THE HISTORY OF PURDUE NURSING

PART THREE: THE JO A. BROOKS YEARS (page 9)

Violet Haas Award winners Brooks (l) and Mara Wasburn, shown as Brooks is notified of her selection for contributions to campus women.

As a nurse practitioner, Brooks (l) is director of the Carroll County Nursing Center.

Brooks (middle) demonstrates fingerstick technique to students at a health fair.

Brooks recognizes the late Robert “Doc” Epple for contributions to nursing students.

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Strengthening Partnerships at Purdue and Beyond

The School of Nursing is on the move in strengthening partnerships at Purdue, as well as throughout the Greater Lafayette Community, the State of Indiana, and beyond. In recent months, our faculty, facilities, and program have been featured in several Purdue publications, the local radio, and the national press. Lafayette’s WLFI-TV 18 aired informative features on both the Carroll County Nursing Center for Family Health and the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice (CNERP), formerly the LRC. In addition, several Lafayette newspaper articles have highlighted the importance of nurses and nurse practitioners to the community, using our faculty, alumnae, and graduate students for background information and expert quotes.

Several initiatives have come to fruition since my arrival here last May. The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Master of Science in Nursing degree consortium program with Purdue Calumet was approved for statewide distance education delivery, with Purdue West Lafayette serving as the initial site. This means that the 27 students currently enrolled in the FNP program can pursue their total degree here in West Lafayette. Plans are underway for collaboration between Purdue and Indiana University to deliver graduate level courses to and from each school’s respective campuses (see page 5).

On the research front, creative synergies were forged by Dr. Ruth Wukasch with the establishment of the Research, Praxis, and Grants Committee, comprised of nursing faculty members, colleagues from Purdue, and members of the local health care community. On page 4, you can read more about what the current co-chairs of the committee, Dr. Sharon Wilkerson and Dr. Nancy Edwards, have planned.

On the teaching front, Dr. Peg Krach, Dr. Carol Blue, Ruth Ann Smolen, and Dr. Nicholas Popovich from Pharmacy Practice, collaborated on a hands-on teaching experience in the CNERP for Pharmacy Students (see page 6). In addition, Dr. Robert Ringle, Purdue’s Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, is scheduled to give a lecture on communication problems arising from neurological deficits to junior nursing students. Jane Kirkpatrick, Kit Schafer, and Dr. Margaret Hamilton, who teach Nursing of Childbearing Families, continue to refine and improve upon their course website. At a recent in-house Lunch & Learn, they gave their peers advice and encouragement to implement websites for their respective courses.

On the community outreach front, several students, faculty, and staff participated in a slide presentation on the School’s mission, goals, program, and facilities to the local Rotary Club’s breakfast and luncheon meetings. One of our students, junior Amie Swardson, gave a very insightful and professional presentation on her two-week medical mission trip to Haiti at the joint Indiana State Nurses Association-District 8 and Delta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau dinner meeting in March (see page 12). Dr. Carol Blue and Dr. Peg Krach received a United Way Venture Grant XII to provide homecare nurses for low-income families in the Greater Lafayette area. In April, several faculty members and students will provide health screenings at a developmental fair for the Early Head Start program in Greater Lafayette. The targeted population is pregnant moms and children from birth to age two.

In early March, I enjoyed chairing a special projects grants review panel for the United States Department of Health and Human Services Division of Nursing, attended the American Association of Colleges in Nursing spring meeting in Washington, DC, and a legislative workshop sponsored by the Indiana State Nurses Association. I also spoke about the role of advanced practice nurses in managed care as a guest lecturer in Dr. James Anderson’s Medical Sociology course. In addition, I participated in the CIC-Big 10 Dean’s meeting in Chicago.

On the School’s horizon are plans for expanding our master’s degree specialty tracks, the establishment of an infrastructure for inter- and intradisciplinary research, strengthening our international linkages in Central America, the Middle East, and the Far East, and phasing into a separate and independent School with its own dean.

There is much to do as we countdown toward the new millennium. The Fall 1999 Vital Signs will keep you up to date. I look forward to personally greeting you at our Nursing Gala Week Conference on April 23. (See page 15 for registration information.)
One of the more rewarding aspects of my job here at the School of Nursing is arranging for students to meet the donors who have helped them. One particularly poignant moment stands out in my mind, and I'd like to share it with you.

Violet B. Arihood Road, who died last November (see page 16) always wanted to be a nurse, but never made that happen. However, nurses had a special place in her heart. She and her husband Dick, a graduate of Purdue’s Schools of Engineering, created a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust to provide for scholarships for nursing students. Not content with that, the Roads also decided to make annual gifts to our School so that their money could begin helping students now. Brenda Metteal is one of those students. A divorced mother of two, she feels “Purdue Nursing is the best School to go to because it is a very highly rated program. I know I will be able to get a good job and provide for my children with a Purdue University Nursing degree.”

Metteal will graduate in May. She currently is a PRN aide at Home Hospital’s Home Health Care and works every other weekend as a medical-surgical nurse tech at St. Elizabeth Medical Center. She received the 1998 Nurse of the Future Scholarship that goes to a need-based junior student with a 3.0 GPA or higher. She had the opportunity to have lunch with the Roads, who generously have supported this fund, and to share with them what the scholarship had meant to her.

“That extra help means your utility bills will be paid for a few months or you can take a weekend off work to spend time with your family,” explains Metteal. “The time I have had to spend studying and working has been difficult on my children, but my family couldn’t be prouder.”

Metteal believes that Purdue doesn’t have the scholarship opportunities that she has seen at other schools. “I plan to do something about this after graduation when I have the opportunity to give back to the School,” she says, “I hope that I can make a difference for future Purdue nursing students.”

You can give something back to our School by contributing to the Nurse of the Future Scholarship fund. By so doing, you will help ensure that the fine education you received will be here for future generations of nurses.
Building upon its outstanding undergraduate program and the new graduate curriculum, the faculty and staff at the School of Nursing are making a renewed commitment to promoting excellence in teaching and service through research activities that will have a direct impact on the health and well-being of the citizens of Indiana, the nation, and the world.

During the fall 1998 semester, the need to facilitate the utilization and promotion of research within education and practice led to the forming of the School of Nursing Research, Practice, and Grants Committee. This standing committee is comprised of both nursing faculty and practicing nurses in the community.

According to current committee co-chairs Sharon A. Wilkerson, RN, PhD, associate professor and assistant head for graduate studies, and Nancy Edwards, RN, PhD, assistant professor, the goals of the committee are: 1) establish a formal peer review process for all grant applications, research studies, and manuscripts; 2) promote the utilization of research findings in teaching and practice; 3) promote Purdue School of Nursing as a center for nursing research; and 4) establish a nursing research institute as an infrastructure for inter-and intradisciplinary research.

“This formation of a joint research committee is crucial to moving the School forward,” states Wilkerson, who is part of the Greater Lafayette Neonatal Research Consortium. “Keeping track of, as well as knowing how to take advantage of all the diverse research funds available is difficult to do as an individual. It is so helpful to have peer support.

“Nursing research has real-life implications,” continues Wilkerson, who has received a Purdue Global Faculty Initiative Grant for travel to Egypt to study developmental care with premature infants in collaboration with Azza Ahmed, RN, PhD (see page 6). “Most nurse researchers focus on nursing practices or interventions that directly affect patient care. People are familiar with the art of caring as it relates to nursing. As researchers, we show there is truly a science and a rationale, behind our professional, day-to-day practice.”

This academic year, several nursing faculty are engaged in multidisciplinary research projects that have the potential for attracting extramural funding. Edwards and Alan Beck, ScD, director of the Human-Animal Bond Center at Purdue’s Veterinary Pathobiology department, are researching cognitive stimulation through pet therapy. Carol Blue, RN, PhD, is working with James McGlothlin, PhD, associate professor of Health Sciences at Purdue, to investigate ergonomic safety measures in the workplace. Blue also collaborates with Randy Black, PhD, professor of Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies at Purdue, on exercise behaviors in blue-collar workers. Peg Krach, RN, PhD, and Kenneth Ferraro, PhD, professor of Sociology at Purdue, are involved in gerontology research; and Cynthia Fletcher, RN, PhD, is collaborating with nurse researchers from Indiana University on pain management in sickle cell adolescents. A complete list of each faculty member’s research focus is available on our website: www.nursing.purdue.edu.

The School’s diverse faculty research interests filter to the students via lectures in the classroom, innovative interventions in clinicals, and unique opportunities to participate in the research process firsthand. Students at all levels enroll in NUR 399: Special Topics to collaborate with and assist faculty members performing research. Junior nursing students are required to take NUR 308: Research in Nursing to learn the principles and methodology of research. They are expected to interpret research, analyze findings, and identify its significance to clinical practice.

“One of the challenges professors face is finding time for research, teaching, and service. That is why I find student involvement in research to be a big help and an experience that benefits both parties,” says Edwards, who recently was named a 1999 Hartford Institute Geriatric Nursing Research Scholar.

“Students learn how to perform literature searches, navigate through Purdue’s library system, and can collect data as well as enter it,” she continues. “Most important, students see how applicable nursing research is to actual, real life practice. We are building a generation of nurses with strong practitioner skills backed by the scientific knowledge needed to pursue any career in nursing.”
ast semester, the first two graduate courses were offered at Purdue West Lafayette’s School of Nursing. Thirteen nurses completed Theoretical Constructs of Nursing, and 12 completed Holistic Health Promotion. This spring, 19 students are enrolled in Pharmacology and 13 are enrolled in Holistic Health Promotion.

Vicki Nees (’77), RN,C; BSN, family birth center education coordinator at St. Elizabeth Medical Center (Lafayette, Indiana), was one of the first graduate students to enroll.

“I have been waiting for Purdue to move their program to the graduate level” she says. “With the constant changes, it’s hard to tell where health care will be in two years. I want to be prepared for the future as more and more people realize how cost-effective nurse practitioners are, what they can do, and how much they contribute to health care as a whole.”

Nees wasn’t surprised that part of this program utilizes innovative distance education. “At Purdue, technology is the norm. The two-way satellite course is very effective and convenient for me and my peers.”

On February 12, 1999, The Indiana Commission for Higher Education unanimously approved the proposal to offer Purdue Calumet’s Masters of Science in Nursing degree statewide via distance education technology. This allows Purdue Nursing West Lafayette to officially market the entire Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program—not just the courses.

“We will continue to offer the FNP in consortium with Purdue Calumet, but our next goal is to develop an independent master’s program at West Lafayette,” explains Sharon A. Wilkerson, RN, PhD, Associate Professor and Assistant Head for Graduate Studies. “We want to expand the graduate program options on this campus so nurses can pursue advanced degrees in other clinical specialties and functional areas such as teaching.”

Ideally, all existing and future Purdue Nursing master’s degree programs will be offered via distance education, says Wilkerson. “We want Purdue Nursing to be a leader in utilizing technology, like interactive satellite and web-based courses. If we tie all our Purdue nursing master’s degree programs together, we can draw on each campus’s existing clinical and faculty expertise. For example, Fort Wayne has a nursing administration graduate program that may interest students here.”

According to Wilkerson, this type of flexibility is crucial to attracting students, most of whom have full-time nursing careers and families.

Recently, collaborative work has begun with Indiana University to facilitate access to some of their nursing courses and to ensure ease of credit transferability between graduate level nursing programs throughout the state of Indiana.

“This also gives the Purdue Nursing schools the ability to offer more degree options without overloading existing clinical spaces and faculty workloads,” she says.

“In the end, students will be the ultimate benefactors of this collaborative effort,” continues Wilkerson. “They will have the opportunity to pursue the master’s degree of their choice without long commutes and by experiencing the latest technical innovations in distance education.”

For information and to register for the Family Nurse Practitioner Graduate Program, contact Donna M. Kauffman, Asst. Head for Student Services, 765-494-4008; dmkkauffman@nursing.purdue.edu or Sharon Wilkerson, Asst. Head for Graduate Studies, 765-494-4013; swilkers@nursing.purdue.edu

**SUMMER 1999 COURSES** (May 17-August 6)

NUR 500: Theoretical Constructs of Nursing

**TENTATIVE FALL 1999 COURSES** (August 23-December 18)

NUR 500: Theoretical Constructs of Nursing
NUR 503: Advanced Physical Assessment
NUR 504: Holistic Health Promotion
NUR 506: Advanced Pathophysiology

The School of Nursing needs to collect rationale to support its efforts in securing a master’s, and then a doctoral, program. Please let us know what type of program(s) you would like to see offered. Contact Dr. Linda Simunek, School of Nursing; 1337 Johnson Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907; 765.494.4004 phone; 765.496.1800 fax; simunek@nursing.purdue.edu
**NAME CHANGE REFLECTS CENTER’S ROLE**

*The Learning Resources Center, located in Johnson Hall of Nursing, has been renamed the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice (CNERP).*

Ruth Ann Smolen (‘69), RN, BSN, MS, says “the CNERP provides students opportunities to demonstrate the transfer of knowledge in a highly sophisticated, technically integrated learning situation that corresponds with the ‘real’ world. The facilities and equipment constantly are upgraded so Nursing faculty and staff can teach our students the most up-to-date treatments and techniques.”

With the addition of graduate courses to the School’s curriculum, the research agenda is growing. The CNERP is poised to serve the needs of the graduate students, who will use the center to hone their advanced assessment skills and perform basic clinical research trials.

Funding proposals for a complete redesign of the CNERP currently are being evaluated. The plans include adding a simulated home health care setting, creating a research area, and expanding the critical care lab. In addition, the entrance to the CNERP will be moved to a safer location at the front of Johnson Hall.

According to Smolen, approximately 100 nursing students use the CNERP every day. In addition, other schools on campus, such as Engineering, Sociology, and Pharmacy, have discovered the wealth of resources available at the center. Nursing faculty, staff, and students have worked collaboratively with these disciplines to foster a better learning and research environment.

“This outreach into the University community enhances the School’s image and shows diverse groups the science behind the nursing profession,” states Smolen. “We want all of Purdue to know that our CNERP is an invaluable asset, both to our School and the University as a whole.”

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**ACCOLADES**

Purdue University Continuing Nursing Education, West Lafayette, has been approved as a provider of continuing education in nursing by the Indiana State Nurses Association (ISNA). ISNA is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

In February, Nursing faculty, staff, and students provided hands-on instruction in taking and reading blood pressures to over 150 Pharmacy students at the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice. The Pharmacy students gained invaluable knowledge to help them better assist clients who have blood pressure problems. Assoc. Professors Carol Blue, RN, PhD, and Peg Krach, RN, PhD, CNERP Director Ruth Ann Smolen, RN, MS, and Assoc. Head and Professor of Pharmacy Nicholas Popovich, RPh, PhD, coordinated the collaborative project.

Mara H. Wasburn, director, Development and Alumni Relations, earned her doctorate in Higher Education Administration, and Ruth Ann Smolen, director, Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice, received a master’s degree in Education, with a specialty in curriculum development and design. Both degrees were earned at Purdue.

Jo A. Brooks, RN, C; DNS, professor, and Mara H. Wasburn, PhD, director, Development and Alumni Relations, were honored with the other recipients of the Council on the Status of Women at Purdue’s Violet Haas Award for “outstanding contributions on behalf of women.” A plaque with the winners’ names recently was unveiled in the Purdue Memorial Union.

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**VISITING SCHOLARS OPEN INTERNATIONAL DOORS**

Dr. Azza Ahmed, RN, a visiting scholar from Egypt, recently received her doctorate from Cairo University. Her dissertation topic was the effect of a breastfeeding educational program on breastfeeding practice among mothers of preterm infants. Associate Professor and Assistant Head for Graduate Studies Sharon Wilkerson, RN, PhD, and the neonatal research consortium at Home Hospital plan to duplicate her study. Ahmed was a teaching assistant in pediatric nursing at Cairo University. She is the third visiting scholar to collaborate with the School of Nursing in recent years. In 1996, Kin Holbek, RN, MSN, director and senior counselor at Adger College, Kristiansand Norway, gathered data at Purdue and other schools of nursing to demonstrate the importance of nursing research to Norwegian colleagues. During 1998, Dr. Juhee Kim, professor of Nursing at Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea was an active participant in several faculty research and teaching projects. Kim plans to duplicate one of the Alzheimer’s Disease research studies performed by Assistant Professor Nancy Edwards, RN, PhD.
In September, the School held its first annual Honors Convocation to kick-off the academic year and to recognize individuals who received School of Nursing Enhancement Awards for outstanding service and dedication to Purdue Nursing. The 1998 winners were (l to r): Ruth Ann Smolen, RN, MS, director of the Center for Nursing Education, Practice, and Research; Jane Overbay, RN,C, MSN, associate professor; Ruth Wukasch, RN,C, DNS, assistant professor. Featured guests and speakers were Purdue’s Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs Robert Ringle, former Dean of the Graduate School and Vice President for Research Louis Proenza, and Dean of the Schools of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences Charles Rutledge. Nursing students and staff, their family members, and representatives from several departments across Purdue’s campus also attended the gala event.

There are approximately 1.5 billion days of restricted activity per year due to osteoarthritis, a major cause of dependency and disability as you age. To live with incurable and frequently progressive pain, stiffness and instability, you must learn to cope. Here are some important tips:

1. Keep moving. Often the difference between someone doing well and someone not doing well is as simple as walking. If you cannot do strengthening exercises, do low-impact aerobics; if you cannot do aerobics, do short-distance walking; if you cannot walk, stretch.

2. Understand and trust yourself. Only you know how you feel, and how you react to medication and treatments. Communicate clearly with your healthcare provider.


4. Find out newest information and treatments. Learn from others but realize that something may help them and not you.

5. Do what works for you. What provides relief and helps today, may not work tomorrow. What didn’t work today may help next week.

6. Keep learning and think positive. An empty mind can easily be filled with pain and suffering. Be hopeful; do not continually focus on physical difficulties.

7. Let others help. You’ve worked hard, now let others assist you.

New Faculty Bring Diverse Experience

Last August, Carol Baird, RN,CS, DNS, was named assistant professor of Nursing, after earning her doctorate from Indiana University. Baird’s clinical specialty is gerontological nursing. “I like being a part of the Purdue Nursing community. The scholarly environment here is very stimulating,” she says.

Baird previously was an assistant clinical professor at Indiana University School of Nursing. Her current research focuses on older osteoarthritic women who are able to live independently.

Jamaican native Cynthia Fletcher, RN, PhD, was named assistant professor of Nursing in August 1998. She is developing a pain appraisal tool for adolescents with sickle cell disease, and is collaborating with nurse researchers from Indiana University who share her research interests in sickle cell disease.

Fletcher previously was an assistant professor of Nursing at Florida International University. She says “Being able to impart what you know to future nurses is very fulfilling. To further the advancement and excellence of our profession, we each must pass on the knowledge we accumulate in our areas of expertise.”

In August 1998, Suzanne Rudman, RN, CS, MSN was named visiting assistant professor of Nursing. Her clinical specialty is pulmonary nursing. From 1989 to 1998, she was a critical care nurse specialist and the department head at the Home Hospital Cardiac Cath Lab.

Rudman, who was a faculty member from 1984 to 1989, says, “It’s very satisfying to be back. Purdue Nursing has only improved upon itself over the years.”

Patricia Sabol Scheetz, RN, MSN, was named visiting assistant professor of Nursing in January 1999. She previously instructed medical-surgical nursing students at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

According to Scheetz, “Purdue Nursing students are very dynamic. As they enter the profession and assume leadership roles, their enthusiasm and know-how will rejuvenate nursing and the health care system.”

School of Nursing Health Tip

By Carol Baird, RN, DNS, Asst. Professor

There are approximately 1.5 billion days of restricted activity per year due to osteoarthritis, a major cause of dependency and disability as you age. To live with incurable and frequently progressive pain, stiffness and instability, you must learn to cope. Here are some important tips:

1. Keep moving. Often the difference between someone doing well and someone not doing well is as simple as walking. If you cannot do strengthening exercises, do low-impact aerobics; if you cannot do aerobics, do short-distance walking; if you cannot walk, stretch.

2. Understand and trust yourself. Only you know how you feel, and how you react to medication and treatments. Communicate clearly with your healthcare provider.


4. Find out newest information and treatments. Learn from others but realize that something may help them and not you.

5. Do what works for you. What provides relief and helps today, may not work tomorrow. What didn’t work today may help next week.

6. Keep learning and think positive. An empty mind can easily be filled with pain and suffering. Be hopeful; do not continually focus on physical difficulties.

7. Let others help. You’ve worked hard, now let others assist you.
Aaltonen, P.M., Valley, J., and Smolen, R.A. $21,057 undergraduate instructional support grant from Purdue University for the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice.

Blue, C.L. & Krach, P. $4,600 United Way Venture Grant XII to provide homecare nurses for low-income families in the Lafayette (IN) area.

Edwards, N.E. $975 Sigma Theta Tau Delta Omicron Chapter for continuing research in the Utilization of animal assisted therapy in the management of Alzheimers Disease.

Posey, S.C. $450 MUCIA grant from Purdue University for travel to Honduras.

Valley, J., Blue, C.L. & Aaltonen, P. $393.90 Sigma Theta Tau Delta Omicron Chapter for Factors predicting vaccination against influenza in a worker population: A pilot study.

Wilkerson, S.A. & Posey, S. $2500 Purdue Global Initiative Faculty Grant for research on premature infants in Egypt.

Edwards, A.H. Appointed by the Indiana Governor Frank O’Bannon to serve as a member of the Indiana State Board of Nursing.

Simunek, L.A. Appointed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Nursing, to chair a grants review panel. Nominated for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Board of Directors. Appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Nursing Administration: Law and Ethics. Named the Most Distinguished Alumna for outstanding achievement in nursing education, University of the Philippines.


Brooks, J.A. Faculty and students: Partners in providing primary health care in a rural setting. 1999 Faculty Practice Conference, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, San Francisco, CA (2/26/99).

Edwards, N. Handling geriatric emergencies, stressors: Issues and concerns, and Geriatric assessment. Academy of MedicalSurgical Nursing, Philadelphia, PA (10/4/98); Geriatric assessment and handling common complications of the elderly. Staff workshop, Southern Baptist Hospital, Paducah, KY (11/19/98); The management of Parkinson’s Disease as it relates to marital quality, perceived support, locus of control, and perceived burden. Midwest Alliance in Nursing Conference, Indianapolis, IN (9/17/98); And the utilization of animal assisted therapy in the management of Alzheimers Disease. Governor’s Task Force on Alzheimers and Related Senile Dementia, Indiana Department of Health, Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (2/22/99).


Kalach, P. and Smolen, R.A. Producing winning presentations: Tips for designing effective visuals. Third Annual Nursing and Health Professions Educator Conference, Univ. of So. Ind., Evansville, IN (10/27/98) and ANA Council for Professional Nursing Education, Indianapolis, IN (11/1/98).

Schafer, K. Video validation: Technology, time, and tension. Faculty Technology Showcase Program, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN (3/2/99).


Asst. Professor Jane Kirkpatrick, RNC; MSN, is a featured faculty speakers on a Purdue Multimedia Instructional Development Center video. At Purdue’s Faculty Technology Showcase Program, she will present converting an instructional videotape to a computer-based program and demonstrate her newborn assessment computer program. She also developed a multidisciplinary program on cultural diversity during the perinatal period for local physicians, nurses, and other health care workers. Asst. Professor Margaret Hamilton, RN, PhD, was co-moderator. Dr. Azza Ahmed, a visiting scholar at the School (see page 6), and junior nursing student Yolanda Gonzalez were panelists.

Five Nursing faculty and staff members are taking a “Spanish for Medical Personnel” course: C. Baird, M. Hamilton, T. Lansinger, S. Posey, and L. Smunek. Carroll County Nursing Center nurses D. Mears and G. Nee also are participating.

Outcome assessment: Communication, critical thinking, and therapeutic interventions of nursing students,” a poster developed by Asst. Head for Undergraduate Administration Pam Aaltonen, RN, MS, and designed by Writer/Editor Becky Lohman, was named a finalist at Purdue’s Excellence 21 Celebration.

Nine Purdue Nursing faculty members were invited to present at the June 1999 International Congress for Nursing in London. The School also was invited by the Council for Nursing Centers Executive Committee to participate in a presentation at the June 1999 National League for Nursing’s Biennial Convention.
When Jo A. Brooks, RN,C; DNS, became Head of the School of Nursing in July 1992, she had a very deliberate strategy formulated. She wanted to build a community of scholars by fostering an infrastructure that promoted increased faculty research, scholarly activities, and continuing education. She felt these were the most essential elements to further the undergraduate program’s success and to lay the groundwork for a graduate program in nursing.

“This move toward scholarly activities reflected the maturation level of the nursing program as well as the entire nursing profession,” says Brooks, who served as Acting Head for one year after the retirement of LaNelle Geddes, RN, PhD, in 1991.

LaNelle had succeeded in making our baccalaureate program top-notch,” continues Brooks. “Now, we needed to refine our curriculum to position the School as a leader in nursing education in the rapidly approaching 21st century.”

Brooks’ years as head were challenging because of the election of Bill Clinton as President of the United States and the rapid and continual changes in health care, both political and technological. In addition, personal computers, email, and World Wide Web access moved to the forefront, literally affecting the lives of almost everyone, everywhere.

The changing face of health care led the faculty and Brooks to predict that community-based programs would become more prevalent and that the demand for nurses with advanced nursing degrees would increase. Home health care and the aging population were two other prominent health care issues affecting schools of nursing everywhere.

“Since we wanted Purdue nursing graduates to be the future leaders of the health care industry, we had to continually refine our baccalaureate curriculum to provide more case management and home health care clinical experiences. In addition, we began to develop a plan for a master’s degree program that would provide more advanced nurses. The first step in this process was hiring more faculty members with doctorates,” explains Brooks, who felt it was important to “try to grow our own doctoral faculty. We had faculty members with excellent clinical skills. With a little encouragement and support, several of them went on to earn their doctorates.”

Mara Wasburn, PhD, the School’s director of Development and Alumni Relations, was “excited by Jo’s vision” when she was hired shortly after Brooks’ appointment.

“Her enthusiasm for planning toward a graduate school and hiring doctoral faculty was contagious,” remembers Wasburn, who owes the fact that she was able to earn a doctorate to Brooks. “When I told her I wanted to return to school, she threw her arms around me and gave me a hug. This type of support toward the continuing education and professional development of faculty and staff was very important to the School.”

As more faculty members became involved with scholarly activities, research, and presenting at national conferences, the School of Nursing became one of the most prominent in the state of Indiana and the entire country. The School of Nursing was selected to participate in the FITNE Nightingale Tracker project in 1997.

The School of Nursing in 1992 was in the top 12 schools in the United States in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded to women. The School’s research output grew significantly with the hiring of new and tenured faculty members. The School’s BSN program was one of the first in the nation to have 100% passing rate on NCLEX-RN.

(Cont. next page)
and international levels, the computerization of the School of Nursing that had begun during Geddes’ years became an even more critical element to the School’s continued success.

Associate Professor Jane Kirkpatrick, RN,C; MSN, a member and former chair of the School’s Instructional Support Committee, says “While Jo was head, one of our committee’s goals was to purchase a computer for every faculty member’s office. We came up with a three-year plan to accomplish this task. Jo’s willingness to find the funds necessary to make this happen was very crucial to the burgeoning technological skills of our faculty, staff, and students. Computers have become essential support tools for all of us. Right from our desks, we now are linked to other nursing professionals, students, and our colleagues here at Purdue.”

Brooks wore many hats while she was head: administrator, educator, researcher, mentor, and nurse practitioner. Her service to the University, the community, and to nursing has been widely recognized. She won the 1978 Dwyer Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher in the School of Technology. In 1986, she received the Outstanding Woman Faculty Award from the Association of Women Students and was the Indiana League of Nursing’s Nurse of the Year. She was the 1990 School of Nursing’s Outstanding Alumna and the recipient of the Council on the Status of Women’s 1995 Violet Haas Award for contributions to women at Purdue. In 1998, she received the Indiana Rural Health Volunteer Award for Central Indiana.

Brooks also was chair of the CIC Nursing Deans and the National League for Nursing’ Executive Council of Nursing Centers. She is a member of Congressman John Myers’ Health Advisory Committee and has consulted with the Indiana State Department of Health.

**Brooks’ Legacy: Nurse-Managed Centers**

Today, more health care consumers are familiar with and use nurse practitioners who can provide excellent, affordable primary care. This was not true in 1981 when nursing faculty members Jo A. Brooks and Mary Lou Holle received a $250,000 grant from the United States Public Health Service to establish a nursing center. As the demand for nurse practitioners continues to rise, it is clearly evident that Brooks’ vision of nursing centers becoming prominent health care facilities has come to fruition. Her true legacy to the School are the Nursing Center for Family Health (NCFH) and the Carroll County Nursing Center (CCNC).

“When I became head of the School, a lot of people warned me that I possibly would have to give up my actual hands-on care as a nurse practitioner,” states Brooks. “But I have always seen myself as an RN and a practitioner first. I spent my entire career getting my skills to their current level. You have to use ‘em or lose ‘em!”

Brooks is the director of the CCNC, which receives in-kind support from the School of Nursing. The clinic, located in rural Delphi, Indiana, is the primary health care site for over 1,600 families in this medically underserved area.

The CCNC participates in the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) breast and cervical cancer screening program and Healthy Moms/Healthy Babies campaign. The center also is involved with a free car seat program, and a Center for Disease Control prostate screening program. Last July, due to its impact on the community and continued success, the CCNC was awarded close to $134,000 from the ISDH to transition into a community health clinic. Future plans include Hispanic prenatal classes, as well as increased numbers of community health seminars and fairs.

Sherry Hensley, who lives in Bringhamst, Indiana, says “The nurse practitioners at the Carroll County center make me feel comfortable and safe. They have great bedside manners and actually listen to you. Even my teenage daughters like coming here. We need more nurse practitioners. Purdue is good at nursing. I hope they keep up the great work.”

According to Brooks, “Our doors are open to all. We practice holistically and really listen to our patients’ needs. The community values us, as evidenced by the financial support from several local organizations, the return rate of clients, and the continual increase in new clients.”

Brooks believes both centers have been so successful because they fill a particular need in their respective communities. “Every change we’ve made in the clinics has been driven in part by the needs of the populations we serve. We continually assess how best we can make a difference, here in the Delphi area and at Purdue,” says Brooks, who credits NCFH Director Theresa Lansinger, RN,C; MSN, for furthering the center’s role and reputation in the Purdue community.

“There is a big push in schools of nursing to move students into community health clinical settings,” concludes Brooks. “With the NCFH and the CCNC, Purdue Nursing students from both our undergraduate and our graduate programs have access to two excellent facilities.”
James Blakesley, former director of Space Management and Academic scheduling, worked with Brooks to renovate the basement of Johnson Hall to accommodate the Nursing Center for Family Health (NCFH). “Jo’s dream for this facility was truly visionary,” he says. “Due to the constantly changing needs of the nursing profession, we always seemed to be trying to carve out more space for the program.”

Blakesley, or members of his staff, visited the NCFH and Nursing faculty and staff over the years to provide expert advice, counsel, and care on a number of health-related issues.

“The Nursing facilities and program are fantastic and readily available to everyone on campus. Nurses provide a wonderful element of personal care,” says Blakesley. “The profession of nursing improved as a result of Jo’s stamina and persistence.”

Brooks was a member of the 1965 associate degree nursing class, the first to graduate from Purdue. “Nursing was on the top floor of what is now the Purdue Student Health Center. There were three faculty offices and one classroom,” remembers Brooks, who was a single mother at the time. “I would pull my twin daughters down University Street in a wagon to Humpty Dumpty Daycare Center before heading to class!”

After her Purdue graduation, Brooks worked at a local hospital and a physician’s office while earning her bachelor’s degree at Indiana University. Some of her classmates sparked her interest in public health nursing. After working several years for the Bureau of Public Health, Brooks went to the University of Michigan and received a master’s degree in public health in Spring 1972.

Helen R. Johnson, RN, EdD, former head and founder of Purdue Nursing, had been a mentor and friend to Brooks. She had followed Brooks’ career and heavily recruited her to teach public health at Purdue.

“I had my life as a public health nurse all planned out, but Helen was a lady who wouldn’t take no for an answer,” smiles Brooks, who remarried shortly after she began teaching at Purdue in the Fall of 1972. “Teaching turned out to be a fantastic challenge. I often think how lucky I am to have been able to pursue a career that has offered me the joys of being a practitioner as well as a teacher to the next generation of professional nurses.”

According to Brooks, who earned a doctorate in nursing from Indiana University in 1985, it was Johnson’s dream to have one of the graduates from the first class return to head the School.

“She said just that during her speech at my senior recognition ceremony,” remembers Brooks. “We graduates chuckled among ourselves at the time, little knowing what a prophet she would turn out to be. Helen was a pioneer in nursing education. I felt like I was carrying her legacy forward.”

Brooks returned to full-time teaching and research when Linda A. Simunek, RN, PhD, JD, was named Head of the School in May 1998.

“I was anxious to be more involved with students again. They are so enthusiastic,” states Brooks. “Being a faculty member, an administrator, and an alumna of Purdue Nursing has been a wonderful experience.”

Regardless of the changes in health care, Brooks believes the “Purdue Nursing curriculum will always prepare graduates for professional practice, not just for today but for careers spanning into the next century. The School always responds to challenges and finds solutions,” she concludes. “Our alumnae are making names for themselves in the health care industry.”

“This is the excellence of the Purdue Nursing program.

“One of the hallmarks of Purdue Nursing is the strong scientific background students receive,” states Risa, a nurse at the Veteran’s Affairs Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. “A Purdue degree means something, especially beyond Indiana.”

A mother of two, Risa’s dream of higher education was put on hold until her children were grown. Recently, she received a bachelor’s and then a master’s degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She holds leadership positions in several professional nursing organizations.

“Nurses must be catalysts of change and embrace educating the public about what our profession can do. We can’t hide behind our jobs. I finally have the resources, education, knowledge, and experience to support issues close to my heart,” she states. “I believe in Purdue Nursing, so I made a donation to help the program. I look at it as leaving something behind so the next generation can further the work we already have done in the world.”
SECOND ANNUAL PURDUE NURSING JOB FAIR

Forty recruiters from as far away as Texas attended the Second Annual Nursing Job Fair, February 19, 1999, at Johnson Hall of Nursing. This more than doubles the number of recruiters who participated in the 1998 job fair. Student Services Secretary Susan Kauffman coordinated and publicized this year’s fair with assistance from Mary Lurie, a sophomore nursing student from Crown Point, Indiana.

The job fair allows nursing students to meet face-to-face with potential employers from a wide variety of health care disciplines. Some of the employers even held interviews on the day of the event.

According to Donna Kauffman, RN, MSN, associate professor and assistant head for Student Services, the event isn’t just for graduating seniors. Nursing students looking for internships, as well as Purdue Nursing alumnae, can attend the job fair.

Deb Greene, human resource analyst for Goshen (Indiana) Health System says several Purdue Nursing students expressed an interest in her organization and are being invited to an open house. “I was impressed by their maturity level,” she states. “As we spoke, their compassion for and knowledge of nursing was clearly evident.”

Purdue Nursing students inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, Delta Omicron Chapter:

Jaina Amin  
Jennifer Bloemker  
Anne Crockett  
Sara Deater  
Allison Ebert  
Jamie Falbe  
Demara Farnbach  
Christina Freeman  
Erin Harper  
Erika Horn  
Jody Johnson

Terry Jones  
Patricia Kerrigan  
Jennifer Kruse  
Emily Lenderman  
Coreen Mattaliano

The Nursing Student Council continues to assist in the recruitment of students by calling every high school senior admitted to Nursing. Council members also assist in student retention by organizing a mentor program for all incoming freshmen. The 1998-99 officers are: Jaime Coady, president; Alyson Zingler, vice president; and Kim Provence, secretary/treasurer. The faculty advisors are Donna Kauffman, assistant head for Student Services and Dr. Ruth Wukasch, assistant professor.

STUDENT SERVICES WISH LIST

- Student copy machine for Johnson Hall
- Funds for international student travel
- Alumnae representatives to help raise funds to frame every class graduation composite photograph for hanging in Johnson Hall
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With the recent changes in the School’s curriculum, particularly the Seamless Senior Year (see Vital Signs, Fall 1998), the Nursing Student Council has been actively gathering student input to assist in the faculty’s and administration’s evaluations.

Members of the Minority Student Nurses Association (MSNA) volunteered at the Minority Health Coalition of Lafayette’s Healthy Soul Food Dinner in February 1999. MSNA members calculated participants’ body mass index, and provided education on healthy eating and exercise habits. MSNA continues to volunteer at the Lafayette Urban Ministry Homeless Shelter. 1998-99 officers are: Rashanda Laye, president; Maria Freeman, vice president; Nyla Fleming; secretary; Rona Stewart, treasurer; and Ivan Cook, Student Council representative. Eleanor Stephan, academic advisor, is the group’s advisor.

Purdue Student Nurses Association (PSNA) coordinated two blood drives this academic year. Members also collected food and clothing for Greater Lafayette’s Family Resources Center, and donated textbooks to medical clinics on the island of Banga. Currently, textbook collections are under way for Indonesian clinics. 1998-99 officers are: Brandi Waybright, president; Greg Jones, vice president; Tasha Scott, secretary; Sarah Noel, publicity; Eli Cummings, fundraiser; Laura Levertont, treasurer; Nicole Sellers, social/membership; and Heather Fayhee, Breakthrough to Nursing. Donna Schmeiser, clinical asst. professor, is the academic advisor.

Last December, Nurses Christian Fellowship (NCF) members went caroling at Home Hospital in December, put together treat packs for guests of the Lafayette Urban Ministry’s Homeless Shelter, and passed out candy canes with encouraging messages to all Nursing students before final exam week. In March, NCF will prepare a dinner for the Lafayette Urban Ministry’s Homeless Shelter. 1998-99 officers are: Molly Welch, president; Jamie Falbe, vice president; Allison Zengler, secretary; Nicole Shimala, treasurer; Sarah Hoffar, publicity; and Jill Walden, meeting coordinator. Faculty co-advisors are Assoc. Professors Joan Kuipers and Dr. Carol Blue.

School of Nursing Student Ambassadors have represented the School at several functions. One of their primary responsibilities is helping recruit students. The ambassadors have given several one-on-one tours of Johnson Hall and Purdue to prospective students and their families.

Two nursing student interns, Terry Jones, a senior from Valparaiso, Ind., and Mary Lurie, a sophomore from Crown Point, Ind., work in the Student Services. According to Assistant Head for Student Services Donna Kauffman, RN, MSN, the interns are improving their communications and time management skills, as well as learning to be goal-oriented.
Congratulations to all graduates of the 34th Class of Purdue Nursing!

Jennifer Anne Bloemker*  
Pinned by Kim Gretebeck, RN,  
Purdue Nursing Graduate Instructor

Susan Nikele Clevenger  
Pinned by her mother,  
Darlene Clevenger

Barbara Sue Click  
Pinned by her husband, Gary Click

Tracy Louise Graf  
Pinned by her mother and father,  
Chris and Larry Graf

Patricia Anne Kerrigan*  
Pinned by her husband and mother,  
Daniel Kerrigan and Matie Flowers

Kristina M. McElhaney  
Pinned by her mother, Dianne McElhaney

Anne Marie Miller*^^  
Pinned by her mother, Mary Miller

David Anthony Morris  
Pinned by his father, Dave Morris

Jennifer Kristen Olson*^  
Pinned by her mother and father,  
Rita and Robert Olson

Polly Lynne Powell  
Pinned by her mother and father,  
Suzette and Robert Powell

Amy Elizabeth Rasch*  
Pinned by her grandfather, Dr. George Rasch

Gina Elizabeth Schuler  
Pinned by her mother and father,  
Marsha and John Schuler

Vanessa Lynn Scobee  
Pinned by her mother, Pat Scobee

Amanda Kay Butler Smith  
Pinned by her mother,  
Sharon Butler

Amanda Cheree Thomas*  
Pinned by her mother, Jill Thomas

Lisa Marie Treba  
Pinned by her mother and father,  
Rosie and Herb Treba

Heather Ann Wroblewski  
Pinned by her mother,  
Ann Wroblewski

* Sigma Theta Tau International  
Nursing Honor Society Membership

^ Graduate “With Distinction”

^^ Graduate “With Highest Distinction”

Amanda Kay Butler Smith’s perfect grade point average upon graduation was a very poignant and significant achievement.

“My SAT scores weren’t high enough for direct admissions into the nursing program,” says the North Vernon, Indiana, native, who graduated with Highest Distinction. Miller (left) also received the School’s Outstanding Academic Achievement Award at the December 1998 Recognition Ceremony from Associate Professor Ann H. Hunt, RN, PhD.

Miller’s desire to get her nursing education at Purdue was so strong that she gambled by enrolling in Purdue’s School of Education first. “I studied a lot to get straight A’s that first year, so I was able to request a change of degree objective and earn acceptance into nursing by my sophomore year.”

Miller paid half of her college expenses by working as a nurse’s aide and tutoring other nursing students. She currently is a staff nurse on the progressive care unit at Columbus (Indiana) Regional Hospital.

“I received a great education and discovered I can achieve anything,” she says. “The Purdue professors taught us that nursing is a profession. We just don’t follow doctors’ orders. Nurses also use their own knowledge to come up with interventions.”
Greetings fellow alumnae!

I am Janet Kemper, the newly elected Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization president. It is a privilege to represent you and be an active part of Purdue Nursing. For 12 years, I have worked on the telemetry- oncology medical floor of Home Hospital. My husband Alan is a farmer, so my family and I are active in the Tippecanoe County 4-H program. I also am the women’s leader of the Tippecanoe County Farm Bureau.

Have you noticed how big our “Connections” page is getting? More and more of you are keeping in touch with us. I hope you find out the latest and greatest about one of the friends you made while at Purdue Nursing.

Maintaining your ties with the school is important to the future of the nursing program, especially with the new graduate program and Dr. Linda Simunek’s plans to make Nursing a stand-alone school. We need your wealth of talents, ideas, and support. You are one of the greatest resources for the School of Nursing!

I hope you already have marked down April 23 on your calendar. On that day, we will celebrate nursing with fellow alumnae, nursing colleagues from the community, and current nursing students. Together, we will learn how to become an even greater force of professionals who can move nursing to greater heights in the next century.

Janet Kemper, RN

(’73), PNAO President

P.S. Remember to send us your news! Use the form on page 19, or visit the alumnae page on the School’s website.

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**THE LATEST ON PURDUE NURSES!** (as of 3/14/99)

**EDUCATION/CERTIFICATION**

Anna McClean Bower (’81), Munster, IN. MS in Nursing Administration (1998) and MBA (1993), St. Xavier University.

Janet Burford (’94), Elkhart, IN. Masters of Science in Nurse Anesthesia.

Karin E. Duffy (’90), Greensboro, NC. Masters in Health Science, George Washington University Physician Assistant Program.

Linda Alleyne Dye (’76), Tampa, FL. Doctor of Education, Univ. of South Florida (Tampa).

Rémi Hueckez (’92), Durham, NC. MSN, Duke University, 1998; ANCC Family Nurse Practitioner Certification.


Melissa Cook Jeffries (’96), New Castle, IN. Trauma Nursing Core Curriculum.

Kari Grice Mau (’96), Houston, TX. Attending Texas Woman’s University for Family Nurse Practitioner Master’s Degree.

Catherine Pflum (’95), Indianapolis, IN. Graduated from the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at Univ. of Illinois at Chicago.

Noel Poiapdxter (’91), Columbus, GA. MSN, Nurse Anesthesia, US Army/Univ. of Texas Health Science Center, January 1998.

Elizabeth Brafford Stamper (’96), Baldwin, MI. MSN, Case Western Reserve University.

Terry L. Treece (’76), Fort Smith, AK. MSN from Midwestern State University, May 1997.

ANCC certification as Family Nurse Practitioner, August 1997.

Catherine Shideler Winslow (’90), Denver, CO. Finishing residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Pam Dunn Zurfus (’73), Monticello, IN. Received BSN with High Honors from Indiana University, Kokomo.

Kari Carpenter Florey (’83), Hot Springs Village, AR. Evening manager, Arkansas Center for Research, Univ. of AR, Little Rock.

Tina L. Frazier (’95), Sacramento, CA. Oncology/chemotherapy Nurse.

Lana Greene (’93), Indianapolis, Neuro Unit, Community Hospitals of Indianapolis East.

Brian Hopp (’96), Kasungu, Malawi, Africa. U.S. Peace Corps representative providing home-based care and counseling to HIV/AIDS patients and their families.

Rémi Hueckez (’92), Durham, NC. Newest member of Duke’s LifeFlight Team.

Jennifer Jagiela (’96), Orlando, FL. CCU RN with Cross Country Traveling Agency.

Alisa Jackson (’96), New Haven, CT. Clinical Nurse, Medical Intensive Care Unit, Yale-New Haven Medical Center, New Haven.

Melissa Cook Jeffries (’96), New Castle, IN. Emergency Room, Henry County Memorial Hospital, Newcastle.

Noelle Dilling Lottes (’98), Crown Point, IN. RN, Medical-Surgical Unit, Broadway Methodist Hospital, Merrillville, IN.

Kari Grice Mau (’96), Houston, TX. Labor & Delivery, The Methodist Hospital, Houston.

Noel Poiapdxter (’91), Columbus, GA. Nurse Anesthetist, Ft. Benning, GA.

Catherine Pflum (’95), Indianapolis, IN. Nurse Practitioner, Community Hospitals.

Cindy Snitchler (’95), Hobart, IN. Operating Room, St. Catherine’s Hosp., E. Chicago, IL.

Elizabeth Brafford Stamper (’96), Baldwin, MI. Family Nurse Practitioner, Teen Health Program, Baldwin, MI.
Terry L. Treece ('76), Fort Smith, AK. Advanced Practice Nurse, River Valley Orthopaedic Center, Fort Smith.

Pam Dunn Zurfus ('73), Monticello, IN. Director of Home Care, Cardiac Rehab & Home Supplies, White County Memorial Hospital.

Mary Herczeg Roehling ('86), Eagle, ID. Director of Nursing, St. Alphonsus RMC, Boise.

Julie Carbray ('87), LaGrange, IL. Son, 2/98.

Lana Greene ('93), Indianapolis. Son, 7/1/97.

APRIL 23, 1999
8:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.
North Ballroom Purdue Memorial Union, W. Lafayette, Indiana
2.6 contact hours available

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Katherine Tyler Scott, BS, MSW
Executive Director,
Trustee Leadership Development
The New Leadership:
Habits of the Mind, Practices of the Heart

Sponsors: Purdue School of Nursing; Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization, Delta Omicron Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International; Indiana State Nurses Association, District 8; Association of Operating Room Nurses; Purdue Student Nurses Association; Purdue Nurses’ Christian Fellowship; & Purdue Minority Student Nurse Association.

GALA WEEK NURSING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM (Feel free to copy.)

Name (include former if applicable) | Title | Employer
--- | --- | ---
Home Address | City | State | Zip | Phone
Please check all that apply:
- □ Purdue Alumna (graduation date _______)
- □ Nursing student (school ___________)
- □ Other (__________________________)

Please enclose your registration fee(s). Make checks payable to Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization:
- □ Enclosed is my $25 registration fee.
- □ I am a nursing student. Enclosed is my $15 registration fee.
- □ I wish to sponsor a nursing student! Enclosed is the $40 registration fee for me ($25) and a student ($15).
- □ I require auxiliary aids or have special dietary needs. Please contact me.

MAIL FORM & PAYMENT TO: M.H. Wasburn, 1337 Johnson Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907

Celebration for Community Health:
Pam Levin, RN, PhD
Asst. Professor, College of Nursing,
University of Illinois at Chicago

Purdue University School of Nursing has been approved by the Indiana State Nurses Association (ISNA) as a provider of continuing education in nursing. ISNA is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the Board on Accreditation of the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Purdue is an EA/EE university.
da Winchester Casey, former associate professor of nursing at Purdue, died on January 21. Casey, a first lieutenant in the Army Nursing Corps during World War II, helped the School receive National League for Nursing accreditation for the bachelor of science in nursing completion program.

In 1976, Casey became professor of nursing and chairwoman of the department of nursing at the former Edgecliff College, which now is part of Xavier University. Before retiring in 1985, she developed the registered nurse to bachelor of science in nursing completion program there.

In 1981, she received the Mary Hamer Greenwood Award for excellence in nursing. That same year, she also received the Nursing Leadership Award from the Ohio League for Nursing. In addition, the Ida Casey Award was created at Xavier University for the nursing student who “makes a difference.”

In 1981, Casey founded the Greater Cincinnati Council of Nurses. She also was a charter member of the American Association for the History of Nursing and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.

Mary Agnes Kennedy, 97, of Camden, Indiana, died on January 2 (photo unavailable). Born in 1901, Kennedy graduated from Camden High School in 1919 and Purdue University in 1923. She was a member of Purdue’s Chi Omega-Chi Beta Chapter, American Society for Medical Technology, YWCA, and Audubon Society, as well as Purdue’s Alumni Association.

Kennedy was an active traveler and sports enthusiast. She played intramural basketball and soft and tennis, bowled, and swam at the YMCA. She also enjoyed sailing and won the marathon race walk conducted by the Commercial News and American Red Cross Life Saving Corps Adult Division.

Surviving is her sister, Kathryn Weinberger, Flora, Indiana. Kennedy’s connections to the School of Nursing were made through Weinberger, who earned a nursing degree from the University of Michigan and went on to become a faculty member there.

The sisters became Charter Benefactors to the School of Nursing because they wanted “Purdue Nursing to be a model school.”

Robert W. “Doc” Epple, 83, of West Lafayette, Indiana, died January 23. He and his wife Miriam, who survives, are Charter Benefactors to the School. In 1974, Doc established the annual Ethel Crockett Epple Award to honor his mother, who was a nurse, and her devotion to the profession. The award is one of the most prestigious at the School and is given to the outstanding graduating senior.

In April 1994, the twentieth Epple Award was given at a celebratory banquet honoring Doc and Miriam at the Purdue Memorial Union. Thirteen past winners traveled from as far away as New Mexico and Washington, DC, to thank Doc for his continual support of Purdue nursing.

Epple earned a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Purdue in 1940, the same year he co-founded the University Bookstore. During World War II, he served on the U.S.S. Enterprise. He was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, the Elks Club, and the Lafayette Country Club. He also served on the President’s Council of Purdue.

Doc once said, “Miriam and I have a loyalty to good things. When you are sick or in a hospital sometimes the nicest hand that ever was is that of a nurse. We all need to care about these young people and help them prepare for the future. People need to realize how important nurses are to all of us.”

Violet B. Arihood Road of West Lafayette, Indiana died on November 17. Along with her husband Richard, who survives, she was a Charter Benefactor to the School of Nursing. Since her parents wouldn’t support her interest in pursuing a career in nursing, Road has watched with pride the positive changes that occurred in the nursing profession. She was particularly pleased when Purdue began a nursing education program in 1963.

Road was a secretary at the Tippecanoe County Extension office for nine years. She also was very active in and served on the boards of several church and community organizations. As a member of the local Mental Health Association, Road made many trips to Logansport State Hospital and Tippecanoe County home to present programs and visit residents.

Not having children of their own, the Roads took an active interest in helping nursing students who did not have the financial resources to attend college. Donating to the School was one way for them to stay involved in the everchanging roles and exciting developments in professional nursing.

In a 1994 Vital Signs article, Road said “It is so interesting to be able to sit back and see that today’s young women are encouraged to attend nursing school. There is much more open thinking in our society now, and nursing certainly has evolved. We just want to help that along.”
**Charter Benefactors ($10,000 plus)**

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- Mary Helen Zink
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In the Fall 1999 Vital Signs, meet Nursing faculty, staff, students, and alumnae who are part of the growing international movement at the School.

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Between the Lines

Becky Lohman, Writer/Editor

Have you “surfed” www.nursing.purdue.edu yet? Upon her first visit to the site, Cindy Betzner Kiemeyer (’86) wrote, “I am pleased to see that the School of Nursing is continuing a tradition of excellence!” She also completed the online form that allows you to share memories. Cindy wrote about the history of the Senior Recognition Ceremony:

“I browsed the various links listed and found one about the Senior Recognition Ceremony. I remembered back to 1986 when my classmates and I were about to become the first class to graduate from the new four year program. We were excited to receive our pins in a pinning ceremony as classes in the past had done. However, the faculty told us that there would not be a pinning ceremony because they wanted to portray a more professional image for our graduates. We would have our commencement and receive our pins at another time.

“Naturally, we were disappointed and felt there should be some sort of recognition in addition to commencement. The faculty was open to our ideas as long as the professional image was maintained. I remember being part of a small group of nursing students; consisting of Joan Zink, Pam Gottlick, and Sue Boggis (If I forgot someone I’m sorry, the memory is fuzzy after 13 years!) who met on our own time to plan what we would do. We finally arrived at the idea of a Senior Recognition Ceremony. We would hold the ceremony the same day as commencement at which time we would receive our pins. We found the faculty to be receptive and supportive. The first Senior Recognition Ceremony took place May 18, 1986, at the Purdue Memorial Union.”

Thanks, Cindy. I hope to hear from more of you as we continue to enhance our website. Look for video clips of faculty, staff, and students to go online in the near future!

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SISTERS PUT CARING INTO ACTION WITH PURDUE NURSING DEGREES

Getting the Sabol sisters all together is a rare event. Four of them are Purdue Nursing graduates. They are clockwise from upper left: Nancy Edwards ('80), West Lafayette, Indiana, assistant professor at Purdue School of Nursing; Janet Metz ('68), Hilliard, Ohio, former ob/gyn nurse at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Lafayette; Mary Ann Caswell ('69), Heuvelton, New York, faculty member at the State University of New York-Canton, and ICU nurse at Hepburn Medical Center, Ogdensburg, New York; and Carol Bailey ('76), Dayton, IN, director of quality assurance for Laurel Health Care Company, Columbus, OH. Not pictured is Patty Scheetz, who recently joined the Purdue Nursing faculty (see page 7).

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PURDUE UNIVERSITY
School of Nursing
1337 Johnson Hall of Nursing
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337