service agencies to properly conduct depression screening while providing the tools necessary to decrease depressive symptoms in older adults. Case managers learn how to educate older adults about depression and link their clients to any needed mental health resources. Healthy IDEAS also teaches case managers how to engage their clients through behavioral activation, facilitating better management of symptoms and fuller engagement in meaningful activities.

With their initial grant, Dr. Piven and her colleagues trained 46 case managers in six agencies throughout Chatham and Orange Counties. Since receiving the KBR award, an additional 47 case management staff from seven agencies covering Madison, Transylvania, Yancey, Guilford, Cumberland, Harnett and Sampson Counties have been trained. The HI-NC Initiative is coordinating regional implementation of the Healthy IDEAS program with a strong focus on rural counties where access to mental health professionals may be limited.

“Many older adults who are at high risk for depression are home bound or face financial problems that makes it difficult for them to gain access to quality care through existing case managers and outreach programs for older adults,” said Dr. Piven. “The expansion will help us reach more people who are facing a condition that is robbing them of their connectedness, fulfillment, and joy.”

This grant is one of the largest ever awarded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. A key priority of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust is working to strengthen the system of care for older North Carolinians with behavioral health needs. The UNC-CH School of Nursing is the coordinating center responsible for implementation, dissemination, training, support and developing sustainability among HI-NC sites.
Margaret Ferguson Raynor, BSN ‘67, MEd, RN, has established an expendable fund that will help grow and strengthen the sustainability of the School of Nursing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMNHP) Program.

Carolina’s PMHNP Program is helping alleviate North Carolina’s critical need for mental health practitioners. It is the state’s only PMHNP program and was ranked fourth of approximately 150 programs nationwide by U.S. News and World Report. The program prepares advanced practice nurses to work with the underserved and underserviced, with a special focus on serving people in rural and remote areas of North Carolina, where psychiatric and mental health services can be scarce.

Mrs. Raynor named this fund to honor the work of the PMHNP director, Victoria Soltis-Jarrett, PhD, PMHCNS/ NP-BC, FAAN, who has practiced psychiatric nursing for 30 years and maintains her PMHNP practice in outpatient settings in Winston-Salem and Durham, which she believes helps her enrich her students’ experiences in the classroom. “I have worked with Dr. Soltis-Jarrett, and she embodies all the qualities I think are needed to address the needs of this population and to train PMHNPs to address these needs,” Mrs. Raynor says. “She focuses on empowering patients.”

The PMHNP program and the PMHNP role in North Carolina has grown and developed over the last decade, and during this time the program has relied on generous preceptors who volunteer time to supervise and train students. This new fund could help give PMHNP preceptors remuneration for their time and help the school link with more clinical sites across the state, allowing a vital exchange of education and training for preceptors, their staff and also the PMHNP students. The support will also be helpful in initiating a Center for Excellence for PMHNP education, training, and resources that would showcase UNC-Chapel Hill as a model for education and continue to prepare and graduate PMHNPs that would serve North Carolina now and in the future.

Mrs. Raynor continues her ardent support of psychiatric mental health nursing education by adding this expendable fund to a scholarship she established with her husband Bobby in 2011. She is passionate about serving patients in the public sector. “PMHNPs can effectively address the needs of these patients, who often have a combination of physical and emotional needs,” she says.

Dr. Soltis-Jarrett says, “Mrs. Raynor’s generosity is a testament to her pledge and loyalty to the School as well as to PMHN. Those who have worked in psychiatric nursing in North Carolina know of her caring and dedication to those who suffer from severe and persistent mental illnesses. I am so honored to have her support and proud to call her a colleague.”

Mrs. Raynor has been a psychiatric nurse for more than 47 years, spending most of her career as a nurse leader at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, N.C. Mrs. Raynor also served as the nurse representative on the Coalition for Persons Disabled for Mental Illness, looking at patient rights and advocacy issues. She now uses her skills on behalf of patients at Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, N.C. and as a member of the Wake County Human Services Board. She has served as a director and president of the School of Nursing Foundation, Inc. (for two terms); a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Visitors, Dental Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., executive committee member; and a General Alumni Association Board member. She received the UNC School of Nursing Alumna of the Year in 2005 in recognition of her leadership within the School and the profession.
SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF M.L. REYNOLDS GRAY

Alum and SON Foundation Board Director P. Allen Gray, Jr., MSN ’73, has created an endowed scholarship to honor the life and career of his mother, Marjorie Louise Reynolds Gray. The scholarship will be awarded to graduate nursing students.

As a nurse, Marjorie touched many lives throughout her long career. She graduated from the Anson Sanitorium School of Nursing in 1940. During the early years of her career, she cared for people as a hospital and operating room nurse. When she started raising a family, she began working as a private duty nurse so that she could focus on individual patients. During that time, she maintained a tradition of giving a silver dollar to every newborn baby whose mother she had provided care for during labor and delivery.

Following several years as an office nurse working with Dr. Robert Davis, MD, Marjorie transitioned into public health nursing. The North Carolina Public Health Association honored her for her contributions to the State Childhood Immunization Program in 1981 with the Samuel Katz Award. After more than four decades of practice, Marjorie retired from nursing in 1983 as the Director of Nursing at the Anson County Health Department.

Intelligent and perceptive, Majorie always handled challenging medical or interpersonal situations with dignity and grace. She instilled strength of character, as well as the ability to identify and do the right thing, in everyone she met. Majorie’s hard work contributed to the well-being of all people and continues to do so through the public service provided by her children. The scholarship is a tribute to her life, and through the students supported by these funds Majorie’s legacy of service will continue to grow.

GIFT HONORING FORMER DEAN KRISTEN SWANSON SUPPORTS DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE STUDENTS

Several of the School’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students benefitted from a collective gift honoring the work of former Dean Kristen Swanson. School of Nursing Foundation Board members and friends collectively established an expendable scholarship in her name.

In February of 2013, UNC along with five other state supported schools were authorized by the Board of Governors to establish clinical doctorates in nursing. Former Dean Swanson was a leader in this effort to offer North Carolina nurses the most advanced level of clinical education. The Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares nurses for direct clinical practice and for executive roles in areas that support clinical practice such as administration, organizational leadership, and health policy.

Jo-Anne Martin (BSN ’69) who organized the gift along with President Margaret Raynor (BSN ’67) said “It was a joy for all of the contributors to create a legacy gift for our School’s dedicated leader who made such an impact on Carolina nursing. Her passion for this program and for nursing students made the choice an obvious one.”
First Quality Enterprises, a long-term collaborator with the School of Nursing, has established a unique scholarship to be awarded to a graduate nursing student each year. The organization is excited to announce MSN student Lauren Parrish, RN, BSN ’08, as the inaugural scholar.

“First Quality is a premier health care company,” said Technical Service Director Jim Minetola. “We are passionate about delivering products and programs of the highest quality to improve health outcomes in the markets we serve. This scholarship is a partnership with UNC, who we know has the same values and aspirations. We deliver high performing products and the UNC School of Nursing delivers superior education.”

Through this innovative connection, the scholar will receive funding towards education and be able to participate in leadership opportunities, such as attending a national conference or disseminating a scholarly article. The Scholar will also network with First Quality health care professionals to learn more about their industry and to share the latest developments in evidence-based care.

“Exposing graduate students to the inner workings of industry is rare,” said associate professor Anna Beeber, who serves as Ms. Parrish’s academic advisor. “First Quality Enterprises has an amazing reputation for providing high-quality products to older adults residing in a variety of health care settings, including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living centers, and home care. This will be an opportunity for a student to not only gain exposure to the industrial side of health care, but also to explore how nurses can impact day to day care.”

Ms. Parrish was chosen to be the first scholar based on her academic achievements and her passion about developing better health services for older adults. “Lauren is naturally inquisitive and is always going above and beyond in her graduate studies,” said Dr. Beeber. “She has always expressed an interest in improving the care of older adults, and she was a perfect fit.”

Ms. Parrish is humbled to be the inaugural First Quality Scholar. “It will make a huge difference in my professional development,” she said. “It gives me the chance to delve deeper into academia and the environment of advanced nursing practice in a way that I couldn’t without the support of this scholarship.”
LEAVING A LEGACY FOR CAROLINA NURSING

Dr. Katherine Finn Davis (BSN ’94) and her husband, Lee, are leaving a legacy for future Carolina nurses with a planned gift to the School of Nursing. By creating the Katherine Finn Davis Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship as an endowment to be established by bequest, they will ensure continued support for the School’s future.

Katherine’s BSN in 1994 laid the groundwork for a strong career in nursing research and practice. “I think the most important lesson I learned at Carolina was responsibility—for myself, my work, and my patients. I left knowing that I had the best possible foundation, but that I was responsible for the path my life and career would take and that I had choices.”

Knowing early on that bedside nursing wasn’t for her, Katherine became a pediatric nurse practitioner, a role she enjoyed immensely. As she continued to have questions around why she chose one treatment over another, a wise physician collaborator advised her to go back to school get some of those answers. She earned a PhD from Emory in 2005, and now serves as a nurse researcher, ensuring the strongest evidence-based practice for patients at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia while continuing to educate other nurses. She also holds a position an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Katherine says “Lee and I both recognize that we are who we are in part from our time spent at our respective undergraduate institutions. I grew so much personally during my years at Carolina, it has become part of who I am. I can think of no better way to pay that forward than to help future nursing students have the same wonderful opportunities that I had and to, hopefully, go on and make a difference in the world, bearing the Carolina credentials.”
The 2014 recipients of the SON Alumni Association scholarships are BSN student Lindsay Cannon, DNP student Megan O’Connor, MSN student Courtney Evans, and ABSN student Sherry Young.

Each student received $500 to put towards their SON education. All of the recipients expressed gratitude for their awards and are looking forward to their future careers in healthcare.

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MY ALUMNI STORY—
WILLIE BREEZE, BSN 1980

I grew up as one of five children in Hillsborough, NC. My dad farmed tobacco and cotton, and we had fresh vegetables from our garden every day. My life was so rich and full of love, I didn’t even know I was “poor” until I started school.

My parents encouraged me to get a solid education. They wanted me to have as many options as possible. After high school, I got certified as an operating room (OR) technician.

I graduated on a Friday and started work the following Monday at Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. I loved the OR. I was amazed by how tough the human body is—how you can just open it up and put it back together again. I had the opportunity to watch healing in action every day.

Taking care of people is a spiritual practice for me, and I wanted to do more. I enlisted in the Army and used the GI Bill to help pay for nursing school. The School had a different environment back then. I was one of only eight African American students in my class. The coursework was very hard and students who struggled didn’t always get the support they needed. But I always had my family cheering me on. My mother just kept telling me, “You can be whatever you want. You may have to work harder for it, but you can do it.”

After I graduated, I took a position as an OR nurse up in Harrisburg, PA. Not long after that, I found out the Army needed OR nurses and I decided to serve my country once more in the Army Reserves. I eventually retired from the Army as a Major, after 23 years of service with six and a half years of active duty. Since then, I’ve moved back to North Carolina, and I keep my credentials current so I can volunteer or take part-time work when I want it.

Thanks to the SON, I have never had to take a job I didn’t like. I always had options, and I am very grateful for the opportunities my degree gave me. I feel truly blessed to have a career that gave me the chance to serve my country, allowed me to practice a healing ministry that fulfills me, and gave me enough flexibility to have time to tend my own garden in retirement.
MAINTAINING THAT CAROLINA CONNECTION: ALUMNI STRENGTHEN THEIR TIES TO THE SON

1. The SON welcomed 24 graduates of the Class of 1964 on May 11th to celebrate their 50th reunion. Over lunch with former Dean Kristen M. Swanson, they reminisced about their school days and caught up on each other’s lives.

2. SON alums (from left to right) Anna Wilkins, BSN ’12, Jennifer Myers, BSN ’10, Bentley Fisher, BSN ’13, and Lisa Ecklund, BSN ’13, spent an afternoon with current SON students for an alumni panel. They answered questions and shared advice about how students could make a smooth transition from school to their first job.

3. Assistant director of EISLE Darlene Baker (left) gave Kendree Keagen, Esther Tesh, and other members of the Class of 1962 a
tour of the patient simulation lab. They had an opportunity to see Stan, short for standard man, and Noelle, two patient simulators the SON uses to prepare students for delivering care in a variety of clinical situations.

4. SON alums Nancy Smith, BSN ’73 (left), and Susan Lantz, BSN ’73 (right), joined current SON students in reciting a pledge to provide compassionate care during the SON’s inaugural White Coat Ceremony.

5. SON Alumni Board Member Carol Marriott, BSN ’95, and her family joined their fellow Tar Heels for a Homecoming tailgate on a chilly November morning. Many Carolina Nurses and their families turned up to reconnect with old friends and get revved up for the big game.

6. Chancellor Carol Folt (right) looks on as Lt. Gen Patricia Horoho, BSN ’82, accepts the Distinguished Alumna award from Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost James W. Dean Jr. Lt. Gen Horoho, who is the first nurse and the first woman to serve as Army Surgeon General, was honored for her exceptional career and accomplishments in the United States Army.

7. Current SON student and SON alums came together at a reception held in conjunction with the 2014 North Carolina Nurses Association meeting. They were joined by current NCNA President and clinical assistant professor Megan Williams. Throughout the night, alums shared valuable insight with the students about their experiences in nursing.
1978 Brenda Nevidjon, MSN ’78, was hired as CEO of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS). She has served in a variety of leadership positions in healthcare delivery and in educational settings in Canada, Switzerland, and the United States. Currently, she is a professor at the Duke University School of Nursing. She is a past President of ONS and the ONS Foundation and served on the Institute of Medicine’s National Cancer Policy Forum Board prior to accepting her new position at ONS.

1986 Susan Johnson, BSN ’86, completed her PhD at the University of Washington in 2013. She is now an assistant professor of nursing and healthcare leadership at University of Washington-Tacoma.

1987 Gale Adcock, MSN ’87 won her election to the NC House of Representatives. She began representing NC District 41 when the House of Representatives reconvened on January 14, 2015.

1991 Vonda Williams Capps, BSN ’91, is currently serving as the nurse manager of operations for an adult medicine unit at Duke University Hospital. In the spring of 2013, she was given the opportunity to open a 31-bed medicine unit. Her team exceeded expectations by hiring and training over 40 nurses and 8 nursing care assistants in 10 months. All 31 beds in the unit were opened by October, 2013. For their accomplishment, her unit was selected as the 2014 Best Team of the South by ADVANCE for Nurses magazine. Vonda also received the Duke University Health System Friends of Nursing Award for Excellence in Nursing leadership and is happy to share that her daughter Gabrielle entered UNC as a freshman this fall.

2002 Becky Cook, BSN ’02, and her husband Nate are heading to Kenya in July 2015 to serve as medical missionaries with Africa Inland Mission. Nate will serve as an inpatient pediatrician in Kijabe Hospital and Becky plans to serve in clinics at outlying villages and the clinic of a 500-student boarding school in Kijabe. They will take their three young children, Natalie, Sutton, and Beckett along with them. Becky believes this assignment will be the first of many to come in Africa. She is grateful for the expert training she has received from the SON and is excited to put her skills to use in Africa. You can follow their travels online at http://cook.aimsites.org

2005 Elizabeth King, BSN ’05, has earned advanced certification from the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses. She is a nurse practitioner at the Hospice of Davidson County and serves both the Henry Etta and Bruce Hinkle Hospice House and the home care program.

In Memoriam
Brett Coleman, SON Staff
Olutoyosi Layeni Fatolu, BSN Student
Nancy Gilliland, BSN ’62
Evelyn Frost Nichols, BSN ’74

CORRECTION: The Fall 2013 issue of Carolina Nursing stated Lindsay Spainhour Baker was a consultant to the Kenyan Army. She was a consultant for the United Nations. We apologize for the error.
CONGRATULATIONS TO DEAN EMERITA CYNTHIA FREUND AND ASSOCIATE DEAN EMERITA AUDREY BOOTH FOR BEING INDUCTED IN THE NCNA HALL OF FAME!

Dean Emerita Cynthia Freund, MSN ’73, and Associate Dean Emerita Audrey Booth, MSN ’57, were awarded the highest honor of the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) when they were inducted into the NCNA Hall of Fame on Thursday October 9, 2014. Nurses chosen for the Hall of Fame are recognized for their extensive history of nursing leadership and achievements in North Carolina.

Dr. Freund, PhD, MSN ’73, FNP, FAAN, led the SON as Dean from 1990-1999. Under her leadership, the undergraduate curriculum was redesigned, extramural funding for the School increased, and distance education was implemented. Dr. Freund also oversaw the creation of the research center and a clinical education resource center. She was part of the team who created and expanded the nurse practitioner program and formed a statewide consortium of nurse practitioner training programs. She was appointed by Jim Hunt in 1996 as the first nurse to serve on the NC Institute of Medicine, and through her service she helped shape policy with the General Assembly and expanded the influence of nursing. “Cindy’s extraordinary contributions to nursing education, administration, research, and practice over a 38-year career cement her place in any Hall of Fame,” colleagues wrote in the nominating materials. “She led the way for other nurses who want to practice fully, write thoughtfully, speak authoritatively, teach vigorously, and research thoroughly.”

Audrey Booth, RN, MN, MSN ’57, was the first student to receive an MSN degree from the SON. After more than a decade as nursing supervisor at NC Memorial Hospital, primarily in pediatrics, she joined the staff of the newly funded North Carolina Regional Medical Program. As the nursing staff member, Ms. Booth had the opportunity there to work with the Deans of several Nursing Schools in the UNC system, Deans of the Medical Schools, State Health Department representatives, and legislators who were formulating and introducing the new advanced practice role for registered nurses. During this period, she was appointed by Governor James Holshauser to the NC Board of Nursing on which she served eight years with five of those years as Chair. Her influence helped garner support for important legislation, such as the 1975 bill recognizing the practice of nurse practitioners and nurse midwives as well as the 1981 Nurse Practice Act. This work continued when Ms. Booth returned to the SON in 1973 as Statewide Nursing Coordinator of the new Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). For more than a decade, she shared a common bond with Dr. Cynthia Freund as a member of the team that created and expanded nurse practitioner programs. Ms. Booth served as Associate Dean for twelve years, and she was one of the three faculty and staff who founded the School of Nursing Foundation, Inc. In recognition of her service to the SON and the State, she was named the first Alumna of the Year by the SON Alumni Association. A scholarship honoring her work was established by Walter Royal Davis, a former member of the UNC Board of Governors. Ms. Booth remains active in retirement and was instrumental in the successful efforts to produce the UNC-TV documentary North Carolina Nurses: A Century of Caring in 2002.

Carolina Alums Honored by NCNA

NCNA presented Schquith Peacock, BSN ‘92, MSN ‘99 with the Practice Nurse of the Year.

SON alum AnnMarie Lee Walton, BSN ’03, was one of three nurses who were granted a Mary Lewis Wyche Fellowship. Ms. Walton was also honored this year with a Breakthrough Leaders in Nursing Award from the Campaign for Action, a joint initiative of the American Association of Retired Persons and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
Remember what it was like to choose that first step after nursing school?

There are so many options open to today's graduates and the questions are endless. Your expertise is a wonderful resource for nursing students and can help them navigate the nursing job market as well as give them the perspective they need to make wise choices about their future.

Become A Mentor

Sign up to be a mentor at sonalum@unc.edu or visit nursing.unc.edu/alumni-friends/alumni-mentoring-program to learn how you can connect with a current student at the School of Nursing.