Preeminence: The Next Level

This issue of Purdue Nurse is dedicated to the memory of Helen R. Johnson, RN, Ed.D, the esteemed founder of the Purdue School of Nursing. During the fall of 1998, my first semester at West Lafayette, I spoke to Dr. Johnson by phone. I told her that graduate level studies in nursing were being initiated on the main campus through the Purdue Graduate Nursing Consortium. She was delighted to hear this news, as this had been part of her original vision for Purdue nursing.

We continue to build on Dr. Johnson’s vision. The nursing faculty is in the thick of formulating a strategic plan for the 2002-2006 academic years. The strategic plan is a blueprint designed to propel the School of Nursing to a position of preeminence. Preeminence literally means “to stand above all others”—a highly lofty goal for our very young nursing academic unit.

Faculty and staff have been engaged in this strategic planning—a deliberate and iterative process, since Fall 2000. Pivotal questions guided focus groups in reflecting on the course that the School of Nursing will pursue through 2006. Initial questions were aimed at identifying the elements, characteristics, and values inherent in four key areas, i.e.:

(1) What is excellence in learning in basic and graduate professional nursing?
(2) What signature research areas will guide discovery goals that will advance nursing science?
(3) What is the nature and scope of nursing faculty, staff, student, and alumni engagement at the local and global levels of healthcare?
(4) What are nursing’s priority areas for advocacy to promote quality healthcare for all?

The focus groups have completed defining the salient characteristics of each of the pivotal themes. They are currently formulating specific goals and strategies, and identifying human, physical, technological, and financial resources to effectively carry out each goal. Additionally, metrics—measures for key performance indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, are being configured for each of the key element of the strategic plan. Benchmark schools are being selected to gauge Purdue School of Nursing’s effectiveness in each of these areas.
In the area of learning, the faculty envisions responding to the nursing education needs of diverse men and women who wish to pursue meaningful careers in basic and advanced nursing practice. A major element of being in the competitive zone is the establishment of an independent graduate program at West Lafayette. Additional clinical tracks are being planned for the West Lafayette campus including specialization in Adult and Gerontological Nursing.

A strong belief in lifelong learning underpins continuing education programs that will enable nurses and other healthcare providers to maintain their competencies in various areas.

The spirit of discovery will be manifested in a research program that is responsive to the objectives of Healthy People 2010 and NIH-NINR priorities. Preeminence in discovery will strengthen evidence-based nursing practice including multidisciplinary studies around seminal nursing research questions.

Engagement in service and community outreach has always been a strong component of curricular programs in nursing. Locally, nurse-managed programs offered by faculty and students provide services to over 5,000 clients annually. Initiatives at the national and global levels are on the rise.

Advocacy is inherent in nurses’ care of individuals, families, and communities at the local and global levels. The right to health and optimal wellness for all citizens is the bedrock of nursing’s advocacy efforts.

Mediating factors that will influence the implementation of the School of Nursing’s strategic plan are varied. Foremost are rapidly changing local, national, and global economy and demographics; breakthroughs in technology, in the behavioral and biological sciences, especially genomics; uncertainties arising from ideological strife, and the nursing profession’s ability to maintain a central position within the healthcare professions.

The years 2002-2006 will be a defining time for nursing within the Purdue University system. As of Spring 2002, we have the critical mass of faculty, students, alumni, partners, and benefactors to be competitive over the next five years.

The faculty’s courage to dream, their ability to transcend the budgetary limitations of the next biennium, their ability to articulate the role of nursing in a research-intensive land-grant institution, their leadership in engaging students, alumni, benefactors and the local and global sectors of their communities of interest will all affect the level of preeminence that will be achieved by Purdue School of Nursing in learning, discovery, engagement, and advocacy. Transformational leadership is called for to bridge us from a position of good to better to being the best.

This edition of the *Purdue Nurse* demonstrates the level of productivity of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Be it classroom, laboratory, or clinical teaching, scholarship, research and creative activities, service in the local and global arenas, or advocacy for quality healthcare for all, Purdue nursing faculty, staff, students and alumni are working towards preeminence.
Founder’s Vision Lives On In School

Helen Johnson’s energy and enthusiasm have been in great measure responsible for the vitality and growth of nursing education at Purdue. With vision and determination, she attempted what others might have thought impossible—and she succeeded. The school owes its present stature to her untiring efforts to create excellence in nursing education.

When Helen Johnson first came to Purdue, there was no School of Nursing. There was no nursing building, no books, no faculty, no students, no curriculum.

Demand for nurses was at an all-time high around the country, yet hospital schools of nursing were closing. Universities, particularly land-grant schools like Purdue, were scrambling to design programs that would provide quality nursing education.

It was during a trip to Purdue for her son’s college orientation in 1962 that Helen Johnson first talked to C. H. Lawshe, then dean of University Extension, about Purdue’s vision for nursing education.

Helen R. Johnson, RN, Ed.D
November 15, 1914 - August 30, 2001
“We wanted to start a nursing program, but we hadn’t been able to find anyone who could build it from the ground up as well as run it,” Dean Lawshe said at the time. “We were close to giving up the idea, until Helen Johnson came along.”

Dr. Johnson’s savvy leadership style, impressive resume, and fiery spirit won over the Purdue administrators, who hired her almost on the spot.

**Monumental Task**

Dr. Johnson’s charge was to initiate and develop a two-year associate degree program, and she wasted no time getting started.

In just one year, she accomplished the monumental tasks of securing outside funding, hiring faculty, arranging clinical sites, developing a curriculum, and securing state approval of the new program. The first nursing students entered Purdue in 1963, just one year after Dr. Johnson arrived on campus.

During the next three years, she initiated nursing programs on all four Purdue regional campuses. By 1969, all the Purdue nursing programs had successfully graduated a class and were accredited by the National League of Nursing.

Over the next 18 years, Dr. Johnson was the moving force behind the growth of nursing education at Purdue.

“She was a mentor and advocate for her students and faculty,” recalled Eoto Stokes, one of the first faculty members. “She could get people to see her vision. Her presentation style was forceful, yet somehow tactful and personable. You knew nothing could stop her.”

**From The Ground Up**

Many of the faculty Dr. Johnson hired that first year had vast experience in nursing, but not in teaching. She secured a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to provide orientation and educational programs for faculty, and to allow nurses from across the United States to attend summer seminars at Purdue on developing and teaching associate degree nursing programs.

Throughout her tenure, she continued to secure outside funding to fuel her vision. In 1969, she secured another W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant to develop an upper-division baccalaureate program designed to provide a career ladder opportunity for registered nurses who had graduated from an associate degree or diploma program. The first baccalaureate degree

*Continued on next page*
students in Purdue’s “2+2” program were admitted in the Fall of 1970.

“You can never stand still,” Dr. Johnson said in an interview in 1988. “Most of Purdue’s other programs of study extended well above the associate degree level. We had to move to maintain the university’s standards of excellence.

“Sometimes our growth was so rapid it was almost painful to keep up with it. But there was always great loyalty and desire among the faculty and students to make our school stand out.”

She also continued her own education, earning her doctorate in higher education from Indiana University in 1975, setting an example she hoped others would follow.

“I wanted Purdue to be seen as a leader in nursing education,” she said. “A doctorate is essential for someone who wants to head a department or school, especially at Purdue. I also wanted the school to have a master’s degree program someday. To do that, you need faculty with doctoral degrees.”

Crowning Achievement

One of Helen Johnson’s crowning achievements occurred in 1972 with a $1.3 million grant from the United States Public Health Service, which largely funded the construction of a new nursing building on the West Lafayette campus.

The grant was awarded at a time when the possibility of receiving such funds was slim. But Dr. Johnson would not be deterred.

“As a philosophy of life, I don’t think you should ever give up,” she said in a later interview. “Vision requires the power of conscious imagination, going beyond the obvious, and putting to work unusual discernment and foresight.”

“Many Purdue administrators saw no hope in asking for the money, but Dr. Johnson proceeded with her plan,” recalls Jo Brooks, who knew Dr. Johnson first as a student, then as a faculty member, and who eventually followed her as head of the school. “Nothing ever swayed her vision of what the Purdue nursing program could be.”

Dr. Brooks was a member of Helen Johnson’s first graduating class on the West Lafayette campus.

“I can attest to her great wisdom and have seen the positive influence she had on faculty, students, and other healthcare professionals,” Dr. Brooks says.

“Without her, I wouldn’t be where I am today and I know there are thousands of Purdue Nursing graduates who can say the same.”

A Major Impetus

Dr. Johnson was also instrumental in the design of the nursing building, using the knowledge she gained as a member of the National Institute of Health’s Construction of Nursing Training Facilities Review Committee.

Upon its completion in 1977, the new facility was a major impetus in upgrading the nursing program from a department in the School of Technology to a separate school with its own operating budget.

Dr. Johnson was named the first head of the School of Nursing in 1979. When she retired in 1980, the school was poised to initiate a four-year generic baccalaureate program. She had seen the school through its infancy and growing pains, and its continued success today is testimony to her dedication, determination, and foresight.

In 1989, the School of Nursing building was named after her, a fitting tribute to the woman whose name will always be synonymous with Purdue Nursing.
In Memoriam
Helen Snyder Johnson

Helen Snyder was born Nov. 15, 1914, in the small town of Frichton, Ind., the daughter of Earl and Blanche Snyder. With her five brothers and one sister, she helped her parents run their general merchandise store.

During a hospital stay with a broken leg, seven-year-old Helen watched in awe as the nurses cared for patients. She started reading all the Clara Barton and Florence Nightingale books she could find.

With the tenacity that earned her the reputation of someone who never rests until the job is done, Helen soon left her small town life for the large Indianapolis campus of Indiana University, where she earned a general nursing degree in 1936. She then worked at the Indiana University Medical Center, where she moved from staff nurse to head nurse in six years.

She married Gordon Oscar Johnson on Feb. 18, 1938, and they had two children, Jim and Earl.

From 1942 to 1949, Helen worked at the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross. During World War II, she instructed volunteer nurse aides. She also taught pediatrics at the School of Nursing at the Indiana University Medical Center.

When she earned a baccalaureate nursing degree from Indiana University in 1949, she went to work at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Indianapolis. Three years later, she earned a master’s degree in education from Butler University.

When her husband died suddenly from a heart attack in 1954, Helen Johnson faced the challenge of raising her two sons alone. She continued to work and further her education.

Johnson came to West Lafayette in 1963 to build Purdue’s nursing program from the ground up. She earned a doctorate in higher education administration from Indiana University in 1975, was the Indiana Nurse of the Year in 1968, and won the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indiana University School of Nursing in 1977.

Helen Johnson died of natural causes Aug. 30, 2001, in her Mooresville, Ind. home.
We Remember Helen Johnson

“In 1965, at the age of 43 and the mother of six children, I visited Helen Johnson to tell her of my desire to study nursing. She told me that she welcomed “more mature women” and she worked tirelessly to help me get enrolled, even to selling me one of the sample uniforms! Little did she (or I) know that I would end up in Africa and spend the rest of my life doing health teaching to mothers. I owe everything I have been able to do to God and the leadership of Helen Johnson.”

Audrey Heasty (AAS’67)—Matthews, NC

“Helen Johnson always conveyed a warmth, generosity, and caring toward not only me, but also all other students. She never seemed fretful or anxious about the future, just confident and determined.”

Kathy Beaver (AAS’77)—West Lafayette, IN

“Dr. Johnson was generous and self-effacing, one of a kind.”

Sharon Marshall (AAS’78, BS’80)—Carmel, IN

“I was upset with a psychiatric instructor who had given me a ‘D’ because I had forgotten to include music in a patient review. Helen’s response was to ask whether the music had a critical function to the patient getting well. The instructor agreed that it did not and that the grade she had given me was not congruent with the extensive work I had done. I often think about this as an example of how wonderfully Dr. Johnson was able to be objective without really taking sides.”

Christine F. Luna (AAS’68)—Carmel, IN

“Helen Johnson was always encouraging. She instilled confidence, especially to older students. Later I became involved with the nursing alumni organization and she again became a mentor, supporter, and always a lady.”

Nell Wagner Kretzschmar (AAS’72)—Lafayette, IN

“When I applied to the School of Nursing, Helen Johnson interviewed me personally, and she wanted to know my dreams and goals. Later, she even allowed my P.E. course to count as an elective so I could graduate on time with my class.”

Sharon Pierson Owen (AAS’70)—Apple Valley, CA

“Helen Johnson was the perfect nurse! She taught by example. She was kind, compassionate, and patient with students, and instilled the gift of learning to all.”

Marilyn McCain Nance (AAS’65)—Flora, IN
“My freshman year, I was dismayed to learn that the nursing program was full. I waited in the hallway for Dr. Johnson, determined to plead my case. I expected her to be stern and humorless, but she met me with a friendly smile, twinkling eyes, and the ability to ‘create a spot’ for me. I’ll never forget her.”

Juanita Buser Wirtz (AAS’67) — Westerville, OH

“In 1973 I asked Helen Johnson for a faculty position. She said she would hire me but that I really needed a master’s degree. A few days later she picked me up, drove me to Indianapolis, and oversaw my admission to Indiana University Graduate School of Nursing. I have always been grateful that she gave me such gracious assistance and wise counseling.”

Ann Hunt (BS’73) Professor Emeritus — West Lafayette, IN

“I was a mother, working part time at nights because my GI bill income didn’t cover my expenses. I know I could have learned more if I had had more sleep, but I’m truly thankful for the start Helen Johnson gave me.”

Nancy Cormier Talbott (AAS’77) — Las Vegas, NV

“I am proud and fortunate to have been in the first graduating class. Helen Johnson was the pioneer in establishing the program and instilled in the students the pride associated with Purdue.”

Kathryn Wolgamuth Babb (AAS’65) — Syracuse, IN

“Helen Johnson always had a smile of welcome for me. She provided the encouragement for me to go on for my BSN after 30 years as an RN. She made me feel I could do it!”

Margaret Rogler (BS’81) — West Lafayette, IN

“In 1990, I was hired at a new associate degree-nursing program, and experienced first-hand the challenges Helen Johnson faced at Purdue. She has been my role model as a nursing instructor, especially for her knowledge and caring behaviors.”

Nancy Houda Muhl (AAS’65) — Nekoosa, WI

“Helen interviewed me as a potential instructor for the new nursing program at the soda counter in a local drugstore. I was completely enthralled by her sincerity, charm, and total commitment to the school as she envisioned it. My faith in her never wavered through the years. What a remarkable example she set for us all.”

Eoto Stokes — Professor Emeritus — West Lafayette, IN

“Helen was usually smiling. She seemed to know exactly what needed to be done. She had a real compassion for her staff and students.”

Sheila Kennedy Young (AAS’80) — Davenport, IA

“I met Helen Johnson at the school’s 25th anniversary party. She shook hands with all the faculty and hugged all the undergraduates. It was a warm embrace, and ‘Purdue is proud to have you’ flowed through her smile. “Who was that?” a fellow student asked. I knew who she was from the picture hanging on the wall in the hallway. Even in her retirement, Helen Johnson inspired us all.”

Patricia Chezem Kennelly (BS’91) — Fairfax Station, VA

“My favorite memory of Helen Johnson is her gentleness and kindness. She accomplished amazing goals in the School of Nursing, yet she was very friendly and approachable. She had a wonderful sense of humor. She had great vision, but always seemed focused on the students, who she knew were the life of the program.”

Rose Szczepanski Hillman (AAS’81, BS’83)

“I’ll always remember Helen Johnson for her positive encouragement of individuals and groups, and her work ethic. She was always busy, but she always had a smile and an encouraging word.”

Wilda Rush, Professor Emeritus, Walton, IN

“My last conversation with Dr. Johnson was just a few months before her death. We talked about nursing, our common bond. She told me her health was fragile, but mostly, she asked about me. Her interest was always in us, her students.

“I shared with her how she had taught us to be proactive encouragers in our profession and to build strong character along the way as we developed our nursing skills.”

“I remember thinking, as we visited, how she had worked with incredible, unbelievable patience to educate us to practice nursing with integrity, common sense, persistence, and to care for our patients with the energy of a marathon runner! I am still running the marathon that Dr. Johnson wanted me to run. She believed in me.”

RuthAnn Smolen (AAS’69, MSED’98) — West Lafayette, IN

Memorials may be made to the Helen Johnson Scholarship Fund, which rewards a student who shows enthusiasm for learning and leadership qualities, who participates in school, university, and/or community activities, and who demonstrates a commitment to nursing. Mail to Helen Johnson Scholarship Fund, School of Nursing, 1337 Johnson Hall, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337.
Telephone Counseling Helps Student Smokers Quit

New telephone
counseling program
combines research, 
education, service, 
and outreach to 
help student 
smokers quit.

Some 40% of Purdue’s freshman students use tobacco. Overall, 36.2% of the entire student body smokes or uses other tobacco products, exceeding the national average of 29%.

So when the Purdue residence halls adopted a smoke-free policy this fall, it was obvious that there would be a need for programs to help students quit tobacco use, says Julie Novak, professor and associate head of the School of Nursing. “It looked like a perfect opportunity for the School of Nursing to take a leadership role and combine research with service, education, and outreach.”

Dr. Novak and CNERP director RuthAnn Smolen contacted representatives from the Purdue University Student Health (PUSH), the Purdue Residence Halls, and the American Lung Association.

“The goal was to work together with campus and community organizations to create a tobacco use cessation initiative that would meet the needs of Purdue students who want to quit smoking, and encourage others not to start,” Dr. Novak says.

“Our vision included an integration of the PUSH Student Wellness Office media campaign with an evidence-based cessation program and a referral network for students.”

Finding the Right Approach

Several smoking cessation programs have been offered to Purdue students over the last several years, but there was little student interest and use was inconsistent.

Compared to other developmental groups, very little is known about effective smoking cessation strategies for college students, Dr. Novak says.

Convenience is certainly a critical factor, and college students report more interest in individual counseling sessions than in group sessions.

The planning group for the Tobacco User’s Cessation Helpline (TOUCH) research project includes (standing) Nancy Maylath, Director of the Purdue Student Wellness Office; Corey Linkel, graduate assistant in the Purdue Student Wellness Office majoring in Health and Kinesiology; Toyinda Wilson, Residential Life Manager at Owen Hall for Purdue Residences; Sue Abney, Nutrition Education Coordinator of the Student Wellness Office; (seated) Julie Novak, Principal Investigator/ Project Director, and Barb Strasburger, nursing graduate student. Team members not present include: Sarah Sayger, PUSH Clinical Director, Gwen Richardson, PUSH healthcare provider, RuthAnn Smolen, CNERP Director, Susan White, Director of the Purdue Pharmacy, and Jan Sharp, Community Relations Director of the American Lung Association.
In addition, conventional efforts to prevent smoking have not been effective, and conventional methods to affect cessation have a long-term abstinence rate of only about 15%.

**Telephone Helpline Model**

In contrast, the California Smoker’s Helpline (CSH), a program which provides intensive, proactive, relapse-sensitive counseling using the telephone, has a long-term abstinence rate of 26%.

After six months of planning, the TobacCO User’s Cessation Helpline (TOUCH), an adaptation of the CSH, was launched at Purdue in November 2001. Seven trained counselors (four nursing undergraduate students, two nursing graduate students, and the project director), respond to callers via a telephone and computer system funded by the residence halls. TOUCH is headquartered in space in Johnson Hall dedicated by the School of Nursing.

**Two Study Groups**

Students who are interested in quitting can call the helpline between 6 and 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Callers meeting inclusion criteria and ready to set a quit date within seven days will be randomized into two groups.

- Group 1 receives the multiple telephone counseling (MTC) intervention.
- Group 2 receives MTC plus Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT). Students assigned to Group 2 are screened by a PUSH healthcare provider for NRT use.

The telephone counseling provides information, advice, encouragement, and support through development of a personal action plan, coping strategies, and methods of obtaining support.

Counseling calls are scheduled for the day before, the day of and the day after the quit date. Smoking abstinence will be assessed at 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 9 months. Participants can call the helpline for additional support between scheduled calls.

**Response Encouraging**

In the first six weeks of the program, there were 43 calls, and 12 commitments to set a quit date.

“Most callers were in the pre-contemplation or contemplation phase,” Dr. Novak says. “They cited three main reasons for not wanting to set quit dates: the stress they felt after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the stress students feel at the end of the semester with exams, and the stress of the holidays.”

But many callers also expressed the intention to make tobacco cessation their New Year’s resolution. “There has been a surge of interest and activity since the students returned for the second semester,” Dr. Novak says.

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**Mark Your Calendar!**

**2002 Gala Nursing Conference**

**Friday, April 26, 2002**

Purdue Union North Ballroom

**NURSING LEADERSHIP: A PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY**

Featuring:

* Guest Speaker
  Dr. Michel Bleich, RN
  University of Kansas School of Nursing

* A Tribute to
  School of Nursing Founding Head
  Helen R. Johnson

* Sigma Theta Tau Delta Omicron Chapter Annual Meeting

**Watch Your Mail For Registration Forms!**

For information, contact Roxanne Martin at (765) 494-4004, rmartin@nursing.purdue.edu, or visit www.nursing.purdue.edu
Students Learn From Service At Farm Progress Show

For farmers and others associated with agriculture, the Farm Progress Show is the biggest event of the year. The showcase of the newest developments in machinery, seeds, pesticides, buildings, livestock feed and equipment as well as many other related products attracts 300,000 people each September.

This year, the show was hosted by School of Nursing alumna Janet Kemper and her husband, Alan, on their farm south of Lafayette. Mrs. Kemper is also a Nursing Advisory Board member and president of the Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization.

Purdue nursing students, faculty, the Nursing Alumni Association, and the Purdue Alumni Organization took advantage of this connection to offer their services in the Health and Safety tent.

Over the three days of the show, about 45 sophomore and junior students under the direction of five faculty members performed over 1,200 blood pressure screenings, 200 skin cancer assessments, and made 35 referrals for additional assessment.

Blood pressure and skin cancer screenings offered at the Farm Progress Show help the School of Nursing students and faculty engage the healthcare needs of the rural community.

The Farm Progress Show provided hands-on learning for nursing students (in circular photo) Bradley Lloyd and (this photo, front row) Michelle Brand, Katie Ruettiger, (second row) Kim Basil, Denay Perez, and (back row) Angela Troxel. They were supervised by Prof. Pamela Aaltonen.
In addition to the screenings, students directed people to onsite emergency management, provided health education/promotion and referral, distributed health literature, and collaborated with the American Lung Association in conducting screening spirometry. Besides fulfilling part of their clinical requirement, the students also learned some things about themselves and others. Their comments:

“It made me feel like I really knew something.”
“People actually listened to what I had to say.”
“I got to see people of all ages.”
“I can really see the role of nursing in helping people identify what they need to do to manage their health.”

**Sophomore nursing student Caroline Cliff listens to a client in the Health and Safety Tent at the Farm Progress Show.**

**Sophomore nursing student Michelle Atkinson checks blood pressures.**

**Professor Sharon Posey (top row far right) supervised nursing students (front row) Beth Kellar, Tara Galambos, Natalie Brenner, and (top row) Kathleen Bulla, Megan Wallpe, Stacy Elliot, and Laurie Ober.**
Faculty Research Goes Global

Purdue Professors Nancy Crigger and Julie Novak are reaching beyond traditional borders for research and service opportunities. Both have ongoing research projects in Latin American countries, and are making learning, service outreach, and research opportunities available to students in the School of Nursing.

Last spring, Dr. Crigger and five Purdue nursing students joined the Brigada de Salud healthcare team for a 10-day mission to Honduras. “The benefits of this kind of experience for students is the broadened perspective of community and how varied that can be,” Dr. Crigger says. “It makes them value what they have. They begin to see that there are many ways to solve problems, and that your way is not always the best way. It also helps students learn to work together as part of a team.”

Research Team Gathers Data

Dr. Crigger, a nurse-ethicist, organizes the yearly Brigada de Salud trips to Honduras, as well as several ongoing research projects there. On this fall’s trip, Purdue nursing graduate student Liz O’Neil and a team of Honduran healthcare workers completed over 900 questionnaires at 33 different clinic sites examining where people go for their healthcare and pharmaceutical needs.

Dr. Nancy Crigger has built collaborative relationships with faculty from the University of Honduras School of Nursing, including (from left, front row) Licenciada Elia Pineda, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. Roberto Palma, Director of the Honduran Foundation for the Protection of People With Diabetes, Licenciada Juana Buchanan, Professora de la Enfermería, (back row) Licenciada Myrna Vesquez de Cruz, Professora de la Enfermería, Dr. Crigger, and Licenciada Reina Grogan, Director of Graduate Studies.
“This is a continuation of over 10 years of trips and research projects,” Dr. Crigger says. “The purpose of our research is to find out what the needs are and how best to help the people meet those needs.”

Dr. Crigger’s other research projects have included screening for diabetes and glucose intolerance, the lived experiences of the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, and patterns of antibiotic use in the Honduran population. The findings have been presented in several scholarly nursing publications and conferences, as well as shared with faculty at the University of Honduras School of Nursing.

“These mission trips benefit Hondurans in several ways,” Dr. Crigger says. “You don’t necessarily change their situation, but you can bolster prevention and education efforts. Plus, we have seen several positive outgrowths of the partnerships: an orphanage and training programs for healthcare workers are two examples.”

**Ongoing Focus**

Providing international opportunities for nursing students is an ongoing focus for the school. Dr. Crigger will lead another trip to Honduras next May, and the newly formed Nursing Students Without Borders Purdue chapter is planning a trip to Mexico in May under the direction of Dr. Julie Novak.

**Water Quality in Mexico**

Dr. Novak’s work has focused on improving water quality in rural Mexico.

“Waterborne disease is rampant in developing countries and the leading cause of infant and child mortality,” she says.

“The assessment of water quality, sanitation, and knowledge of waterborne diseases is foundational to nursing in many parts of the world.”

Based on her work in Mexico, Dr. Novak has developed an International Community Assessment Model (ICAM).

The ICAM model provides a framework for culturally sensitive, comprehensive community assessment specifically focused on prevention of gastrointestinal disease. It is being used on a multi-phase project in San Luis, Tlaxiátemalco, Xochimilco, Mexico.

“This assessment revealed that gastroenteritis from drinking contaminated water and contact infectious dermatoses due to chemical and contaminant exposure at work are two primary reasons residents visit the nursing clinic,” Dr. Novak says.

The next phase of the project will focus on the implementation of the ICAM model by a multidisciplinary team of faculty and students.
SON Earns Official CCNE Accreditation

The Purdue School of Nursing received official notice of full and maximum accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The accreditation is good through December 2006.

Since the 1960s, the School has been accredited by the National League for Nursing, which accredits all levels of nursing education. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, on the other hand, accredits only baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.

“CCNE is charting a new course, with a new model, that takes nursing education to a higher standard by clearly focusing on the advancement of baccalaureate and graduate programs as a distinct subset of nursing education,” says Linda Amos, chair of the CCNE Board of Commissioners.

“By measuring programs against their own stated missions rather than prescribing what their missions ought to be, CCNE respects both the institution’s autonomy and the differences and innovations in the nursing education programs it reviews,” she says.

An extensive self-study document included an in-depth look at the mission, goals, and resources of both the school and the university, and a review of curriculum, teaching-learning practices, and performance.

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CNERP News

By RuthAnn Smolen, RN, MS, Director

Grad Students Make Use of Space

The Learning Center is becoming a popular place for nursing graduate students to study and prepare for advanced practice assignments.

Graduate students have been practicing in areas of nursing not often requiring an expertise in technology systems. The resources in the Learning Center give them the place, the equipment, and the professional camaraderie to get up to speed with evolving technologies being used to meet new healthcare challenges in practice, research, and education.

Building Bridges Through Research

The newly remodeled entrance area to the CNERP not only houses the director’s desk, but also a revolving display of faculty and student research projects.

The displays have become a focal point. Visitors find the research presentations and collaborative efforts of students and faculty highly informative.

New Equipment Advance Skills

Students are learning advanced skills thanks to the gift of a $10,000 defibrillator from Greater Lafayette Health Services. The defibrillator attaches to the center’s crisis manikin, which also has blood pressure, heart, and ventilator simulators.

Door Opens New Vistas

As part of an ongoing redesign, a new door in the Center for Nursing Education, Research, and Practice is opening additional possibilities for the School of Nursing.

The inside door opens the main part of the learning lab to an outside room that was formerly used as a vending and lounge area. The newly connected space will be converted to a residential unit for on-campus clinical instruction.

With the shift in healthcare to the home, students must practice and validate clinical skills in a simulated environment that matches reality. This will greatly enhance the instruction in the area of community health nursing.
Visiting Professors Join Faculty

Karen Chang and Patricia Pearson are visiting professors at the School of Nursing. In addition, Jennifer Burnett has assumed the position of computer support for the School.

Dr. Chang, PhD, RN, has practiced nursing for 28 years, primarily in the area of medical-surgical nursing. She was assistant professor at Purdue School of Nursing from 1988 to 1993, and earned her PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2001.

Patricia Pearson, RN, has extensive experience in the home care industry, most recently as supervisor of clinical services at Home Hospital Home Care and St. Elizabeth Hospice in Lafayette.

Delta Omicron Wins Chapter Award

Delta Omicron, the Purdue chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, has been awarded the Chapter Key Award for 2001. This is the second award in two years.

The award honors chapters that excel in chapter-related activities such as membership recruitment and retention, publicity and programming, and professional and leadership development. Thanks to Becky Cutchin and Clara Richardson whose minutes and newsletters helped the chapter gain recognition.

Research Day Features Faculty

Delta Omicron, the Purdue School of Nursing, and Greater Lafayette Health Center Services co-sponsored a Research Day on Nov. 8 in Lafayette. Persons who have received research funds from Delta Omicron as well as several community nurses presented a series of talks.

SON Researcher Needs Subjects

Purdue Nursing Professor Carol Baird is seeking women to participate in research on the effectiveness of listening to a tape recording to improve health and lessen symptoms of osteoarthritis.

Participation will require completion of a one hour long questionnaire at the start and after six and 12 weeks. One half of the participants will also listen daily to a tape recording. Women who participate will receive $30.

If you know of a woman over 65 years old with any joint osteoarthritis who would be interested, call Dr. Baird at 765-494-4036.

Purdue Maps Strategic Plan

The Purdue Board of Trustees have adopted a five-year strategic plan to make Purdue a preeminent university, advancing quality in all areas, leading the world in basic and applied sciences and engineering, and contributing to societal progress, especially in Indiana.

Faculty in the School of Nursing have already begun work on the school’s Strategic Plan. Details will be included in the next issue of Purdue Nurse.

The university-wide plan for the West Lafayette campus calls for $156 million annually in new resources that will support discovery, learning and engagement, leading to a wide range of advancements in undergraduate learning, interdisciplinary research and economic development for Indiana.

The new money is expected to include $28 million in state and federal appropriations, $20 million in endowment income from private giving, $55 million in sponsored research funding, $15 million in internal reallocations and a $1,000 annual increase in fees for new students on the West Lafayette campus.

President Martin C. Jischke said about half the increased income from student fees will be allocated to financial aid and the technology that students use. An equal amount will pay for the hiring of 300 additional faculty members at West Lafayette. Currently 30 percent of the undergraduate instruction is delivered by graduate assistants. The plan calls for reducing that to 15 percent. The 600 graduate students who will no longer teach will be reassigned to research projects, funded by the increase in sponsored research funding.

In addition to the increase in annual income, Purdue is planning to raise $600 million for more than 20 facilities and programs at West Lafayette. Coupled with the $20 million needed annually in endowment income, the plan will require at least a $1 billion private fund-raising campaign.

The Purdue University strategic plan can be found at http://www.purdue.edu/oop/strategic_plan/
Grants/Awards

**Barbra Mann Wall**, PhD, RN, received a $3,000 research fellowship from the University of Virginia Center for Nursing Historical Inquery for her continuing study of Catholic hospitals.

Publications


Presentations/Conferences

**Pamela Aaltonen**, MS, RN, participated in a panel discussion of bioterrorism and chemical terrorism at the regional Indiana State Nurses Association meeting at IVY Tech State College, Lafayette, Nov. 27, 2001.

**Carol Baird**, DNS, RN, CS, presented “Health and Self-Caring: Older Women with Osteoarthritis” at a Research Day sponsored by Delta Omicron on Nov. 8, 2001, Lafayette, IN.

**Carol Baird**, DNS, RN, CS, presented “Alternatives to Allogeneic Transfusions” at a Lunch and Learn session at the Purdue School of Nursing, Oct, 15, 2001.


**Carolyn Blue**, PhD, RN, CHES, and **Juanita Valley**, MSN, RN, ANP, presented “Influenza Vaccine Program: Predictors of Vaccine Acceptance in a Worksite” at a Research Day sponsored by Delta Omicron on Nov. 8, 2001, Lafayette, IN.

**Patricia Coyle-Rogers**, PhD, RN, C presented “Adaptive Competency Acquisition: Why LPN to ADN Career Mobility Education Programs Work” at the Sigma Theta Tau Northwest Indiana Nursing Research Conference, Merrillville, IN, Nov. 2, 2001.
Patricia Coyle-Rogers, PhD, RN, C presented “Using the Adaptive Competency Profile: An Evaluation Tool for LPN to ADN Transition” at the National Conference for Nurse Educators, Indiana University School of Nursing, Indianapolis, IN, Nov. 8, 2001.


Patricia Coyle-Rogers, PhD, RN, C, and George Rogers Ed.D, presented “Differences in Adaptive Competency Acquisition Between Traditionally Certified and Alternatively Certified Technology Educator Teachers” at the American Career and Technical Educators Conference, NAITTE Division, Dec.15, 2001, New Orleans, LA.

Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN C, and Alan Beck presented “The Influence of Aquariums on Nutritional Management in Alzheimer’s Disease Individuals” at the International Congress of Nursing, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 14, 2001.


Nancy Edwards, PhD, RNC, presented “Utilization of Animal Assisted Therapy on Nutritional Intake In Individuals With Alzheimer’s Disease” at a Research Day sponsored by Delta Omicron on Nov. 8, 2001, Lafayette, IN.

Elizabeth Jesse, PhD, RN, CNM, presented “The Relationship of Low Self-esteem and a Negative Perception of Pregnancy to Preterm Birth: Implications for Practice” at Sigma Theta Tau International’s Biennial meeting, Indianapolis, IN, Nov. 11, 2001.

Julie C. Novak, DNSc, RN, CPNP, presented a School Health Workshop at Eastern Kentucky University, October 2001.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, RN, JD, presented “Perspectives on a Visit to Cuba,” at the Women Studies Forum, Purdue University, Nov. 2001.

Barbra Mann Wall, PhD, RN, presented “Science and Ritual: The Hospital as Medical and Sacred Space” at the American Association for the History of Nursing Annual Meeting, Charlottesville, VA, Sept. 2001.


Barbra Mann Wall, PhD, RN, presented “Our Heels Are Praying Very Hard All Day: Nuns, Religion, and Nursing” at the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Nursing History, Oct. 2001.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, presented a paper, “Ethnic Minority Health Issues,” at the call-out for minority pharmacy students, Purdue, Sept. 2001.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, presented a paper, “Women’s Health Issues: Focus on Cardiovascular Disease,” at the Minority Health Coalition of Tippecanoe County Conference, Purdue University, Sept. 2001.

Karen Yehle, MS, RN, CS, presented “Meeting the Challenges of Teaching Clinical Courses” at the Center for Instructional Excellence College Teaching Workshop, Series 2, Purdue University, March 2001.

Appointments/Promotions

Carol Baird, DNS, RN, CS, is leader of the Arthritis Support Group, Tippecanoe Senior Citizen Center, Area IV Council on Aging, Lafayette, IN.

Nelda C. Martinez, PhD, RN, has been appointed to the Peer Review Boards for both the Basic Nurse Education & Practice Grant Program and the Nursing Cultural Diversity Grant Program, Division of Nursing, Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD.

Nelda C. Martinez, PhD, RN, has been appointed to serve as Academic Advisor of the first formally established Latino Student Union at Purdue University.

Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, was named Associate Head of the Purdue University School of Nursing effective Aug 1, 2001. In this role, Dr. Novak will serve as Acting Head in the absence of the Head. Additionally, she will provide oversight for graduate studies, service/practice, community collaboration initiatives, strategic planning, pursue her own research program, and assume teaching responsibilities as appropriate.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, RN, JD, has been appointed to chair a peer review panel for the Basic Nurse Education and Practice Grant, USDHHS.

Linda A. Simunek, PhD, RN, JD, has been reappointed to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Nursing Law.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, was selected by faculty to be the SON representative on the University Faculty Senate beginning Fall 2002.

Karen Yehle, MS, RN, CS, was appointed to the Committee on Approval of the Indiana State Nurses Association.

Continued on next page
Faculty Accolades

Pamela Aaltonen, MS, RN, has been appointed to the Indiana Advisory Board of the Mid-American Public Health Training Center. The center was established by the Indiana University Department of Public Health and the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health and funded by HRSA, $325,000, to develop innovative, collaborative programming for the public health workforce.

Carol L. Baird, DNS, RN, CS, was appointed Chair of the Research Committee, National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses.

Carol L. Baird, DNS, RN, CS, was appointed to Sigma Theta Tau International, 2001 Media Guide to Health Care Experts.

Cynthia L. Bozich-Keith, MSN, RN, CS has received official notification of her recertification as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing from the American Nurses Credentialing Center Commission on Certification.

Cynthia L. Bozich-Keith, MSN, RN, CS has been asked to join the Board of Directors of Mediation Services of Tippecanoe County.

Patricia Coyle-Rogers, PhD, RN, C, was elected to the Editorial Board of the Journal for Career & Technical Education.

Nancy Crigger, PhD, MA, FNP-BC, was presented an appreciation award for her dedication and contributions to the healthcare of impoverished people of Honduras by the Honduras Relief Efforts.

Nancy Crigger, PhD, MA, FNP-BC, received American Nurses Credentialling as a Family Nurse Practitioner, September, 2001.

Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Nurses for a Healthy Tomorrow media campaign sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International and other nursing organizations.

Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, president of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Nurse Practitioner National Marketing Campaign.

Julie Cowan Novak, DNSc, CPNP, RN, is co-editor of Baby Steps, a publication of iVillage.com and the Newborn Channel.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, was selected to be a manuscript reviewer for the Journal of the National Medical Association.

Jacqueline Walcott-McQuigg, PhD, RN, was elected chair of the Women’s Health Research Section, Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Karen Yehle, MS, RN, CS, was included in America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals.

December 2001 Graduates

Jennifer C. Asher
Kimberly R. Basil
Michelle N. Brand
Arica A. Brandford
Natalie J. Brenner
Patrick N. Compton, RN
Elena S. Cortez
Amanda A. Cripe
Kimberly A. Curtis
Marissa L. Dallas
Jennifer A. DeMoss
Chad C. Denney
Phillip T. DeTurk
Jennifer S. Drury
Audrey L. Frisch
Tara M. Galambos
Julian L. Gallegos
Kellie D. Gant, RN
Alissa L. Grey
Jenny L. Gutwein
Rachael L. Hively
Rachel A. Hosted
Erin L. Keenan
Elizabeth S. Keller
Julie A. Kessmann
Debbie A. LaFon
Laura M. Malmgren
Misty J. Mapes
Jennifer L. Nauman
Laurie A. Ober
Melinda K. Parker
DeNay M. Perez
Katherine O. Peter
Katrina M. Ruettiger
Kari L. Salsbery
Melinda S. Smit
Lori D. Stark
Amanda J. Stewart
Carrie L. Swigert
Kasey J. Thomas
Angela D. Troxel
Michelle A. Vester
Christen L. Wagner
Keri A. Williams, RN
Kathleen Williamson
Nursing Student Twirls As Silver Twin

Sky-high not only describes the toss Kim Benson can give to a baton, it describes the personality of this bubbly nursing student who performs with the Purdue “All-American” Marching Band.

“I want to make sure that I put smiles on people’s faces,” says Benson, a fifth-year nursing major who chose to attend Purdue to continue a twirling career that began when she was in elementary school.

This fall her talents landed her one of the band’s coveted solo twirler positions. Benson performs as one of the Silver Twins. The position demands that two twirlers perform in tandem, constantly mirroring each other’s moves and performing acrobatic stunts.

“My most memorable experience was the Notre Dame game my freshman year,” she says. “There was a sell-out crowd and Purdue won. Hearing the crowd cheering for the school you attend was just unbelievable. My eyes filled up with tears as I ran down the field.”

Benson is well aware that she’s a role model. “There are so many fans who watch me. It is very important to me to make sure that I set a good example,” she says.

Her favorite part of game day is seeing the expressions on the children’s faces. “It is such an honor to have so many children admire us. The kids’ faces just glow when we talk to them.”

Pediatric nursing seems like the perfect career match given Benson’s effervescent personality and her passion for caring for children. Being part of the band has pushed her toward that goal.

“Band has definitely made my time management skills better as well as my drive and determination. It has taught me to set high goals and work until I reach them without giving up. I have used twirling in college as a form of exercise, a hobby. It’s an excellent way for me to relax and clear my mind.”

Picnic Introduces Freshmen to Mentors

The first annual School of Nursing Mentor-Mentee Picnic on Aug. 22 was a grand success with food, fun, and fellowship. Over 200 students and alums and 40 faculty members attended the event at Purdue’s Pickett Park.

The Student Council originated the idea of upperclass nursing students serving as mentors for entering freshman nursing students. At the picnic, mentors and mentees had a chance to get to know each other and become more involved in the school’s activities.

The Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization funded the picnic and grilled the hot dogs.
Students Respond to Terrorist Acts

Within hours of the terrorist acts of Sept. 11, students at the School of Nursing were searching for ways to help. “More than a few wanted to just get in their cars and head east,” says Julie White, president of the Purdue Student Nurses Association. “But once they realized that would not be helpful, they started brainstorming other ways they could contribute.”

The students decided on three actions: painting sheet signs with words of encouragement to send to nurses in Washington D.C. and New York hospitals, making a monetary donation to the Red Cross, and conducting a blood drive.

**Signs Show Support**

The sheet signs gave everyone a chance to sign their personal message. Some of the messages:

- “Your courage, strength, and compassion are an inspiration to all.”
- “Our heartfelt thanks and appreciating to each of you. May God bless you and our country.”
- “As fellow nurses we stand with you. Forever changed.”
- “You make me proud to be a nurse.”

**East Coast Nurses Respond**

At St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York City, nurses see 160-180 patients on a typical day. Within six hours of the terrorist attack, they had treated 264 patients, 51 of whom were in critical condition. When the day was done, they had seen more than 400 people.

They acknowledge the sheet sign with this letter:

“I am the co-chairperson of 745 RNs at St. Vincent Hospital as members of the New York State Nurses Association. “Your beautiful banner of support is a wonderful display of how our profession is in good hands. Nursing is the most trusted profession of our patients. We at St. Vincent’s thank you for taking the time to demonstrate your love and caring during our time of need.”

The New York banner was also taken to the New York State Nurses Association Convention for display.

**Sheet signs, monetary donations, and campus blood drives show student support for East Coast nurses.**

*Above, PSNA treasurer Emily Hohenberger counts School of Nursing donations to the American Red Cross.*
Money, Blood Drives Successful

Students also circulated envelopes in each nursing class in a competition that gathered $563 for the American Red Cross.

The senior class, which won the competition with $174, accompanied the organizers to the Red Cross to present the check.

Every time slot was full for the student blood drive in September, and there will be additional blood drives in January and April.

And a message from George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C.:

“Thank you for the kind and very thoughtful gesture of sending the sheet of good wishes. We have all been touched by this. The sheet is being displayed in our cafeteria so that all nurses may see and enjoy. Nursing is an honorable profession. It gives us comfort to help others during their difficult times.”
1970s


Jane Cook Brown (AD’74), formerly employed at Home Hospital Surgery, is now with Lafayette Orthopedic Clinic, which is located at the new Unity Medical Center in Lafayette. She married Paul Brown, a professor at Purdue.

Jan Clement Fisher (AD’75, BSN’77) was promoted to president/CEO of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital in Wellsboro, PA. Jfisher@laurelnhs.org

Sharon Pint Hapak (AAS’76) spent 20 years in the OR. In 1995, she became RN First Assist. Then in 2001, she earned her FNP in subspecialty surgery, and is presently working with a surgical group doing pre-op H+P’s, surgical assisting, and post-op rounds.

Pamela Trimble (AD’77) recalls that when her class graduated, they had a pinafore burning party at her house. “They were pretty disgusting looking,” she recalls. “We had a great class, a lot of fun, and enjoyed our nursing program.” Rncvt1@aol.com

Nancy Grigor (ADN’78) completed the Albany Medical School program for wound, ostomy, and continence nursing. Nstone526@aol.com

Ann Richardson Cheney (AAS’79) is working part-time as an after-hours triage nurse for Clarian Health (Methodist IU and Riley Hospitals of Indianapolis). She lives in Brownsburg with her husband, Bill, and three children.

Becky Pierson Treacy (AD’79) was elected Superior Court Judge in Marion County (Indianapolis) in November 2000. After earning her AD in nursing, she received a BA in biology in 1984 from IUPUI and a JD from Indiana University in 1988. She practiced nursing seven years and law several years before being elected to the judiciary. rfpetreacy@hotmail.com

1980s

Lori Rabb Fisher (AD’81, BSN’83) teaches Nursing Fundamentals and Nursing Leadership at Bethel College in Mishawaka, IN. She has three children, Melissa, 10, Brian, 7, and Julia, born March 9, 2001. fisherl@netzero.net

Mary Evans Davis (AD’82) celebrated the birth of twin daughters, Elizabeth and Kathryn, on Oct. 17, 2000.

Kristin Todd (BSN’87) is a nurse practitioner working in oncology and drug development at Eli Lilly. She and her husband, Jeff, live in Zionsville and have a six-year-old daughter. ktodd@lilly.com

1990s

Shannon Olson Bates (BSN’90) has worked as a NICU nurse for the last 11 years. She currently works part time at the Middle Tennessee Medical Center in the Special Care Nursery. She lives in Murfreesboro, with her husband, Sam, and their sons Samuel, 4, and Patrick, 1. ssbates94@netzero.com

Beth Gebhardt Cunningham (BSN’90) has a pool position in NICU at Home Hospital in Lafayette. She has two children, Emily, 5, and Molly, 2. beth+cunningham@yahoo.com

Janet Hass House (BSN’90) works at the cath lab at Overlake Hospital in Bellevue, WA. Her family, which includes a new son, Owen Matthew, born Aug. 1, 2001, will be moving soon to Colorado. mattnjeanet@covad.net
Lori Scher Hughes (BSN’90) works in a 23-hour outpatient surgery center on a supplemental basis. She has four children, ages 7, 4, 2, and 3 months and they live in Brownsburg, IN.

Catherine Shideler Winslow (BS’90, MD’94), a major on active duty, is currently chief of facial plastic and reconstructive surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She also has a new baby, Joshua Aaron, born Aug. 29, 2001. cwinslow@pol.net

Cindy Monix Reece (BSN’91) works part-time in PACU at the hospital in Munster, IN. She and her husband, Don, have twins, Jacob and Rebecca, born Feb. 3, 2001.

Laura Pettit Amble (BSN’92) completed her MSN in nursing in 1995 from the University of Minnesota as a med-surg specialist. She is currently staying home with children Eva, 5, Kellen, 2, and Christian, six months. finn@davesworld.net

Heather Shelton Driggers (BS’92) welcomed a son, Landon Noah, on Aug. 7, 2001. They live in Gilbert, AZ.

Susan Martin Gallagher (BSN’92) continues to work at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis in the burn unit, where she recently celebrated 10 years of service. She and her husband, David, have two sons, Nathan, 3, and Andrew, 8 months.

Rebecca Cutchin (BSN’93) is health coordinator at the Oncology Institute of Greater Lafayette.

Todd Eric Ess (BSN’95) received a J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law, Indianapolis. tess@indygov.org

Angela Ellis Gonzales (BSN’95) is now living in New Bern, NC. She is looking for 1995 classmates. Contact her at Animal166@coastalnet.com

Jaimie Jones (BSN’95) works in Labor and Delivery at Paradise Valley Hospital in Scottsdale, AZ. She married Jim Jones BPE’96) and they welcomed a daughter, Bailee Paige, on Jan. 26, 2000. They live in Mesa, AZ. Jjr11@qwest.net

Tracy Cochran Larsen (BSN’95) worked 2 years in adult ICU as a charge nurse, then moved to the NICU as a charge nurse. She obtained her RNC in neonatal nursing in 2000. She also married in 1997, and had a baby girl in 2000.

Elizabeth Weger Withers (BSN’90) died July 24, 2001 from injuries sustained when an automobile being pursued by police struck her vehicle. She was traveling to work in Indianapolis at the time of the accident.

Beth was a pediatric staff nurse. She had worked at Methodist, Wishard and St. Francis hospitals in Indianapolis. She had also worked at the Hammond Clinic in Munster, IN, and most recently worked at the Pediatric Urgent Care Clinic in Indianapolis.

She is survived by her husband, Tim, and two children, Patrick, 7, and Madelaine, 4.

Memorials to a trust fund for her children may be made to the Beth Withers Trust, c/o Bose McKinney & Evans, 135 North Pennsylvania Street, Suite 2700, First Indiana Plaza, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Melanie Benge Koch (BSN’95) is a public health nurse at the Fort Wayne/Allen County Department of Health. She has done several presentations:

Poster: “Youth for Fitness: Teens Teaming Up Against Tobacco,” at the Indiana Public Health Association Annual Conference, W. Lafayette, IN.

Workshop session: “Outside the Box: Educating Our Nontraditional Resources,” at the National Immunization Conference in Atlanta, GA.

Poster: “Outside the Box: Educating Our Nontraditional Resources,” at the National Immunization Conference in Atlanta, GA.

mbksmail@juno.com

Claudia Srenaski Wheeler (BSN’95) is a clinical research associate for Convance, Inc. She is oncology/infectious disease trained and has been doing research for the past three years. She lives in Palatine, IL. jcwheeler@mediaone.net
Natasha Hauptman (BSN’96) earned a master’s degree with an oncology CNS emphasis from UCLA in June 2001. She is working as a differentiated practice nurse in the outpatient oncology clinics at Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle. 
Natash24@aol.com

Nicole Rousch Holthouse (BSN’96) works in Level 2 Special Care Nursery in Chandler, AZ and is starting a master’s in nursing at the University of Phoenix. She welcomed a daughter, Elizabeth, on Aug. 13, 2000. nholthouse@worldnet.att.net

Melissa Cook Jeffries (BSN’96) is dayshift ER preceptor at Henry County Memorial in New Castle. Her first child, James Christopher, was born June 13.

Laura Lewis LaSell (BS’96) earned her master’s from the Indiana University School of Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) in August 2001. She lives in Columbus, IN. lasell@sprynet.com

Emily Eggert Tammany (BS’96) is nursing supervisor for a plastic surgeon in Delray Beach, Fla. Her first child, Maxwell, was born Sept. 17, 2001.

Laurie Wagner Zielinski (BSN’96) works at an outpatient surgery center in Indianapolis. She has been accepted in the Master of Science in Health Informatics program at IUPUI. She lives in Fishers. mikeandlauriez@yahoo.com

Gina Hamaker Bridge (BSN’97) welcomed her first child, Alex Matthew, on March 25, 2001. They live in Pleasant Prairie, WI.

Jolene Daily Gelarden (BSN’97) graduated as a FNP in May 2001 from the Purdue Calumet Master’s Program. She works as a nurse practitioner in pediatrics/family practice and is certified by the ANCC as an FNP. She married Dan Gelarden in August 2001. jgelarden@aol.com

Yolanda Meyer Smith (BSN’97) is employed at Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation Reproductive-Infertility Clinic in downtown Chicago as a nurse clinician. She married Greg Smith (OLS’98) in February 2000. ymeyer@nmff.org

Tina Watkins Bules (BSN’98) is staff nurse on the mother/baby unit at Memorial Hospital of South Bend, IN. She and her husband, Jeremy (EE’99) welcomed their first son, Jared, on April 30, 2001. jbules@kconline.com

Noelle Dilling Lottes (BSN’98) recently transferred to a same day outpatient surgery and special services unit at Methodist Hospital in Merrillville, IN. She is pursuing a FNP/MS degree at Purdue Calumet and will graduate in May 2002. lottes@netzero.net

Dawn Dresbaugh Peterson (BSN’98) is patient care coordinator in the Newborn Nursery/Postpartum unit at Lafayette Home Hospital. She has a three year old son, Reece, and a daughter, Sydney, born in March 2001.

Jody Oliverius Rodgers (BSN’98) is a staff nurse at Wellstar Cobb Hospital functioning as a nurse educator for a peri-operative program in the surgery department. She has a daughter, Molly, born January 2000 and is expecting her second child in March 2002. Rodgers_jody@hotmail.com

Becky Navarro Tunink (BSN’98) was married on Aug. 18, 2001 and moved to Carmel, IN. btunink@aol.com

Jamie Falbe Thoreson (BSN’99) is working at UMass Hospital in Worcester, MA on the telemetry unit. ejt@quixnet.net

2000s

Lisa Booher (BSN’00) is a student at Ohio State University in the FNP program. lebooher@yahoo.com

Amanda Clayton (BSN’00) works in OB/GYN and Nursery at St. Mary’s in Evansville. She was married in October.

Rudolph Pavlesich (BSN’00) is an Army officer working at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. on a cardio-thoracic step down unit. amoeba27@yahoo.com

Angela Rose (BSN’00) is living in Denver, CO and attending the University of Colorado, working on an MSN and Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner certification.

Heidi Tempel (BSN’00) is beginning work on a master’s degree in public health at Ohio State. She continues to work on the transplant unit.

Jennifer Paulsen (BSN’01) is working in the NICU at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago. jenpaulsen@hotmail.com
The Purdue School of Nursing deeply appreciates the support of alumni, faculty, staff, and other friends. It is a pleasure to recognize these supporters in these pages.

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**Nursing Friend’s Club**

*(Up to $100)*

- Kathryn Achterman
- Jennifer Adams
- Marilyn Adams
- Elizabeth Aldridge
- Algernon Allen
- Mary Altman
- Peggy Amaral
- Laura Ambler
- Corliss Ames
- Kristin Andersen
- Jane Anderson
- Beverly Andrews
- Caroline Apple
- Carol Applegeet
- LouAnn Arena
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- Cynthia Ashbaugh
Karin Duffy
Stacy Eaton
Krisi Eger
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Crista Elder
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Frank Leonard
M. LeRoy
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Holly Mason
Mary Massner
Peggy Mattison
Phyllis Maw
Patricia McCain
Christina McCarthy
Megan McCarty
Paula McClellan
Sam McClure
Donna McCuen
Luann McCrane
Sheri McDonald-Beasley
Susan McIwain
Sally McIntyre
Matthew McKillip
Purdue nurses work all over the world. Here are the exciting adventures of an alum and two student interns.

Nursing students Emily Hohenberger and Tracy McClain were interns at Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, last summer during Hurricane Allison. Fifteen inches of water fell in one nine hour period, and the Texas Medical Center went black when emergency generators were flooded.

**Tracy McClain:** “When I saw water standing in the halls, I knew I was in a real disaster.

“There was no elevator, so we ran seven flights of stairs. Respirators didn’t work, so nurses were manually respirating people, sometimes for hours at a time. None of the communications systems worked, so runners delivered messages. Bedside call lights didn’t work, so we made rounds every 15 minutes to attend to individual needs. Bottled water was rationed, so we kept patients clean with disposable wipes.

“You learn a lot about a hospital, and in a situation like this, you see the core values.”

**Emily Hohenberger:** “When I reported to work, the halls were dark and flashing fire alarm signals provided the only light. The clean hospital smell was gone and the heavy, stale air was saturated with humidity.

“I could hear the alarms screaming that designated an internal disaster as well as the hum of generators and lifeline helicopters flying critical patients out. I ran up the eight flights of stairs to my unit and they were relieved to see me.

“It required creative nursing skills to be able to provide comfort and reassurance to patients in such an environment. We were without power, air conditioning, and water, but the level of nursing care never faltered.”

**Shell Holzer (BSN’97) writes to Prof. Carolyn Blue from Madagascar:**

“I am finally fulfilling my dream of serving as a Peace Corps volunteer. I live in a town called Betofo in a cement house with electricity and a water pump in the yard. The nearest city is just an hour away for luxuries like a flush toilet and a shower.

“I have no office or set schedule. As a health volunteer, I find ways to educate people in simple matters such as basic nutrition and hygiene. I also teach AIDS education. AIDS is not an epidemic yet on this isolated island, but it’s very important to me to prevent the devastation the HIV virus could have on the local population. My job would be a lot easier if I could speak their language.

“I am living in the fourth poorest nation in the world, where 30-40% of children die before turning five years old. The most important lesson I have learned is to take nothing for granted.”

shellholzer@yahoo.com

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**Alums Enjoy Homecoming**

About 200 nursing alumni, friends, and students enjoyed breakfast and talk at the homecoming reception before the Northwestern football game on Oct. 27.

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**Alumni Calendar**

Join your Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization in these upcoming events:

**Nurses' Ball**
Friday, April 5, 2002  8:30-11 p.m.
Purdue Memorial Union North Ballroom

**Gal Nursing Conference**
Friday, April 26, 2002  8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Purdue Memorial Union North Ballroom
Watch your mail for registration forms

**PNAO Meetings**
Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m., School of Nursing
Friday, April 26, after the Gala Conference
Wednesday, Aug. 21, after the Mentor-Mentee Picnic
Thursday, Nov. 21, time and location TBA
Call President Janet Kemper at (765) 523-2024 for more information and location
Looking for Outstanding Alums!

Each year the Purdue School of Nursing names an outstanding alumnus. This is your chance to nominate a colleague, an employee, an employer, a friend, or yourself.

Criteria include:
- Currently registered to practice nursing.
- An active member of a professional nursing organization.
- Actively engaged in community affairs.
- Making a special contribution to the profession.

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

Submit by March 15, 2002 to:
Nursing Alumni Organization
School of Nursing
Johnson Hall
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337

Purdue Nurses In Action...

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

Name ____________________________________________
(Maiden name) __________________________________
Year of graduation/Degree _________________________
Address __________________________________________
City __________________________ State ___________ Zip ______
☐ Check here if this is a change of address
E-mail ____________________________________________
Activities__________________________________________
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Mail to PURDUE NURSE
Johnson Hall of Nursing, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1337
or e-mail to lholland@nursing.purdue.edu

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