The 21st Century Workplace: The 21st Century Nurse

By Dr. Linda A. Simunek
Head, Purdue University School of Nursing
Associate Dean, Schools of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences

As we begin the School of Nursing’s odyssey into the 21st century, the faculty and staff are actively engaged in a self-study for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education slated for Spring 2001.

The self-study process will enable us to assess how well-positioned the Purdue University School of Nursing is in meeting its social mandate to prepare men and women who as baccalaureate-prepared nurses can provide high quality care in traditional and emerging healthcare settings.

The first step in this reflective accreditation process is to scan the forces likely to influence nursing practice during the first decades of the new millennium.

We need to raise the question of “what societal factors will influence the strategic plan and priorities of Purdue nursing faculty, staff, students and alumni?” The answer to this seminal question will be the defining framework for the faculty’s academic, research, and service agenda.

What the faculty are able to accomplish during the years 2000-2005 will have a long lasting impact on the eventual role of the School of Nursing within Purdue University and in our local and global community.

Forecasters and commentators from various disciplines cite technology, demographics, economics, globalization, knowledge explosion, scientific advances, and changing values as influential forces affecting nursing and the healthcare professions.

How will technological innovations affect nursing practice?

Advances in technology fuel the knowledge explosion and broaden what we know about humankind, as exemplified by the DNA mapping project. The human genetic blueprint will be in the forefront of diagnostic and treatment possibilities that have yet to be charted. Miniaturized computers force us to re-think our concepts of time and space as information technology allows us to work, learn, play, and do commerce unconstrained by time zones and geographical boundaries.

The 21st century has been dubbed as the “anything-anywhere” age. Cyberspace is the virtual nurse’s new work site as he/she monitors clients in home settings through computers. Technology will facilitate nurses’ access to databases requisite for research, complex clinical decision-making, and multidisciplinary interventions.
"In our complex age of high-tech care, nursing will play a vital role in maintaining human dignity, integrity, altruism and social justice. As in all ages past, the essence of 21st century nursing will be the art and science of caring."

How will demographic trends influence academic nursing programs?

Major demographic trends include the graying and browning of America and the emergence of women in greater numbers in business, industry, and the professions. Those who are 85 years or over will double by 2020. By 2050, one in three Americans will be over 55. Through the proposed West Lafayette master's nursing program in gerontology, Purdue graduates will have unprecedented opportunities to serve as advocates for the elderly as experts in health promotion, managers of chronic illnesses, and leaders in quality-of-life and end-of-life issues.

How will globalization affect academic programs?

An increasingly interdependent world demands that we learn more about how language, ethnicity, culture, mores, and folkways affect health behavior as we see a greater influx of international clients. Hispanics and Asians will constitute the new American majority. Cultural competency is an essential outcome of a liberal education and clinical instruction in multicultural settings.

What opportunities are provided by the continuing drive for cost containment in health care?

The concern for economics is a window of opportunity for nursing. There will be an increasing need for advanced practice nurses prepared at the graduate level who can provide health promotion and health maintenance interventions in medically underserved areas. Of the 2.5 million nurses in the workforce, only 10% have graduate degrees.

How will nurses keep up with knowledge explosion and prevent from being "jobsolete?"

Workers in the 21st century can anticipate four career changes during their lifetime. Knowledge obsolescence makes lifelong learning imperative. The 21st century nurse will have to keep pace with scientific advances through formal and informal continuing education.

What societal values will have the most impact on nursing?

The concern for quality in all spheres of life will have the most impact on nursing. Providing care and improving quality require the constant renewal of sound knowledge and skills. The Purdue University School of Nursing must respond to 21st century realities spawned by technology, demographics, globalization, knowledge explosion, economics, and changing values to maintain its position as a quality nursing school.

Will society value the nursing profession?

Nurses will continue to be the bulk and backbone of healthcare services. Society will demonstrate support for nurses through legislative and private funding supportive of pay equity and egalitarian working conditions. It is projected that we need one third more nurses than the 2.5 million we now have in the workforce. In our complex age of high-tech care, nursing will play a vital role in maintaining human dignity, integrity, altruism and social justice. As in all ages past, the essence of 21st century nursing is the art and science of caring.
Remember the first time you had to give an injection? Today Purdue nursing students are learning this skill, and many other nursing competencies, at the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice (commonly known as CNERP) on the ground floor of Johnson Hall.

In the CNERP nursing students learn by doing through simulated, hands-on experiences using a variety of instructional support methods and resources.

“Because nurses perform so many highly invasive and technical procedures where competency directly affects the patient’s outcome, it is critical that students have the opportunity to practice in a supervised environment before clinical rotations,” says center director RuthAnn Smolen, RN, MS.

Here they have the opportunity to practice skills and make simulated critical decisions at their own pace. “Through practice, they gain confidence in their abilities and their decisions,” RuthAnn says. "The safe laboratory setting allows them to develop and practice critical thinking and decision-making skills via simulations, as well as to acquire basic research skills.”

In the CNERP students learn and practice lab testing, advanced cardiac life support, physical assessments, medication administration, and acute critical care nursing procedures. They also receive academic instruction in invasive procedures such as injections, intravenous therapies, nasogastric intubation, tracheotomy care, and urethral catheterization. They can practice techniques such as client physical assessments, electrocardiograms, oximetries, and ventilator management.

**IV Simulator Gives Realistic Practice**

One of the newest instructional tools in the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice is a CathSim Intravenous Computer Assisted Teaching System, which offers interactive multimedia instruction using a mouse, keyboard, and 3D simulation feedback device.

To use the system, students select a case—a geriatric patient, a male drug user, a young adult male, an obese patient or a teenage girl. Once a case is selected, a case history and doctor’s orders are displayed.

To begin the simulation, a short video takes the student through the pre-procedure steps. The next section details steps required for preparing a patient and includes an on-screen, full-length image of arm. Using the mouse to place the icons in the right place and in the right sequence, students then select an area, apply a tourniquet, palpate the vein, apply warm soaks, cleanse the site, and choose the catheter/needle unit.
The 3D simulation/feedback device allows students to actually hold and insert the catheter/needle unit and feel pressure as the needle goes through the skin and into the vein. The screen displays a real-time 3D cross-sectional view showing the underlying anatomy and vein structure. The feedback device pinpoints various problems and offers interpretations and solutions.

Redesign For The Future
The current CNERP was designed in 1974. Since that time, there have been significant changes in healthcare, and in the School of Nursing’s program. “With the shift in healthcare to early discharge and shorter hospital stays, more clients are being served in their homes and community settings,” RuthAnn points out.

To address those changes, a redesign has been planned to include not only sophisticated technologies but also a variety of settings in which today’s student nurses will practice.

The first stage of the redesign was to move the entrance door to the main corridor and create a reception/conference/research space, and that work was completed in February. The second stage of redesign will include creating a residential/birthing unit, a critical care room, six private examination rooms including one with videotaping capabilities, a large fundamentals lab, and a multimedia lab for developing presentation and nursing informatics skills.

Sigma Theta Tau/Delta Omicron has named 1999 Excellence Award Recipients. They are:

Chapter Excellence
Susan Schoon, Assistant Professor

Excellence In Clinical Practice
Jan Davis, Certified Nurse Midwife, Lafayette

Excellence In Education
Clara Richardson, Clinical Assistant Professor

Excellence In Leadership
Janet Blossom, Greater Lafayette Healthcare

Purdue senior nursing leadership students, in cooperation with the Minority Health Coalition, have organized and presented a six-session pre-natal program for Hispanic women at Hanna Center in Lafayette.

NCLEX results for the December 1998/May 1999 graduates are in. Purdue graduates scored a 100% pass rate for October to March 1999 and 92% for April to September 1999.
SPECIAL EVENTS

Gala Speaker Talks About Humor In Healthcare

Nurses and friends of nursing enjoyed the Purdue School of Nursing’s second annual Gala Celebration of Nursing on April 28.

Events of the day included three feature presentations. One of these was Lafayette native Leslie Mahara Gibson, RN, BS, who spoke about the role of humor in healthcare.

It was walking home from elementary school that Leslie Mahara Gibson first found out about the power of humor. "I was really heavy, and the other kids would tease me and make fun of me," she says. "Then one day, the shoe repair guy told me that if I could make the kids laugh with me, they wouldn’t laugh at me.

"He gave me jokes and riddles and games that I could take to school the next day. And it worked. The kids started laughing with me, not at me."

The real turning point for Leslie was working with handicapped kids at a summer camp in Michigan. "Those were the kids who really got laughed at for having to wear helmets because they had cerebral palsy or because they had no arms or crippled legs," she says. "And I was able to help them with jokes and riddles like the shoe repair man had helped me."

Today Leslie is a nationally known motivational speaker, and her topic is humor in healthcare.

A Nurse By Nature

Leslie knew from the ninth grade that she wanted to be a nurse. "My dad had many illnesses and was in the hospital a lot, and I was inspired by the nurses who helped him," she says.

After graduating from the Purdue School of Nursing in 1978, she worked at Home Hospital. "But that winter, there was a terrible blizzard and we were stuck at work at the hospital. And I said, ‘Enough.’ I moved to Florida."

Going to school at night, Leslie eventually earned her bachelor’s in health care administration from St. Leo’s College in Dade City, Fla. She is currently working on her master’s.

By 1986 she was speaking to businesses on using humor and stress management as coping tools. A turning point came in 1988, when she got a grant from The Humor Project to pioneer putting humor into hospitals.

"I was on a quest," she says. "I went to a conference and learned about humor rooms where patients could go and watch funny movies or play games."

"But the trend is that people are sicker now and often can’t leave their rooms. So I thought, Why not take humor to them? I applied for a grant to put humor on a cart and take it to the bedside."

She won the grant, and today her program has grown to include 20 "comedy carts" and over 80 volunteers who work with the program in four affiliated hospitals. The humor carts have a small VCR and a selection of funny movies. There are also games, light reading, comic books, puzzles, and gag gifts.

"People can pick whatever they want from the comedy cart," Leslie says. "One woman was in the hospital for premature labor and everyone around her was very stressed. So she checked out a rubber chicken and put it under the sheet. She had a great time with it, and it helped the people around her relax, too."

One of Leslie’s personal favorite gags is a rubber nose. "We wrap them up in little bags and go around telling people the hospital is having a special on nose jobs. It can really lighten things up," she says.

Humor can go a long way toward making people feel better, but it’s important to know when it’s appropriate and when it’s not, she says.

"For instance, it would be inappropriate to walk into the room of a cancer patient who’s lost all his hair and start rattling off jokes about bald people," she says. "But if he tells you stories about his hair loss, then you know that he has a handle on the situation and may be using humor as a coping mechanism."
This year has brought a lot of changes for me. Not only did I accept a new position with the School of Nursing, but I also recently gave birth to my first child.

My husband, Lou, and I welcomed our son Nick into the world on Dec. 30, 1999. He has brought more joy to our lives than I ever dreamed possible. While it’s painful that I no longer spend my days with him, I am delighted with my new job as it is a great blend of my two areas of training: science and fundraising.

Prior to joining the School of Nursing, I served as the Assistant Director of Development for the Krannert School of Management where I managed the $2 million dollar Annual Fund.

My background in science began with an undergraduate degree in Psychology, a Master’s degree in Biopsychology and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. I completed a three-year postdoctoral fellowship in Neurology Research at Duke University, followed by a one-year post doc at Bioanalytical Systems here in West Lafayette.

It was during my last post doc that I realized the isolation of lab work was driving me crazy. I could only sit still at my rig for about four hours before I was up bothering the other scientists, asking, “So, what are you working on?” I arrived at the inescapable conclusion that I needed to have a career that allowed me to have a lot more contact with people.

My good friend, Phyllis Izant, who was a Major Gift Officer for Purdue University, would patiently listen to me complain about my job as a research scientist. One day she told me that I should think about working in development. The rest, as they say, is history.

I love working in this field. My primary goal here at the School of Nursing is to acquire the funding we need to increase student scholarships, support faculty research, and purchase additional state-of-the-art equipment.

I will serve as an ambassador for both our school and the university and will work hard to strengthen our ties with alumni. I feel very fortunate that my job allows me to meet so many interesting people and to form friendships and personal connections along the way. I am really looking forward to meeting many of you in the future!

Road, Griswold become Nursing Charter Benefactors

The School of Nursing is proud to welcome two new members to the R. B. Stewart Society, Mr. Richard A. Road and Mrs. Jeanne B. Griswold.

Purdue University founded this society to recognize special benefactors who make generous commitments to the future of the University through their estate plans.

The society is named after Robert Stewart in honor of his expression of faith in the future of Purdue through his own gifts.

The School of Nursing sincerely appreciates the generosity of Mr. Road and Mrs. Griswold for joining our vision in helping to secure a world-class program. Their gifts have placed them within our circle of Charter Benefactors, which is our highest level of annual giving.

In addition, the School of Nursing welcomes Mrs. Miriam K. Epple yet again to this same circle of Charter Benefactors. Her consistent support and kindness to our school has been much appreciated over the years.

These individuals serve as the backbone of our program as they sustain the enthusiasm and momentum of our growth. If you would like more information on making a bequest to the School of Nursing, please contact Barbara Coury at (765) 494-4003.

Juniors having a ball at the first annual Nurse’s Ball include (front row, left to right) Molly Hutchinson, Mandy Kremer, and Julie Zimmerman. (Back row) Angel Vinson, Megan Abelard, Elaine Estrada, Kara Whitaker, Kristy Jerdnt, and Courtney Andres.
ACCOLADES

Carol Baird. Named 1999 Dorothy Cornelius RN Scholar by the American Nurses Foundation for research concerning self-care and older women with osteoarthritis. Award included grant for research to develop instrument to measure self-care and osteoarthritis. Co-investigators are Donna Schmeiser and Karen Yehle.


Jennifer Raines. Honored by the Purdue Committee on the Education of Teaching Assistants and the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs for excellence in teaching. She is working on a Master of Science nursing degree, Family Nurse Practitioner track.


Donna Schmeiser. Honored with three different awards at the School of Nursing Convocation. She was chosen for the School of Nursing Enhancement Award for service above and beyond the call of duty. She was chosen at the freshman level and as the overall winner for the School of Nursing Excellence in Teaching Award. She was also the School of Nursing and the Schools of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences nominee for the University Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching (Murphy) Award.

Linda Simunek. Inducted into the Chicago Filipino-American Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions in nursing education, October 1999.

Sharon Wilkerson. Special Director’s Award for exemplary contributions to the work of the International Council on Women’s Health Issues.

Karen Thomas Yehle. Recently approved as a Clinic Advisor for The American Running Association. Also re-certified as a Clinical Specialist in Medical-Surgical Nursing.

PRESENTATIONS


Ann Hunt. Traveled to Egypt in October 1999 with a delegation representing the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses. Presented a session on osteoporosis at the University of Cairo Institute of Nursing.


Sharon Wilkerson. “Developmental Care In The NICU.” Presented to the faculty and students at the University of Cairo Institute of Nursing, Egypt, December 1999.

PROMOTIONS

Sharon Wilkerson has been formally appointed Assistant Head for Graduate Studies for the Purdue School of Nursing, West Lafayette campus. She has been functioning in this capacity since May 1998. She was active in planning and launching the Cohort Calumet-West Lafayette FNP Program.

Ruth Wukasch, DNS, MSN, BS, has been promoted to Associate Professor in the Purdue School of Nursing. She has been at the university since 1989, and currently teaches senior level nursing leadership and management.

Dr. Wukasch has won several excellence in teaching awards, as well as the Enhancement Award from the School of Nursing. Her research activities and interests include women’s health (particularly the post-hysterectomy experience), sexuality and aging, and health promotion.

PUBLICATIONS


GRANTS

Carol Baird. Delta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International funded research entitled “Health and Self-Caring of Older Adults With Osteoarthritis.” Co-investigators are Donna Schmeiser and Karen Yehle.

Carol Baird. PRF International Travel Fund grant to fund travel to Self-Care Deficit Nursing Theory International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, February 2000.

Carol Baird. Purdue Research Foundation 1999 Summer Faculty Grant for research “Enhancing Nutrition to Improve Recovery: Older Women with Osteoarthritis.”

Carol Baird. Purdue Research Foundation 2000 Summer Faculty Grant for research “Measurement of Self-Caring of Older Women With Osteoarthritis.”

Cynthia Fletcher. Awarded post doctoral fellowship in Nursing at Indiana University, Indianapolis, for 2000-2001.

GRANT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED

Blue, C., and Rossen, E. “Integrating Community-Based Nursing Into the Curriculum,” Helene Fuld Foundation.

Edwards, N., and Brooks, J. “Expanding a Rural Community Nursing Center,” Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Nursing, USDHHS.


TRANSITIONS/NEW FACES

Visiting appointments for 1999-2000 include:

Cynthia Bozich-Keith, MSN 1992 Valparaiso University, teaching Foundations for Nursing Practice and Psychosocial Nursing-Clinic.

De De Campbell, MSN 1981 University of Pittsburgh, teaching Nursing of Childbearing Families-Clinic.

Taunya Rapisarda-Fader, MS 1980 Purdue University, teaching Psychosocial Nursing-Clinic.

Patricia Sheetz, MS 1998 St. Francis College, teaching Adult Nursing-Clinic and lecture.

International Visiting Professor for 1999-2000:

Azza Ahmed, Ph.D., University of Cairo Nursing, Egypt.

Teaching Assistants for 1999-2000 include:

Barbara Click, BSN Purdue, second year MSN, teaching Psychosocial Nursing-Clinic.

Jennifer Raines, BSN Medical University of South Carolina, second year MSN, teaching Health Assessment-Clinic.

Teri Safford, second year MSN, teaching Adult Nursing-Clinic.

Nancy Smith, BSN Purdue, first year MSN, teaching Foundations for Nursing Practice-Clinic.

Debra Weirick, BSN 1998, Indiana Wesleyan University, second year MSN, teaching Foundations for Nursing Practice-Clinic.

Professional/ Clerical staff changes include:

Barbara Coury is the School’s new Director of Development. She was Assistant Director of Development for the Krannert School of Management since 1998.

Lynn Holland is the School’s new Writer/Editor. She has extensive experience in newspapers, magazines, public relations, advertising, and marketing.

Kelly Kater is the new faculty secretary replacing Dianna Batta. Kelly graduated from Purdue in December 1999 with degrees in English and U.S. History education.

TRANSITIONS/MOVING ON

Dianna Batta, faculty secretary at the School of Nursing for 11 years, has accepted a position as faculty secretary in Psychological Sciences.

Theresa Lansinger Coyner, formerly of the Nursing Center, is a nurse practitioner at Planned Parenthood.

Becky Lohman, former Writer/Editor, moved to Indianapolis with her husband and family.

Susan Cekarms Schoon, who has been teaching psychiatric nursing for the past four years, will be pursuing new opportunities in the private sector in Indianapolis.

Mara Washburn, former Director of Development, is pursuing other opportunities.

Inquiries and Application:

Forward a letter of interest and curriculum vitae to:

Peg Krach PhD, RN
1337 Johnson Hall of Nursing
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337
Telephone 765.494.4026
email: krach@nursing.purdue.edu
Ann Hunt, Ph.D., RN

Health education has always been important to Ann Hunt, and she’s willing to share her knowledge—any time, any place. That trait has shaped her career and brought her both gratitude and recognition. “Nursing gives me the chance to make a difference when I can teach someone something, like wearing a helmet, or quitting smoking. Right now I’m especially interested in teaching about osteoporosis,” she says.

A Strong Work Ethic

Ann Hunt’s education started with her parents, who taught all of their children a strong work ethic and expected them to work and go to school.

“I went to nursing school because it seemed like a good choice for life,” she says. She married her high school sweetheart, Dick Hunt, while she was still in nursing school.

By the time they were 30, with two children (John and Julie), the couple knew they wanted to settle in the Midwest, in a university community. They came to Purdue just as the School of Nursing was starting its BS completion program, and Ann took advantage of that.

Even as a student, she continued to teach. “I had to take a lot of basic courses, like communications,” she recalls. “I was especially interested in politics, but when I gave speeches on that, people would fall asleep. What they really wanted to know from me was could you get mono from kissing.”

After earning her BSN, Ann wanted to join the Purdue faculty, and talked to Helen Johnson, then head of the School of Nursing. “She was a tremendous leader,” Ann remembers. “She would have hired me, but you needed a master’s to teach then. So she literally took me by the hand and drove me to Indianapolis and got me enrolled in graduate school.”

In 1976, with master’s degree almost in hand, Ann started teaching med/surg at Purdue. “After a while, it began to look like you would need a PhD to advance,” she recalls. So she started a PhD program at Purdue in Educational Research and Development. “My son and daughter were in high school and college then, and I studied and graduated right along with them,” she says.

But even then Ann Hunt wasn’t finished learning—or teaching. In 1992 she won a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institute of Health at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

“I was probably the oldest post-doc in the history of mankind,” she says. “And I was the first nurse they’d ever had in this research program. I worked hard to learn all I could from those really brilliant people.”

It was at Washington University that she began to concentrate on her interest in osteoporosis. With the data set she collected, she wrote two publications and won a writing award. And when she came back to teach at Purdue, her focus included a greater emphasis on research and osteoporosis.

She continues to present that information whenever and wherever she can. “Sometimes I speak at national conferences. Sometimes I follow the cloggers at the county fair,” she says. “It’s all important. It’s all health education.”

In 1998, Ann’s interest in politics and public service led to her appointment by Gov. Frank O’Bannon to the Indiana State Board of Nursing.

Changes in the Field

“There has been a fundamental change in nursing since I started,” she says. “Patients are sicker now, and they go home sooner. So we have to prepare nurses to take care of sicker people quicker.”

Another thing that has changed is the intensity of the clinical experience. “Nurses need a lot more technical knowledge now,” she says. “When I was in nursing school, you needed to know about 10 lab tests and 20 drugs. Now there’s so much more to learn and apply.”

What hasn’t changed is the students. “They still need to pass the tests and graduate. But they are good strong students and they represent us well,” she says. “The students are really my best memories of these years at Purdue. It’s so much fun to see them learn and do well.”

Another favorite memory is the year (1997) when she won the Charles Murphy Award for Undergraduate Teaching. “It was such an honor to stand up on that stage at Elliott Hall of Music and be recognized by my peers and my students,” she says.

Ann and her husband, Dick, recently celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary. They’re both retiring this year, but Ann will certainly continue to use her knowledge to help and educate people.

“I might want to be a research project director,” she says. “Plus both Dick and I are master gardener interns, so we’ll be digging and teaching there. And I’ll be able to be more active on the state level with osteoporosis prevention. Or there’s an osteoporosis project at the local YWCA I’d like to work on. I won’t quit. I’ve grown up in nursing. I’m proud to be a nurse, and I always will be.”
Jo Brooks, RN, C, DNS

Jo Brooks was a “Depression baby,” but there was nothing depressed about her then—or now. She retired from the Purdue School of Nursing in December 1999 after 28 years on the job teaching students and providing guidance as the head of the school, but she is still actively involved in health care education and delivery.

Jo was always independent, and when she got into nursing she knew right away it was a match. “I love to be intellectually challenged, and to problem solve,” she says. “I was also fascinated by the human body. When I had my surgery rotation, everything suddenly made sense.”

Jo also likes people. “I like to get close to people, to interact with them and help them,” she says. She tells a story from the early years of her nursing career when the town drunk came to the hospital where she was working. “No one else wanted to take care of him,” she remembers. “He was mean, but he needed help, and he let me help him. For years after that, he would send me a lace handkerchief in a card every Christmas. That’s how I knew he finally died: the handkerchiefs stopped coming.”

Several Roads to Success

It took Jo Brooks several tries to finish her nursing degree. “Back then, the bed had to be made just so, but I was always creative,” she said. Rebelling, she quit school, worked in several hospitals, married, had twin girls, divorced, and came back to Lafayette, where she completed her Associate’s Degree at Purdue in 1965. After graduation, she practiced in a small county hospital and began to work toward her BS one course at a time. Later, she took a job as a public health nurse and worked her way up to supervisor. Then it was on to the University of Michigan for a Master’s Degree in Public Health Nursing.

Just as she was finishing that, Helen Johnson was starting the baccalaureate program at Purdue and lured Jo away from public health nursing to teach. Eventually Jo would also serve as head of the School of Nursing (1992-1997), “I think one of my major contributions was improving conditions and salaries for faculty,” she says.

Jo showed her talent for problem solving many times in her years at Purdue, particularly in the area of developing new structures for delivery of healthcare where they were needed. In the 1970s, there were limited clinical sites in Lafayette in which to teach students public health nursing. She became part of a group of volunteer nurses who started a health referral center in a church basement, which eventually grew into the Tippecanoe County Community Health Clinic. “We took the Purdue student nurses down there,” she says. “We got a lot of people off the street. Often they just needed someone to talk to. It was great preparation for public health nursing.”

In the mid-1980s, there was a great interest in RNs learning to do physical exams. “We started a two-week health assessment course, and we needed clients for the students to assess,” she says. So she made posters advertising free exams, and 100 people called for appointments. “This was an ‘ah-ha!’ moment,” she remembers. “It demonstrated that many people wanted an opportunity to talk to a qualified health practitioner about their health concerns.”

Shortly after, she and a colleague wrote a program improvement grant to develop a nursing center that still operates in the basement of Johnson Hall. It was one of the first nurse-managed clinics to open at a school of nursing, and has been a national model. Health services are performed by senior nursing students under the supervision of faculty and staff.

Again in the 1990s, she was the driving force behind the creation of a nurse-managed clinic for a medically underserved rural population. With an Indiana State Department of Health grant, the Family Health Clinic of Carroll County opened its doors to provide affordable primary health care, health promotion, and health education services. Building on a good thing, Jo and a colleague recently submitted another grant to allow more Purdue nursing students and faculty to rotate through the clinic.

Philosophy for Living

Jo has several philosophies: “Service is the price you pay for the life you live,” and “If you do good work, you will be rewarded.” Her best reward is when former students write, call, or return to tell her how she changed their lives.

She doesn’t intend to quit nursing in her retirement. She will continue to volunteer at the Family Health Clinic. “I’d also like to continue my research into non-pharmaceutical interventions to reduce cardiovascular risk,” she says. “There are a lot of life changes people can make that are better and cheaper than drugs. And nurses are very good at getting these messages across to people so they can understand them.”

Jo and her husband, Earl, enjoy escaping to their cottage on the river. Jo also dabbles in antiques, and has a booth at an antique mall. “I never met a flowered plate I didn’t like,” she says.
ALUMNI NEWS

1960s

Carolyn Hinshaw Davis (AD’67) graduated from the MSN program in December 1997 and the PNP program in August 1999 from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

1970s

Linda Comer Cook (AD’71, BS’73) earned her Master’s degree as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in December 1999 from Case Western Reserve University-Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing. She is currently working in a private cardiology practice in Akron, Ohio as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. She also designed, conducted, and authored an article, “Intra-aortic Balloon Pump Complications: A Five-Year Retrospective Study of 283 Patients,” which was published in the May/June 1999 issue of Heart & Lung.

Lisa Jones Walker ('76, '78) MSN 1986, ANCC-ANP/ GNP 1998, ANCC Geriatric CNS 1992, CNS/ NP at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. She is currently involved in acute care research in the areas of falls and function in older adults, and in environmental turbulence in acute care.

1980s

Christine Ann Balt ('82) was elected director-at-large to the National Board of Directors of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care. She is an HIV Nurse Practitioner employed by the Indiana University School of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and practices in the Special Medicine Clinic through Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis.

Laura A. Staroscak David ('89) and her husband, Joseph, are parents of a baby girl, born Dec. 27, 1999.

Karen Chambers Mills ('89) was recently promoted to Director of Nursing at Woodlawn Hospital in Rochester, IN. She is presently working toward a master’s in management.

Sue Rupley Scheiber ('89) welcomed a son, Garrett, on July 13, 1999.

1990s

Laura Fischer Zeller ('90) and her husband, Phil (BSChE’89), welcomed a son on July 8, 1999. Their twins are now 6 ½ years old and Laura has become a full-time stay-at-home mom.

Belinda Erdell Wallbank ('91) was married on Oct. 2, 1999. She is as a Clinical Educator and Critical Care Internship Coordinator at Clayton Health Partners in Indianapolis.


Patricia A. Chezem Kennelly ('91) and her husband, Michael, welcomed their third daughter, Mary Catherine, on Aug. 18, 1999. They live in Fairfax Station, VA.

Kelly Jones Hurst ('93) was married on Oct. 30, 1999.

Kristen Elmore Welker ('93) has been Director of Nursing Services for Miller’s Health Systems in Mooresville, IN since June 1997. She is currently transitioning into a nurse consultant role where she will be overseeing the nursing departments of five facilities in Indiana to assure compliance with company policies and state/federal regulations.

Heather Campbell Weber ('94) was married in August 1999 and is employed as a Family Nurse Practitioner at the American Health Network in Peru, IN.

Jennifer Mandeville Parrette ('94) is working on her certification as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner from the Planned Parenthood OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner Long Distance Learning Program based in Philadelphia, PA. She currently works as a Public Health Nurse for the Berrien County, Michigan Health Department.

Nickey L. Teghtmeyer ('94) is working as a Clinical Staff Nurse on a cardiac/ telemetry stepdown floor at Roper Hospital in Charleston, SC.

Rory Rahe Herron ('95) graduated with a MSN (ANP) from Indiana University in May 1999. She is working as a Nurse Practitioner for an allergy/ asthma/ immunology practice in Indianapolis.

Kendra Nowak ('95) earned her Master’s of Nursing in Community Health from the University of Washington, Tacoma, in December 1998. She was transferred from the Naval Hospital, Bremerton, WA to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan in March 1999, and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in June 1999. She is currently working as a staff RN in the Emergency Medical Department.

Lynn Peters Cunningham ('96) was recently promoted to Clinical Manager of the Cardio Pulmonary Unit at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo, CA.

In December the Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization board elected officers. They are:

- President (re-elected): Janet Kemper
- Vice President: Michelle Gerrety
- Secretary: Becky Hylton
- Treasurer: Gwyneth Pyle

Best wishes to the officers for a successful year.
Natalie Kluemper (’96) was recently promoted to Research Nurse for Burn Services at Wishard Hospital, Indianapolis.

Matt Landis (’96) welcomed a new daughter on Aug. 27, 1999. He is currently employed in the emergency room at Hancock Memorial Hospital, Greenfield, IN.

Elizabeth Meyer Schalliol (’96) successfully wrote the RNC Inpatient Obstetric Exam in November 1999.

Gina Hamaker Bridge (’97) was married in October 1999, and is currently working with the Advanced Fertility Center, Chicago.

Ellen Brattain Roberts (’97) recently completed the Master’s Degree Program at Duke University and is now employed as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in NeuroOncology at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis. Her husband, Anthony, (’98) is working in Cardiac Intensive Care at Community Hospital in Indianapolis.

Lisa R. Haltom (’98) is practicing in Wishard Hospital’s Trauma ICU. She is also a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner in the hospital’s emergency room.


Colleen Morris (’98) was married in October 1999. She is working at Union Hospital in Terre Haute as Staff Nurse on Family Practice.

Mary Beth Hunsicker Johnson (’99) was married on Sept. 9, 1999 to Tom Johnson. They live in Lafayette.

Ray Anthony Labayo (’99) is working as an ICU nurse in the Burn Unit at Detroit Receiving Hospitals.

Checking Vital Signs. . .

Send us a note about what you are up to—professional activities, publications, honors, employment, marriages, babies, change of address or other items of interest.

Name ____________________________

(Maiden name) ____________________ Year of graduation/ Degree ____________________

Address ____________________________

City __________________ State _______ Zip ______

E-mail _____________________________

Activities ___________________________

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________

Send to Vital Signs, Johnson Hall of Nursing, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337 or e-mail lholland@nursing.purdue.edu

From the Editor
Lynn Holland

When I was interviewing Professor Ann Hunt for the story you’ll find on page 10, her office phone rang.

The caller was a woman who works in a restaurant. The week before, a man eating in the restaurant had a seizure, and the caller wanted to know if Ann could come talk to her staff about what to do if something like that happened again.

“Nurses get that all the time,” Ann told me. “People find out you’re a nurse and right there at the party or in the grocery store line they’ll tell you all sorts of personal things, ask you all sorts of personal questions, want to know what you think they should do.”

And of course people do that because nurses are our most trusted, most direct line to healthcare answers. I have also greeted nurses I’ve known with the words… “You’re a nurse. What should I do about...?”

Now, in my new position as Writer/Editor for the School of Nursing, I’m grateful to have the chance to pay back, in kind, the help my nurse friends have given me over the years. I’m a professional writer and editor, and my responsibilities at the School of Nursing are to be a resource for the faculty on matters pertaining to the written word, and to write this newsletter for you.

So I’d like to hear from you. Let me know about your interests, activities, and achievements using the “Checking Vital Signs” form below or e-mail lholland@nursing.purdue.edu. I’ll include YOU in the next Vital Signs.
Jo Ann Brooks-Brunn, DNS, RN, FAAN, FCCP, is the Purdue School of Nursing Alumna of the Year for 1999. She is currently Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical & Occupational Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

JoAnn Brooks-Brunn has begun to focus her research on quality of life.

Every Wednesday Jo Ann Brooks-Brunn puts on her lab coat and heads for her rotation in a thoracic oncology clinic. She is one of a multi-disciplinary team of six health professionals who see patients in this innovative group setting.

“We follow patients through the entire course of their surgery experience—before, during, and after,” she says. “We don’t have strict lines of ‘you do this, I do that.’ We all work together for the good of the patient and family.”

This kind of innovative practice is typical of Brooks-Brunn, who has been pushing the boundaries of traditional nursing practice her whole career. She was the first nurse to be elected as a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians, and one of the first nurses in the Indiana University Department of Medicine on a tenure track.

Education and Early Years

Jo Ann Brooks-Brunn grew up in Speedway, outside of Indianapolis. She came to the Purdue School of Nursing in 1972 and earned her associate’s degree in 1974.

“That was when the School of Nursing was down in the south end of campus in a quonset hut behind the Vet School,” she recalls. “I remember spending a lot of time in the learning lab, and looking out the window to see a horse looking back at me.”

“I also remember going to the uniform store with my parents to get my first uniform and a watch with a second hand. I was so proud. I was also scared. It was a big responsibility to come out of high school and within two years be caring for people in life and death situations.”

She was also a competitive swimmer while at Purdue, and a Boilermaker football and basketball fan—both passions she carries to this day.

Brooks-Brunn’s first job after graduation was on the medical floor at Community Hospital in Indianapolis. “We saw a lot of patients with chronic lung disease, and I enjoyed working with them,” she says. That was the beginning of her life-long focus on respiratory nursing.

She earned her BSN at Indiana University in Indianapolis while nursing full-time. At that time, the American Lung Association was encouraging masters-prepared nurses in lung specialties. She chose to study at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where she earned her Master of Science in Nursing, with a focus on Nursing Education and a Clinical Specialty in Pulmonary Nursing.

Coming back to her roots in central Indiana, Brooks-Brunn found there were few openings for clinical nurse specialists. “I went to Methodist Hospital, and the Director of Nursing was intrigued by my educational background. She sent me off to the Respiratory Care Department, which hired me to start a pulmonary rehabilitation program, and I became the liaison between the respiratory therapists and the nursing staff. That’s where my multi-disciplinary work first started.”

At Methodist she changed positions from the Pulmonary Clinical Nurse Specialist to the Research Department where she coordinated clinical trials. “That, along with my strong research foundation at the University of Arizona, stimulated my interest in research, and I decided to go for my doctorate,” she says. She earned a Doctor of Nursing Science with a major in Nursing Synthesis and minor in physiology from Indiana University in Indianapolis.

Next she accepted the position as Director of Nursing Research at Methodist Hospital and taught Introduction to Nursing Research at Indiana University on a part-time basis.

“It was when I was director of nursing research that I realized I was missing something,” she recalls. “I was helping others learn and enhancing their awareness of nursing research, but I wasn’t doing it myself.”
So she applied for a NIH post-doctoral fellowship, which allowed her to spend the next three years on her own research. “I was certainly the odd duck, a nurse doing post-doctoral work at a school of medicine.”

Currently Brooks-Brunn is Assistant Professor in the Division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine, and Associate Scientist at the Mary Margaret Walther Program for Cancer Care at the Indiana University School of Nursing.

A Different Kind of Nurse

“There will always be naysayers, but I think I can do more for nursing in this role because I help people see nursing in a different light,” she says. “I can educate people on what nursing can contribute to the interdisciplinary team.”

“I still actually run into people in the medical field who have no idea you can have a doctorate in nursing. Sometimes people trip over how to introduce me. My colleagues introduce me as Dr. Brooks-Brunn, and then they say, ‘But she’s a nurse.’ And I’m proud of that.”

Brooks-Brunn has maintained her early interest in respiratory nursing. Her current research is a five-year study to try to predict postoperative pneumonia and atelectasis following abdominal, cardiac, and thoracic procedures. Her goal is to develop a risk factor index to guide pre- and post-operative care.

She is also beginning to focus more on quality of life issues and is in the process of data collection on two other ongoing research projects: health-related quality of life pre- and post-esophageal resection for esophageal cancer, and evaluation of health-related quality of life, mood states, and fatigue after thoracic resection for lung cancer.

Besides her research and clinical rotation at the cancer clinic, Brooks-Brunn gives guest lectures, writes and reviews manuscripts and grant proposals, and does volunteer work for national nursing organizations.

“I’m a consultant, a supervisor, a manager, a therapist, and my own file clerk and secretary. My schedule can be quite chaotic, but I get to see every aspect of my research from the top down, what’s happening with patients on a day-to-day basis. That’s rewarding.”

Balancing her work, Brooks-Brunn is a triathloner. She runs, bikes, or swims two or three times during the week and does as many races as she can during the season. In her modest fashion, she adds, “I do OK in my age group.”

She also goes to a women’s triathlon camp every summer, where she coaches swimming and participates in other activities as a camper. “This camp helps us learn how to put our mental and physical selves together and take care of ourselves,” she says. “I get a big thrill out of helping people excel.”

---

Award Nomination Guidelines

2000 Purdue School of Nursing Outstanding Alumni

Criteria
1. Currently registered to practice nursing.
2. An active member of a professional nursing organization.
3. Actively engaged in community affairs.
4. Making a special contribution to the profession.

Nominations must include:
1. Nominee’s name, address, home and work telephone numbers, e-mail address and FAX number.
2. A curriculum vitae/resume.
3. Education/certifications; work experience; professional and community activities.
4. Awards and honors.
5. Letter(s) of recommendation.
6. Nominator’s name, address, and home and work telephone numbers, and e-mail address.

Submit by June 15 to:
Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization
School of Nursing
Johnson Hall
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337
Minority Student Nurses’ Association

By Nyla Fleming, President

College can be a very challenging place. It can be especially difficult if you can’t identify with those around you. The Minority Student Nurses’ Association’s goal is to support and uplift the minority student nurse.

Who is a minority? Obvious categories are ethnic and racial, but the Minority Student Nurses’ Association also reaches out to older and other non-traditional students.

Each month, members come together to address the challenges they face as students and members of society. They dedicate service hours to the Lafayette community, working closely with the Tippecanoe County Minority Health Coalition and the Women’s Shelter.

Spring semester service projects included a Minority Health Fair at University Church and an Easter egg hunt for needy children. Last semester, members helped with a Halloween party for children at the Women’s Shelter and together with the Purdue Student Nurse Association donated Thanksgiving baskets to eight minority families in the Lafayette area. These activities were honored recently when MSNA received the Heart and Soul Award from the Minority Health Coalition of Tippecanoe County for outstanding volunteer efforts.

Nurses Christian Fellowship

By Jill Walden, President

The Nurses Christian Fellowship is a national, non-denominational, professional organization that provides an opportunity for ministry to and for nurses and nursing students.

The vision of the fellowship is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to nursing, and to share and enjoy the love of Christ in one another. One main goal is to equip nurses with a Biblical perspective of nursing care and enable them to be comfortable with communicating the love and hope of a life with Christ.

Some NCF chapters have monthly Bible studies, support groups, and prayer meetings. The Purdue chapter meets monthly and usually welcomes a speaker from the community to share experiences in or regarding the health field and how that experience influenced them and their faith.

Purdue’s fellowship also provides services to the community and the School of Nursing—for example, by serving supper at the Lafayette Urban Ministry and providing care packages for students at the end of the semesters.

We hope to encourage students to grow in their nursing career and to influence their philosophies with love and value of each person as a brother or sister in Christ. For information contact Jill Walden at (765) 366-5460 or email ncf@ivcf.org

Purdue School of Nursing
December 1999 Graduates

Christine Marie Ashmore
Jennifer Jane Bovard
Abby Jo Brack
Carmen Allison Cook
Ivan Charles Cook
Colleen Marie Doolin
Cara Lynn Gilbert
Melinda Kay Hoffman, RN
Kelley Alexis Jarvis
Jessica Lorraine Letzler
Amanda Joy Mackanos
Jennifer Ann Beezley Mitchell
Angela Marie Mize
Katherine N. Burns Nowak
Erika Leigh Olsen
Amanda Jo Rockwell
Myra Beth Rosenbaum
Kathleen Noel Sulecki
Sonna Lou Terry, RN
Carla Jean Walbolt
Melissa Jean Walton
Teresa Lynn Wilkins
Andrea Dewi Janichen Wisaksono
Melissa Nicole Wolf

Nursing Student Council

By Stacey Richmond, President

This past year has been productive for the Nursing Student Council with many new ideas. The two major projects we have been working on are getting a copy machine for the Center for Nursing Education, Research and Practice, and starting a new tradition with our “Nurse’s Ball.”

The copy machine has been a tremendous task over the past couple of years, but the purchase has been made and will make students’ lives much easier to have our own machine rather than having to go to the Pharmacy Library.

The Nurse’s Ball was held on March 24 in the Memorial Union for students, faculty, and their guests for an evening of dancing and fun.

Throughout the year we have done some fundraising to purchase and maintain the copy machine. We have also assisted Student Services in contacting and recruiting potential freshmen. We helped in planning the “Celebration of Nursing Gala” and the Nursing Job Fair.
Purdue Student Nursing Association

By Greg Jones, President

The purpose of the Purdue University Student Nurses Association is to provide a forum to strengthen academic, personal and professional development for nursing students. The organization and its officers encourage nursing students to explore the multi-faceted roles of the nursing profession while furthering individual growth toward achieving personal nursing goals.

PSNA activities promote student-faculty relationships, community involvement, and collaboration with the Indiana State Nursing Association (ISNA) and the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA). There is also a monthly meeting with an extensive list of speakers from every nursing background.

Members participate in community projects like serving meals to the homeless at the Lafayette Urban Ministry, bloodmobile drives, and walking for a cure for the March of Dimes.

PSNA socializes nursing students into professional roles through their membership in a nursing organization. Services provided for the students through PSNA include a fall and spring clothing/equipment sale, and the opportunity to attend a NSNA convention.

PSNA also publishes a monthly newsletter that informs students of upcoming meetings for all the Purdue University School of Nursing organizations, community service projects, scholarships, and other information pertaining to either campus or academic life.

Students, faculty, staff, and friends greeted alumni visitors at the President’s Council during Homecoming Weekend. They included: (front row left to right) Theresa Coyner, Mary Lurie, Kate Tibbitts, and Stacey Richmond. (Back row) Janet Kemper, Amanda Fisher, Linda
CONNECTIONS

Nursing Faculty, Students Travel the World

Purdue nursing professors Sharon Posey and Sharon Wilkerson and visiting professor Azza Ahmed traveled to Egypt in December 1999 on a Purdue Global Initiative Grant. While there, Wilkerson presented a paper, “Developmental Care In The NICU,” to the faculty and students at the University of Cairo Institute of Nursing. Posey made university contacts and rode camels (in the photo below). All three focused on helping the University of Cairo Institute of Nursing start a Sigma Theta Tau chapter.

Purdue Nursing Professor Ann Hunt also traveled to Egypt in October 1999 with a delegation representing the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses. She presented a session on osteoporosis at the University of Cairo Institute of Nursing.

Ann was part of a delegation invited by Suzanne Thabet Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt, and organized by the People to People Ambassador program. The purpose of the program was to help upgrade nursing care standards.

There is a severe nursing shortage in Egypt, Ann says, and indeed, Egyptian officials view the preparing, training, and keeping of nurses to support patient care as one the country's challenges. Nursing education is commonly two years at the high school level, but as most women in Egypt will leave the workplace upon marriage and motherhood, there is a high turnover.

Carol Baird traveled to the sixth International Self-Care Deficit Nursing Theory Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2000, where she presented a paper, “Holding On While Letting Go: Self-Caring of Older Women With Osteoarthritis.”

After the conference, Carol and her mother and sister enjoyed a five-day, four-night tour of the northern part of the county, exploring ruins, monuments, museums, temples, farms, markets, and riding elephants.

“The paradox of Thailand,” she says, “is that in the cities, and for those who can afford it, healthcare is of Western standards. For the rest, life is very primitive.” She noticed that nurses in Bangkok dress very formally in white uniforms with caps. In the rural villages, a doctor may visit occasionally, but there is no public health nursing base. There are also high rates of malaria and hepatitis, drug use and prostitution. “Although the whole country suffers from lack of sanitation, the Buddhist system does try to promote cleanliness,” she says.

Carol Baird visited a working elephant farm in Thailand.
Service Gains Recognition

Greg Jones Wins Two Community Awards

When Greg Jones leaves Purdue in May, he’ll have several awards in hand along with his diploma.

The Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce recently honored him with a Community Academic Recognition Award, given to a student who is involved in community activities while maintaining a high level of academic achievement.

His community activities include volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and the Lafayette Urban Ministry, but most of his work focuses on youth. He is the Youth Minister at Trinity United Methodist Church, where he teaches Confirmation Class and runs the youth programs.

“I love kids,” he says. “I can relate to them. I’ve seen divorce in my own family. When I was in the Navy, I saw the problems drug and alcohol abuse can create. I’m straight with the kids, honest. They can relate to that.”

Greg also received the Clarion Health Partner Shining Star award in recognition of outstanding preparation, extraordinary teamwork, and exemplary attitude in working with the pediatric critical care transport team.

“He was assigned to care for a child at Home Hospital who unexpectedly developed complications,” says faculty advisor Jane Overbay.

“He was of invaluable assistance to the primary nurse, stayed in the room monitoring the patient’s status all day, and helped when the transport team arrived from Riley. He also provided exemplary psychosocial care to the distraught parents.”

Purdue nursing students are volunteering their experience and enthusiasm to medically underserved populations around the world.

Elizabeth (Eli) Cummings, senior, and Katie Peters, junior, spent two months last summer in southern Kenya on a mission trip sponsored by the Christian Ministry Fellowship.

“We were out in the bush with no electricity and no clean water,” Eli says. “The people lived in huts thatched with straw and cow dung. We saw patients six days a week from early morning until everyone was gone. Even with our limited experience, we could see that we made a difference.”

Another group of nursing students spent Spring Break 2000 in the hills of Bolivia on a mission trip organized by St. Andrew United Methodist Church of West Lafayette. They saw about 270 patients in five days at three rural clinics.

“We learned that some feelings and expressions are universal,” says team member Heather Smith, junior. Other nursing student members of the Bolivia team included seniors Stacey Richmond, Angela Rosner, and Sou Boumythavong.

Others who have served on medical missions include:

• Laura Leverton, senior, and Amie Swardson, a May 1999 graduate, both traveled to Haiti with groups from St. Thomas Aquinas in West Lafayette.

• Allison Gutwein, sophomore, went to Jamaica with a mission from the Apostolic Church in Francisville.

• Purdue nursing alum Liz O’Neil, graduate student Dotty Hall, and senior Greg Jones all worked in medical missions in Honduras in summer 1999.

• Sophomore Rachel Hively joined a 21-member team from Zion Chapel in Goshen which went to Honduras.

• Five senior nursing students traveled to the Navajo Reservation in Arizona for their public health clinic experience in May 1999. They were Melissa Hoeing, Sherry Rains, Erin Harper, Angie Leman, and Shannon Hall. This year’s group includes Laura Burns, Jennifer Jack, Renee Richardson, Heather Rosebrock, and Heidi Tempel.
Delphi Family Health Clinic Relocates and Expands

The Family Health Clinic of Carroll County, in Delphi, has moved to spacious new quarters with plenty of parking and room for expansion. The building, newly renovated and rented below market value from owner Ruth Ann Brosman, features three examining rooms, lab, kitchen, office, records room and handicap accessible bathroom.

The clinic opened in 1995 with an Indiana State Department of Health grant. A joint effort between the Purdue School of Nursing and St. Elizabeth Medical Center, the clinic had the goals of demonstrating the efficiency of nurse-managed clinics in medically underserved areas, and providing a clinical rotation site for Purdue nursing students.

The clinic’s client base continues to expand, with a 50 percent increase in 1999 over 1998. The clinic is considered the primary care provider for over 2,000 families. About 32 percent of the clients are children, and 13 percent are adolescents. About half live in households with incomes at or below 150 percent of federal poverty level, and half of the adult clients are uninsured.

The clinic is funded by a $114,000 grant from the Indiana State Department of Health, a $15,500 grant from the March of Dimes, a $6,500 grant from the Carroll County United Fund, and $35,000 in clinic revenue. Support also continues to come from Greater Lafayette Health Services, the merged St. Elizabeth/Home Hospital entity, in the form of equipment and a $36,000 grant this year to cover a shortfall in state funding. In addition, Purdue faculty members Jo Brooks and Nancy Edwards have written a grant that would expand the clinic again and allow for increased participation by Purdue nursing students and faculty.