Leading with Integrity
From the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Over the past five years, I have cherished your commitment to the School of Nursing as alumni, friends, and Foundation Board Directors. Your belief in this School made serving as its sixth Dean both a privilege and honor. I have been fortunate to work alongside the highly talented School of Nursing faculty and staff and take pride in our accomplishments. I am grateful for the academic support of colleagues from across this campus, which has created opportunities for the scholarship of faculty and students to flourish.

On July 1, 2014, I am stepping away from my role as Dean of the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While leaving is hard, it is reassuring to know the School will be stewarded by Donna S. Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN, a very capable colleague and leader. I am personally grateful to Donna for accepting the Interim Dean position and trust that the School will thrive under her responsible and visionary leadership.

Thanks to our donors, the School of Nursing’s permanent endowment increased by 39.71%, or more than $4 million since 2009, and we saw the two highest years for private giving in the SON’s history in 2011 and 2013. Last year, Carol and Coleman Ross created the Carol Morde Ross Distinguished Professorship in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing, which is the first new Distinguished Professorship offered by the School since 1999. Twenty-two new student scholarships and awards will provide future generations access to an affordable Carolina nursing education. Alumni and friends have also given countless hours to the School through mentoring students and new graduates, speaking with classes about School history and work experiences, acting as preceptors, and participating in many School events, such as the first student and alumni mixer held last fall.

The last five years have seen many exciting changes at the School, including the launch of new programs. UNC-Chapel Hill is one of three nursing programs in the nation to receive funding from the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation to offer exceedingly capable undergraduate nursing students the opportunity to concurrently enroll as BSN and PhD students in the highly interdisciplinary Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation. In February of 2013, the UNC Board of Governors acknowledged exemplary cooperation amongst nursing deans across the state and unanimously approved establishment of six programs of study leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). In August of 2013, the first cohort of DNP students enrolled at Chapel Hill. In addition to preparation as expert clinicians, DNP graduates will be well-prepared to collaborate with other health professionals in leading local and national efforts to transform health care.

As you browse this issue, you will read about how preceptors enhance the learning of nursing students; about the lifetime of achievement and retirement of two distinguished professionals; and how the School’s focus on research, inquiry, and evidence-based practice provides a strong foundation for our undergraduates.

I see more great things ahead for the School as its highly talented faculty and staff continue to produce innovative ideas that advance nursing education, research, and practice. Having just recently seen the School’s newest graduates receive their diplomas, I remain hopeful that the goal of better health for more people at a lower cost might just be within reach. I leave UNC-Chapel Hill proud to have been a Carolina Nurse.

Sincerely,

Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor
TABLE OF CONTENTS
Spring 2014 Vol 4, No. 1

NEWS
2  Donna S. Havens to serve as Interim Dean
2  Megan Williams elected President of NCNA
3  Celebrating 25 years of doctoral education
4  Calling forth the courage
5  Angelo Moore presents 2013-2014 Ethnic Minority Visiting Scholar talk
5  News briefs

FACULTY NEWS
6  A legacy of scholarship
8  Faculty awards and accomplishments
8  SON welcomes new faculty
10  Promotions and retirements
12  Alumni create space for SON history

FEATURES
13  Celebrating the accomplishments of Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN
15  Baccalaureate education: a foundation of excellence
17  The powerful impact of preceptors
20  From student to colleague
21  Connecting class to class

GLOBAL HEALTH
24  SON FOUNDATION
26  Symposium established in memory of Colleen Elshoff Astrike
27  Eunice Brock establishes nurse practitioner scholarship in daughter’s memory
28  Undergraduate scholarship Honors Jo-Anne Trowbridge Martin BSN ’69
29  Susan Ruppalt Lantz Creates Ruppalt Scholarship
30  Giving and Gratitude

ALUMNI
32  Alumni News
36  My Alumni Story
37  Class Notes

On the Cover: During Alumni Distinguished Professor Kristen M. Swanson’s tenure as the sixth dean of the School of Nursing, a path has been set for diversity, innovation, discovery, and academic excellence.
MEGAN P. WILLIAMS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION

Clinical assistant professor Megan P. Williams, MSN, RN, FNP, was sworn in as the 51st President of the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) during their annual meeting. She and her fellow board members assumed leadership during a critical time. “As the leading professional association for registered nurses in North Carolina we need to consider not just the future of nursing, but the future for nursing,” said Mrs. Williams.

As President, Mrs. Williams aims to make NCNA more flexible and encourages direct member participation. She is also spending time advocating for legislation that supports nurses and promotes safety, health, and access to care. She has appeared on UNC-TV, Capitol Beat, and Time Warner Cable News to increase awareness of the needs of nurses as well as their contributions to society.

At the SON, Mrs. Williams teaches undergraduate nursing students in the classroom and in clinical settings. Mrs. Williams is the faculty advisor for the Association of Nursing Students and practices as a family nurse practitioner at the acute care after-hours clinic at UNC Campus Health.

“For me, the role of nurse educator is important. I am in a unique position to provide students with learning environments where they will gain the specialized expertise necessary for the important role they will play as part of a health care team. I look forward to engaging with nurses at all levels of practice across our state to move nursing forward.”

DONNA S. HAVENS TO SERVE AS INTERIM DEAN

UNC provost James W. Dean, Jr. has named professor Donna S. Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN, of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing as Interim Dean of the School, pending approval from the Board of Governors. Dr. Havens will begin on July 1 after Dean Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, steps down as dean (read more in the Letter From the Dean).

“With Dean Swanson at the helm, the School has launched new degree programs, strengthened its relationship with UNC Hospitals, and opened new faculty practice sites,” Dr. Havens said. “During this transition, I will partner with the School and University in finding the best person to lead us as we continue on a trajectory of nationally recognized excellence in nursing education, research, and practice.”

Dr. Havens earned a PhD in Nursing at the University of Maryland and completed postdoctoral study at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She has been a tenured professor at UNC for more than a decade and chaired the Health Care Division from 2003 to 2006. She came to UNC from the Pennsylvania State University School of Nursing, where she held the Ebberly Endowed Professorship and was part of a five-person team that provided interim leadership to the School while a new dean was recruited.

Dr. Havens developed the Decisional Involvement Scale, which is used to identify actual and preferred degrees of staff nurse involvement in workplace policy and practice decisions. She has served as principal investigator of multiple studies and has published, consulted, and presented extensively on topics related to improving nursing practice and patient care.

Spring 2014
Alumni, faculty, and nursing leaders gathered in the new addition of Carrington Hall to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the doctoral program at the SON and the launching of the DNP program. PhD alums came from across the country to reconnect and celebrate. 

Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, outlined the history of the PhD degree at the SON and how the strong foundation for doctoral education led to the current DNP focus on clinical scholarship. DNP director and associate professor Debra J. Barksdale, PhD, FNP-BC, ANP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN, shared her thoughts on the first year of DNP education at the SON. PhD program director and associate professor Suzanne Thoyre, PhD, RN, FAAN, reflected on the SON’s commitment to educating the next generation of innovative thinkers. PhD students Kayoll Gabraith and Louise Fleming, and DNP student Carla Jones then spoke eloquently about their empowering experiences as doctoral students at the SON.

Following remarks, guests celebrated the official opening of the doctoral suite in the new addition of Carrington hall with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Drs. Barksdale and Thoyre shared the honor of cutting the ribbon.

(Clockwise from top left) Drs. Debra Barksdale and Suzanne Thoyre prepare to cut the ribbon to the new doctoral suite; PhD students Kayoll Galbraith and Louise Fleming addressed the guests; Alumnus Stewart Bond, MSN ‘88, PhD ‘06, had a chance to reminisce with professor emeritus Margaret Miles; The SON’s first doctoral degree recipient Diane Hudson-Barr, PhD ‘94, (far left) reconnected with PhD graduates (from left to right) Esther Tesh, BSN ‘62, PhD ‘96, Sheila Santacroce, Phd ‘97, and Julie Taylor, BSN ‘83, PhD ‘99.
CALLING FORTH THE COURAGE: A DAY OF INSPIRING DISCUSSION

On Thursday, March 6th, leaders in nursing and academia came together to share provocative ideas and bold approaches to enhancing health care in the daylong symposium *Calling Forth the Courage: Making a Difference in Health and Health Care*.

Keynote speaker Doug Shackelford, PhD, Dean, and Meade H. Willis Distinguished Professor of Taxation of the UNC-Kenan Flagler Business School, began the symposium with a big-picture talk about the different perspectives experts within a discipline can bring to the table. For example, Dean Shackelford said, taxation is important both for the professionals who write tax policy and those who want to assure clients won’t pay any more taxes than required. Both groups care about taxation, but they approach it differently.

These different perspectives can make collaboration between groups difficult. Dean Shackelford shared some strategies he employs when bringing people with multiple perspectives together. Setting clear expectations and asking participants to avoid jargon, he said, helps encourage experts to listen to each other better. “I almost always start our conferences by saying that if you feel comfortable about everything that’s on today’s agenda, you’re probably in the wrong place.”

Following the keynote, Chris Tanner, PhD, RN, FAAN, from Oregon Health and Science University, brought nursing education to the forefront. Nursing curriculums, she said, have to adapt to changes in health care (such as reduced hospital stays and increased home care) that are changing how nurses work. “There are some great opportunities for nursing, but we need to have a workforce ready to assume these responsibilities.”

Angelo Moore, PhD ’10, who is a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, presented a talk on military health care. Through research, LTC Moore and his colleagues have found that soldiers have an average of 12 appointments a year. He suggested the recent military focus on wellness and prevention might have an unintended consequence of forced increase in utilization of services. For example, “We [soldiers] cannot call in sick. The system forces us to be seen.”

Amy Barton, PhD, RN, FAAN, from University of Colorado explored clinical collaboration in her talk. “To get it [practice] right is really going to take working together,” she said. “I investigated frameworks we can use to talk about how we can come together in new and different ways.” Dr. Barton discussed different aspects of a collaboration “continuum” and how it could be applied to health care. She shared lessons learned from Sheridan Health Services, a nurse-managed clinic for low-income individuals Dr. Barton helped develop.

In the final presentation of the day, Loretta Sweet Jemmott, PhD, RN, FAAN, from the University of Pennsylvania talked about strategies learned from randomized trials with individuals living with HIV/AIDS. To be effective, she said, it is critical that researchers form a bond with people in the community. “If you want to change the behavior of a given population, you must take time to understand why they do what they do,” Dr. Sweet Jemmott said. “This approach requires reflection, persistence, great communication, and above all, commitment.”
ETHNIC MINORITY VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE GIVEN BY ANGELO MOORE

During Calling Forth the Courage: Making a Difference in Health and Health Care, Ethnic Minority Visiting Scholar Lieutenant Colonel Angelo Moore, PhD ’10, explained how military culture influences military medicine.

Through his current research, LTC Moore discovered that on average soldiers undergo 12 health visits per year. “That’s a lot of appointments,” he said. “Some of those numbers are high because as soldiers we have to always be ready. We cannot call in sick.”

According to LTC Moore, the military is now focusing heavily on primary care. One model is the soldier-centered medical home; a single site in which soldiers can receive care from a variety of providers as close as possible to their duty station.

“We all have to work together to provide care for the military population,” he said. “So how can we help serve them?” He called for educators to provide soldiers access to higher education and support in achieving their goals in nursing and health care. Finally, he advocated more research collaboration between the military and nursing schools. “To have academia and the military and practice professionals all come together would be a great thing.”

NEWS BRIEFS

ABSN Student Wins “A Nurse I Am” Scholarship

John Haddock, a May 2014 graduate, was one of 10 students from across the U.S. selected to receive a $2,000 scholarship from Cherokee Uniforms. To earn the scholarship, Haddock wrote an essay in response to the documentary “A Nurse I Am.” Haddock’s winning essay is called “A Nurse I Am: Let’s Make Them Feel Good!”

The American Cancer Society Awards Scholarships to SON Students

Four students have received American Cancer Society Graduate Scholarships in Cancer Nursing Practice. The recipients are Sean Gallagher, RN; April Lenker, RN; Melissa Matson, RN; and Lori Walker, RN.

The scholarship supports graduate students pursuing their MSN or DNP. The UNC recipients are second-year students in the MSN program studying to become adult-gerontology nurse practitioners with an oncology focus.

Dr. Deborah Mayer, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor of nursing, said, “It is very rewarding that all four students who applied were able to receive this generous scholarship.”

Students Receive Awards at Graduation

At the spring 2014 commencement, four students were acknowledged for extraordinary accomplishments. Erin Claire Richardson received the George Livas Award, an award established by the BSN Class of 1956 and other friends of Mr. Livas to recognize an outstanding undergraduate student. The Pauline W. Brown Diversity Scholarship Award was presented to Ethan Cicero for his paper Communicating & Caring for Transgender Patients. Rachel Nash and Carra Wainwright received BSN Class of 2003 scholarships, awards that were established as a senior gift to the SON.
MERLE H. MISHEL, PHD, RN, FAAN

Kenan Distinguished Professor of Nursing Merle H. Mishel’s scholarship on uncertainty has made a tremendous impact. “Her insights into the universal importance of uncertainty in illness have had a major influence on how we study the impacts of illness,” said research professor Barbara Germino, PhD, RN, FAAN. “What I respect most about Merle is her career-long commitment to both theoretical development and the application of theory in research.”

Dr. Mishel’s theory has provided a conceptual framework for exploring how uncertainty can influence a patient’s experiences in illness, treatment, and hospitalization. Her seminal paper has been designated one of the top 50 most-cited publications in nursing journals. The scales she created to measure uncertainty have been translated into more than 17 languages and used by researchers all over the world. Her work to develop interventions for managing uncertainty in long-term survivors of breast and prostate cancer received continuous support by the National Institutes of Health for 27 years. The high caliber of Dr. Mishel’s research was recognized through her induction into the Sigma Theta Tau International Researcher Hall of Fame.

Highly dedicated to doctoral education, Dr. Mishel has mentored nurse scientists who have become accomplished scholars in their own right. In her decade at the SON, Dr. Mishel served as chair for 18 doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars. Thirteen have attained tenure-track positions at acclaimed schools. “Merle
has changed the lives of others around her by creating an environment where critical inquiry and discovery are modeled and expected. She has made significant contributions to nursing science and to the next generation of scholars,” said Donald “Chip” Bailey, Jr., PhD ’02. A former student of Dr. Mishel, Dr. Bailey is now an associate professor at the Duke School of Nursing.

“Merle is passionate about helping individuals and teams solve the very complex issues we study,” said Leslie Davis, BSN ’85, MSN, ’80, PhD ’11. After earning her PhD under Dr. Mishel’s guidance, Dr. Davis became a faculty member at UNC-Greensboro. “She opened my mind to different ways of seeing the phenomena I study, variation in methodologies to address the research questions I pose, different ways to analyze the data collected, and new ways to interpret findings in light of theory.”

An exemplary nurse scientist, Dr. Mishel invites everyone around her to think about clinical challenges in nursing science at a high level. Though colleagues will miss Dr. Mishel’s enthusiasm, the SON will continue to benefit from her legacy of research and generous mentoring.

MARGARETE SANDELOWSKI, PHD, RN, FAAN
Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor Margarete Sandelowski joined the faculty of the SON in 1986. She has made major contributions in the domains of conceptive, prenatal, and nursing technology, and qualitative and mixed-methods research methodology.

A prolific writer and speaker, Dr. Sandelowsk has produced 148 refereed journal articles, 50 refereed research abstracts, 25 book chapters, and over 100 invited presentations for national as well as international meetings. She wrote five books, including the award-winning With child in mind: Studies of the personal encounter with infertility, and the highly praised Devices and desires: Gender, technology, and American nursing and Handbook for synthesizing qualitative research. Her work has been translated into Spanish and Japanese, and reprinted in social science anthologies. Four of her articles are among the top 50 most-cited articles published in nursing journals from 1956 to 2011. She has received over 20 years of NIH funding as principal investigator. The power of her written words was acknowledged by her peers when she received the Eileen Basker Memorial Prize in Gender and Health Research from the Society for Medical Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association. She was also the first recipient of the Laurel Archer Copp Literary Achievement Award given by the SON.

Dr. Sandelowski never hesitated to share her innovative ideas with others. For 18 years, she has led annual summer intensive programs on qualitative and mixed-methods research through the SON Center for Lifelong Learning. She has served as a mentor for many graduate students as well as faculty. “I have very crisp memories of sitting with Margie in her office at our weekly meetings while she helped me to develop my ideas,” said former student Sharron Docherty, PhD, PNP-BC, FAAN.

“I would attempt to furiously scribble down all of the golden wisdom that emerged and Margie would make me put my pen down and extol me to ‘just listen.’ I learned to bring a tape recorder.”

Dr. Docherty and many other distinguished scholars shared stories about Dr. Sandelowski at a recent celebration of her career. Jennifer Leeman, DrPH, MDIV, recalled how Dr. Sandelowski encouraged her to develop her own research ideas and pursue them through a post-doc. Sally Thorne, PhD, RN, FAAN described Dr. Sandelowski’s role in shaping qualitative health research. “As you read through the very best of qualitative contributions to health knowledge, you will inevitably find tangible reference points to that Sandelowski footprint,” said Dr. Thorne.

Former deans Cynthia Freund, PhD, RN, FAAN and Linda Cronenwett, PhD, RN, FAAN spoke of Dr. Sandelowski’s dedication to the School. “As a former dean, I would describe Margie as my ‘go-to’ person,” said Dr. Freund. “She was civil, fair, thorough, and willing to take on a difficult job. No question it would be done well.” Dr. Cronenwett added, “Wherever I went in the world, nursing leaders knew Dr. Sandelowski and treasured her mentorship. Through her editorial service to leading journals, she touched many scholars’ lives. She is a star in UNC-Chapel Hill’s crown.”

Dr. Sandelowski plans to continue writing, speaking, and providing consultations. She will also continue to offer programs through the SON’s Center for Lifelong Learning.
RUMAY ALEXANDER was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Dr. Alexander was also the recipient of the 2013 M. Elizabeth Carnegie Award from the Southern Regional Education Board Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing.

DEBRA BARKSDALE was appointed to the Advisory Board for the UNC Center of Faculty Excellence by Provost James Dean. Dr. Barksdale will serve on the board for three years.

ANNA BEEBER has been named a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. She also received funding from NINR for a five-year study called “Alzheimer’s Medical Advisor: A symptom and sign management toolkit for caregivers.”

LINDA BEEBER has been appointed as a Research Navigator for the UNC North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute.

ASHLEY LEAK BRYANT received a K12 Paul Calabresis Career Development Award in Clinical Oncology.

MARIANNE COCKCROFT defended her PhD dissertation “Self-Care Behaviors of College Students with Diabetes.”

NANCY CROWELL passed the ANCC exam. She is now a board certified adult gerontology primary care nurse practitioner.

CAROL DURHAM was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She was also elected President of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning.

ERIC HODGES was appointed to the Provost’s Committee on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity. This committee is responsible for reviewing institutional data and developing excellence strategies.

THE SON WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

Five new tenure-track faculty joined the SON during the 2013-2014 school year. From left to right: Dr. Mark Toles studies care transitions for older adults; Dr. Ashley Leak Bryant’s research focuses on quality of life for individuals with acute myeloid leukemia; Dr. Cecilia Roscigno examines families’ experiences in making difficult decisions when their child is at risk for death or disability; Dr. Jada Brooks studies psychological factors related to management of childhood asthma; and Dr. Jessica Zègre-Hemsey investigates strategies to improve care for acute coronary syndrome.
SANDY HOFFMAN defended her PhD dissertation “How Nursing Students Experience Caring Relationships with Patients.”

CORETTA JENERETTE and her co-PI Paula Tanabe from Duke University received an R13 conference grant from NIH to host an educational meeting on sickle cell disease. She was also appointed to the Provost’s Committee on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity.

CHERYL JONES was selected as a 2013 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow. She also received funding from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for her study “Educational Transitions and Trajectories of Registered Nurses in North Carolina” and funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for “Evaluating the Business Care for Nurse Residency Programs.”

JILL HAMILTON was chosen as the keynote speaker for the Helen S. Miller lecturership and luncheon at North Carolina Central University.

SHAWN KNEIPP was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She also received a NC TraCS Dissemination and Implementation grant.

BETH LAMANNA received the UNC Health Care 2014 Faculty of the Year Award.

JENNIFER LEEMAN is a co-PI with Jean Wiecha from RTI International for a NC TraCS award to support their proposal “Developing a tool to assess practitioner capacity to change policies and environments.”

BARBARA MARK received the 2013 Path Paver Award from the Friends of the National Institute of Nursing. This recognition is given to a nurse researcher whose work greatly contributes to the understanding of human health care.

CAROLYN MCKENZIE was certified as a Clinical Nurse Leader.

MARY LYNN PIVEN was awarded a three-year grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. Piven will use this award to expand Healthy Ideas, a depression management program for older adults, in up to 15 counties across North Carolina.

SHIELDA RODGERS was selected to be an evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation process. She also received the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the North Carolina Central University Department of Nursing.

The September/October issue of the journal Nursing Research published a study in which researchers identified the most frequently cited articles published in nursing journals from 1956 to 2011. The publications of three SON faculty members were included in the Top 50.

Four publications on qualitative methods by Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor Margarete Sandelowski, PhD, RN, FAAN, were ranked at positions 2, 3, 13, and 17. An article on content validity by Professor Mary Lynn, PhD, was in position 4. Kenan Distinguished Professor of Nursing Merle Mishel, PhD, RN, FAAN, wrote a paper on measuring uncertainty in illness that appeared at position 30.

The study authors identified the Top 50 articles after conducting an analysis that included over 100,000 articles from 89 nursing journals.
PAMELA ROWSEY was appointed to the Provost’s Committee on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity.

SHEILA SANTACROCE was awarded a two-year Nurse Discovery Award by Alex’s Lemonade Stand for a study to examine arterial stiffness in children after they have completed cancer therapy. Drs. Debra Barksdale and Jamie Crandell are co-investigators for the study.

MARY SCHULER was awarded Emeriti status at Norwalk Community College in Norwalk, CT.

LESLIE SHARPE was selected as a Duke-Johnson & Johnson nurse leadership fellow. She also received the 2014 American Association of Nurse Practitioners-North Carolina Award for NP Advocacy.

GWEN SHERWOOD received funds to support participation for 20 nursing students in interprofessional patient safety summer camps.

VICTORIA SOLTIS-JARRETT received HRSA funding for her proposal “Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners in North Carolina: Interprofessional Education, Practice, and Integration of Care.” Drs. Noreen Esposito and Mary Lynn Piven will collaborate with Dr. Soltis-Jarrett on this project. She was also inducted as a Fellow in the AANP.

THERESA SWIFT-SCANLAN received a UNC Faculty Research Award and the Barbara Senich Genomics Innovation Endowment Award to fund her research on epigenetic changes associated with breast cancer.

SUZANNE THOYRE was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.

MARK TOLES was selected as the faculty recipient of the 2013 Gordon H. DeFriese Career Development Award in Aging Research. He was also named an NC TraCS KL2 scholar.

DEBBIE TRAVERS received an AHRQ grant for her project “Evaluation of Stage 3 Meaningful Use Objectives.”

MARCIA VAN RIPER was honored with the Founders Award for Outstanding Nursing Education in Genetics by the International Society of Nurses in Genetics.

JENNIE WAGNER was appointed to the Provost’s Committee on Inclusive Excellence and Diversity.

MEG ZOMORODI received an AHEC Clinical Site Development grant. She will use the award to plan new student practicum experiences.

2013–2014 PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

ANNA BEEBER: Associate Professor
BETH BLACK: Associate Professor
JADA BROOKS: Assistant Professor
ASHLEY LEAK BRYANT: Assistant Professor
ERIC HODGES: Associate Professor
CORETTA JENERETTE: Associate Professor
DEBORAH MAYER: Professor and Director of Cancer Survivorship
CECILIA ROSCIGNO: Assistant Professor
TODD SCHWARTZ: Research Associate Professor
SUZANNE THOYRE: Professor

MARK TOLES: Assistant Professor
VIRGINIA TYSGINTER: Clinical Assistant Professor
JOHN VALGUS: Clinical Assistant Professor
JESSICA ZÈGRE–HEMSEY: Assistant Professor

RETIREMENTS

CATHIE FOGEL
MERLE MISHEL
VIRGINIA NEELON
MARGARETE SANDELOWSKI
MARGARET MILES RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR FROM AAN

Professor Emerita Margaret Miles, RN, PhD, FAAN, was named a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing. The Living Legend distinction is the highest honor offered by the Academy. Only 84 nurses have been selected as Living Legends.

Dr. Miles was one of the first pediatric clinical nurse specialists to investigate the psychosocial needs of hospitalized children and their parents at a time when the focus of care was strictly on medical treatment. Her early explorations led her to study the suffering of bereaved parents and parents of critically ill children. Later on, Dr. Miles and her colleagues scrutinized the stress parents experience when their child is hospitalized in an intensive care unit. The research instruments developed in her studies have been used by investigators around the world.

Dr. Miles is well-known for her leadership and mentoring as well as her seminal research. She was critical in launching the Society of Pediatric Nurses and served as the founding president. In recognition of her service, the Margaret Miles Distinguished Service award is given biannually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the society. Through her prior role as core director for the Center for Innovations in Health Disparities Research, she has mentored numerous faculty who have developed programs of research on health disparities and minority populations.

LINDA CRONENWETT RECEIVES AAN PRESIDENT’S AWARD

During the 2013 meeting of the American Academy of Nurses (AAN), Beerstecher-Blackwell Term Professor and former Dean Linda Cronenwett, PhD, RN, FAAN, was honored with the AAN President's Award. The President's Award is given to “one who exemplifies extraordinary contributions to improving the quality and safety of health care for all.”

Dr. Cronenwett served as Principal Investigator of Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) for seven years. Under her leadership, the project received four phases of funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and led to the spread of quality and safety competencies along with curricular and teaching strategies that were successfully piloted at many nursing schools. She also contributed to the award-winning book Quality and Safety in Nursing: A Competency Approach to Improving Outcomes (edited by Associate Dean Gwen Sherwood, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Professor Jane H. Barnsteiner, PhD, FAAN, from the University of Pennsylvania).

Currently, Dr. Cronenwett is continuing her work to improve health care quality by serving as the co-director of the Executive Nurse Fellows program. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and the Board of Trustees for the North Carolina Quality Center at the North Carolina Hospital Association.
Without a dedicated location for history to be shared, there's a chance the accomplishments of previous generations might be lost in the surge of forward progress. Drs. Barbara Jo Foley, BSN ’67, and Meg Zomorodi, BSN’01, PhD ’08, came together to preserve the SON’s past through the gift of the SON History Room.

“Both of us are very proud of the School and the history of the School,” said Dr. Foley. “We had a mannequin here and a display case there, but I really wanted to see the history of the School organized in one place.”

Dr. Zomorodi attributes the original idea for the room to Assistant Dean of Advancement Anne Webb. “I told her I wanted make a gift that would get other alumni involved,” she said. “I was talking with Anne about how much nursing has changed since I earned my BSN and she proposed a history room after seeing one at another school. I loved it from the moment she thought of it.”

The room is located across the hall from the Office of Student Affairs and the new Student Resource Room, which is also supported by Drs. Foley and Zomorodi. The artifacts currently on display include textbooks and a student uniform from one of the School’s earliest classes. Items representing the SON’s 25 years of doctoral education are prominently featured right now and the display will continue to be refreshed to highlight important milestones. With so many “firsts” as part of Carolina nursing history, there is ample material.

Drs. Foley and Zomorodi hope the History Room will offer students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to reflect on all the SON has achieved “Our school is a hub for nursing in North Carolina,” said Dr. Foley. “It’s important for people to remember how we got there.”

The SON Alumni Board of Directors will make recommendations for featured materials and all alumni are encouraged to share ideas. “Nursing is in a rapid state of change,” said Dr. Zomorodi. “I think it’s important to look at where we have come from to understand where we can go. I can’t wait to see how this history room changes over time.”
Kristen M. Swanson, RN, PhD, FAAN, began her tenure as the sixth dean of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing in August of 2009. She also served as Associate Chief Nursing Officer for Academic Affairs at UNC Hospitals.

During her time at UNC, Dean Swanson has worked with faculty and staff to develop innovative ways to prepare nurses to meet tomorrow’s health care needs, to conduct key research aimed at improving patient care, and to increase the health of others through clinical practice.

Dean Swanson is known for her research on pregnancy loss and for developing the Swanson Theory of Caring—which is used both nationally and internationally to guide research, education, and practice. UNC Hospitals selected the Swanson Theory of Caring as the conceptual framework for Carolina Care, which guides its nursing care. Due to the strong academic and practice partnership enjoyed by Dean Swanson and Associate Dean for UNC Health Care Mary Tonges, PhD, RN, FAAN, as well as the excellent care provided by nurses and other health professionals at UNC Hospitals, patient satisfaction scores have been the highest in the nation amongst academic health science centers for three out of the last four years. The Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle uses the Swanson Theory of Caring in its health care delivery system as well. In recognition of her work with the Medical Center, Dean Swanson was designated the first Virginia Mason Medical Center Distinguished Nursing Scholar in 2012.

During the last five years, Dean Swanson has been a leader both locally and nationally. She serves on the National Advisory Council for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars, was appointed to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, chaired the nominating committee for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, served as President of the NC Deans of Baccalaureate and Higher Education Programs, and received the University of Rhode Island Dean’s Distinguished Alumni Award. She also chaired the search committee for the UNC Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING HIGHLIGHTS 2009-2014**

During Dean Swanson’s tenure, the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing has greatly enhanced nursing education, practice, and research. The School’s focus on high-quality innovative research resulted in cumulative five-year extramural research funding of $22,801,075. The School graduates over 170 baccalaureate-prepared nurses each year with the vast majority of them staying in the state for their first job. For pre-licensure students, 90% complete their Bachelor’s degree on time, and...
first-time NCLEX pass rates have remained at 95% or higher.

The MSN program has almost doubled since Dean Swanson came to the SON, with 107 graduates during the 2013-2014 academic year. More than 95% of primary care nurse practitioners educated at UNC-Chapel Hill remain in the state, with 93% going on to practice in a rural or medically underserved area of the state. Since 2009, 94% of UNC-Chapel Hill prepared nurse practitioners passed certification exams on their first try on average.

The School increased options and flexibility for nurses who want to advance their education. There is now a shortened time to completion for master’s programs that prepare nurses to become nurse practitioners and clinical nurse leaders, and a redesign of the PhD program enables BSN-prepared students to complete the program in 3.5 years. In addition, the newly launched Doctor of Nursing Practice Program and the Hillman Scholars Program in Nursing Innovation offer new ways for nurses to pursue advanced education at UNC.

In 2011, the School of Nursing was ranked fourth by the U.S. News and World Report’s Best Graduate School Rankings (there was a three-way tie for number one). The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education reaccredited the School’s Baccalaureate and Master’s Programs for ten years in 2012, and the PhD Program underwent a very positive review by the Graduate School. The American Nurses Credentialing Center reaccredited the Center for Lifelong Learning as a provider of continuing nursing education for four years. The DNP Program will undergo its first review for accreditation in October of 2014.

Within the last five years, more than 30% of tenure-track faculty members were hired in the SON. During that time, racial and ethnic diversity among faculty has increased, and the school improved its global health presence by welcoming more Visiting International Scholars and awarding stipends to support global health projects. Three faculty members were named Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Nurse Faculty Scholars; two were selected as RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows; and former Dean Linda Cronenwett was selected as the National Program Officer for the RWJF Executive Nurse Fellows Program. In 2011, Chancellor Thorp approved a faculty practice plan for the School, and new practice sites are now operating in Chatham, Orange, and Alamance Counties.

Carolina faculty provide high-quality continuing education throughout the state. Revenues from continuing education increased by 48% since 2009. Through the North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (AHEC), faculty members provided an annual average of 602.8 hours of educational outreach and technical assistance to NC nurses. Renovations in Carrington Hall created new workspaces where investigators can collaborate and students can learn together. Upgraded technology in classrooms and conference rooms has opened new opportunities for distance learning and global teleconferencing.

During Dean Swanson’s time as Dean, the School’s national leadership has flourished, as has its dedication to meeting the health care needs of North Carolinians. “When Dean Swanson arrived, the SON was facing some incredibly tough funding challenges,” said Associate Dean Gwen Sherwood, PhD, RN FAAN. “Leading with integrity, she navigated the School through multiple state funding cuts without layoffs and sustained the high quality of a Carolina education. Her accomplishments over the past five years will live on in the lives of our faculty, students, and staff.”

Dean Swanson joins student ambassadors, who helped host the Alumni Awards and Donor Recognition event in 2010.
Pursuing a BSN degree in a research-intensive environment like the SON offers many opportunities for undergraduate nursing students. They can conduct research alongside faculty who are developing cutting-edge inquiries. More importantly, they are encouraged to be inquisitive, to think about alternative solutions to problems, and to develop evidence-based approaches to test those solutions.

“I have visited an array of nursing schools for the accreditation work I do,” said clinical associate professor and director of the undergraduate program Beverly Foster, PhD, RN. “They all talk about research because the standards require them to. But they don’t talk about it with the zeal that we do here. Research is contagious at UNC, and I think you’d have to be pretty thick-skinned not to catch the bug.”

According to Dr. Foster, one challenge undergraduate educators face on a research-rich campus is striking a balance between teaching students the fundamentals of nursing practice they need and sharing the exhilarating discoveries made by researchers. “It is very important that we offer students a foundational education that is contemporary, fits the essential standards we are supposed to meet, and is offered as creatively as we can deliver it,” said Dr. Foster. “From there, we integrate some of those exciting new things we’re all exposed to in Carrington Hall. A strong foundation is key for their success.”

Undergraduate clinical faculty are selected to teach at the SON because they are highly skilled clinicians who bring a scholarly approach to the care they provide. They purposefully incorporate evidence into their courses and encourage students to critically evaluate that evidence. Their passion for scholarship thrives in a research-intensive environment—a passion that is fueled by the modeling of clinical experts who engage learners in a commitment to deliver care of the highest quality.
Clinical associate professor Kathy Alden, EdD, MSN, RN, IBCLC, has been teaching undergraduates at the SON for 25 years. One of the many reasons she has stayed at the SON is the collaborative effort to provide the highest quality education. “The environment within the SON is one of inquiry,” she said. “We teach students about the importance of evidence-based practice and we are fortunate to have scientists in the School who are helping to create that evidence. In addition, we have faculty who are experts and leaders in nursing education who help to create and disseminate knowledge about teaching.”

Dr. Alden’s scholarship focuses on maternal newborn nursing. She is co-editor of a leading maternity and women’s health textbook. She collaborates with faculty from the School of Medicine and the School of Pharmacy to offer interprofessional obstetrical simulations for nursing, medical, and pharmacy students. She appreciates having the chance to improve and enhance her teaching skills alongside researchers and educators who are leading experts in their disciplines. “There is a real sense of collegiality and teamwork here,” she said. Dr. Carol Durham, who is an acclaimed expert in simulation, has been integral in leading the SON in the use of simulation. Dr. Alden has collaborated with Dr. Durham since the first high-fidelity simulator arrived in the SON in 2000 to incorporate this interactive teaching strategy into the undergraduate curriculum. “Carol is a wonderful colleague with innovative ideas. She is a great resource to faculty and students.”

Dr. Alden’s students benefit from exposure to faculty experts as well. For her maternal newborn course, Dr. Alden often brings in Dr. Beth Black, a leading expert on perinatal loss, to share her knowledge and experience. Many of her students understand just how valuable it is to have an opportunity to learn from such highly regarded researchers. “She creates evidence and has such compassion for the families who are part of her studies,” she said. “The students realize that getting to hear it from her, a national expert, is such a privilege.”

“I think we attract the best and the brightest,” said Dr. Alden. “Many of the students know they are going to advance their education to the graduate level and their sights are set beyond their bachelor’s degree.”

Dr. Alden’s experience in the classroom is that SON students are passionate about learning and they are driven to understand the science behind nursing care. “They challenge my knowledge,” said Dr. Alden. “They ask such great questions and they always want to know why.”

Ambitious undergraduate students have an opportunity to explore their own research questions through the
undergraduate Honors program. To earn Honors or Highest Honors at the SON, a student must have a 3.4 GPA in their nursing courses and complete an independent research project during the last two semesters of study. They are required to write a paper and present a poster about the project at a research symposium held at the end of the year.

Since the program was started in 2007, the SON has graduated 127 Honors students with 41 students earning Highest Honors. Some submitted their papers for peer review and have been published in journals such as Military Medicine and Nursing and Health. “Our Honors Program encourages exceptional thinking,” said Dr. Foster, who leads the program for the SON. “Many students who graduate with Honors go on to successful careers.”

CHOOSING TO TEACH AT A RESEARCH UNIVERSITY
Clinical instructor and SON alum Tamryn Fowler, BSN ’09, MSN ’12, joined the faculty at the SON in 2013. “One of the reasons why I became a faculty member of the SON was that I recognize the high quality of the faculty, students, staff, and research leaders we have,” she said. “I wanted to be a part of it.”

Ms. Fowler chose to teach undergraduate students because of the drive and energy they have. She enjoys seeing them meet challenges head on and overcoming them as they work towards their goals of becoming a nurse. She appreciates the opportunity to lay the groundwork for students who might go on to conduct research or pursue advanced practice degrees. “I want to contribute to moving the profession forward by teaching our future leaders,” she said. “Undergraduate instruction allows me to be a part of building the foundation they need for a successful career.”

As a newer faculty member, Ms. Fowler looks forward to opportunities to pursue research of her own. She has many potential interests spanning from hematology/oncology to pediatrics to nursing leadership. “As a new faculty, my focus has been primarily on shaping my teaching,” she said. “But I am very interested in research. I feel motivated every day I come to work. My students push me to be a better teacher and nurse. My colleagues inspire me to develop as a leader and researcher. I love it.”

The best preceptors are those who demonstrate excellence in care, who challenge students to think for themselves while never discouraging them from asking questions or seeking help. SON preceptors are practice leaders who provide students with quality instruction and experiences needed to excel.

THE POWERFUL IMPACT OF PRECEPTORS

Preceptor Sandy Currin (right) shares wisdom she gained from her 42 years of experience with BSN student Catherine Nichols (left)

TEACHING COMPASSION
Sandy Currin, BSN, RN, has been a nurse for 42 years. About eight years ago, just a couple years after she began working for UNC Health Care, she decided she wanted to teach. Precepting, Mrs. Currin realized, was the best path for her. As a preceptor, she has continued to serve...
patients as a bedside nurse while teaching skills to students one on one. “UNC has mighty sharp students. They ask a lot of questions. They’re receptive and eager to learn. It’s incredibly fun to be around them.”

As a preceptor, Mrs. Currin models excellent nursing care. “I help them get comfortable with their responsibilities so they can go beyond the tasks and think critically about the care they are giving.”

Mrs. Currin believes building rapport with patients and their families is critical and spends considerable time helping students learn how to build trust and interact with professionalism and empathy. For example, if a patient or their family is disappointed with their care, acknowledging the frustration can help. “They’re irritated because they’re in the hospital when all they want to do is get back to their everyday lives. It’s helpful to say you recognize they’re not feeling well and you’re doing your best to help them get through it.”

BSN student Catherine Nichols had only been working with Mrs. Currin for a week. It did not take long for her to notice how patients can sense Mrs. Currin’s dedication. “They just keep singing her praises,” she said. “Knowing that I’m going to be in a similar clinical environment soon, I want to learn everything I can from Mrs. Currin. A textbook can’t teach you how what’s meaningful to every patient. I want to be compassionate the way she is.”

for their employees, providers have the freedom to spend more time giving comprehensive care. While most students will go on to positions where they will see patients for fifteen minutes or less, Mrs. Register orients them towards managing their tasks efficiently while building relationships with the people they are caring for.

Mrs. Register does not expect students to copy her every move. “I want them to be able to figure out who they are going to be as a provider,” she said. Rebekah Doiron, an RN and Mrs. Register’s current FNP student, appreciates that teaching philosophy. “Nancy is a joy to work with,” she said. “She does a very good job explaining things in a way that is easy to understand. She encourages questions and values input. I feel very blessed to be at SAS this semester since it is both close to home and a very good learning environment. Ultimately, I would like to be able to offer this type of experience to students in the future.”

Vennise Johnson-Hill, BSN, RN, has been precepting for seven years at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital in Durham, NC. Many of the students she has supervised are part of the VA hospital’s VALOR program, a paid externship that combines classroom instruction with one-on-one mentorship.

This past summer, Ms. Johnson-Hill worked with BSN student and VALOR scholar Leanna Phifer. Growing
up, Ms. Phifer saw her grandfather go in and out of the hospital many times. He would often tell her about the nurses who spent time with him despite their busy schedules. Ms. Johnson-Hill reminds her of the nurses her grandfather used to praise. “Vennise has been great,” she said. “I know if I have a question, I can ask her. I feel very supported.”

Ms. Johnson-Hill was especially helpful when Ms. Phifer had to face the sorrow of losing a patient. She remembers vividly being alone in the room with a patient when he coded. “I started CPR,” she said. “The code team came, and we were able to get him back. Later, I found out he didn’t make it.”

Ms. Johnson-Hill took the time to help her process her experience. “I always give students an opportunity to talk about what happened,” said Ms. Johnson-Hill “I always ask them how they felt about it. No matter what, I do my best to be there for my student, to listen, and offer support.”

**GIVING BACK TO THE NURSING COMMUNITY**

This spring, Laura Haythorn, BSN ’06, MSN ’10, ONP, RN, OCN, precepted a nurse practitioner student from the SON for the very first time. As a nurse practitioner in the radiation oncology department of the VA Hospital in Durham, NC, Ms. Haythorn sees patients, conducts research, and provides patient education. Despite her packed schedule, she wants to give back to the nursing community. “My preceptors shaped my practice into what it is today. I have always wanted to be a preceptor.”

Ms. Haythorn believes that a love of teaching and learning matters just as much as experience. “I enjoy sharing knowledge and having to be on my toes,” she said. “Having to explain why you’re doing everything you’re doing makes you think more and I like that.”

Becke Edwards, RN, OCN, Ms. Haythorn’s first NP student, appreciates working with such a dedicated preceptor who offers her a high-quality clinical experience when it comes to being a good preceptor. “From day one, I could tell that she wanted to make this the best experience that she could for me,” she said. “Laura really went out of her way to make me feel confident in this setting.”

Ms. Haythorn believes it is important for preceptors to be role models for practice and ultimately a colleague students can turn to when they enter the workforce. She maintains contact with many of her own preceptors and looks forward to remaining in touch with Ms. Edwards, who graduated in May 2014. “Having excellent preceptors showed me that I could become a strong, confident, and powerful provider who can really do a lot of good,” she said. “I hope I have shown Becke that she can be that awesome provider too.”

The SON would like to thank SON alumni Gwendolyn H. Waddell-Schultz, BSN ’70, MSN ’76, at the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Durham, NC, and Gale B. Adcock, MSN ’87, at the SAS Health Center for arranging interviews and inviting our reporter to visit their facilities. Thank you for making this story possible.

---

Nancy Register (left) demonstrates the electronic records used at the SAS Health Center to NP student Rebekah Doiron. In addition to providing learning opportunities for SON students, the Sall family created a scholarship honoring Jimmie Butts, who established the SAS Health Center and earned her FNP certificate from the SON. This scholarship has supported NP students since 1996.
Deborah Mayer and Ashley Leak Bryant first met at a SON function in 2007. They realized they shared a love of oncology. Their initial connection ultimately led to a rewarding mentoring relationship that has enhanced oncology nursing scholarship at the SON.

DISCOVERING A PASSION FOR RESEARCH
Ashley Leak Bryant, PhD, RN-BC, OCN, has been interested in oncology care and oncology nursing ever since she started nursing school. By the end of her BSN program she knew she wanted to pursue graduate education so she could develop better approaches to caring for people who have cancer.

She earned a master's degree in nursing administration at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. While working towards her master's degree, she completed a data-based thesis on the impact of spirituality and symptoms on the recovery process for breast cancer survivors. “I was led in a different direction when I was conducting my research. I enjoyed meeting these women and hearing their stories about how cancer impacted their lives physically, emotionally, spirituality, and socially. Those experiences led me to think more critically about how I could become a better clinician and researcher.”

Dr. Bryant's commitment to the care of older people with cancer is deep and longstanding. Over time, she discovered how little was known about enhancing quality of life for patients with hematological cancers. Realizing she lacked the research skills to identify interventions to improve their lives, she pursued her PhD and shifted her emphasis to research that would benefit older adults living with cancer. In her dissertation, Dr. Bryant critically examined quality of life domains, such as emotional and physical well-being, among survivors of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Simultaneously, she explored demographic and disease characteristics of NHL survivors by age and found coexistence of positive and negative perceptions that mediate quality of life.

To facilitate her transition to a new research focus, Dr. Bryant applied for the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity scholarship from the John A. Hartford Foundation. Dr. Mayer served as her primary mentor and dissertation chair. “Deborah has a national reputation in oncology nursing and is a leader in survivorship care,” said Dr. Bryant. “I knew there was so much I could learn from her.”

ADVANCING CANCER CARE
Deborah Mayer, PhD, RN, AOCN, FAAN has been investigating ways to improve quality of life for cancer survivors and cancer care throughout her career. As Director of Cancer Survivorship, she is currently studying the effectiveness of a smart phone application designed to encourage colon cancer survivors to engage in more physical activity following treatment. Her other area of research is focused on how survivorship plans, detailed next steps for post-cancer care, play a role in transitioning from final treatments to a more advanced stage in the recovery process.
Throughout her award-winning research career, Dr. Mayer has mentored many students. She has learned what qualities lead to an excellent collaboration between a mentor and a student. “Being a good graduate student means stepping up and saying ‘I’m interested in this problem, and I want to study it,’” she said. “Ashley was definitely one of those students.”

Drs. Mayer and Bryant aimed to produce at least one conference abstract and one publication from each research project. They exceeded their goal. Though it’s important to get the work done, Dr. Mayer believes one of the most important things about successfully mentoring a student is checking in with them. “You have to pay attention to the process as well as the outcomes,” said Dr. Mayer. “If I said something that hurt Ashley’s feelings, we figured out where that came from and what it really meant. As long as a mentor and student have that underlying respect for each other, they can work through just about anything.”

By the time Dr. Bryant graduated from the SON in 2011, she had three first-author journal articles and several conference abstracts. Those publications and her interest in improving cancer care led her to take a cancer care quality training postdoctoral researcher position at the Gillings School of Global Public Health. Her postdoc led to her current position as a tenure-track assistant professor at the SON.

Through her postdoctoral work and a K12 Paul Calabresi Career Development Award in Clinical Oncology she received through NC TraCS, Dr. Bryant has extended her network of mentors. She still finds herself seeking Dr. Mayer’s guidance and oncology expertise. “From day one she believed in me,” said Dr. Bryant. “Having someone who believes in your worth and your ability to make a difference in cancer care—that was invaluable.”

In Fall 2013, the SON Office of Advancement, Alumni Affairs, and Communications collaborated with the Undergraduate Student Council (UGSC) to host the School’s first student and alumni mixer. The event marked the beginning of an alumni mentoring and networking program overseen by Katisha Paige, associate director of advancement and alumni affairs. “I wanted to offer our alumni more opportunities to connect with our students,” said Ms. Paige. “This mixer gave alumni and students a chance to connect and communicate face to face.”

The mixer served as a great companion event to the UGSC’s “Get Hired” series, which focuses on transitioning students to professional careers. The series addresses mentoring and networking as well as interviewing skills and appropriate social media behavior. The 17 alumni, who were joined by over 75 students, represented classes from 1972 through 2013. Alumni degrees ranged from BSN to MSN and PhD. Following remarks from Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, eager students sought out alumni to ask questions and seek advice.
By the end of the mixer, students had a better sense of their career options, and alumni left with the satisfaction of having invested their time in the newest generation of nurses. Since that evening, Ms. Paige is proud to report that many students and alumni have reconnected outside the walls of Carrington Hall. “Alumni are a tremendous resource,” she said. “They have a lot to offer students.”

MENTORING: A PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION

As an associate professor at the Duke University School of Nursing and an award-winning researcher, alumnus Donald “Chip” E. Bailey, Jr., PhD ’02, RN, FAAN, has a keen appreciation for mentoring. “As an alum, I feel it’s important to engage with students because they represent the future of nursing,” he said. “It contributes to the growth of the profession and the growth of nursing research. It’s critical work for me and other alums to do.”

At the mixer, Dr. Bailey met USGC Chair Ethan Cicero. Mr. Cicero has dedicated much of his time to increasing awareness and conducting research on the discrimination transgender individuals encounter in the healthcare system. He was recently awarded Highest Honors for his research project. Dr. Bailey recognized that they shared strong interests in research and education. “We’re both passionate about what we do,” said Dr. Bailey.

Mr. Cicero reconnected with Dr. Bailey soon after the mixer. “I wanted to know more about his research to see if there might be any intersections between his work and the projects I’m working on,” he said. He sought Dr. Bailey’s opinions on career direction as well. Dr. Bailey encouraged Mr. Cicero to pursue a PhD. “It’s something I’m definitely considering,” said Mr. Cicero. “The impact I could have as a researcher could make a real difference in the way care is delivered.”

Dr. Bailey plans to continue offering his time to SON students. He encourages other alumni to join him. “Beyond it being a professional obligation for us to nurture the next generation, this is an opportunity to give back to a
school that gave us a lot in terms of scholarly, financial, and emotional support. We should give back because we’ve been given a lot.”

**NURSING IN THE AIR**

Derek Chrisco, BSN ‘91, spends his days in the sky as a flight nurse for UNC Health Care’s Carolina Aircare team. He is very grateful to the SON. “I always like to say that UNC gave me three of the best things in my life,” he said. “Thanks to the SON, I have a career that I love, my wife Lori (BSN ’91), and ultimately my son.”

Mr. Chrisco has given back to the SON by serving on the Board of Directors for the SON Alumni Association. This year he decided to be even more generous and offered to raffle off a chance to ride in the Aircare helicopter as a way to encourage more students to attend the mixer.

The lucky student was BSN Jesutofunmi Mabo. She shadowed Mr. Chrisco during two flights: one to transport an accident victim to UNC Hospitals, and another to transport a patient to the intensive care unit. “Flying in the helicopter was incredible,” said Ms. Mabo. “It was amazing to watch the care team work.”

Mr. Chrisco is hoping to have more opportunities to work with current nursing students. “In my interactions with students, I have been amazed at their passion and knowledge,” he said. “I want to support the School much like it has supported me in my career.”

**NETWORKING OVER SPRING BREAK**

Edward Decker, BSN ’10, was pleasantly surprised when he received a call from ABSN student Sherry Young. She told him his name was on a list of SON alumni who lived near Salt Lake City, Utah, she requested from Ms. Katisha Paige. She was thinking about relocating to Utah after graduation and she was curious what it was like to live and work in Salt Lake City.

Mr. Decker did her one better. He invited her to spend some time in Utah with his family over spring break so that Ms. Young could see the city for herself. “I got my start in nursing because someone stuck their neck out for me,” he said. “The nursing job market is getting more difficult for new grads. This was a chance for me to reach out and give someone a hand.”

Over spring break, Ms. Young and her husband traveled out to Utah. After some skiing in the mountains, they came to Salt Lake City to spend time with Mr. Decker and his wife. He offered Ms. Young a tour of the hospital and the city. They bonded over stories of what it is like to be a second-degree student.

The trip convinced Ms. Young to apply for a position at the University of Utah. She recommends the alumni networking service offered by the Office of Advancement to any student preparing for a job search. “The UNC name goes so far and the alumni network is so big,” she said. “Don’t hesitate to reach out to them.”

---

**BECOME AN ALUMNI MENTOR**

Share your expertise and experiences with SON students by adding your name to our growing list of mentors. If you are interested in being connected with some of our current students email Katisha Paige at Katisha_Paige@unc.edu.
Global Health at the SON From Day One

When assistant clinical professor Chris Harlan came to the SON in the late 90s, she brought with her a desire to offer students valuable experiences in global health.

“Our students are going to be working with people whose life experiences are different than their own throughout their careers,” said Ms. Harlan. “I felt we needed some original ways to help them gain those skills.”

In 2004, she helped lead the first SON service trip to Antigua, Guatemala. Since that first trip, the options for SON students to travel have expanded exponentially. Students can now travel to Honduras or Guatemala over spring break as part of a course called “Health Care in the Global Context.” Undergraduates may also pursue a summer work experience at a location of their choice. Students in pursuit of their BSN on the accelerated track have the option to enjoy global health experience by traveling over their winter break.

“We have students who specifically want to come to Carolina because we have these opportunities to go abroad,” said Ms. Harlan. “Trying to come up with travel that fits into a nursing curriculum has been a great challenge, but we wanted to support our students in becoming better nurses.”

Over the past 10 years, the Global Health Program at the SON has facilitated travel for students in dozens of countries on every continent except Antarctica. That effort has been generously supported by the Global Health Scholarship and the Linda Cronenwett Global Health Scholar funds. Stipends provided by these funds are awarded annually to help support students’ travel.

Providing health care abroad can be a life-changing experience. “They develop a great respect for people in developing countries who have very few resources and the nurses who care for them,” said Ms. Harlan. “Our students always come home amazed at how resilient and creative these nurses are. It makes students appreciate how lucky we are to have what we have in the United States. I love seeing that light bulb go off in their head. Seeing new awareness emerge is extremely rewarding to me.”

Associate Dean Gwen Sherwood Receives Prestigious International Health Award

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Gwen Sherwood, PhD, RN, FAAN, was selected to receive a Special Award for Outstanding Health Professional Educators by a committee representing the Prince Mahidol Award Conference. She was one of seven international educators chosen for the award and the only nurse. Selection criteria for the award called for visionary leaders who have successfully implemented innovative teaching techniques that are “part of an evidence-base for producing quality health personnel.”

Dr. Sherwood was chosen for the award because of her internationally acclaimed effort to transform education in patient safety and quality. As co-investigator and facilitator of the first four phases of the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) initiative, Dr. Sherwood participated in developing approaches to incorporate recommendations made by the Institute of Medicine into nursing education. One of the results of her work on QSEN was the award-winning book *Quality and Safety in Nursing: A Competency Approach to Improving Outcomes*, which was edited by Dr. Sherwood and her colleague Dr. Jane Barsteiner, PhD, FAAN. Not bound by borders, Dr. Sherwood has reached out to nursing faculty in China, Thailand, Macau, Mexico, England, and Kenya to share her expertise on patient-safety education. She has also disseminated her scholarship through workshops on patient safety, interprofessional education, and reflective practice.

“The chance to participate in the Prince Mahidol Award Conference was a well-timed opportunity,” said Dr. Sherwood. “The innovations in transformative education shared by global leaders at this conference reflect similar efforts that are underway at the School of Nursing.”

This is the first year organizers of the Prince Mahidol Award Conference chose to recognize leaders in health education. Dr. Sherwood traveled to Thailand to receive the award in person during the closing ceremony of the conference.

“The School is blessed to have a world-class educator like Dean Sherwood leading our academic programs,” said Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN.
Building a Global Research Network for Bladder Health

Incontinence is a global issue in women’s health. Few scholars understand that better than Mary Happel Palmer, PhD, FAAN, AGSF, the Helen W. and Thomas L. Umphlet Distinguished Professor in Aging. In addition to publishing numerous studies on urinary incontinence and bladder health, Dr. Palmer has built an international global research network that includes scholars in countries as far away as Korea and China.

Dr. Palmer has expanded her global connections largely through the Visiting International Scholars program. The program matches international scholars from around the world with faculty to provide them with opportunities to meet experts in the United States and conduct research.

“It’s important to have critical mass and to include as many diverse viewpoints as you can for a problem,” said Dr. Palmer. “Some of our theories may not apply as well to other cultures. We need to work together to develop culturally appropriate theory-based interventions.”

So far Dr. Palmer has mentored eight visiting scholars and will be mentoring another two starting in August 2014. Scholars who have joined her research group have come from Korea, China, Thailand, and Taiwan. While they are in the United States, Dr. Palmer sets them up for success.

“Visiting International Scholars working with me are expected to conduct original research, submit an abstract to a conference, and to turn that abstract into a publication,” said Dr. Palmer. “I offer them a very outcomes-driven experience. So far, we’ve been very successful with publishing and presenting our work.”

One of her most promising collaborations is with Dr. Ae Young So, a professor in the Department of Nursing at Gangneung-Wonju National University in Korea. Drs. So and Palmer found up to 76.3% of Korean women 60 years or older have experienced incontinence, yet less than 10% of those women sought medical help. Several other collaborations with Korean nurse researchers have developed as a result of this work. Another important collaboration is with Dr. Kefang Wang, a professor from Shandong University School of Nursing in Jinan, China. Drs. Wang and Palmer developed a women’s toileting behaviors scale which identifies behaviors that contribute to the development of lower urinary tract symptoms.

Dr. Palmer continues fostering global collaborations to promote bladder health. She is hoping to bring some of her collaborators together at an international meeting on aging in 2017. “My ultimate goal is that we can bring more researchers and clinicians together so we can start collaborating to form an international approach for addressing bladder health and incontinence,” she said. “There is so much we can learn from each other.”

An International Perspective on Nursing Work Environments

A cultural exchange between the SON and the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing at King’s College London brought nurse researcher Jill Maben, PhD, MSc, to campus. Dr. Maben, who is Chair of Nursing Research and director of the National Nursing Research Unit at King’s, presented research findings to nursing faculty and students.

Dr. Maben hypothesized that challenging practice environments have the potential to erode nurses’ ideals. She tested her assumption by conducting a study in which she interviewed nursing students about the type of care they wanted to give patients, and then re-interviewed them regularly for up to three years. She discovered most of the nursing students had become “compromised idealists,” or individuals whose care fell short of the ideals they learned while in school.

While in Chapel Hill, Dr. Maben toured UNC Hospitals and spent time developing research plans with UNC nursing professor Donna Havens, PhD, RN, FAAN. Dr. Havens has conducted numerous studies about nursing work environments in the US. She and Dr. Maben will work together to investigate best practices for health professionals around the world.

“Work environment is a universal issue in health care,” said Dr. Maben. “There are systems approaches I think that we can share and investigate together.”
SYMPOSIUM FOUNDED IN HONOR OF COLLEEN ELSHOFF ASTRIKE

Some gifts to Carolina come from a place of gratitude, a moment of fullness, or a sense of wanting to share. Others may arise from a desire to create opportunity. Still others come instead from a space of loss, healing, and a hope that the gift will prevent harm from happening again. Such was the story that led to the Colleen Astrike Symposium at the School of Nursing. Carolina graduates Joan Davis and Nancy Astrike created the symposium, which will focus on patient safety, in the hope that the circumstances which surrounded Nancy’s mother’s death will never be repeated.

Colleen Astrike, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, retired civil servant, and tireless volunteer died in November 2012 from complications after a fall. She was 78 years old when she died in the hospital. Colleen’s life was highlighted by her concern and kindness for others.

It happened on a Saturday, on Colleen’s third day there. “There was a weekend lull at the hospital,” Nancy said. “We couldn’t get anyone to assess or acknowledge that her condition had changed, and it got to the point where we became the aggravating family. Hour after hour, she was in progressively more profound pain. The end result is that she spent probably the last 10 hours of her life in unnecessary pain, and probably the last 12 hours of her life unnecessarily scared.”

In the months since, Nancy was tormented. Rather than just missing her mom, she wondered what more could or should have been done.

“I’ve come to this place, emotionally, through a lot of good conversation and good help, and reflection on my mother,” she said. “It’s not a life well-lived, nor a service to her, to wallow in the injustice of it all.”

So she and her life partner Joan – who Colleen called a daughter, too – created the Colleen Elshoff Astrike Symposium at the School of Nursing. Its goal is to inspire high-level discussion about patient safety among nurses. The first one is scheduled for the spring of 2015. “It’s not about casting blame on those who were there that day,” Nancy said. “We hope that this, in some small way, will prevent it from happening to someone else.”

Nancy and Joan – both political science majors – feel that their Carolina education transformed them, and they feel even more kinship through Carolina’s deep ethos of public service. They will become Carolina parents this fall when their daughter Emma Astrike-Davis enrolls as a Morehead-Cain Scholar. The combination of wanting to impact the nursing profession, their strong love of the University, plus wanting to honor Colleen’s spirit led them to create something positive out of something painful.

“In a lot of ways, my mother, this little old lady, led a lot of people,” Nancy said. “You really don’t live it if you can’t live it authentically. And she was that example. Fortunately, I lived to be old enough to really appreciate the sense of conviction and the courage she had.”

Story written by Claire Cusick
Several years ago Eunice Brock established the Melinda Kellner Brock Public Health Nursing Scholarship, honoring the memory of her daughter Melinda. She has been more than pleased with the recipients chosen by the School of Nursing for this scholarship and has decided to give an additional scholarship to the School of Nursing to be called the Eunice M. and Melinda Kellner Brock Nurse Practitioner Scholarship. She believes her daughter would have shared her view enthusiastically. Eunice became interested in the Nurse Practitioner profession when she experienced the benefits of that profession personally. She believes that in the coming decades nurse practitioners will be needed increasingly due to the decline of physicians entering family practice.

Melinda began her career in nursing 30 years ago in pediatric care and subsequently in Family Planning at the Durham County Health Department, where her true calling was care for the underserved. Eunice speaks of her daughter’s warmth, care, and compassion, not only for family and friends, but also to everyone she met. She calls her “the special light” in the hearts of those who knew her well. Her friends and family describe Melinda as “beautiful inside and out,” “an inspiration,” a “vibrant life source,” and a “rare gem with a contagious smile and love for the good in all peoples.”

Melinda’s personal characteristics and view of the world had much to do with her chosen profession. As one of her co-workers stated, she was obviously meant to be a nurse, and she was determined to help those who most needed it and to make the world a better place. This, not material wealth, was Melinda’s definition of a worthwhile life.

Melinda’s mother, Eunice Brock, was the first woman to be the sole owner and operator of her own real estate company in Chapel Hill-Carrboro. It was a unique “boutique” company, which emphasized a high level of service to her clients. She was known in the community as the “doyenne” of Chapel Hill realtors. Eunice has lived in Chapel Hill since 1959 and raised her three children here. During her life in Chapel Hill, she became an ardent advocate for many worthy causes. In recognition for her many contributions to the life of Chapel Hill, she was named as one of Chapel Hill’s “Town Treasures” in 2011.

“Students who benefit from this new scholarship will have a chance to contribute to making the world a healthier and better place,” said Ms. Brock. “I believe Melinda’s legacy of care for the underserved will live on through future Carolina nurse practitioners.”

EUNICE BROCK ESTABLISHES NURSE PRACTITIONER SCHOLARSHIP IN DAUGHTHER’S HONOR

Left: Eunice Brock with her daughter Melinda. Right: In 2012 Eunice Brock met the first recipient of the Melinda Kellner Brock Public Health Nursing Scholarship, BSN student Audrey Boyles.
Jo-Anne Trowbridge Martin, BSN ’69 has been very generous to the SON. Together with her husband Ted, she endowed the Ann Peirce Trowbridge Scholarship in her mother’s memory and created the Joe Earle Trowbridge Scholarship for graduate psychiatric mental-health nursing to honor her father. At the end of Jo-Anne’s second term on the SON Foundation board, Ted decided that two scholarships weren’t quite enough. So he surprised Jo-Anne with one more scholarship, one named after her.

“Ted was well aware of the joy I received from meeting the recipients of the scholarships we established in memory of my parents,” said Jo-Anne. “Several years ago I initiated estate planning through the School of Nursing, but I never dreamed I would have a scholarship in my name. I now feel even more personally connected to the School’s future.”

Ted created the scholarship to honor Jo-Anne’s contributions to nursing and education. Not long after graduating from the SON in 1969, Jo-Anne joined the United States Navy Nurse Corps and served her country for 33 years, reaching the rank of Captain before she retired in 2000. She has also served in various leadership roles in the American Legion, Red Cross, National Disaster Medical System and local outreach programs in North Carolina. She has served as a board member for SON Alumni Association Board and the SON Foundation. During her two terms on the Foundation Board, she held the positions of Vice President and Secretary.

The endowed scholarship will support undergraduate students pursuing their BSN degree for years to come. “Nursing appealed to me because I have always enjoyed helping and nurturing people,” said Jo-Anne. “The School gave me the skill and confidence I needed to succeed. This scholarship will give other students the opportunity to achieve the same level of excellent education. For me, investing in the School’s future has never been viewed as optional, but rather an honor, privilege and responsibility.”
Susan Ruppalt Lantz BSN ’73, was processing insurance claims and serving as a volunteer physics tutor for her UNC Hospital coworkers when her supervisor pulled her aside to encourage her to consider different career goals. She asked if Susan had ever considered nursing. Because of her strong belief in Susan’s skills and abilities, she arranged an admissions meeting with Dean Lucy Conant.

A former math major at UNC, Susan’s academic record was excellent. As a single mother with a young daughter to support, she didn’t know how she would manage the program. Qualifying for a scholarship, she balanced school with working long hours while relying on the kindness of friends and neighbors in the campus Victory Village community to help her with childcare. Money was so tight she borrowed her text books and worried about having enough food for her daughter. Encouragement from instructor Dr. Barbara Jo Foley (BSN ’67) helped sustain Susan during a time when there was little support for nursing students who were also single parents. These challenges strengthened her appreciation for the opportunities and security provided by her chosen career.

As a student, Susan developed a deep appreciation for the nurse’s role as patient advocate. She realized patients under anesthesia were particularly vulnerable since they are unable to advocate for themselves. This recognition led to a long career in the operating room. She held top positions within the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, and founded the North Carolina Council of the organization.

On hearing that there was a critical need in the military for nurses with trauma and surgical expertise, Susan enlisted in the army at the age of 42. She was sent to basic training to prepare for deployment to the Middle East where US forces were engaged in Operation Desert Shield. In the desert of Saudi Arabia, she helped set up an evacuation hospital. With the onset of Desert Storm, she cared for the causalities of the conflict — allied soldiers, enemy prisoners of war, and civilians. Susan served long and intense shifts, but felt surrounded by an amazing network of talented and dedicated soldiers.

Prioritizing service to others throughout her career led to her decision to give future nursing students the same opportunities for success she had at Carolina. Susan is funding an endowed scholarship that will help others and also create a legacy in her family name, Ruppalt. “At each difficult point in my life, someone gave me a hand up in a way that I wouldn’t have expected or looked for. Why wouldn’t I take the opportunity to do the same?”

The Ruppalt scholarship will go to a meritorious nursing student with preference given to single parents. Through her generosity, students will receive support to overcome some of the same challenges Susan faced as she began her long and successful nursing journey.
GIVING AND GRATITUDE: SCHOLARS MEET DONORS AT ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARD

Carol, BA ’64, and Coleman Ross, BSBA ’65, spent the evening with Elizabeth Coble, the 2013–2014 Eunice Morde Doty Scholar. Elizabeth spoke about the opportunities the scholarship has afforded her during the evening’s program.

BSN Student and 2013–2014 Cronenwett Global Health Scholar Lisandro Hernández concluded the evening by speaking about his experiences providing health care outside the United States. He also had a chance to meet donor Mary Lou Booth, BSN ’57, who created the global health award in honor of former Dean Linda Cronenwett.

Student Ambassadors Ronnell Green and Andrea Marrow greeted donors, alumni, and their guests at the door with smiles and warm words of welcome.
AND DONOR RECOGNITION RECEPTION

Jane, BSN ’56, and Tom Norris, BSBA ’55, JD ’60, met MSN student Jade Clausen. Jade is the recipient of the 2013–2014 Norris scholarship, which Jane and Tom founded to support graduate nursing education.

The first Charlotte V. Nelson Scholar, undergraduate student Kara Perry met Meg Zomorodi, BSN, ’01, PhD ’08, as well as Meg’s two children: Arianna and Benjamin. Meg and her husband Ali Zomorodi, MD, established the Charlotte V. Nelson Scholarship in memory of Meg’s mother, who was an outstanding nurse.

The Carrington Scholarship supports outstanding students like Anna Lee. Here she greets Nancy and Erwin Fuller BSBA ’60 who represent the Carrington family and continue to support the School.
At a reception held at the Paul J. Rizzo Conference Center, the SON Alumni Association recognized donors and alumni for contributions they made to nursing, their communities, and to the SON. During a ceremony presided over by Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor Kristen M. Swanson, PhD, RN, FAAN, five awards were given.

The first recipient was Robert Dodge, BSN ’91. A clinical associate professor at the UNC School of Medicine, Dr. Dodge was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his work in the field of HIV/AIDS. He has been conducting research as well as providing clinical care and education about HIV/AIDS since 1992.

Robin Knobel, PhD ’06, was recognized next with the Distinguished Alumna Award. Dr. Knobel, an assistant professor at Duke University School of Nursing, teaches in the graduate nursing program and conducts research on physiologic processes related to thermoregulation and perfusion in extremely premature infants. Her work has led to changes in national guidelines regarding neonatal resuscitation.

The Graduate of the Last Decade (G.O.L.D) award was given to Leslie Davis, BSN ’85, MSN, ’89, PhD ’11. Dr. Davis is an assistant professor of nursing at UNC-Greensboro. Much of her research and writing has focused on cardiovascular health. Dr. Davis has been working with many national organizations, including the American Heart Association, to implement evidence-based protocols for nurse practitioners and other health providers.

David Oehler, BSN ’96, received the Carrington Award for Community Service. Mr. Oehler has been a manager for the New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC) Orthopedic Hospital for several years. His roles have ranged from nursing supervisor to his current position as administrator of the NHRMC Cape Fear Campus. His leadership led the NHRMC orthopedic program to earn a Specialty Center Designation as well as numerous quality and service awards from national agencies.

The last award of the evening, the Honorary Alumna of the Year Award, went to Debra Barksdale, PhD, FNP-BC, ANP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN. Dr. Barksdale is an associate professor in the SON and director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Among her numerous accomplishments as a researcher, a nurse educator, and leader, Dr. Barksdale served as President of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and is the only nurse appointed by President Obama to the Board of Governors for the Patient-Center Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

The awards were presented by members of the Alumni Association Awards Committee, including Robin Harper, BSN ’86, and Phyllis Justus, BSN ’81. Alumni Association President Roulhac Johnson, BSN ’00, was also acknowledged for her hard work leading up to the ceremony.
If you attended an alumni event within the past year, you might have noticed students dressed in white shirts and black pants handing programs or giving directions. These Student Ambassadors assist the SON Alumni Association with various events by registering guests, providing directions, and offering friendly smiles to alumni.

“At an event, anyone could feel lost and unsure of where to go,” said Katisha Paige, associate director of advancement and alumni affairs. “The Ambassadors are there to help.”

BSN Student and Hillman Scholar Leah Morgan became an Ambassador so that she would have opportunities to connect with alumni and serve the School. “I always leave with a new sense of inspiration for my future and a rejuvenated love for our school,” she said. “Interacting with alumni makes me excited about all the potential careers I can have as a Carolina Nurse.”

Ms. Morgan said all students at the SON should consider being an Ambassador due to the value of interacting with alumni. “It gives you a chance to rub elbows with people who have been in your shoes, who know where you are, and who can show you all the different paths you can take with your degree.”

In November 2013, members of the SON Alumni Association Board of Directors came together for their annual meeting. Held at the Sienna Hotel in Chapel Hill, the Board made preliminary plans for organizing special alumni events, streamlining the application process for the Alumni Association scholarships, and refining the Alumni Award program. Goals for the year are to boost association visibility and increase participation among younger alumni.

Row 1: Faculty Rep Meg Zomorodi, ’01, ’08; Landon Fox, ’56; Monica Przybylak, ’04; Frieda Bruton, ’57; Tamryn Fowler, ’09, ’12
Row 2 (middle): Ann Brown, ’73; Ashley Leak Bryant, ’11; Melody Warren, ’07, ’10
Row 3: Phyllis Justus, ’81; Robin Harper, ’86; Cathy Long, ’60; Carol Marriott, ’95; Kim Crickmore Osborne, ’86; Cheryl Conway, ’92; Sara Edwards, ’85; Kathryn Jones, ’98; LaDonna Howell, ’78, Executive Director Katisha Paige, ’98
Row 4: Derek Chrisco, ’91; Stewart Bond, ’88, ’06; Cynthia Dearmin, ’76; Susan Andrews, ’87; Donna Laney, ’80; Wes Scercy, ’12; Betsy Bradshaw, ’74

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

Student Ambassadors shine during events

Sixteen students served as Ambassadors for the 2013–14 school year.
SON ALUMNI COMING TOGETHER FROM NEAR AND FAR
1. Nurses from the BSN Class of 1957 met with BSN students during a classroom panel. From right to left, Mary Lou Booth, Martha Waters, Frieda Bruton, and Barbara Self shared stories from their careers and provided perspective on how much the field of nursing has changed since they were in school.

2. The BSN Class of 1983 got together at Mary Chandler’s home in Chapel Hill after UNC’s Homecoming victory over UVA. They caught up on each other’s lives and also made preliminary plans for a class gift to the SON.

3. Members of the BSN Class of 1973 celebrated their 40th reunion during Homecoming weekend. On a beautiful fall day, they mingled with Dean Swanson before heading over to the stadium to watch the Tar Heels beat UVA.

4. SON alums came out to Greensboro, NC to share a meal at the annual North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) meeting. They discussed nursing innovations with Dean Swanson and celebrated assistant clinical professor Megan Williams’ recent appointment as NCNA President.

5. In Washington DC, SON alumni got together for dinner with Dean Swanson.

6. Carolina Nurses came together for a reception co-hosted by several Wilmington-area alumni at the home of Alumni Association President Roulhac Johnson, BSN ’00. Associate professor Cheryl B. Jones and Betty Woodard, MSN ’87, spoke to guests about the impact SON grads are making in North Carolina and beyond.
When I was a little girl, I thought I wanted to be a pediatric nurse. Then, while I was in nursing school at UNC, a very close friend of mine lost his mother to breast cancer. At that time, I decided to become an oncology nurse in her memory. Thirty-five years later, I’m still an oncology nurse and I’ve learned so much from working with this special group of patients.

Having a BSN from UNC-Chapel Hill has opened many doors for me. My first job was on the Oncology Specialty Unit at Duke University Medical Center, followed by a similar position on the Oncology Unit at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. After several years in the hospital setting, I became the chemotherapy nurse for Robert Fenning, MD, a wonderful medical oncologist in private practice in Charlotte. We were a great team, and I will never forget the special relationships that I had with our chemotherapy patients.

In 1994, I began working at Mission Hospital in Asheville, NC as their Cancer Outreach Coordinator and later as a Clinical Research Nurse. For the last 20 years, I’ve also served as Director of Camp Bluebird, a three-day retreat for adult cancer survivors offering emotional support and education for three days of small group sessions, arts and crafts, music therapy, and other activities. It’s a safe place where survivors can remove wigs and share feelings with others who understand what they have been going through. We want our campers to know that there is life after cancer, and that it is okay to make plans and enjoy each day. Many survivors who have attended Camp Bluebird told me this retreat gave them the coping skills that they needed to enjoy life again.

Camp Bluebird is truly my passion, and I want to encourage other Carolina Nurses to follow their passion. Thanks to the nursing education that I received at UNC, I was prepared for a variety of roles including nursing at the bedside, administering chemotherapy in hospital and outpatient settings, working on breast cancer clinical trials, and directing Camp Bluebird. I am so proud to be a graduate of the UNC School of Nursing, and it is truly a privilege to work with the special group of patients that we have at the Mission Cancer Center.

Leslie welcomes anyone interested in learning more about Camp Bluebird to contact her at leslie.verner@msj.org.
Laureen Froimson, MSN '74, started Gero-Psych Solutions, PLLC. The business offers geriatric care and consultations for the elderly community. Froimson presented at the October 2014 American Psychiatric Nurse's Association national convention in Indianapolis, IN. Recently, she was chosen to serve on the continuing education approval committee of the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA) and was a “spotlight” nurse for the organization in September 2013.

Terri Blount Griffith, BSN '84, completed her master’s degree in hospital administration at St. Louis University in 1986 and is now retired in Dallas, TX.

Gale Adcock, MSN '87, FNP, is running for the NC House of Representatives, District 41. Ms. Adcock, is a 2006 Fellow of the Institute of Political Leadership and was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in 2011. She is serving her second term on the Cary Town Council and is also Cary Mayor Pro-Tem.

Susan Andrews, BSN ’87, traveled to Gabarone, Botswana for a ten-day mission trip to work in an HIV/AIDS hospice. While there, she attended a meeting with nursing faculty from the Institute of Health Sciences (IHS), where she met Montlenyane Madisa, head of their family nurse practitioner program. To Andrews’ surprise, Madisa received her MSN through the SON in 2002.

Melody Warren, BSN ’07, MSN ’10, is thrilled that her son Noah Frederick Warren was born on February 4, 2014 at a weight of 9 lbs, 6 oz. “We love our little Noah,” she said. “It’s just amazing how much he’s grown over the past few months.”

Micah McCanna, BSN ‘11, and his preceptor Paul Couch, BSN ‘08, appeared on the cover of the November 2013 issue of the American Journal of Nursing. They are providing care to a patient at NC Memorial Hospital.

Dr. Lisa C. Lindley, PhD ’11, was awarded a Mentored Research Scientist Development Award (K01) from the National Institute of Nursing Research for her study “An Examination of Hospice Use Among Children.” Dr. Lindley and her colleagues are studying how characteristics of children influence the use of hospice care services. Dr. Lindley hopes her findings will help improve access to pediatric hospice care.

Sean Gallagher, BSN ’12, works at the Wesley Long Community Hospital intensive care unit in Greensboro, NC. He combined his musical talents and his passion for health care to compose, perform, and record a song and video to promote proper hand-washing techniques.

Audrey Boyles was in serious car crash five days after graduation. She spent her summer recovering from several broken facial bones. She is now working at the Burn Intensive Care Unit at UNC Health Care. “Working in the burn unit after having experienced recent trauma proved to be extremely challenging at first,” she said. “But luckily I am surrounded by an amazing team who has supported me throughout my training and continues to give me support as I’m on my own.” There is much more to Audrey’s story. Visit nursing.unc.edu/alumni-friends/my-alumni-story to read the full text of her “My Alumni Story” and learn how to submit your own.
Save the Date for

HOMECOMING 2014!  
November 15

Tailgate with the SON for the big game! You can reconnect with classmates over a barbecue lunch, enjoy gorgeous views of Chapel Hill from the Bell Tower, or get your picture taken with Rameses. Purchase your football tickets through the General Alumni Association and you can sit with your classmates to cheer on our Tar Heels! For more information on purchasing tickets to the tailgate or the game, email sonalum@unc.edu or go online at go.unc.edu/r8PFc.

Classes of ’69, ’74, ’79, ’84, ’89, ’94, ’99, ’04, and ’09, please join us for your reunion year! If you’re interested in organizing reunion activities for your classmates, please contact Katisha Paige at Katisha_Paige@unc.edu.