Purdue nurses: leaders, scholars, innovators, strategic thinkers, and clinical experts engaged in their communities
FROM THE HEAD

Dear Students, Alumni, and Friends,

The Purdue University School of Nursing continues to respond to the needs of the healthcare system with:
• An enlarged class size from 100 to 145;
• Growth of faculty and staff to 65 members;
• Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, approved by the Purdue Graduate Council on Jan. 20, 2005;
• MS Adult Nurse Practitioner program, with its emphasis on health promotion/chronic disease management;
• Developing PNP program;
• Second Degree Baccalaureate Program;
• Creative clinical site expansion;
• Partnership in the Purdue Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering;
• Increased scholarship and research funding.

This issue of Purdue Nurse is a testament to the students, alumni, faculty, and community partners who exemplify excellence in nursing and healthcare. We highlight our students and our alumni who make us proud through their service learning projects, their commitment to quality care across a variety of settings, and their heroism.

Our focus on service learning and mental health promotion as exemplified in the KySS walk continues with co-sponsorship of a suicide prevention workshop at the Lafayette YWCA on Feb. 8, 2005, and a research project and community-wide educational effort to reduce stigma related to mental illness.

Features by and about our outstanding alumni are a testimony to the quality of their Purdue School of Nursing education, their commitment to quality healthcare, and their perseverance.

Our focus on diversity is exemplified in the hiring of a Director of Diversity Enhancement, our new Spanish for Healthcare Professionals course, our health fairs targeting underserved populations, and our global partnerships.

Much of what sets us apart is the generosity of alumni, faculty, and friends of the School of Nursing. Your gifts are not only a powerful way to ensure your legacy; they also make a difference in the lives of future nurses and the patients for whom they care.

This issue expresses appreciation to our donors who help us achieve the goals of our strategic plan. Of critical importance is doubling the size of Johnson Hall in order to better accommodate our growth over the last three years and to allow further expansion in the future. Our plan is also to expand our Family Health Clinic of Carroll County in order to increase student learning opportunities, clinic services, and faculty practice.

As we review our progress over the past several years we are pleased to acknowledge that we are on track. Achieving our goals will benefit our students and faculty as well as the profession and our local to global community.

Thank you for your commitment and generosity as we strive to attain “the next level and preeminence.” We hope to see you on April 15, 2005, at our Helen R. Johnson Leadership Conference (register online at www.nursing.purdue.edu).

Warmest regards,

Julie C. Novak, DNSc, RN, CPNP, FAANP
Professor and Head, Purdue School of Nursing
Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences

Cover: Suzi Mathews (BS’02) and Kim Mills (BS’91) are part of the PHI Air Medical team based at the Purdue Airport, which provides medical transport services to communities and hospitals across Indiana. Read their story on page 20.
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KySS Walk Integrates Nursing Mission and Commitment to Mental Health Promotion

On a beautiful day this fall, over 185 people came out to Slayter Hill to embark on a walk-a-thon organized by the senior nursing leadership class.

The event was part of the Keep Your Children/Yourself Safe and Secure (KySS) campaign, organized by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) and NAPNAP Indiana, to promote and support mental health.

“The urgent need to raise public awareness, decrease stigma, and accelerate the pace at which mental health promotion, screening, and early interventions are delivered by healthcare providers exists throughout the country,” says Dr. Julie Novak, national project co-director and head of the Purdue School of Nursing.

Continued on next page
The senior nursing leadership class, along with their faculty advisors, organized the Keep Yourself/Your Child Safe and Secure (KySS) Walk-A-Thon on the Purdue campus. They are (back row from left) Professor Linda Bowman, Melanie Bush, Erin Grubb, Brooke Parker, Tina Mazzone, Brandi Schwab, Erin Exline, and Professor Martha Libster; (front row from left) Melissa Hedrick, Megan Kula, Erin McClay, Stacy Najdek, School of Nursing Head and project co-director Julie Novak.

The mental health promotion program focuses on community education related to psychosocial issues and de-stigmatizing mental illness, education of nursing students and other healthcare providers, and research regarding mental health issues.

Since the focus of the senior nursing leadership class is implementing leadership and management principles, organizing the KySS Walk-A-Thon served as a meaningful opportunity to apply that knowledge.

It also provided opportunities for service learning and community engagement, and has the potential to improve the quality of life in the Purdue and Greater Lafayette community. The students donated the proceeds from the walk-a-thon to Wabash Valley Hospital, the Cary Home for Children, and the NAPNAP Foundation.

One in four children and teens are affected by the “new” psychosocial morbidities ranging from family dysfunction to eating disorders, violence, substance abuse, depression, and an increased rate of suicide, Novak says.

The School will continue to focus on mental health promotion, laying the foundation for ongoing programs of research, academic programs, and community education.

Other events taking place throughout this academic year include an Ethics and Human Rights Conference, co-sponsorship of a suicide prevention workshop, a research program in Tippecanoe and surrounding rural counties, various community education programs, and an April 15, 2005 Leadership Conference keynoted by KySS founder Dr. Bernadette Melnyk, Dean, Arizona State University.
School Adds Second Degree Baccalaureate

It takes four years of study to earn a traditional baccalaureate nursing degree, but there are many people who have earned other types of four-year degrees who would like to become nurses. The Purdue School of Nursing is providing these individuals a way to enter the profession with a new Second Degree Baccalaureate Program. “These students can be prepared to be nurses in a shorter time than a new high school graduate; they have more life and academic experience, says School of Nursing head Julie Novak.

“These are academically proven and career-oriented adult learners. Their maturity, experience, and educational background helps them function as a member of a multidisciplinary team. They also meet the need to increase the number of potential leaders in nursing.” Second-degree students like the curriculum because it is less disruptive to their lives. “They learn quickly and with great proficiency,” says Dr. Barbra Wall, director of the new program, “and they have a capacity for the integration of material born of their liberal arts or science preparation or their work experience. They often are more informed than new high school graduates in their choice of nursing. The program also promotes a climate that recognizes each person’s past experiences and builds on those strengths.”

The program, now accepting students at the West Lafayette campus, consists of two parts: pre-nursing requirements (about one year) and nursing requirements (15 months).

The pre-nursing requirements (28 credits) are in the physical and social sciences, mathematics, and humanities and may be completed at Purdue or other institutions. Students may already have earned some or most of these credits in obtaining their first degree.

Nursing requirements (59 credits), include both theory and clinical. These may be earned only at the Purdue School of Nursing as a full-time student.

Admission is now open: members of the first class will begin in May 2005. For more information, contact Dr. Wall at 765-494-4023 or bwall@nursing.purdue.edu.

Doctor Nursing Practice Approved

A Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program was unanimously approved by the Purdue Graduate Council on Jan. 20, 2005.

The DNP critique team, Drs. Wall, Wilkerson, Edwards, and Novak, thank the faculty for their unanimous support of the concept; the doctoral program committee; Dean John Pezzuto for his understanding of our vision and capabilities; Associate Provost Christine Ladisch; Drs. Lucy Marion and Elizabeth Lenz for their consultation; Graduate School Dean John Contreni and Associate Dean Phil Pope for their guidance; Melissa Danner and Roxanne Martin for their clerical support.

Dr. Julie Novak was able to announce this “leap forward” to the 350 nursing deans and faculty at the AACN Doctoral Education Conference in Coronado, CA.

The proposal will be reviewed by the Provost, President, Board of Trustees and subsequently the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Our goal is to have all approvals completed during the Spring semester.
Schools Become Colleges
The shape of healthcare is changing—and so is our name. We are still the School of Nursing, but with the approval of the Board of Trustees, we are now part of the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences at Purdue University.

The Purdue Board of Trustees approved the renaming of the schools of agriculture, consumer and family sciences, education, engineering, liberal arts, pharmacy, nursing and health sciences, science, and technology as colleges rather than schools.

Provost Sally Mason said the renaming “better reflects the comprehensive, multidisciplinary range of academic programs offered by the schools.”

Purdue, Regenstrief Establish Center to Re-engineer Healthcare Delivery
Thanks to a multimillion dollar commitment from the Regenstrief Foundation Inc., Purdue has established a center to apply the principles of engineering, management, science, and information technology to improve the delivery of healthcare.

The Purdue Regenstrief Center will apply process-engineering principles, such as supply-chain management and just-in-time manufacturing, to healthcare delivery, following the flow of information, funds, and materials through the system to achieve better results and efficiency.

Some initial areas of research will include improving the safety and efficiency of patient care, providing more efficient deployment of physicians, nurses, and other healthcare personnel, and better coordination of inpatient and outpatient treatment. Drs. Julie Novak and Karen Chang were invited to serve on the Regenstrief Launch Team. Six nursing faculty members collaborate on Regenstrief projects.

School Renewed as CE Provider
The School of Nursing’s continuing education provider status with the Indiana State Nurses Association has been renewed, according to Director of Lifelong Learning Dr. Patricia Coyle Rogers.

Since 2000, the School has offered 48 continuing education programs, provided 125.3 contact hours, and had an attendance of 2,667.

Step-Up Program Recruits New Nurses
Drs. Carol Baird and Sharon Wilkerson have been awarded a $365,719 grant from the Health Research and Services Administration, DHHS, for a new program, “STEP-UP: Students To Exemplary Professionals (CNA to RN).”

The program uses a career ladder approach to promote the entry, advancement, and retention of minority and/or disadvantaged individuals into nursing careers in order to increase healthcare workers in rural, underserved areas.

There are four steps to the program: recruitment, pre-entry to nursing degree programs, entry and retention in nursing degree programs, and recruitment into graduate education.

It is anticipated that at the end of three years there will be 24 CNAs, six graduated LPNs, four graduated ADNs (two more in progress), and 12 in progress in BSN programs of nursing.

Professor Seeks Arthritis Subjects
Living with arthritis can be extremely difficult. Dr. Carol Baird is trying to find non-pharmacologic ways to improve life for people with arthritis.

She is seeking subjects to participate in research on the usefulness of a tape recording to improve health and lessen symptoms of osteoarthritis.

Men and women aged 55 or over who have osteoarthritis are eligible. Those who complete the study will receive $30.

If you or someone you know would like to participate, contact: Dr. Baird at 765-494-4036 or email: cbaird@nursing.purdue.edu.

Clinic Receives Award, Hires Grad
Barbara Strasburger, MS, CFNP, and the School of Nursing’s Family Health Clinic of Carroll County have received the Medicare Physician Office Quality Initiative Excellence Award from Health Care Excel, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Indiana.

The award recognizes healthcare providers who exhibit a commitment to superior care, and strive to better serve their patients, their staff, and their communities.

In other clinic news, Mindy Hoffman, (BS’99, MS’04) RN, MS, CFNP, has joined the staff as a Family Nurse Practitioner. She is also a member of the School of Nursing faculty.

She provides healthcare services including health promotion/lifestyle behavior change, sports, commercial driver’s license and women’s health physicals, diagnosis and treatment of minor illnesses, and management of stable chronic conditions.

Melnyk Will Keynote Spring Leadership Conference
The seventh annual Helen R. Johnson Leadership Conference will be held Friday, April 15, 2005 in the Purdue Memorial Union. Featured speaker will be Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN, CPNP/NPP, FAAN, FNAP, Dean and Distinguished Foundation Professor in Nursing, Arizona State University College of Nursing and Associate Editor, Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing.

Dr. Melnyk’s keynote is entitled “A Primer on Evidence-Based Practice.” She will also discuss the impact of the Keep Your Child/Yourself Safe and Secure (KySS) Campaign, a national mental health promotion campaign for children and teens. Dr. Melnyk is founder and chair of KySS, which is sponsored by the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

For more information or registration, contact Dr. Patricia Coyle-Rogers, Director of Continuing Education at 765-494-4030 or pcrogers@nursing.purdue.edu, or Dr. Julie Novak, Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences; Head, School of Nursing, 765-494-6644 or jnovak@nursing.purdue.edu.
It’s Happening Here!

By RuthAnn Smolen, MS, RN

“It’s Happening Here!” is a very familiar message across campus. And it’s a very familiar scene in the Center for Nursing Education (CNE) in Johnson Hall, where comprehensive learning and the discovery of new knowledge continues to strengthen learning outcomes.

In this issue we spotlight two faculty members who are committed to “making it happen” in lectures/demonstrations and simulation practices in the CNE presenting students with complex, interactive and lifelike pre-clinical experiences.

As learning and discovery in the Purdue School of Nursing continue to develop in innovative ways, the opportunities for students are unlimited. The LaNelle Geddes Enrichment Library fund provides one of these opportunities for nursing students to study and review difficult concepts in pathophysiology.

### Birthing Model Helps Teach Assessment Techniques

By Diane Campbell, MSN, RN

Clinical Assistant Professor

Having a teaching tool like the “Noelle” birthing model is a great opportunity to initiate new maternal/child students to the basic assessment techniques of labor and delivery and post partum in a controlled learning environment.

As a faculty group, we’ve used “Noelle” in the CNE to teach fetal monitoring, cervical dilation, palpation of uterine contractions, and descent of the fetus. In an educational setting, students are free to ask questions, repeat assessments that were confusing and develop confidence in their skills. As a faculty member, I can create the learning situations I want my students to experience without affecting clients or their family members.

When reviewing postpartum assessments, we’re able to visualize various episiotomies and talk about the mother’s possible responses and the nursing considerations without using a hospitalized client as our model. This gives me a chance to teach my students about possible “teaching moments” and to be sure they all have a similar knowledge base to begin our clinical rotation.

Students usually enjoy the interaction we have with “Noelle” and visitors to the CNE seem to enjoy her as well. She allows us to explain and “experience” the labor process in a very cognitive way. Since only a few schools of nursing in the country have this teaching model, we feel fortunate to share her with our students and the community.

In the future, we hope to have her software established to a point where we can also use her more effectively in simulation at the hospital.
Today’s Purdue School of Nursing graduate is expected to manage patient care at a high level, or what is commonly referred to as “hitting the ground running.”

Performing the art of nursing is increasingly more difficult as more patients are elderly, and with more complex problems. Healthcare today demands that the nurse have a wider knowledge base and skill level before entering the workforce.

At Purdue, a priority is to prepare our students for what they will face once they graduate and enter the job market.

A high percentage of Purdue nurses are beginning their careers as critical care nurses. Whether in medical/surgical, coronary intensive care, pediatric/neonatal intensive care, emergency or trauma, the nurse must have some prior knowledge and skill acquisition or will most certainly be overwhelmed.

The critical care teaching laboratory in the Center for Nursing Education offers the undergraduate nursing student the opportunity to touch, listen, and experience what critical care nursing is all about. The student participates in many “high tech” areas of critical care, such as airway management, mechanical ventilation, hemodynamic monitoring, and dysrhythmia recognition.

The equipment and simulators in the lab are “state of the art” so students are working with what is currently used in clinical practice. One of the new simulators in the lab is the artificial airway trainer. This device provides the student with actual practice suctioning, “ambuing” and providing airway assistance.

The Siemens-Servo 900 –C mechanical ventilator is complete with a “breathing adult mannequin.” This gives the student a visual understanding of how ventilator modes and settings affect breathing patterns.

Practice time suctioning and care of the patient with an artificial airway is a very important skill students learn with the ventilator simulator. The bedside monitors in the lab allow the student practical experience placing electrodes, zeroing transducers, identifying waveforms, and monitoring cardiac rhythms.

A cardiac defibrillator/simulator provides “hands-on” practice in dysrhythmia recognition and emergency treatment of life-threatening rhythms. Students work together as a team in the lab managing many different simulated emergency situations, termed “mega-codes.”

The time spent in the critical care learning lab prior to actual clinical experiences in a critical care unit has been found to reduce anxiety and increase student comfort level with the technology and types of patients they will encounter in the ICU.
Professors Develop Spanish Class for Healthcare Professionals

In many parts of the country, including rural Indiana, the Spanish-speaking population is growing rapidly, and with it the need for language training and cultural sensitivity for healthcare providers.

Two professors have created a new course to address this need: Spanish for Healthcare Professionals.

Professor Mary Ilu Altman is a native Spanish speaker, born and educated in Nicaragua. She earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees from Purdue. In March 2004 she became the School of Nursing’s Director of Student Services and the newly created Director of Diversity Enhancement.

In contrast to Dr. Altman, Professor Liz O’Neil, CFNP, has never taken a formal Spanish class. She learned Spanish as a nurse at a health clinic in rural Honduras while her family was on sabbatical.

Together, the two teach the grammar and vocabulary necessary for introductions, making appointments, taking a health history, naming parts and systems of the body, and responding to a medical emergency.

The students also studied health beliefs and practices in the Hispanic community, and reviewed and selected appropriate patient education materials in Spanish.

Later in the semester, they took those materials to a health fair for adult learners at the Lafayette Adult Resource Academy (LARA), where 40% of the students are Hispanic and have limited access to health screenings.

Ten nursing students performed screenings (in Spanish) of height and weight, blood pressure, and blood sugar. They also provided literature in Spanish concerning obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, mammograms, pap smears, and local health clinics that serve the uninsured.

The experience was instructive and encouraging, even if the adult learners did not speak English very well and the nursing students did not speak Spanish very well. “I was still impressed with how well we were able to communicate with each other,” one student said.

The health fair will be repeated at LARA. Thanks to a $2,000 Service Learning Faculty Development Grant from the Purdue Office of Engagement, a second health screening will be held at a clinic site in Frankfort, IN. The second semester enrollment for Spanish for Healthcare Professionals nearly doubled in size, and includes pharmacy students.

Se Habla Español en la Clínica

Se habla español at the Family Health Clinic of Carroll County, a nurse-managed affiliate of the Purdue School of Nursing.

Hispanic clients make up 27% of the client base at the clinic in rural Delphi. To serve their needs, all of the nurses speak some Spanish, while FNP Liz O’Neil and translator Solymar Palacio are both fluent.

“Communicating in Spanish, even at a basic level, can improve nursing service to the Spanish-speaking population and make patients feel much more comfortable,” O’Neil says. “When you interview someone in their own language, they will tell you more detail, and tell you things they might not feel comfortable saying if their interpreter were a child or a family member.”

Palacio accompanies patients into appointments, and also translates documents for the clinic. The funding for the interpreter position was secured through a grant from the United Fund of Carroll County by clinic director Dr. Julie Novak.
BACCALAUREATE GRADUATES, DECEMBER 2004

Katherine Andruszkiewicz
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Labor and Delivery, Chicago

Konnie Banks
Wabash Valley Hospital
West Lafayette

Suzanne Dimmich Becker
Home Hospital Surgery Department
Lafayette

Amanda Begley
Undecided

Jennifer Blankenship
Methodist Hospital Oncology
Indianapolis

Marcia Davis
Home Hospital Labor and Delivery
Lafayette

Melinda Foley-Minks
St. Elizabeth Hospital Medical/Surgical
Lafayette

Kathy Forman
St. Clare Medical Center Medical/Surgical
Crawfordsville, IN

Erin Grubb
Reid Hospital ICU
Richmond, IN

Angela Gunkel
Undecided

Melissa Hedrick
Methodist, Indiana University
Riley Hospital, Indianapolis

Jennifer Howell
St. Vincent Hospital ER
Indianapolis

Mary Johnson
Alexian Brothers Medical Center
Orthopedics, Elk Grove, IL

Angela Knight
Riley Children’s Hospital NICU
Indianapolis

Megan Kula
St. Vincent Hospital
Indianapolis

Belinda Lafferty-Zarate
St. Elizabeth Hospital
Lafayette

Pamela Martin
Porter Memorial Hospital
Valparaiso, IN

Michelle Meador
Family Healthcare of Ellensburg &
Cascade Pediatrics, Ellensburg, WA

Justin Meyer
Pulaski Memorial Hospital Medical/
Surgical
Winamac, IN

Elizabeth Nolan
St. Francis Resurrection Health Care
Medical/Surgical Telemetry, Evanston, IL

Alexandra Parker
Inova Fairfax Hospital Medical/Surgical ICU
Fairfax, VA

Brooke Parker
St. Vincent Hospital NICU
Indianapolis

Nicole Pearson
2nd LT Army Nurse Corps

Patricia Robbins
St. Vincent Hospital
Indianapolis

Sara Seay
Norton Healthcare
Louisville, KY

Sarah Sorenson
Arnett Clinic Pediatrics
Lafayette

Julia Staggers
St. Vincent Hospital
Indianapolis

Karrie Vana
St. Vincent Hospital Cardiac
Indianapolis

LaTanya Williams
Rosewalk Village Assisted Living
Lafayette

Tina Wright
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Special Care Nursery, Chicago
What’s New in Nursing?

By Mary Musselman, Academic Advisor

Having been a nurse for 24 years and a nurse practitioner in an outpatient clinic for the last 12 years, Cindy Modlin-Adams says that the one thing she is certain of is change.

She observes how change has occurred by the number of new prescription drugs and drug formularies and in Medicare documentation and reimbursement guidelines, as well as in technology and in the amount of personnel turnover in the healthcare field.

The scope of this article is to address the importance of technology, education, attention to research, and creative solutions in reducing shortages in the nursing workforce.

In a world of technology that grows at an incredible pace, it is important that nursing students feel comfortable using informational technology, says Dr. Karen Chang, assistant professor and adult health nursing expert.

The majority of hospitals now have policies, procedures and medical records in electronic formats. “All communications within my clinic are now through computer and the internet,” Modlin-Adams says.

Users are able to find, organize, and communicate information as well as make presentations in order to improve the system of delivering quality patient care and nursing education,” Dr. Chang says. “From Pocket PCs to Tablet PCs to Medline Plus Health Information, the world of medical information can be literally at a nurse’s fingertips.”

In the field of nursing education, a term used in class and textbooks is not necessarily a new term but the definition and its focus may have changed, says Professor Clara Richardson, clinical assistant professor.

“We talk about “atraumatic care” in Nursing 412, a course in pediatric nursing. Professor Richardson says. “Twenty years ago, healthcare providers didn’t realize that children experienced pain to the same degree that adults do. Now there are multiple assessment tools for the assessment of pain in children.”

A definition for atraumatic care from Wong’s Nursing Care of Infants and Children, published in 2003 is: “the provision of therapeutic care in settings, by personnel, and through the use of interventions that eliminate or minimize the psychologic and physical distress experienced by children and their families in the health care system.”

Some of the interventions that could eliminate psychologic distress may range from providing play activities for expression of fear or anxiety to providing choices for children to respecting cultural differences. Interventions for physical distress in the hospital setting may include reduction of loud noises, bright lights, and the use of analgesic creams to decrease pain of injections and blood draws. Thus, a term is brought back to life through research, practice, and education.

The importance of advanced education is emphasized in the growing need for expert clinicians. “Nurses who master the material and who continue to learn deliver the best care for the community,” says Assistant Professor Barbra Wall.

Research by Professor Linda Aiken at the University of Pennsylvania found there are fewer medical errors and there is better patient care if baccalaureate nurses take care of patients. ANA Magnet-designee Clariant Health Systems hires baccalaureate nurses, according to Dr. Christine M. Pacini, the Director of Education, Nursing and Patient Care for Clariant Health Partners in Indianapolis.

The shortage of nurses is an ever-present concern. Dr. Wall believes that creative and sound ways of retaining the nurse population as well as reintroducing the nurse population back into the workforce could help the problem. To this end, Drs. Nancy Edwards, Pat Coyle-Rogers and Barbara Wall have written a grant to bring non-working registered nurses into the workforce by offering them a refresher course. Other benefits for nurses are payment for graduate course work, flexible work hours, and sign-on bonuses.

What’s new in nursing? The world changes literally from day to day with advances in technology and research, but what is ever present is quality patient care and quality nursing education given back to the community by caring health professionals.
Thank you to the individuals and corporations who made gifts to the School of Nursing from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2004. We appreciate your loyal support. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information listed here is accurate.

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Mary Helen Zink

It’s Happening Here!
The Purdue School of Nursing Advisory Board members are mentors, role models, community activists, and change agents. The Board meets each semester to hear an update regarding the Strategic Plan and School activities and to provide expert advice.

Carl Abbott, Carroll County Supervisor, owns and operates the Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, IN. He is the past chairman of the board for the Purdue School of Nursing Family Health Clinic of Carroll County. His wife, Leah, was a practicing nurse with the Tippecanoe County Health Clinic prior to welcoming their children, Noah (4), and Myah (2). The family will welcome another baby in May.

Lawrence A. Anthrop is the Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer at Lafayette Bank and Trust Company. He completed his studies at the National Graduate Trust School at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. He is a member of the Lafayette Estate Planning Council. He and his wife, Dianne, have two daughters, Laura and Christine.

James Bien, MD, is Chief Medical Officer with Arnett Clinic in Lafayette. Prior to this appointment he was a practicing general pediatrician and Medical Director of Clinical Research with Arnett Clinic. Dr. Bien received his undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from Marquette University, his medical degree from Northwestern University and completed his pediatric residency at the University of Cincinnati (UC). He held teaching appointments at UC and SIU Schools of Medicine. He is currently a Volunteer Assistant Clinical Professor with IU School of Medicine. He and his wife, Cadi, have three children Madeleine (13), Abigail (10), and Tommy (8), and a Golden Retriever, Atticus.

Colleen DeTurk, MSN, RN, Professor Emerita, taught public health/community health and health assessment at the Purdue School of Nursing for 25 years before retiring in 2004. She has a lifelong interest in continuing education (CE), earning her MSN in public health nursing in 1983, and becoming director of the school’s CE program in 1995. She served as President of Delta Omicron, President of ISNA-Region 8; and was on the Committee for Approval for the Indiana State Nurses Association. She and her husband, Gene, have two children and five grandchildren.

Schaunita Falter has owned Global Greetings and DeDe’s Unique Boutique on Main Street, Lafayette, for 10 years. She sits on several boards, including Hanna Community Center and Sycamore Council Girl Scouts. She is a 2002 graduate of Leadership Lafayette. She has one son, Shannon.

Jennifer Flora is an alumna of Indiana University. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Mental Health Association of Tippecanoe County, Inc. since 1994. Under her leadership the Mental Health Association has expanded programs, built the Seeds of Hope Day Shelter building in 1997, and constructed the new Mental Health Association Community Building, dedicated in January 2005. She is an ardent advocate for individuals with mental health challenges, an advocate for the homeless, and a volunteer for several local organizations. She and her husband, Grant, live in West Lafayette and have two children who attend Purdue.
Nancy Dickenson-Hazard, RN, MSN, FAAN, is CEO of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) nursing honorary. Under her leadership, the organization has increased its chapter network by 24% and its inducted membership, who reside in 90 countries around the world, from 190,000 to 345,000. Her focus is to provide opportunities for nurses globally to learn, lead and serve. Under her leadership, STTI has developed partnerships with the World Health Organization, the International Council of Nurses and numerous national and international organizations and corporations. She holds a BS in nursing from the University of Kentucky and a MS with specialization as a PNP from the University of Virginia. She and her husband, John, have two children.

Mike Gery is a 1966 graduate of Purdue University with a BA in History and an MS from Indiana University. He taught high school for 12 years and served as State Senator from Tippecanoe County for 24 years. While he was a State Senator his interests were primarily education and fiscal matters. He also served as Chairman of the State Budget Committee. He is now retired, and serves as president of the Lafayette Community Foundation. Mike and his wife, Carolyn, have three sons.

LaNelle Geddes, RN, PhD, is the former Head of School of Nursing and Professor Emerita, having retired in December 2003. Dr. Geddes maintains close association with the school, mentoring several faculty members and serving on the Primary and Area Promotion and Tenure Committees. She received her PhD in biophysics from Baylor University College of Medicine and has published extensively. She is a member of the Purdue University Teaching Academy and a recipient of the Amoco Foundation (now known as the Murphy) Teaching Award.

Leslie Geddes, PhD, received his BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from McGill University and his PhD in Physiology from Baylor University College of Medicine. His research interests are the control of ventricular rate in atrial fibrillation, the fabrication of vascular grafts and heart valves with SIS, and fundamental electrode studies. He is a Showalter Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Engineering.

Linda Hojnacki, MBA, received her AD in Nursing from Purdue and her BS in Nursing from Indiana University, Bloomington. She originally worked as a critical care nurse and has published several articles regarding wellness and critical care. She developed an interest in business management and earned her MBA from Pepperdine University. She now holds all major securities licenses and serves as a financial advisor for Foothill Securities, Inc. She and her husband, Charles Wunsch, M.D., live in Reno, NV, and Palm Beach, FL.
Ann H. Hunt, PhD, MSN, BS, RN, earned her BS and PhD from Purdue University, and her MSN from Indiana University. She participated in a NIH Post Doctoral Fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine in 1992-1993. She taught for 21 years at the Purdue School of Nursing, retiring in 2000. In 2003, she was elected to the West Lafayette City Council, where she works tirelessly for community priorities including health and education. She volunteers at the Indiana Veterans Home and Klondike Elementary School. She is a Certified Advanced Master Gardener and is employed part-time as a sales associate at a local garden center. She and her husband, Dick, have two adult children and four grandchildren.

Janet Kemper graduated from Purdue with a BS in Nursing. Currently she works as a staff nurse and Patient Care Coordinator in med-surg at Lafayette Home Hospital and is certified in telemetry and chemotherapy. She is also the past president of the Purdue Nursing Alumni Organization. She and her husband, Alan, have two children, Crystal and Brian.

Sherman Kessler graduated from Purdue with a BS in Animal Science and a MS in Agriculture Economics. For 52 years he was CEO of the family farm running a farrow-to-finish hog operation and feeder steers. He has been a member of the Purdue University Board of Trustees and has been a supporter of the School of Nursing for many years.

John A. Knote, MD, holds a BS from Purdue in PE and a MD from IU. He is board certified in radiology and nuclear medicine and has practiced diagnostic radiology with DMI and the Arnett Clinic. He now works with the Indiana Radiology Partners as part of the Clarian Health Systems in Indianapolis. He served as Speaker of the AMA House of Delegates, past president of the Organization of State Medical Association Presidents and the Forum for Medical Affairs; trustee and chairman of the ISMA Board; former speaker and current Chancellor of the American College of Radiology.

Sally Lowrey holds a BS from the Purdue School of Nursing, and an MBA from the Krannert School of Business. She is currently Vice President for Patient Services at Greater Lafayette Health Services Inc. She is facilitating new collaborative models between GLHS and Purdue School of Nursing. She and her husband, Charles, have two children.

Barbara MacDougall received her AD and BS in Nursing from Purdue. She has worked as a surgical nurse in Indianapolis and is an active volunteer in her community. She and her husband, John, a retired general and thoracic surgeon from St. Francis Hospital, have two children, Katie, a student at IUPUI, and Jamie, a student at Purdue, West Lafayette.

Nancy McCall, ScD, received her BS in Nursing from Purdue, and her MS in Health Policy and ScD in Health Economics from Harvard University’s School of Public Health. Currently she is a Principal Scientist with Research Triangle Institute and manager of their Washington D.C. office. She resides in Washington with her husband, Sandy, their son, Lemi, and dog, Max.

Barbara Miller received her BS in nursing from Purdue and an MSN from Indiana University. She is a former Purdue School of Nursing faculty member. Currently she is the President of Doc Miller’s Fish and Seafood Company in Colfax.

Sharon Posey, MS, RN, Professor Emerita, earned her BSN at Spalding College, MS in education from Indiana University, and MS in nursing from the University of Kentucky. She taught public health nursing at the Purdue School of Nursing for 20 years before retiring in 2003. She was particularly interested in non-clinical settings and serving culturally diverse populations. Sharon developed the school’s senior public health experience at the Navajo Indian Nation in Kayenta, Arizona, an active student clinical rotation for the past 10 years. She and her husband, Phillip, have four children and seven grandchildren.

Sarah Potts is a graduate of the Purdue School of Nursing and the President of the Nursing Alumni Association. She began her career as a labor and delivery nurse. Prior to her retirement in
Senior nursing students Melanie Bush, Stacy Najdek, and Erin McClay with Dr. Novak. The students shared their experiences with KySS with the board.

March 2000, her specialty shifted to homecare and elder care where she was a Clinical Supervisor and Nurse Liaison in Homecare at Hancock Memorial. Sarah and her husband, Gary, served as co-chairs for the President’s Parent Advisory Council at Purdue. They have retired to Las Vegas, NV. Their sons, James, Andy, and Brian, are also graduates of Purdue.

Kathleen Risa is a 1970 AD graduate of Purdue’s School of Nursing and holds BS and MS degrees in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh. She maintains certification as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner and in Infection Control. She is currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Pittsburgh Healthcare System where she functions as an infectious disease/ID/HIV Nurse Practitioner. She attributes her success in nursing to the superior academic focus and solid scientific underpinnings of the nursing program at Purdue.

Ann Roberts graduated from Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, Indianapolis, and St. Joseph University. She received her National Managed Care Certification in 1996 and is a member of STTI. For over 30 years, Ann has practiced in various nursing specialties, including home healthcare, emergency nursing, and managed care. Prior to serving as the CEO of Individualized Care Management, Inc., she developed the first ever on-site utilization review/case management program. Her company has multiple branches throughout the Midwest.

Patricia Tabloski, PhD, received her BS in Nursing from Purdue and her PhD in Nursing from the University of Rochester. She is currently an Associate Professor at Boston College. Her major area of research is gerontology. She is a former recipient of the School of Nursing’s Alumnus of the Year award.

Dan Vierk attended Indiana University. He is an entrepreneur and CEO of Vierk Fine Jewelry and Exchange and other businesses in Lafayette and beyond. He has been a long-time benefactor of the Purdue School of Nursing. Dan and his wife, Karen, reside in West Lafayette and Marco Island, FL.

Karen Vierk graduated from Purdue with an AD in Nursing. She left nursing to pursue a business venture where she served as the CEO for Carter Oil Supply, Inc. She has since retired from the business. Karen and her husband, Dan, have been generous supporters of graduate program development. They have five children (two of whom are Purdue graduates) and eight grandchildren.

Kathleen Wodicka received her AD in Nursing from Purdue and her BS from Indiana University. She worked in Indianapolis hospitals in cardiac care, open heart recovery, and cardiac cath labs. In 1978, she retired from nursing to care for her two daughters. Her focus turned to habilitation and education of children with disabilities and she worked in the legislative arena to update the current statutes. She has also worked in the education arena to inform parents and their children of their rights and responsibilities and to empower them to become advocates. In 1998 she returned to the Cath Lab as a Clinical Manager and subsequently accepted a position at Sigma Theta Tau International.

Katie Wolf is a retired Indiana State Senator. Prior to her 14 years as Senator, she served in the House of Representatives for two years. She attended Purdue and Indiana Business College and with her husband is the owner/manager of a family farm. She was instrumental in legislating increased support for mental health clinics and has been the recipient of outstanding legislature awards from multiple institutions ranging from childcare to human services.

Ruth Wukasch holds a DNS and MSN from the Indiana University School of Nursing, a BS from Purdue School of Nursing and a diploma from Passavant Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University. Until her retirement in 2003, she taught senior level leadership and management at the School of Nursing for 13 years. Previously, she was Director of Professional Services at Charter Hospital; Director of Employee Assistance Programs for St. Elizabeth Medical Center; a school nurse and psychiatric nurse. Since her retirement from Purdue she serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children, serves on the West Lafayette Library Foundation Board, and travels. Ruth has three children and five grandchildren.
The two School of Nursing graduates are part of the PHI Air Medical team, which provides medical transport services to communities and hospitals across Indiana.

Mills, a 1977 Ivy Tech nursing graduate, began her nursing career as an operating room technician at St. Elizabeth Hospital. “I quickly realized that I wanted to keep learning, keep progressing,” she says. She entered the Purdue School of Nursing at age 24, continued to work, had twins, and was pregnant again when she graduated seven years later.

She was working in the emergency room when she was introduced to flight nursing through a “fly-along” program, and in 1999 joined a flight crew based in Rochester, IN. She joined PHI when the service opened in Lafayette in the summer of 2004.

Suzi Mathews was also a non-traditional nursing student. She earned her diploma from the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in 1985, and practiced for 12 years before she entered the Purdue School of Nursing.

“It was very hard,” she says. “I was a single parent with three children. It took me five years, but I knew I needed to do it.”

Both Mills and Mathews continue to work part-time at the St. Elizabeth emergency department when they are not on duty at Hanger 8. “We are adrenaline junkies,” Mathews admits. “As a flight nurse you have to perform at a high level on a moment’s notice. You never know where you’ll go or what you’ll find there.”

“It takes enhanced critical thinking skills,” Mills adds. “I really like the combination of flying and taking care of the medical emergencies and critically injured patients. I like the challenge of the unknown.”

PHI Air Medical, based in Lafayette, LA, opened operations in Lafayette, Anderson, and Columbus, Indiana, to supplement other private and hospital-based air medical transport services in the state. “These placements fill gaps in central and southeastern Indiana transport services. The extra minutes make a huge difference in patient outcomes,” Mills says.

The flight team consists of a pilot, a nurse, and a paramedic. The nurses and paramedics work 24-hour shifts: the pilots work 12-hour shifts.

In the first six months of operation, the Lafayette flight crew has averaged about 20 flights a month, mostly for interfacility transfers from smaller communities to larger hospitals.

Crew members also spend considerable time on teaching and continuing education. “We are continually learning,” Mills says. The crews attend required classes in advanced cardiac and pediatric life support, pre-hospital trauma life support, crew resource management, and required clinical hours in emergency rooms, ICU’s, pre-hospital settings with EMS and Fire Services, pediatrics, obstetrics, and operating rooms.

They also view outreach education as part of their commitment to quality care and community involvement. They offer continuing education hours in trauma, medical, cardiac, and pediatric emergencies and management. Also, each flight team member is required to maintain instructor status in one discipline. “We cover a broad range of topics specifically for hospital and pre-hospital personnel,” Mills says.

“The education I received at the Purdue School of Nursing helped prepare me for this career,” Mills says. “It taught me critical thinking, how to work independently, and how to keep on learning. That’s really key. You can never stop learning, especially in nursing.”
Nancy Russell (AD’76) collected nurse dolls for 28 years. Eventually the collection covered an entire wall in her office, an étagère in the kitchen, one in the bedroom, the mantle in the living room, and every end table in the house.

She had nurse dolls made of porcelain and of plastic, of glass and metal and paper. There were almost 400 of them.

“My husband began the collection with a one-of-a-kind blown glass figurine,” Russell recalls. “My daughter made nurses out of clothes pins and papier-mache. Friends and relatives sent nurse dolls of every size and material.”

When Russell decided it was time to downsize, she contacted her friend Jane Kirkpatrick, Associate Professor and Assistant Head for Academic Affairs, about donating the collection to the School of Nursing. Kirkpatrick put Russell in touch with Barbra Wall, Director of the school’s Center for Nursing History, Ethics, and Human Rights.

“I faced the need to find a new home for my dolls with emotional misgivings,” Russell says. “But when Barbra Wall came to my house for the first time, she went from shelf to shelf oohing and aahing. I knew then I had made the right decision. Nurses would appreciate the significance of the collection.”

The more historic and unusual dolls will be kept in the Center for Nursing History, Ethics, and Human Rights, and put on display at key nursing events. Dr. Julie Novak, Head of the School, suggested that the rest be sold and the proceeds put in a scholarship fund in Nancy Russell’s name, if she approved.

“The scholarship idea made my heart sing,” Russell says. “My first degree, from Ohio State, was on a scholarship. That allowed me to begin my journey to being a nurse. And now the collection will be loved and appreciated by hundreds of caring individuals. What more could I ask for!”

Russell earned a BS in Biology Education from Ohio State in 1961. She worked in medical research and secondary education until her daughter was ready to start school, then she began looking for a new direction that had to do with medicine.

Helen Johnson encouraged her to study at Purdue for an Associate Degree. After graduation, she worked as a staff nurse in orthopedics at Home Hospital, at the Indiana University Student Health Center emergency room, in a utilization review position at St. Elizabeth Hospital, and finally at the Woman’s Clinic in Lafayette. For the last three years before her retirement in 1994, she was Director of Nursing at the Woman’s Clinic.

Today Russell serves as a parish nurse at Central Presbyterian Church when she is in Lafayette, and as a consultant to parish nurses at Presbyterian churches when she is in Florida.

“I will always appreciate my Purdue nursing degree,” she says. “It helped me turn a profession into a passion, and now into a calling.”
By Sharon (Lilly) Taggart (BS’76)

I was at the Purdue School of Nursing in the early 1970’s. Sometimes it seems so long ago, but then at other times only yesterday.

Lofty goals and a feeling of being able to be anything I wanted were responsible for my enrollment at Purdue. Midsemester freshman year found me reeling from advanced chemistry and calculus wandering the campus, talking to myself.

It was about this time I was sent to an office with a kindly woman who would give me some ideas and answers. I had walked into the office of Eota Stokes. Her passion for the art of nursing was evident and contagious. She changed my life.

Labs in the Quonset huts on the south edge of campus consisted of fellow students trying out new skills on each other. If it was a particularly undesirable procedure, like inserting a NG tube, only one of us would volunteer and the rest of us would crowd wide-eyed around the lucky inserter and the apprehensive insertee. Higher grades were hoped for if we volunteered, but it never worked.

Much of the excitement in studying nursing was due to the hands-on learning. I still remember the time I confessed to Dorothy Stewart that I was afraid to give injections. I was convinced that she wouldn’t make me do them. My next patient assignment had five injections in the three hours I took care of him. I was never afraid again or never admitted it.

The uniforms were eagerly awaited and proudly worn. A visual badge of our goals, they said to the entire campus, we were at Purdue not only awarded me a nursing degree, it also gave me pride in nursing and the love and devotion to the profession are there, and will go with each new nurse they send into the world.

The uniforms were eagerly awaited and proudly worn. A visual badge of our goals, they said to the entire campus, we were at Purdue not only awarded me a nursing degree, it also gave me pride in nursing and the love and devotion to the profession are there, and will go with each new nurse they send into the world.

The Purdue School of Nursing had come a long way in 25 years. But as much as things change and progress, other things remain constant.

The names are different, but the caring, the humor, the enthusiasm for learning and infusing that into the students, the pride in nursing and the love and devotion to the profession are still displayed by the faculty. I’m confident that it will always be there, and will go with each new nurse they send into the world.

A wise person once said, if you want to know what kind of a parent you were to your child; wait until they have children of their own and watch them parent those children. You may find yourself in them.

If that can be applied in any way to my daughter’s view of her mother as a nurse, if I were a role model for even a small part of her decision to make nursing her career, then I am humbled and honored.

Mother, Daughter Share Love of Nursing

Sharon (Lilly) Taggart (BS’76) is a Nurse Practitioner and Colposcopist (biopsy of patients who have an abnormal pap smear) at Planned Parenthood of Indiana. She supervises 12 clinics across the state as well as providing direct patient care.
A Daughter’s View

By Courtney Porter (BS’02), RNC, MSN, NNP

My mom, Sharon Taggart, graduated from Purdue University in Nursing and went on to become a Nurse Practitioner. My childhood, spent watching her in her career, was compounded with that internal calling and deep knowledge that I knew for a very long time; I wanted to be a nurse.

My plan was to be a midwife, but during a job shadow experience after high school I was introduced to neonatal intensive care nursing.

I had found my passion in nursing. I couldn’t think of anything else that I wanted to do. As a sophomore at Purdue’s School of Nursing I applied for a student nurse externship in the neonatal intensive care nursery at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

I was told that it isn’t usual to hire someone with only one semester of clinical experience, but my enthusiasm coupled with Purdue’s name on my resume got me the job.

I was so excited! I had previously decided that I wanted to further my education and become a nurse practitioner. When I found out that there was a Master’s degree and Nurse Practitioner certification in neonatology, I specialized in neonatal intensive care. I could not wait to get started!

The work as a nurse extern over two years provided me with valuable experience, and in my senior year at Purdue I was accepted to Vanderbilt’s School of Nursing in the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Masters Program.

I attended Vanderbilt directly out of undergraduate school while working at Methodist as an RN in the NICU.

I am convinced without a doubt that my educational experience in the nursing program at Purdue prepared me to succeed in a tough graduate school. Not only did the mention of Purdue as my alma mater impress people, but the self-discipline and study skills acquired there have benefited me many times since graduation.

Purdue’s reputation for being a very strong school of nursing was evident everywhere I went, and as one nurse manager put it, “Purdue’s graduates are real nurses.”

I am now employed at Riley Hospital for Children in the neonatal intensive care unit as a certified neonatal nurse practitioner. My responsibilities daily include the assessment and management of critically ill infants as well as supporting their families in any way that I can during a difficult and stressful time in their lives.

I work as a team with 14 other NNPs and together we perform highly skilled, critical procedures such as neonate intubations, spinal taps, and placement of central lines.

We are responsible for critically ill infants during transport by helicopter or ambulance, writing orders, interpreting x-rays, and rotating to outlying hospitals to attend high risk deliveries.

All of this and so much more assures my love for this job every day. I am mentally stimulated by analyzing an infant’s diagnoses and using my knowledge and problem solving skills accrued at Purdue and Vanderbilt.

In addition I am emotionally fueled by these babies and their families to assist in any way I can to help them fight through one more hour, one more day.

There were times that undergraduate and graduate school seemed impossible and overwhelming; and just as many times I was inspired by some knowledge or skill or ray of motivation that I gained from the outstanding and dedicated professors at Purdue.

In part, I have made it to this place in my nursing career based largely on the educational foundation from my years at Purdue. Purdue’s reputation as a first-class nursing school will benefit me in my career.

But I have been the recipient of so much more from the education at Purdue. In many hospitals and medical settings across the country, as it is in my setting, Purdue educates us to take care of those in need at a critical time.

courtneyelizabethporter@yahoo.com

Courtney Porter works at Riley Hospital for Children in the neonatal intensive care unit as a certified neonatal nurse practitioner.

There was a time my daughter saw the medical world through my eyes. I now see the future of nursing in her eyes, and all those like her.

Courtney is one of three recent Purdue Nursing graduates to go on to advanced studies at Vanderbilt University: the others are Julie Elam (BS’96) and Megan Mutz (BS’04).
ALUMNI ALMANAC

1960s

MARY T. MAUCK (AS’67) received her BSN in 1970 and MSN in 1980, from Indiana University. She is currently employed as Department Administrator, Southern California Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser) in Gardena, CA. Her address is 1801 263rd Street # 137, Lomita, CA 90717. mmauck2828@aol.com

1970s

PAMELA A. MIYA (AAS’73, BS’75) is Associate Professor, College of Nursing, University of Nebraska Medical Center. She has been appointed to a four year term on the Advisory Board of the American Nurses Association Center for Ethics and Human Rights.

JILL HEATHERINGTON (AD’76) received her BSN from Indiana State University in 1990, and her MSN-FNP from Clemson in 1999. She currently works as a FNP in an emergency room in Greenville, SC. She has four children and recently became a grandmother for the first time. Her second son, a firefighter, returned home safely from Iraq with the U.S. Army. Her daughter graduated from Clemson in 2004, and her youngest son is in the U.S. Army stationed in Germany. Her new address is 199 Pond Drive, Easley, SC 29640. fnp911@hotmail.com

1980s

PAM BUTLER CONRAD (BS’81) earned her certification as a Clinical Aromatherapist in 2000, completed a Complementary Maternity Internship at Queen Mary’s Hospital, London, in 2002, and earned a postgraduate diploma in Complementary Therapy Studies from the Graduate School of Integrated Health University of Westminster, London, in 2004. She is currently adjunct faculty at IUPUI teaching continuing education classes including Clinical Aromatherapy for Medical Professionals and Introduction to Complementary Therapies for Healthcare Professionals. Her Zionsville, IN-based company, Aromas for Healing, was founded to educate women, provide treatment, and develop products to ease women’s life cycle transitions and offer choices for their healthcare. Her website is www.aromasforhealing.com; her email is conradrod@aol.com. For information on her classes, visit www.cln.iupui.edu.

CONNIE HOCKSTRA VARGAS (AD’82, BS’89) is a Certified Adult Nurse Practitioner working at Primary Care Associates in Merrillville. She is also the proud aunt of Erin Knight, who was accepted into the 2005 class of the Purdue School of Nursing. Erin’s goal is to be a nurse practitioner. cvnp@webtv.net

TERESA BAKER ROBERTS (BS’83) is currently working part-time at Dupont Hospital Pediatrics (PRN), with pediatrician Dr. Christopher Tallo, and substituting at Northwest Allen County Schools. roberts.five@verizon.net

JULIE L. WILSON INGALL (BS’87) is presently a stay-at-home mother of two daughters, ages three and six. She is active in church and helps with hospitality activities for PTA and MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers). She is a certified Jazzercise instructor, teaching 3 to 4 classes per week. Her dermatology nursing career is on “hold” at this time. Her new mailing address is 203 Morganford Place, Apex, NC 27539. jingall@nc.rr.com

STACEY KNORR YEOMAN (BS’87) is currently working in labor and delivery at Home Hospital in Lafayette, IN. She and her husband, Gary, are the proud parents of their fifth child, a daughter, Leah Elizabeth, born on Aug. 17, 2004. skymomof4@cs.com

JANE N. “ABBY” ABBOTT-RIDER (BS’88) is a certified ANP at Logansport Family Health Care. She and her husband, Jeff, welcomed a son, Peter Nathanael, on Oct. 17 (the Wisconsin-Purdue football game sent her into labor!) He joins Ian, 11; Andrew, 9; Graham, 6; and Sarah, 3. thistleb@tds.net

SUE ELLEN RUPLEY SCHEIBER (BS’89) gave birth to a son, Caleb Matthew, on June 17, 2004. Her new address is 4218 N. Rangeline Road, Huntington, IN 46750.

1990s

KARLA FADDEN AHRNS (BS’92) has been promoted to Trauma Services Coordinator at the University of Michigan Health System. She has published the following: Ahrens, KS, Burns, In: Sole ML, Klein DG, Moseley M (Eds.): Introduction to Critical Care Nursing. 4th Ed. Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders, Co., 2005. Ahrens, KS. Trends in burn resuscitation: Shifting the focus from fluids to adequate endpoint monitoring, edema control, and adjuvant therapies. Crit Care Nurs Clin North AM, 16(1): 75 – 98, 2004. kahrns@med.umich.edu

KELLY HURST JONES (BS’93) is currently working as an operating room nurse at Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville, IN. She welcomed her first child, Carson David, on July 26, 2004.
HEATHER CAMPBELL WEBER (BS’94) is currently a Family Nurse Practitioner for American Health Network in Peru, IN. She has been married to T.A. Weber for five years and they have a one-year-old daughter, Lauren. Heather@webervst.com

JENNIFER EHINGER BUCK (BS’95) welcomed the birth of her second child, Nathan Alexander, on July 8, 2004. Her new address is 387 Greenbriar Dr, Avon Lake, OH 44012.

JULIE ELAM (BS’96) went on to earn her MSN from Vanderbilt. She is now a doctoral student at the School of Nursing, IUPUI. She presented a poster, “Results of Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index Parameters for Female Breast Cancer Survivors Seeking Treatment for Hot Flashes” at the Sigma Theta Tau 15th International Nursing Research Congress “Building Community Through Research” in Dublin, Ireland, July 22-24, 2004.

DENISE SWANSON-SKRADSKI (BS’96) is enrolled in the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia program. rdskradski@aol.com

HEATHER WILL ARNOLD (BS’97) is currently working in public health for a program called Healthy Child Care Illinois serving nine central Illinois counties. She and her husband welcomed their first daughter, Madilyn, on Dec. 2, 2002 and their second daughter, Megan, on Jan. 20, 2004. Her new address is 3516 St. Annes Dr., Springfield, IL 62712. nursarnold@insightbb.com

SARA CAMPBELL POLLARD (BS’97) is the founder and coordinator of the Postpartum Depression (PPD) Education Program at Coleman Center for Women at Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis. The mission of this program is to lower the incidence of PPD by identifying, screening, and educating those pregnant women who are most at risk to develop the disorder. rmssp74@netzero.net

KATIE HADDIX BEEHN (BS’98) is currently a full-time, stay-at-home mom to Jared Randall (3 ½ years), Julianna Rose (22 months), and Elizabeth Kate (3 months). Before having children, she worked in the NICU and was active in bereavement care. She also volunteered at a Crisis Pregnancy Center where she performed pre-natal ultrasounds. kbeehn@cinci.rr.com

Continued on page 22
Gini Hinrichs (BS’03) is currently stationed in Iraq. She writes:

“I am in the Al Anbar province with an FRSS (forward resuscitative surgical system) and SSTP (surgical shock trauma platoon). Our hospital is a Level 2 and it is made out of tents.

“I work mainly in the ER, but I also do recovery, operating room, and even flight nursing. You could say I am a long way from my days at Home Hospital in Lafayette!

“We are seeing some horrific injuries, but we are doing some great things. I don’t think anything could have fully prepared me for what I am doing, but I wanted to take the time to thank the School of Nursing for the knowledge and skills I learned there.”

Virginia M. Hinrichs
ENS NC USN
tubbs03@hotmail.com

Faculty and staff prepared a 38-pound care package for Gini and her fellow nurses containing an assortment of necessities including peanut butter, Oreos, Pringles, wet wipes, facial cleaners, nail files, and lip balm. Contents were based upon requests received by Julie Novak from former students serving in the Middle East.

Let us hear from you!
We will use your news in the next issue of Purdue Nurse.
Please send photos!
GRANTS

Carol Baird, DNS, APRN, BC, and Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, CNS, received a $365,719 grant from the Health Research and Services Administration, DHHS, for “STEP-UP: Students To Exemplary Professionals (CNA to RN).” STEP-UP Coordinators are Liz O’Neil and Noelle Lottes; program evaluator is Dr. Laura Sands; STEP-UP clinic mentor is Dr. Julie Novak; CNA instructor is Dr. Nancy Edwards; Academic Counselor is Eleanor Stephan with assistance from Dr. Mary Ilu Altman.

Nancy Edwards, PhD, RN, Barbra Wall, PhD, RN, and Sharon Wilkerson, PhD, RN, received a $5,000 Purdue Graduate School Recruitment Grant, October 2004.

Julie Novak, DNSc, RA, MA, CPNP, FAANP, and Barb Strasburger, MS, RN, CFNP, Expansion of Services: Family Health Clinic of Carroll County, $15,000 from the United Fund of Carroll County, and $11,500 from the Indiana State Department of Health.

Julie Novak, DNSc, RN, MA, CPNP, FAANP, with Alan Zillich and Anna McDaniel, $20,000 grant for the Development of an Online Tobacco Cessation Course for Purdue and Indiana University Health Care Professionals, Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System.

Elizabeth O’Neil, FNP, RN, and Mary Ilu Altman, PhD, received a $2,000 Service Learning Faculty Development Grant from the Purdue Office of Engagement, December 2004. The award will fund the NUR 348 Spanish Health Fair project at the Lafayette Adult Resource Academy.

Laura Sands, PhD, received a $435,377 grant from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health on “Progressive Functional Loss in Elders with Dependencies.” She also received a subcontract of $5,971 from the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center to provide psychometric consulting for the development of a tool to measure patients’ preferences for treatment for prostate cancer.

PRESENTATIONS/CONFERENCES


Jane Kirkpatrick, MSN, RNC, (left) and Linda Caputi, MSN, EdD, RN, Professor of Nursing, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, (right) received the 2004 Pinnacle Award in the category of Computer-Based Professional Education Technology. The award, for the CD-ROM “PhysWhiz II: Labor and Delivery,” was presented at the November Sigma Theta Tau International conference by Dan Pesut, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN, President of STT International. The CD-ROM is available for purchase through College of DuPage: http://www.cod.edu/software.


PUBLICATIONS


ACCOLADES

Pamela Aaltonen, MS, RN, was appointed to the Indiana Area Health Education Center Advisory Board and elected to the Governing Council of the American Public Health Association.

Carol Baird, DNS, APRN, BC, is president-elect of Purdue’s Delta Omicron chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International.

Cynthia L. Bozich Keith MSN, APRN, BC, received a Certificate of Recognition at the Volunteer Recognition Day Ceremony from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Logansport State Hospital, April 22, 2004.

Julie Novak, DNSc, RN, MA, CPNP, FAANP, was selected to receive the 2005 Author E. Hughes Career Achievement Award from the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science, University of San Diego. She was also included in Who’s Who in the World and Who’s Who in Medicine and Healthcare and was appointed to the AACN Doctoral Program Planning Committee. She moderated two sessions on the “Future of Doctoral Education” and one session on “Building Research Networks.”

Polly Royal, MS, APRN, BC, achieved Board Certification in Medical-Surgical Nursing from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Laura Sands, PhD, received the 2004 Faculty Enhancement Award, School of Nursing, Purdue University.

Kathleen Sebrey-Schafer, MSN, RNC, NP, has been recertified as a Perinatal Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Marti Van Court received the 2004 School of Nursing Staff Enhancement Award.

Karen Yehle, MS, APRN, BC, was recertified as a Clinical Specialist in Medical-Surgical Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.
Zink Retires After 31 Years

Mary Helen Zink, EdD, RN, MA, has seen many changes in the 31 years she has been at the Purdue School of Nursing. She began her career here in 1974, when Helen Johnson was still head and faculty offices and the learning center were located in the Quonset huts in South Campus Courts.

She helped expand the nursing program from an associate to a bachelor’s degree. Today, as she is ready to retire, the school is once again expanding its programs from bachelor’s to master’s to doctoral degrees.

“In those early days all the faculty members wore many different hats—teaching, administering, advising students,” she says. “We had to build many of the supporting structures that make the school what it is today.

“We worked as a team to give our students the best education,” she says. “And it paid off: employers have sought after Purdue nurses from the beginning of the program, because of our emphasis on clinical experience and leadership.”

Dr. Zink went into nursing because of her love of science, and of teaching. She earned her BS degree from St. Mary’s College in South Bend in 1960. Fresh out of school, she went to work at the 60-bed pediatric unit at St. Joseph Hospital in Pontiac, Mich. She also taught at McCauley School of Nursing for two years before becoming the administrator for Holy Cross School of Nursing in Anderson, IN.

Dr. Zink came to Purdue in 1974 as Associate Professor and Section Chairman of the Associate Degree Program in Nursing. She was also Acting Head from 1974-1975. She served as Assistant Head for Instructional Administration from 1982-1992. In the last decade, she has focused on teaching leadership and management.

“The basic thing we are still teaching students is to be leaders in all practice settings. It is important that they be creative, critical thinkers, futurists, who are comfortable with communication and delegation,” she says.

“I try to teach students what they can do to further nursing, how they can give quality patient care with limited resources, and the importance of ethical and legal responsibilities with regard to delegation.”

“Mary Helen provides an extremely important historical perspective and wise counsel,” says School of Nursing head Dr. Julie Novak.

In retirement, Dr. Zink, who is primary caretaker for her mother, hopes to do more traveling and become more involved with the community at the new University Place complex where they live. It is also likely she will continue teaching in some way: “It’s always been a dream of mine to work with elementary school students,” she says.

She also enjoys outdoor activities such as golf and sailing, and maintains a condo and sailboat in the Traverse City area of Michigan. And it is likely she will heed her own advice: “Always keep growing.”

Mary Helen Zink, EdD, RN, MA

ENGAGEMENT/SERVICE

Pamela Aaltonen, MS, RN, served as mentor for Indiana Team of the Mid-America Regional Public Health Leadership Institute (University of Illinois Chicago School of Public Health).

Carol Baird, DNS, APRN, BC, is a grant proposal reviewer for American Nurses Foundation grants and Sigma Theta Tau International grants, and a manuscript reviewer for the Journal of Advanced Nursing, Orthopaedic Nursing Journal, and Worldviews on Evidence-Based Nursing. She is also a committee member of the Indiana Arthritis Initiative Steering Committee, Indiana State Department of Health, and was an invited participant at the 2004 DIS International Educators Conference; Denmark International Studies.

Diane Campbell, MSN, RN, serves as treasurer of Sigma Theta Tau’s Delta Omicron chapter, teaches pregnancy classes at Lifecare Services (a local crisis pregnancy center), and is a member of the March of Dimes speaker’s bureau for area high school classes. She is also a member of the program services committee for the March of Dimes.

Karen Chang, PhD, RN, was a reviewer for Health Resources and Services Administration Nursing Workforce Diversity grant, Feb. 17-20, 2004, and helped Lafayette Adult Learning Academy develop a proposal requesting equipment related to grant, Feb. 17-20, 2004, and helped Lafayette Adult Learning and Services Administration Nursing Workforce Diversity Committee, Indiana State Department of Health, and was an invited participant at the 2004 DIS International Educators Conference; Denmark International Studies.

Diane Campbell, MSN, RN, serves as treasurer of Sigma Theta Tau’s Delta Omicron chapter, teaches pregnancy classes at Lifecare Services (a local crisis pregnancy center), and is a member of the March of Dimes speaker’s bureau for area high school classes. She is also a member of the program services committee for the March of Dimes.

Karen Chang, PhD, RN, was a reviewer for Health Resources and Services Administration Nursing Workforce Diversity grant, Feb. 17-20, 2004, and helped Lafayette Adult Learning Academy develop a proposal requesting equipment related to information technology. She is also chair of the Research Committee of Sigma Theta Tau International Society, Delta Omicron Chapter.

Patricia Coyle-Rogers, PhD, MSN, RN,BC, was named to the American Nurses Association Center for Continuing Education & Professional Development panel of nurse CNE expert reviewers.

Julie Novak, DNSc, RN, MA, CPNP, FAANP, and Karen Chang, PhD, RN, serve on the Purdue University Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering Launch Team. Novak serves as President of the STTI Delta Omicron chapter.

Julie Novak, DNSc, RN, MA, CPNP, FAANP, chaired the National Nursing Coalition for School Health, American Nurses Foundation.

Laura Sands, PhD, became a reviewer for “The Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences.”

Kathleen Sebrey-Schafer, MSN, RNC, NP, and Julie Novak, DNSc, RN, MA, CPNP, FAANP, serve on the Advocacy and Political Strategies Committee of the Female Athlete Triad Coalition. Novak also serves on the Executive Committee.

Barbra Wall, PhD, RN, is a Panel Reviewer for the National Library of Medicine/NIH Publication, September 2004.

SharonWilkinson, PhD, RN, CNS, is an Indiana Association Infant Mental Health board member and chairperson of the strategic planning committee.

Karen Yehle, MS, APRN, BC, is a Sigma Theta Tau International Abstract Reviewer, Leadership Sessions, International level, for the 2005 Convention and was named an appraiser for the Commission on Approval by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.
### NEW FACULTY / TRANSITIONS

**Martha Libster, PhD, RN, CNS,** was appointed Associate Professor of Nursing. She holds a doctoral degree in Humanities-Healthcare from Oxford Brookes University in England, and an MSN in psychiatric nursing from the University of Colorado. Her research areas include: history of nursing prior to 1860, botanical and other domestic medicine, healthcare reform and cultural aspects of health and healing. She held faculty positions at the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Colorado Health Science Center School of Nursing. She was also director of the Integrative Resource Center for Cancer at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. She is the author of three books and speaks internationally on the integration of traditional healing and nursing practice.

**Jacqueline Nielsen, PhD(c), RN, MSN, AOCN, CNS,** was appointed Visiting Assistant Professor. She earned her ASN and BSN from the Purdue School of Nursing and an MSN Oncology CNS from IU. She is also certified as an Advanced Oncology Certified Nurse (AOCN). She has worked as a staff nurse, charge nurse, nursing supervisor and oncology CNS for 14 years at Greater Lafayette Health Services. She has facilitated cancer support groups and community cancer screenings. She created the first local dedicated Community Cancer Resource Collection in cooperation with the West Lafayette Public Library and coordinated Camp Bluebird (an adult cancer retreat).

**Linda Bowman, MS, RN,** has been appointed Continuing Lecturer. She received her BS in nursing and MS in Child Development and Family Studies from Purdue. She was COO at Arnett Health Systems for 18 years, adjunct faculty in the Business Division at Ivy Tech State College, instructor for the Society for Human Resource Management Certification Program, and Executive Director of the multi-county Visiting Nurse Home Health Service, Inc. and Comprehensive Health Services, Inc. for 12 years. Bowman has provided leadership to a variety of non-profit community groups including the United Way. Her teaching areas at Purdue are leadership and management, public health, community engagement, and service learning.

**Mel Braswell, MS, RN, CNS, CNOR,** Clinical Assistant Professor, has been named Assignment Coordinator for the School of Nursing. In this newly approved position, she will coordinate clinical site placements, course assignments, and corresponding faculty assignments. She works closely with the Assistant Head of Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Program Directors for course scheduling needs, and with the Director of Engagement for clinical site needs. She has been with Greater Lafayette Health Services for 31 years, and is currently Education Manager for Perioperative Services.

**Lynn Davis, MSN, FNP-C, RN,** has been appointed Visiting Assistant Instructor. She received her FNP from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2004. She was a practicing RN for 25 years in home health, public health. She taught pediatrics, adolescent health, adult and women’s health and ambulatory care at Ivy Tech State College. At Purdue, she teaches health assessment and public health nursing at the Family Health Clinic of Carroll County.

**Yolanda Gonzales, BSN, RN, MS(c),** has been appointed Visiting Assistant Instructor. She graduated from the Purdue School of Nursing in 2000, and has worked in labor and delivery at Home Hospital. She is completing her MS in women’s health at IUPUI. At Purdue, she is mentored by Professors Jane Kirkpatrick and DeDe Campbell as a member of the maternal health teaching team.

**Kimberly DeJarnett Nelson, MSN, RN, CS, ANP, FNP,** has been named Visiting Assistant Professor of Nursing. She earned a BSN from Ball State University in 1986, and an MSN from Indiana University in 1996 specializing in Primary Health Care of Adults - Adult Nurse Practitioner. She completed her Post Master’s Family Nurse Practitioner at the University of Indianapolis in 1998. She has worked in Internal Medicine, ER, occupational medicine, and cardiology. Currently, she is employed by Arnett HealthSystem in Internal Medicine in a group of five MDs and two NPs. At Purdue, she teaches the Adult Nurse Practitioner seminar and role transition course.
Heather Rich, RN, BSN, MS student, has been appointed Visiting Clinical Instructor. She graduated from Purdue in May 2000, and is currently working towards her MS degree through IUPUI (Peds CNS). Her previous employment includes staff nurse and patient care coordinator at Home Hospital Pediatrics. She was also adjunct staff at Ivy Tech State College. At Purdue, she is mentored by Professors Jane Overbay and Clara Richardson as a member of the pediatrics teaching team.

Kay Webster, MS, RN, CNS, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Indianapolis and her master’s from the University of Illinois in Chicago. Her expertise includes critical care nursing, home health, and lifelong learning. At Purdue she teaches fundamentals and public health clinicals.

Courtenay Wells, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, has been appointed Visiting Assistant Professor. She earned her BSN from the Indiana University School of Nursing, Indianapolis, in 1998, and her MS from Purdue in 2002. She worked in medical/oncology, inpatient psych, ER, home health, and as a FNP. She teaches psychiatric nursing, practices in the Nursing Center for Family Health, and assists with the preceptorship component of the ANP program.

### STAFF

**Eva Machaty** has joined the School as receptionist and account clerk. A native of Hungary, she taught mathematics and music at the junior high level. After coming to the United States, she worked in financial services and as a decorative painter.

**Sonia Pierce** joined the School’s secretarial support staff. She has 26 years of experience at Greater Lafayette Health Services.

She will support Jane Kirkpatrick, Assistant Head for Academic Affairs, and Pam Aaltonen, Director of Engagement. She will also support the maternal health and public health teaching teams.

**ALUMNI, SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

We love to hear from alumni! Send us a note about yourself—position, promotion, professional activities, publications, honors, marriage, babies, change of address. We will use your news in the ALUMNI ALMANAC section of the next issue of Purdue Nurse. We can also use photos!

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Check here if this is a change of address

E-mail

Activities

Mail to: Lynn Holland, Purdue Nurse, Johnson Hall School of Nursing, 502 N. University St., West Lafayette, IN 47907-2069 or email lholland@nursing.purdue.edu
Where Are Purdue School of Nursing Alumni?

Map by Melissa Danner

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