SCHOOL CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ALUMNI
It is a great honor to be selected to serve as the Head of this great School of Nursing.

I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity to engage my colleagues, our practice partners, the community, alumni, and friends in efforts to promote the growth and development of the School at this important time in our history.

We have outstanding students enrolling in our programs. The freshman class came to campus this fall with the highest SAT scores of any major at Purdue. Nursing is a high demand major with a record 1,100 applications for next year! The ability to provide scholarships is helping us recruit some of the very best and brightest students.

The number of students in our Master’s and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs continues to grow, and we expect a positive final report in April from the recent accreditation review.

I am also pleased to report that graduates of our Doctor of Nursing practice program are making a big impact on the healthcare systems and educational institutions where they are working.

Nursing has an opportunity to make a significant impact on the way healthcare is delivered in our nation. With the increased need for primary care providers, our advance practice nurses are needed more than ever before. Our students receive first-hand experiences at the nurse-managed clinics at Delphi and Monon, where needs of the underserved in rural Indiana are being met very effectively. The designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center brings new opportunities for financial sustainability and innovation.

We are also anticipating changes in the college structure at the university. A proposal is under review to restructure several academic units into a College of Health and Human Sciences. The Board of Trustees is expected to act on this proposal at their February meeting. The School of Nursing will be a part of this new college, and will remain intact as a School.

Other academic units to be included in the college include all four departments of the College of Consumer and Family Sciences (Child Development and Family Studies, Consumer Sciences and Retailing, Hospitality and Tourism Management, Foods and Nutrition), as well as Health and Kinesiology, Health Sciences, Psychological Sciences, and Speech Languages and Hearing Sciences.

If approved, a transition team and a transitional dean will be announced for a projected July 1 launch. We anticipate that this change will provide increased interdisciplinary opportunities for teaching, research, and engagement.

A strategic planning process for the School of Nursing has already begun. We are exploring many options to better position the faculty, our students, and the school as a whole at the national level, in our healthcare community, and within the university. Be sure we have your current e-mail address so we can keep you informed. You can provide it on the form on page 27, or online at www.nursing.purdue.edu.

I also want to express how much we all appreciate the financial support of our alumni and friends during these tough economic times. Your donations really make a difference in helping us meet our mission. Thank you and Hail Purdue!
Of the thousands of students at each Purdue graduation ceremony, only one is chosen to give the Student Response. In the history of the School of Nursing, two graduates have been selected for this honor: Kelly McMains (BS’09) and Sara Cheaney Shaffer (BS’97)

McMains: Dream Big, Make It Reality

“Reaching for large goals can be a painstaking process, but the perseverance that was instilled in us here at Purdue has already put us one step above the rest.

“Now is the time to dream big, focus on those dreams and start making them a reality,” said nursing graduate Kelly McMains in her speech as student responder at the May 2009 University graduation ceremony.

Student responders are chosen by the Deans on the basis of academic achievements, awards, oral presentations skills, leadership experience and service to the university and the community.

During her undergraduate career, McMains was twice elected to the Purdue University Student Senate and was elected President Pro Tempore Senate Session VII.

She also served as the Vice Chairman of the Purdue Panhellenic Judicial Board, was a member of the Purduettes, and studied abroad in Scotland.

Shaffer: Take the Positives With You

Nursing graduate Sara Cheaney Shaffer was the University Student Responder in May 1997.

“My speech was about not having any regrets and taking with you the many positive things that Purdue provided you,” she says.

“For me, these were my nursing education, my friends, values gained from the organizations I belonged to, and my faith.

“I fell in love with nursing at Purdue, and I am grateful to the nurse educators who helped instill that passion in me.

“I will never forget the moment that my mother, Betty Cheaney, pinned me. She was a nurse, which was what inspired me to pursue the profession. She died in 2001 from leukemia, and my goal in life is to live up to her legacy.

“She was an amazing and humble nurse, wife, and mother, and that is what I am trying to be each day.”

Shaffer is currently a Nurse Midwife and a Lieutenant Commander, stationed at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

She was commissioned into the U.S. Navy through the Purdue ROTC program in 1997 and was a staff nurse at Naval Medical Center San Diego from 1997-2000 as a labor and delivery nurse.

She also had tours of duty at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton and Naval Hospital Jacksonville.

She attended graduate school at San Diego State University, and earned a master’s in Community Health Nursing, Nurse Midwifery. She is also certified as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant.

McMains begins her nursing career as an RN in the cardiac intensive care unit at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, and PRN at Community North’s Indiana Surgery Center.

Kelly’s mother, Cheryl McMains, is also a Purdue Nursing graduate, making Kelly and her sister Kristi “legacy” students (read that story on page 6).
Nurse-Managed Clinics Get New Lease On Life

Last year, with federal, state, and university budget constraints, the future of the Purdue nurse-managed clinics looked almost as bleak as the Indiana winter landscape.

But in February 2009, President Barak Obama announced the allocation of $155 million to 126 community health centers nationwide.

The Purdue School of Nursing’s Family Health Clinics in Monon and Delphi (Carroll County) received $1.3 million of those funds. The two sites, now known as North Central Nursing Clinics (NCNC), were also designated as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC).

“This is a validation of what we have been doing in our nurse-managed clinics for years,” says Jane Kirkpatrick, Head of the School of Nursing.

“The funding will help the clinics maintain healthcare homes for vulnerable, underserved rural populations of all ages, from infants to seniors, regardless of income.

“In this era of national debate about how to best provide healthcare to the underserved, we have the opportunity to demonstrate how well our model works,” she says.

Last year, the clinics handled 5,880 patient visits. The federal stimulus funding will stabilize the clinics’ financial situations over the next two years, and allow an expansion of services as well as additional staff.

FQHC Designation Important

While the funding helps to provide immediate financial stability, the Federally Qualified Health Clinic designation is equally important, Kirkpatrick says.

“We now have improved Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates, access to discount drug programs, and additional grant opportunities.”

The school has already received two additional grants from the Health Resources and Services Administration. One will support expanding the hours of access at the Monon site and the other will support an electronic medical record system.

The Family Health Clinic of Carroll County opened in 1982 with a grant written by Jo Brooks and Nancy Edwards. The North Central Health Clinics’ recent $1.3 million grant was secured by Julie Novak and Libby Richards.

Community Involvement

Community involvement is one of the major requirements for Federally Qualified Health Centers.

The North Central Nursing Clinics fit that model. Each has an individual board of community members, plus a governing board that includes a majority of active, registered clients of the clinics along with community leaders.

“This makes clinic operations a client-driven, community partnership,” Kirkpatrick says.
The staff of Purdue’s nurse managed clinics include (front, from left) Denise Honeycutt, billing clerk; Karen Atcheson, RN; Cindy Wasson, secretary; Jennifer Coddington, DNP, CPNP, co-clinical director; Rinda Garcia, interpreter; Angie Windell, LPN. Back row, Jim Layman, executive director; Abby Vandewalle, business manager; Dr. Michele Whitt, collaborating physician, Lynn Davis, CFNP; Liz O’Neil, CFNP, co-clinical director; Barb Strasburger, ANP/FNP, coordinator Family Health Clinic of Carroll County; Monica Keyes, ANP; Deb Mears, RN; and Jan Davis, CNM.

“We are also especially fortunate to have the support of our collaborating physicians, Dr. Brian Doggett (general practice), Dr. Michele Whitt (obstetrics), and Dr. Jim Bien (pediatrics),” Kirkpatrick says.

**Redirecting Pediatric Care**

While the North Central Nursing Clinics are enjoying expansion and the security of being Federally Qualified Health Clinics, the Trinity Nursing Center for Child Health in Lafayette has closed.

Opened in 2006 in collaboration with Trinity United Methodist Church, the specialty pediatric clinic provided healthcare for a total of 705 patients over the past three years.

However, the cost of providing this care over the long term, along with the increased availability of pediatric care following the NCNC expansion and the opening of a pediatric annex at the Riggs Community Health Center in Lafayette, provided new opportunities.

“This was a hard decision to make,” Kirkpatrick says, “but having a means for patients to have sustainable access to a healthcare home was the priority.”

Jennifer Coddington, coordinator of the Trinity Clinic, moved her practice to the Family Health Clinic of Carroll County and is now co-clinical director of the North Central Nursing Clinics.

Susan Kersey, a psychiatric mental health advanced practice nurse, also moved from the Trinity site to Carroll County and is seeing pediatric patients there.
Years or decades might separate members of ‘legacy’ families, yet a sense of shared experience and tradition links them with one another and with the Purdue School of Nursing.

“Nursing was an easy choice for me to encourage my daughters towards, since it has been such a great career for me and my family,” says Cheryl McMains (AAS’80), mother of Purdue nursing graduate Kelly (BS’09) and sophomore nursing student Kristi McMains.

“I always told them that a nurse could move to any city and get a job, and that a nursing background can be put to work in many areas--insurance, office nursing, business. “Nursing is such a smart career choice for any young woman or man, and I’m very happy that the girls followed my advice and ecstatic that they could attend Purdue!”

Kelly McMains (BS’09) started as a pre-pharmacy major, but realized she wanted more patient contact. “My mom had been telling me my whole life that I would make a great nurse,” she says. “I guess moms always know best.”

Kristi McMains, currently a nursing sophomore on a full-academic scholarship, says, “I loved hearing my mom and my aunt, Sheree Schroeder (AAS’78) tell me stories about nursing. And I absolutely love passing my mom’s graduation picture every day on my way to class!”

Rachel Edwards (BS’09) decided to come to Purdue because she felt the nursing program was the best in the state.

“I wanted to go to a big school where I could enjoy Big 10 sports and activities but also have the small school atmosphere within the nursing program,” she says.

“I’d always heard positive comments about Purdue’s nursing program from my mom (Nancy Edwards, AD’78, BSN’80, MSN’05) and her sisters (Carol Bailey, AD’75, BS’78; Janet Baker, AD’68; and Mary Ann Caswell, AD’69, DNP’09).”

Rachel is now representing nursing in the field of medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine. “I want to bring a nursing perspective to the role of physician,” she says.

Marjorie Smith McCaskey graduated from Purdue Nursing on May 16, 1981. Her daughter, Erin, was born on Nurses Day the year Marjorie turned 28, and Erin graduated from the School of Nursing on May 16, 2009, 28 years after her mother.

Erin began her U.S. Army Nurse career a month after graduation, reporting to Ft. Knox as the company nurse for an ROTC training course. She began orientation at Womack AMC in North Carolina in August. Margie is continuing her education as a Doctor of Nursing Practice student at Purdue.

Lea Baunach says her father had everything to do with why she chose Purdue as well as nursing.

“After seeing my Dad go through nursing school at Purdue, seeing the kind of nurse they made him, hearing stories about his nursing adventures, and seeing all the opportunities nursing has provided for him, I knew nursing was the profession for me,” she says.

“After shadowing him at Wishard ER and seeing how he changed people’s lives every day, whether it was by literally bringing them back from the dead or simply giving them a brown bag lunch, I knew my goal was to be a caring, compassionate and intelligent nurse just like my father.

“He encouraged me to apply at Purdue and had nothing but good things to say about it. As it turns out, it was the best decision I ever made!”

Lea and her father are both employed at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis. He is in the ER and ICU and she is in the medical surgical unit.
Audrey (Christy) Heasty (AAS’67), Rita (Heasty) Chee (AAS’72)
Patricia (Rockhill) Zawierucha (AAS’80), Denise (Zawierucha) Sharpe (BS’86)
Nellie (Cole) Kretzschmar (AAS’72), Deborah (Kretzschmar) Weida (BS’89)
Harriett (McKimson) Wofford (AAS’66), Lezlee (Wofford) Tucker (AAS’77)
Jane Ann (Gick) Cox (BS’89), Elizabeth Jane (Cox) Hull (BS’95)
Mary Elizabeth (Cable) Wolf (AAS’68), Jennee Wolf (BS’93)
Marilyn (Koons) Coldiron (AAS’69), Vanda (Coldiron) Laloga (BS’94)
Suzanne (Torrance) Goss (AAS’72), Rachelle (Goss) Hawkins (BS’97)
Suzanne (Torrance) Goss (AAS’72), Rebecca (Goss) Meisberger (BS’00)
Janet (McWhinney) Blossom (BS’81), Sarah (Blossom) Eads (BS’97)
Julie (Ricks) Bible (BS’94), Amber (Bible) Mizzinakoski (BS’98)

Jill (Burton) Thomas (AAS’74), Amanda (Thomas) Craig (BS’98)
Deborah (Sweet) Carter (AAS’72), Melinda (Carter) Miller (BS’99)
Debra (Gracher) Berg (AAS’75), Elizabeth (Berg) Brown (BS’01)
Luann (Hubner) Fowler (AAS’73, BS’83), Melissa Fowler (BS’04)
Anna (Neubauer) Nice (AAS’75, BS’82), Katrina (Nice) Masterson (BS’87)
Susan (Gudeman) Braun (AAS’73), Andrea Braun (BS’03)
Dianne (Moore) Fletcher (AAS’77, BS’81), Kristyn (Bishop) Fletcher (BS’08)
Sandra (Raver) Bishop (AAS’76, BS’78), Caroline Otte (BS’04)
Teri (Smead) Wright (AAS’76), Tina Wright (BS’04)
Denise (Thoennes) Engler (AAS’80), Ashley Riley (BS’08)

If we have missed you, please let us know.
E-mail lholland@purdue.edu
Steve Baunach (BS'97) holds the Purdue Nursing flag in Afghanistan. He is now back stateside, working at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis.

Serving Their Country

Purdue nursing alumni take care of troops, help rebuild infrastructure and civilian affairs

Since his graduation from Purdue School of Nursing in 1997, Steve Baunach has worked trauma ER and cardiovascular recovery, helped build an all digital hospital, and commanded a Combat Support Hospital for the U.S. Army.

He recently finished his second tour of duty in Afghanistan as a Civil Affairs Officer, responsible for building the medical infrastructure in Zabul province, and for building relations with the local people.

“One thing that helps the Afghan people accept us is employment and education. As a Civil Affairs Officer I could make those things happen,” Baunach says.

“To get started we taught some village chiefs how to develop projects, write contracts, get funding, and implement the project. That made them important local heroes and resources for the villages.

“There are a large number of projects going on, and the locals are accepting our military base and turning away from insurgency, so we’re winning the battle,” Baunach says. Other projects include improvements to a medical clinic, clean water projects, and a host of work for locals to do on the base itself.

Continued on next page
“The strategy has been to spend less on larger projects and money on hiring Afghans to help themselves, learn a trade, and give them a reason to leave the insurgency,” Baunach says.

“Several of the worst areas have responded favorably to the efforts. It’s a partnership that’s working and giving hope both for us and for the Afghans that we can find a way out of this turmoil.”

Baunach was also able contribute to the care of wounded. “I was not there as a nurse, but when you have experience, you’re welcome to join in during any mass casualty event,” he says.

“On my last tour I helped treat some wounded Marines. From fragmentation injuries to missing limbs, it was a medical and an emotional experience I will not forget.

“All of my experience and education came together to help the soldiers when they needed it most.

“When you have few supplies and few capabilities, it really comes down to what you know and what you can do. It’s a challenge that was made possible by my education at Purdue.”

When Baunach returned stateside last fall, he joined Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis in the emergency room. He has recently accepted a short term contract as a consultant to a Florida hospital group as project manager for their Health Information Systems, and will be redeploying to Afghanistan by mid-summer of this year.

Watching people die in the intensive care unit changed Lynn Tomlonson Ammon’s nursing path.

“I decided I wanted the opportunity to intervene in people’s lives earlier, and hopefully help them avoid a stay in the ICU,” she says.

Ammon (BS’89) was one of seven nursing students from her class who joined the Air Force upon graduation. Their swearing in was incorporated into the pinning ceremony.

The Air Force assigned her to a surgical ward and later the ICU, and sent her to school for her master’s degree in nursing. “One thing I have enjoyed most with the Air Force has been the ability to explore different aspects of nursing,” she says.

Ammon has been stationed overseas twice (England and Germany). She recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan. She is currently on her last tour of duty, stationed at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL. She will soon retire with 20 years of service, and become a stay-at-home mom with her children, ages 3 and 4 1/2.

Other Alums On Duty

Angela Jones (BS’03) is a staff nurse on a telemetry unit in Apple Valley, CA after serving in the Army for four years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

<Termy Jones@yahoo.com>

Terry Mathews (BS’01) is assigned to Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, CO. He is in his residency year of the two-year U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Business and Health Administration. <terry.mathews@us.army.mil>

Amy Updike (BS’06 ) is serving in the Emergency Department with the 47th Combat Support Hospital in Tikrit, Iraq. Upon completion of this deployment, she will be stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. < amy.updike@us.army.mil>

We invite nursing alumni in the military, past and present, to share their stories in future issues of the Purdue Nurse and on the School of Nursing website. E-mail lholland@purdue.edu.
Outstanding Alumni

Nursing Care
In the Air

When Donna York Clark (AS’80, BS’82) began her nursing studies, she wanted to be an oncology nurse. But during her senior year, she was involved in a major automobile accident. This experience inspired her passion for trauma and critical care.

Clark began her career in high acuity settings at Northwestern in Chicago, and then Loyola Medical Center, where she was selected to be an original crew member in the Loyola LIFESTAR helicopter program. Later she went to Stanford University Life Flight, first as Chief Flight Nurse and then as Program Director.

At Stanford, Clark spearheaded several quality improvement programs. She also designed an interior for the helicopter that optimized patient care including safer head strike zones and improved ergonomics for the loading/off-loading of patients.

From there, Clark joined the Dartmouth-Hitchcock DHART program as Clinical Educator, then Program Director. She led the team through advancements in areas such as competency training, team building, research, and education.

Her desire to more globally influence nursing care in the air led her to join Golden Hour Data Systems, a software company specializing in computerized charting and integrated solutions for emergency medical transportation providers. She is currently a Senior Account Manager for the company, based in Indianapolis.

“Golden Hour’s approach includes customer support, data analytics, and professional services,” she says. “I am passionate about the work because of the impact it has on patient care and sustaining much needed air medical and critical care ground transport.”

Her dedication to the air medical community and her desire to make a difference in the profession has propelled her to participate in the work of several national organizations, including the Air and Surface Transport Nurses Association and the Association of Air Medical Services.

Her primary focus in these organizations has been education, and she has coordinated conferences, standardized curriculum, and participated in writing a textbook. She is also editor for the Flight and Ground Transport Nursing core curriculum.

Clark is married to John Clark JD, EMT-P, operations manager for Clarian Transport Services. They live in Carmel with their seven-year-old daughter, Caitlin.

“My Purdue nursing education has prepared me to face all the challenges my career has exposed me to and more,” she says.

“The most wonderful thing about undergrad at Purdue was the exposure to all the other areas of study and students. Purdue helped me to understand that there is not just one way to do things. If you are grounded in the principles, the sky is the limit!” < donnayorkclark@yahoo.com>
The people who work with Elizabeth (Betsy) Vance, Purdue Nursing’s Young Alumni for 2009, call her a rising star who gets things done.

Vance (BS’99) is the Emergency Department Performance Improvement Coordinator at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis. Her responsibilities and contributions reach far in every direction.

Recently she introduced the Emergency Department Leadership Team to behavioral expectations based on excellence. “We are committed to providing excellent medical care to our patients. It seems fitting that we have the same expectations for the manner in which we treat each other,” she says.

Vance mentors new nurses at the bedside and encourages them to be involved in the shared governance of the hospital.

“I love teaching the new nurses,” she says. “They remind me how important basic nursing skills are. No matter what new and innovative technology we have, nothing replaces the fundamentals.”

Vance has also been instrumental in the development of the clerical support staff. She provides orientation and supervision, as well as empowering them to become more involved in patient contact and efficiencies.

Vance participates in a wide variety of hospital committees, including initiatives for patient safety and satisfaction.

“Patient safety is especially important in the busy environment of the Emergency Department,” she says.

“I really like reviewing incident reports and analyzing all of the factors associated with the incident. It is important to determine if it was genuine human error or the result of an overall systems issue. The only way to help prevent or reduce future incidents is by taking corrective action.”

Vance also abstracts and reports the hospital’s performance for the Core Measure of Pneumonia, and heads a multi-disciplinary team to evaluate and improve care for patients admitted with pneumonia.

“We specifically are looking closely at the antibiotic selection and the appropriateness and how that plays with this subset of patients,” she says.

Vance maintains her Emergency Nursing certification and has begun to pursue an advanced degree as an acute care nurse practitioner.

Medical Support for Racers

Vance is also an active member of the Emergency Nursing Association and works part-time as a nurse traveling with the Indy Racing League.

“There have been great advancements in racing that protect the drivers,” she says. “The cars and the tracks are designed to dissipate the G-forces associated with crashes, which equates to less major injuries with each crash.

Vance says the best thing about her Purdue education is the strong foundation it provided.

“My advice for new graduates is to remember the basics. Keep your patients clean, safe, and dignified. Always follow the 5 Rights of Medication Administration and when in doubt, don’t be afraid to ask a question.” <Elizabeth.Vance@wishard.edu>

Alumni Award Nominations Now Open!

Nursing’s alumni awards were created to recognize graduates who have made exceptional contributions to the art and science of nursing.

Candidates can be nominated by employers, co-workers, employees, students, friends, or patients. Recipients will be recognized at the Helen R. Johnson Leadership Conference on April 16, 2010.

Nominations are due March 1, 2010. You can find the form at www.nursing.purdue.edu/alumni/awards.
Seniors Give Back to School

Since 2008, Purdue seniors have had the opportunity to participate in the “Senior Class Difference” campaign, where they can give back to Purdue and their school/unit.

Last year, three nursing seniors, Rachel Edwards, Mitch Knisely, and Catie Neff, successfully led the Nursing senior class gift. Their efforts resulted in the highest participation within the entire University, with over 51% of the senior class making a contribution.

“With the School’s alumni giving rate at about 7%, this effort demonstrates the leadership in the 2008-2009 senior class,” says nursing Development Director Travis Stoutenborough. “This senior class has definitely set a precedent in giving back!”

Students Staff Mass H1N1 Immunization Clinics

Over 50 nursing students volunteered to staff two mass H1N1 immunization clinics open to all Purdue University students as well as other high-priority categories.

Approximately 2,600 people were immunized over two days. Nursing faculty supervised the students, along with personnel from the Purdue Student Health Center and the Tippecanoe County Health Department.
Senior Leadership Projects Benefit Community

Senior students fanned out across the community during the fall semester to develop their leadership and teamwork skills while helping others.

Each group chose a community agency to work with, did a needs assessment, created a project, applied for grant monies, put on the event, and gave a class presentation about the result.

Several groups chose to put on health fairs for children and parents involved in Head Start, the Boys and Girls Club, Homeschoolers Association, Glen Acres School, and Tippecanoe Child Care.

Other projects included:
- “Role model night” at the Purdue Co-Rec gym for older children from Cary Home.
- Health and education information session for teenage mothers of preschoolers.
- Creation of a community services manual for the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.
- A smoking cessation program for parents of infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Home Hospital.
- Several groups worked with the Purdue nurse-managed clinics, publicizing services and moving, restocking, and organizing the food pantry.

Come Visit for Spring Fest!

This spring, senior leadership students will organize and present health promotion activities at the University Spring Fest. Alums and friends are welcome to come to the Helen R. Johnson Leadership Conference and Luncheon on Friday, April 16, and stay for Spring Fest on April 17 and 18!

Students Work, Donate at Breast Tissue Donation Event

In November, Purdue Nursing students volunteered to help the Indiana University Simon Cancer Center hold a breast tissue collection event at Clarian Arnett Hospital in Lafayette. The students prepped patients, assisted in the surgery, and some donated tissue.

In one day, six surgeons collected normal breast tissue from 111 donors. Collecting specimens from women who have had breast cancer and also from those who have not provides an invaluable research resource.
**Graduate Program**

**Five Students Earn DNP Degrees**

Five students have completed requirements for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

- **Susan McAlister**, *Vibrational Frequencies in Wound Healing*. She is director of Palliative Care and Hospice for Clarian Health.
- **Laura Beamer**, *Preventive and Screening Health Behaviors In the Presence of a First Degree Relative with Colon Cancer*. She joins Centegra Oncology Services at Sage Cancer Center.
- **Mary Ann Caswell**, *Evaluation of the Impact of High-fidelity Simulation on Competence and Confidence in Knowledge Transference by Nursing Students*. She teaches at SUNY Canton, Canton, NY.
- **Jennifer Coddington**, *Quality of Care and Policy Barriers to Providing Health Care at a Pediatric Nurse Managed Clinic*. She teaches at the Purdue School of Nursing and practices at the Family Health Clinic of Carroll County.

**Master's Degrees Awarded**

**Adult Nurse Practitioner Graduates**

- Laura Armstrong (ANP Certificate); Heather Askren, Diane Hountz, Janelle Potetz

**Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Graduates**

- Sara Bard, Megan Behrmann, Inna Savikhin

**Grant Supports Graduate Program**

The School of Nursing has received a $890,420 grant from DHHS/HRSA. The objectives of the grant are to:

- Recruit, admit, retain, and graduate increased numbers of students in the PNP, ANP, and DNP programs.
- Expand ANP program to include mental health/behavioral health and post master’s Oncology certification.
- Increase experts in the community in homeland security, emergency preparedness, quality improvement, systems engineering, and patient safety.

**Accreditation Visit Positive**

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation site visit for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program was Nov. 9-11. The visitors were also reaccrediting the Master’s programs.

The visitors’ formal report stated that the program met every standard and every key element. There were no recommendations for improvement made.

In addition, the visitors were complimentary of many things: the nurse-managed clinics as a place for student learning, faculty practice, university engagement, and research on healthcare delivery; the DNP program’s collaborative interdisciplinary nature; and the strong alumni, preceptor, and community support.

Next steps in the accreditation process will be the meeting of the CCNE Accreditation Review Committee in February to review the team’s report and the school’s self-study. Recommendations go to the Board of Commissioners who meet in April. Official notification will come within 30 days of the April meeting.

**Graduate Programs Accepting Applications**

Applications are now being accepted for the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Adult Nurse Practitioner, and post-master’s oncology certification programs. Applications are considered on a rolling admissions basis.

Applications for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program are due April 1 for fall semester entry and Sept. 1 for spring semester entry.

See www.purdue.edu for program and application information.
How well are Indiana hospitals prepared to cope with a pandemic flu outbreak?

Purdue nursing professors, along with the Healthcare Technical Assistance Program (HealthcareTAP), Homeland Security Institute, and health workers from nearby counties, recently participated in an exercise to test hospital plans focusing on the continuation of essential healthcare services during a pandemic flu outbreak.

HealthcareTAP is using a $523,000 grant from the Indiana State Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to fund the project.

"We are looking at how hospitals will deliver essential services for non-flu patients while also providing care to large numbers of flu patients during a pandemic outbreak," said Mary Anne Sloan, HealthcareTAP’s director, and also a Purdue Nursing graduate (BS’87).

"We have worked with Indiana counties to develop written plans, and now we are testing those plans. The exercise scenario takes participants through the first week and through weeks three and five of an outbreak as more and more people are becoming ill," Sloan said.

"We have a model that simulates how many people would come through the hospital and stress the use of planning and resources of healthcare systems to respond to that demand.

“We ask questions: Do they have enough supplies and staffing? Do they have an effective security plan? How will they establish triage to see large numbers of patients? Will their communications be effective as their hospital becomes more stressed? How are they working with community partners?"

Retirement Community Opens Doors for Researchers

Nursing professor Karen Yehle sometimes has problems finding subjects for her heart failure education research.

Now, however, she has a whole new population to work with at University Place, a local retirement community where many Purdue retirees live.

Yehle’s work is one of three research programs being coordinated by Purdue’s Center on Aging and the Life Course aimed at improving people’s physical states as they age.

“Since many of the residents are retired professors, they understand the importance of research,” she says.

Her study will focus on improving heart health and decreasing heart failure.

“Our goal is to develop individually tailored education for patients and caregivers that is based on their health literacy, in order to better help them perform heart failure self-care activities,” she says.
Development

Sustaining a Legacy

LaNelle Geddes has created an unrestricted endowment for the School of Nursing which will generate funds to be used at the Head’s discretion. Dr. Geddes, Head of the School of Nursing from 1980 to 1992, knows firsthand how important it is for an administrator to have unrestricted funds. “Two of the most beautiful words for a department head are ‘discretionary funds,’” she says. “There are a lot of extra things that appropriations just do not provide for. An administrator really appreciates, and needs, having some funds to use the way they feel will best help the School. “Unrestricted funds provide the School of Nursing with the flexibility needed to meet pressing demands of staying current in higher education.”

Inspiring the Future

Kathleen Risa (AAS’70) and her husband, Kristen, (CE’69, MS’70), of Pittsburgh, PA, remember their time at Purdue very fondly. Kathleen attributes her successes to the education and support she received. She currently works as an education coordinator for the MRSA program for the VA National Center for Patient Safety in Pittsburgh. “If it was not for Purdue, I would not be where I am today,” she says.

“As the oldest of six children, finding money for school was tough. Helen Johnson gave me an opportunity that changed my life!” The Risas have established a scholarship endowment, also taking advantage of the President’s and Trustee match. This fund will provide scholarships to undergraduates in the School of Nursing and the School of Civil Engineering.

“Kristen and I have been so blessed and owe a great deal to our Purdue education. Now it is our turn to give back so others may have the same opportunities we did,” she says.

Making Simulation Work

Steve (BS’97) and Lyn (Elementary Education ’90) Goldsberry are helping to support state-of-the-art equipment in the Center for Nursing Education and Simulation. “I like how simulation puts students in real time situations,” Steve says.

“It’s so important that nurses be well prepared, because they are the last line for patient safety.” The Goldsberry’s gift will purchase video equipment for taping students during simulation scenarios. They made the gift because Steve attributes much of his success to the School of Nursing and the professors he had here.

“Though there were some tough times, I learned to work hard to overcome obstacles that may come my way,” he says.

He now works as a sales representative for Zimmer Midwest selling total hip and knee replacements. <steve.goldsberry@zimmer.com>

“Two of the most beautiful words that appropriations just do not provide for. An administrator really appreciates, and needs, having some funds to use the way they feel will best help the School. “Unrestricted funds provide the School of Nursing with the flexibility needed to meet pressing demands of staying current in higher education.”

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In Memory of a Mother

Sharon (BA’76) and John (Chemistry, MS’77, PhD’78) Landis of Carmel, IN, have endowed a nursing scholarship that memorializes Sharon’s mother, Martha Jane Eversole Morrill.

Martha, a hospital nurse, is remembered as a loving wife and mother to her family.

“Establishing this fund is a way that we can memorialize her dedication. Her family admired her bravery as she battled lung cancer, which led to her untimely passing at age 53, and wish to honor her memory with this scholarship,” Sharon says.

“Giving to education is very important to John and me. We were both fortunate to attend Purdue and would like to give others the opportunity as well. Supporting students in their educational endeavors is a rewarding experience.”

Sharon’s daughter, Elizabeth, is following in her grandmother’s footsteps. Choosing nursing as her field of study, she is now a fourth generation Boilermaker on her mother’s side. She started classes at the Purdue School of Nursing in Fall 2009.

In Honor of a Wife

Dr. Tom Kelly has established a Presidential and Trustee Scholarship in honor of his wife, Janine Goujon-Kelly (BS ’80), who died Dec. 25, 2009. She had battled Alzheimer’s for the past 10 years.

The scholarship in her memory will offer support to students based on academic merit.

“This is an opportunity to give back to the School of Nursing, which gave Janine the opportunity to accomplish so much in her life and care for a vast amount of patients,” said Dr. Kelly. “Janine cared deeply about her education and her ability to care for patients in need.”

Her career involved caring for patients at various Lafayette area hospitals, including St. Elizabeth’s, Home Hospital, and Americana Nursing Home, which is now St. Mary’s Health Center. She retired from Wabash Valley Hospital in 1994.

Dr. Kelly would like for anyone who has memories of Janine to send anecdotes to him at kellyt@purdue.edu.

Donations Honor the Past, Help the Future

To make a contribution to the Janine Goujon-Kelly Scholarship fund, to another established scholarship fund, or to make a donation to the School of Nursing, contact Travis Stoutenborough, Director of Development, at 765-494-4013 or tstouten@purdue.edu.
Roger and Connie (AAS’81, BS’83) Hoffer have been named “Purdue Heros” for their commitment to offering hope, changing lives, and diminishing disparity.

After their time at Purdue (Roger is a retired professor of wildlife biology), the Hoffers returned home to Colorado. They became engaged with service and giving back to their community and other communities.

Their first disaster response was with the Red Cross during Hurricane Katrina. Connie utilized her nursing skills on a healthcare team assessing people who needed care. While she was helping more patients in the healthcare shelter, Roger was also making an impact assessing damage, building homes, and helping individuals start putting their lives back together.

After Hurricane Katrina, the Hoffers responded to the San Diego wildfires. Connie provided healthcare support for a Native American population. Roger helped a family with five children ranging in age from 3 to 15 years. Their house and the father’s workplace had burned to the ground.

The Hoffers have helped in other natural disasters including flooding in Illinois, Hurricane Ike, and tornadoes that struck Arkansas and Colorado. They pledge to make a difference as long as they are able.

Though they don’t ask for the recognition, Roger and Connie Hoffer are true heroes. Because of them, lives have been changed for the better. Their humility and sincerity is an example for everyone. <candrhoff@gmail.com>

The “Purdue Heroes” program was developed by last year’s Iron Key class, a Purdue honorary organization which is made up of top Purdue student leaders who work anonymously on a service project.

Eleven people/couples were selected as Purdue Heroes from hundreds of nominations, and are recognized in a series of video specials on the Big Ten Network.

Mitch Knisely (BS’09), a member of Iron Key class, is a hero in his own right. He earned a GPA of 3.66 in the nursing curriculum, while also seeking out other opportunities to serve and share his knowledge and expertise.

He was President of the School of Nursing Student Council, served two years as Student Council Treasurer, and co-led the Senior Class Difference Project.

He was chairman of the Career Fair committee for two years, a School of Nursing Ambassador, and the student representative on the search committee for the new head of the School of Nursing.

Knisely started his career in the medical ICU of Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX. “I like the critical thinking and challenges of the intensive care unit,” he says. “I like the patient population, and the general medicine focus challenges me to always learn more.” He is currently applying to graduate school to become an advanced nurse practitioner. <mitchkisely@gmail.com>
Kirkpatrick Appointed Head of School

Following a national search, Jane Kirkpatrick has been named head of Purdue University’s School of Nursing and associate dean in the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences.

Hers is a familiar face in Johnson Hall, as she has been on Purdue’s nursing faculty since 1981. “I have known or had the privilege of working for every Head of Nursing here at Purdue,” she says. “To work in the same office where they worked is very humbling. I am deeply honored and ready to serve.”

One of her first tasks will be to lead the faculty in creating a new strategic plan for the school. “We will identify areas of excellence, continue to recruit strategically for those areas, and continue to grow and develop our programs,” she says.

A major emphasis of Kirkpatrick’s professional career has been centered on using technology to support nursing education.

She has successfully garnered resources for the development of multimedia instructional programs. She is author of computer-based education programs on newborn assessment and nursing care in labor and delivery which are used in nursing schools and hospitals across the country. She received the Pinnacle Award in 2004 and the International Tribute Award for Computer-based Education Technology from Sigma Theta Tau International in 2005 for this work.

Her most recent research work has been recognized in both the nursing and education fields, receiving awards from the Midwest Nursing Research Society in 2008 and Ed-Media’s World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia, and Telecommunications in 2009.

An award-winning educator, Kirkpatrick received the LaNelle E. Geddes Excellence in Teaching Award, was named to the Purdue Book of Great Teachers, and was inducted into the Purdue Teaching Academy, all in 2003.

She also received the Education Excellence Award from the Indiana section of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses in 1997. She is certified in Inpatient Obstetrics by National Certification Corporation, and her practice expertise includes all areas of inpatient obstetrics and neonatal intensive care.

Kirkpatrick received her undergraduate degrees in nursing from Purdue, her master’s degree from Indiana University and completed her doctorate in educational technology at Purdue. She is a recent past chair of Purdue’s Teaching Academy executive council. <jmkirk@purdue.edu>
Faculty News

Sonya Bledsoe, MSN, RN, has joined the faculty as Limited Term Lecturer, teaching adult health medical surgical nursing at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Indianapolis. Her master’s degree is from Indiana Wesleyan.

Karen Chang, PhD, RN, has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure.

Lesa Cole, BSN, RN, is Adjunct Faculty, teaching adult health medical surgical nursing at Clarian Arnett Hospital in Lafayette. Her degree is from Indiana University, Kokomo.

Darlene Doss, MSN, RN, is Adjunct Faculty, teaching adult health medical surgical nursing at Clarian Arnett Hospital in Lafayette. Her master’s degree is from University of Indianapolis.

Jan Davis, CNM, RN, has joined the faculty as Continuing Lecturer, teaching pharmacology and women’s health. Her master’s degree is from Case Western Reserve.

Susan DeCrane, PhD, CNS-BC, RN, has joined the faculty as Assistant Professor, teaching fundamentals. Her degree is from the University of Iowa, and her areas of research are gerontology, delirium in older adults, and patient outcomes.

Roseann Griggs, PhD, FNP-BC, RN, has joined the faculty as Clinical Associate Professor, teaching physical assessment and adult health and practicing at the Family Health Clinic of Carroll County. Her degree is from Southern Illinois University.

Elaine Hannigan, MSN, RN, has joined the faculty as Continuing Lecturer, teaching pathophysiology and adult health. Her master’s degree is from Indiana University.

Carmen Jones, FNP-BC, RN, has joined the faculty as Clinical Assistant Professor, teaching public health. Her master’s degree is from Indiana University.

Pam Karagory, MSN, MSB, RN, has joined the faculty as Continuing Lecturer, teaching dynamics and fundamentals. Her master’s degree is from St. Joseph’s College of Maine.

Katrina Masterson, MSN, RN, has joined the faculty as a Limited Term Lecturer, teaching health assessment clinical. Her master’s degree is from Purdue University, Calumet.

Vicki Simpson, MSN, RN, has joined the faculty as a Clinical Assistant Professor, teaching fundamentals. Her master’s degree is from Indiana University.

Chris Rearick, RN, has joined the Nursing Center for Family Health. Her degree is from Indiana University School of Nursing.

Deborah Spoerner, CPNP, RN, has joined the faculty as Clinical Assistant Professor, teaching pediatrics. Her post-master’s study of computers in nursing education was completed at Indiana University.

Trina Wright, MSN, RN, has joined the faculty as Continuing Lecturer, teaching physical assessment and women’s health. Her master’s degree is from Indiana University.

Retirements

Julie Novak and Donna Schmeiser have both retired as Professors Emerita.

Bledsoe
Chang
Cole
Doss
Davis
DeCrane
Griggs
Hannigan
Jones
Karagory
Masterson
Rearick
Simpson
Spoerner
Wright
Novak
Schmeiser
GRANTS


Foli, K. (2009) “Adoption Professionals’ and Advocates’ Perceptions of Depression in Adoptive Parents,” Summer Faculty Grant, Purdue Research Foundation, $8,000.


Novak, J. (2009) “Family Health Clinic of Monon: Rural Clinic Support,” White County Memorial Hospital, $10,000.


PUBLICATIONS


Faculty News


APPOINTMENTS/AWARDS

Pam Aaltonen was appointed to serve on the Essential Services Review Committee to review status of Indiana State Department of Health. She was also selected to receive the 2009 West Great Lakes Regional Director’s Award from the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

Mary Ilu Altman has been selected as a faculty fellow by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.

Julie Albert completed the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner course through the Indianapolis Center of Hope. In April 2009, she became a NCC Board Certified Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner.

Mel Braswell was appointed to the Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) National Recommended Practices Committee and Advance Practice Nurses Task Force.

Karen Chang is chair-elect for the Nursing Informatics Section of the Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Patricia Coyle Rogers was named National Chair, Commission on Credentialing, American Nurses Credentialing Center; member of the Executive Board of the American Nurses Credentialing Center; and representative of the Committee on Credentialing to the American Nurses Association Board. She is also chapter author for “Mastering the Teaching Role: A Guide for Nurse Educators,” which was named Most Valuable Text of 2008 by the American Journal of Nursing.

Jennifer Coddington earned her DNP from the Purdue School of Nursing. Her project was titled “Quality of Care and Policy Barriers to Providing Health Care at a Pediatric Nurse Managed Clinic.” She was also named a “Rising Star of the Scholarship and Research Poster Program” by Sigma Theta Tau International.

Lynn Holland has been appointed the College of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Health Sciences representative on the University’s Administrative and Professional Staff Advisory Committee.

Susan Kaufman was selected to receive the School of Nursing Enhancement Award for outstanding contributions in advancing the goals and objectives of the academic program.

Jane Kirkpatrick was invited to serve as the Judge Chair for the Sigma Theta Tau International Computer-Based Professional Education Technology Award.

Libby Richards and Loretta Krebs were selected to attend a Geriatric Nursing Education Consortium, a national initiative of AACN to enhance geriatric content in senior-level undergraduate nursing courses.

Laura Sands was awarded the Friend of Nursing award from the Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society.

Robert Schrmitzer has been appointed to the Board of the Greater Lafayette Parish Nurse Development Center.

Professor emerita Ruth Wukasch was honored with the Indiana University 2009 Nursing Alumni of the Year award.

Karen Yehle was appointed as a member of the Subcommittee for the Jessie M. Scott Award at the American Nurses Association, and as a member on the Committee on Approval, Indiana State Nurses Association. She was also invited to be a manuscript reviewer for Nursing Education Perspectives.
Cynthia Bozich Keith has been selected as a Fellow of the Teaching Academy for Purdue University. The Teaching Academy strives to bring together the best teaching faculty across campus to create a collective voice for teaching and learning on campus. Faculty are nominated by their peers to join this elite group of faculty representing all disciplines. Their primary focus is to increase the effectiveness of all of the faculty at Purdue University.

Bozich Keith is a Clinical Nurse Specialist In Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing. She is currently involved in a collaborative research project with faculty in the Department of Educational Studies, Counseling, and Development focusing on a new method of teaching nursing students about group process, group dynamics, and group facilitation through student experience as a group member, not just a group observer.

Pamela Aaltonen was one of four exceptional Purdue professors honored with 2009 Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Awards in memory of Charles B. Murphy. The Murphy is given annually in recognition of outstanding undergraduate teaching, and is the University’s highest undergraduate teaching honor.

A Purdue faculty member since 1979, Aaltonen has previously been recognized by her school and her college for her teaching excellence and willingness to help students inside and outside the classroom. She was inducted into Purdue’s Teaching Academy in 2008.

Students appreciate her enthusiasm as she focuses on cultivating interest in and recognition of the value of all aspects of the healthcare system.

Many of Aaltonen’s classroom activities are designed to engage students’ imaginations and allow them to see the work of public health in people’s everyday lives. To encourage student participation in class, she has, for example developed a triage exercise that requires undergraduates to respond to a simulated train derailment at Indiana Beach.

She arranged two H1N1 mass immunization clinics on campus this fall, staffed by nursing student volunteers. Each summer, she takes a select group of students to the Navajo Nation in Arizona for a clinical public health nursing experience.

“The point of these exercises is to develop the capacity of students to make informed decisions as well as to facilitate an informed decision-making process among the clients and patients with whom they interact,” she says.

Aaltonen also tries to emphasize the need for lifelong learning, and she models this by being active in professional organizations, reading and discussing current literature with students, and mentoring young professionals.

“We all should embrace the need for continuous learning and development, and part of our job is to provide students with a toolbox of means of accomplishing this,” she says.

“Systems are not stagnant nor are the individuals who work within these systems.”
1960s

Charlene Lipetska Wilcox (AAS’66) is Director of Nursing at University Ambulatory Surgery Center in San Diego. She is a member of the Quality Advisory Board of Surgical Care Affiliates (formerly Healthsouth) with California being her territory. She also does consulting to assist Ambulatory Surgery Centers to become licensed, certified, and accredited. <cwilcox246@aol.com>

Mary T. Mauck (AAS’67) (BSN, MSN Indiana University) is a Department Administrator for Southern California Permanente Medical Group in Lomita, CA. She manages a medical office building for Kaiser Permanente with 27 primary care providers including pediatrics and OB/GYN. She recently completed implementation of electronic medical records in acute and ambulatory facilities. <marymauck@sbcglobal.net>

Vicki Norris (AAS’68) is a retired Veterans Administration nurse, who now enjoys more time with four grown children and a grandson. She moved back to Lafayette, her hometown, in June 2009. <vicki.norris@att.net>

Patricia Robertson McCain (AAS’69), a school nurse for nine years, has been named president-elect of the Michigan Association of School Nurses. <pjmccain@stcs.org>

Constance King Neundorfer (BS’76) believes it was the fundamental strength of her Purdue education which allowed her to get back into practice after being away from nursing for many years.

After graduation, she worked in a hospital and a dermatologist’s office until she and her husband, Mark (EE’76), began having children. When those children got to be teenagers, she took a six-month refresher course at a community college, then began working at a 125-bed hospital, floating between telemetry, med-surg, emergency, mother/baby, and orthopedics.

“I was scared of going back to school,” she remembers. “When I quit nursing they didn’t even have CAT scans, so technology was a big thing.” Even so, she was “still way ahead” because of her Purdue education.

She also taught licensed vocational nurses at Tomball and Lone Star community colleges in Texas before retiring to enjoy gardening, grandchildren, jazzercise, book club, and Bible study. <neundorfer@sbcglobal.net>

1970s

Susan Haig Blom (AAS’72) is a triage nurse at the Purdue University Student Health Center. <sblom@purdue.edu>

Cindy Hirt McCammet (AAS’75, BS’77) has been employed for 30 years at Decatur County (IL) Memorial Hospital, where she is currently Director of Performance Quality Improvement. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ). She and her husband, Larry, have two sons in college and enjoy traveling to see their baseball games. <cindymc@dcmh.net>

Linda Allelyne Dye (BS’76) (MS, Northwestern State University, 1977; EdD, University of South Florida, 1998) presented Understanding Traumatic Brain Injuries for the Legal Nurse Consultant...The Good, The Bad, The Ugly at the 2009 American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants National Education Conference held April 21-25, 2009 in Glendale, AZ. Dr. Dye is a legal nurse consultant for the law firm of Clark Martino, P.A. in Tampa, FL. <ldye@clarkmartino.com>

Susan Jane Modlin (BS’77) completed her PhD in Nursing at Indiana University in 2008 and moved to Anchorage AK, where she is currently an Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Alaska. <threethreeds0kids@yahoo.com>

1980s

Terri Bame Hendrickson (BS’86) has been in the Neonatal ICU at Methodist Hospital in Gary for 20 years. She has two children, Adam, who is a Purdue freshman this year, and Emily, a high school freshman. <terribame@sbcglobal.net>

Maryann Cyr Goedde (BS’87) is working at St. Vincent, Indianapolis, as a circulator nurse in the main OR. Her oldest son is a junior at Purdue, her daughter is a freshman at IU, her second son is a junior in high school, and her third son is eight year old. <megoedde001@indy.rr.com>

1990s

Jodi Herron Behr (BS’94) is a Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist at Kosair Children’s Hospital/Norton Healthcare in Louisville, KY. <jodi.behr@nortonhealthcare.org>

Lisa Dobogai (BS’94) has taken a position with Celgene Pharmaceutical Company as a Clinical Nurse Consultant. <sctapn@gmail.com>

Rhonda Logsdon Valentine (BS’94) has worked at St. Vincent Seton Specialty Hospital since 1998. From 2004 to 2007 she was the Infection Control/Quality Review nurse. In January 2007 she went to seasonal nursing as a staff nurse, working part of the year in Florida and part in the Lafayette/Indianapolis area. <rlvalentrn@yahoo.com>
April Hutt Sargent (BS’96) worked four years as the NICU and Newborn Nursery Clinical Educator for Norton Suburban Hospital in Louisville, KY. In May 2008 she accepted the position of Assistant Nurse Manager at Kosair Children’s Hospital’s NICU, a 96-bed Level 4 NICU.  

Denise Swanson Skradski (BS’96) graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2006 with a Master’s of Science in Nursing specializing in anesthesia. She is a Nurse Anesthetist at Allegheny Valley Hospital (PA) and lives outside of Pittsburgh with her husband, Rich, (ChE’96) and their two sons, Gavin and Aiden.  

Melissa Muensterman Singer (BS’97) lives in Evansville, IN, with her husband, Matt (BCT’95), and their two children, Iric, 9, and Ansley, 4. She received her master’s degree from the University of Southern Indiana in 2002 and is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She currently works for Deaconess Hospital Primary Care for Seniors and is working toward certification as a Gerontology Nurse Practitioner.  

Chasity Piscione Wellnitz (BS’97) earned a master’s degree in public health from the University of Michigan in 2004. She is employed as RN Pediatric Critical Care Database Manager within the Quality/Performance Department and is on the College of Nursing Faculty in the area of Pediatric Critical Care/Public Health Nursing at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.  

Noelle Dilling Lottes (BS’98, MS’02) is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Clarian Arnett Health in Lafayette. She is the current president of the Purdue Nurses Alumni Organization. Noelle has been married to her husband, Aaron, for 11 years and they have three children, Emma, 7, Alex, 4, and Evan, 1 1/2.  

Amanda Houser Rardon (BS’98) is the Emergency Department Charge Nurse at Clarian Arnett Hospital Lafayette IN. She is an ENPC instructor and also works PRN at Witham Hospital ER. She has three children, Clayton, 10, Keeven, 6, and Emmalyn, 5.  

Jody Oliverius Rodgers (BS’98) earned her master’s degree in nursing from Purdue Calumet in August 2007. Currently she is a Family Nurse Practitioner at LaPorte Regional Physician Network rural health clinic and has two daughters, Molly, 9, and Maggie, 5.  

Amy Rutschmann Shinneman (BS’98) and her husband, Tim (EE’99) welcomed their first daughter, Emmalee Rose, on March 9, 2008. Amy received her certification as a CPAN (Certified PeriAnesthesia Nurse) in May 2008. She is RN/CPAN and Adjunct Clinical Faculty at Mercy Medical Center and Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, IA.  

Erika Olsen (BS’99) has received the Laura Snitzer-Boozer Nursing Award from the Aflac Cancer Center of Children’s Hospital in Atlanta. The award honors nurses who have demonstrated professional excellence and leadership in pediatric cancer care and provides financial support for continued education in the field of oncology.  

Angie Overmeyer Markwalder (BS’91) and Dan Markwalder (DVM’91) married in 1992, moved to Crystal Lake, IL, in 1993 and opened their first veterinary clinic in 1994. They now have three clinics in the Fox Valley area. After graduation, Angie worked as an OB nurse at St. Francis in Beech Grove, then Elgin, IL. She has also worked in two nursing homes and as a mammography nurse. Due to infertility issues, Angie and Dan adopted Robert, 10, from Guatemala, Nathan, 8, from South Korea, Jeremiah, 5, from Florida, and then became pregnant with Colin Liam, born Aug. 7, 2009.  

Fran Kottke (BS’86) enjoyed her 20-year career in obstetrics, but four years ago she decided to seek work in a more spiritual setting. She joined Hospice of Lenawee, MI as an RN case manager.  

“For the first time in my nursing career I am able to use the concept of holistic nursing I learned in my studies at Purdue,” she says.  

“Hospice nursing really does take into account the physical, psycho/social and spiritual aspects of our patients and families.  

“I work with a team of social workers and spiritual providers to offer the full spectrum of care people require. There is quite a connection between giving birth (birthing) and dying.  

“Like birth, it is a humbling experience to be present at the moment of death, and to feel the presence of the divine. You realize you are not in control, there is something far greater present. It is an honor to do this work.”  

Jody Oliverius Rodgers (BS’98) earned her master’s degree in nursing from Purdue Calumet in August 2007. Currently she is a Family Nurse Practitioner at LaPorte Regional Physician Network rural health clinic and has two daughters, Molly, 9, and Maggie, 5.  

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2000s

Tricia Meegan Grabinski (BS’00) and her husband, Jim, (EE’01) welcomed their second child, Owen, on May 5, 2009. Their first child, Emma, was born Oct. 26, 2006. <tricia@grabinski.net>

Kristy Engelsman Todd (BS’00), and her husband, Michael, welcomed a son, William Lennon Todd, on Jan. 22, 2009. They reside in Louisville, KY where Kristy works in day surgery at Jewish Hospital.

Elizabeth Berg Brown (BS’01) welcomed a daughter, Meghan Sarah Elizabeth, on Sept. 15, 2008 <prdnrslisa@aol.com>

Courtney Andres Schilmiller (BS’01) completed her master’s degree at Indiana University (Indianapolis). She is an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner with University Cardiothoracic Surgical Associates. She and her husband, Mike, have a two sons, Andrew, 2, and Will, born in March 2009. <schilmllr@yahoo.com>

Julie White Albert (BS’02) and her husband, Cory, welcomed a son, Owen Christopher, on July 22, 2009. She passed her Women’s Health Practitioner board certification exam and is working at the Trinity Free Clinic in Hamilton County. She also writes a column on women’s health for the Westfield Declaration magazine. <juliesalbert@gmail.com>

Dawn Frautschy (BS’02) graduated in December 2008 with her master’s from Duke. In February 2009, she passed the boards to become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, and in July 2009, she passed the boards to become a Certified Lactation Consultant. She practices in the Neonatal Intensive Care unit of UNC Hospital, Raleigh, NC. <dawn.frautschy@duke.edu>

Laura Johnson Garman (BS’02) is a staff nurse in the PICU at Clarian North Medical Center, Carmel. <laura.garman@comcast.net>

Amy Sheets Konkle (BS’02) is a Clinical Application Support Analyst for Clarian Health Partners. In this role, she serves as a liaison between clinicians and developers of the Cerner electronic medical record system.

Trisha Butwin Wright (BS’02) worked at Methodist for a year before beginning travel nursing, completing assignments in Santa Barbara, Boca Raton, Baltimore, and Ft. Lauderdale. She married and moved to Terre Haute and now practices at an outpatient surgery center in pre/post recovery area. <trisharn1@yahoo.com>

Jaima Cummins Breeding (BS’03) is an RN in Obstetrics for Clarian Health, Indianapolis. <jaimabreeding@yahoo.com>

Stephanie Shelley Kefer (BS’04) is staff nurse in Surgery at St. Francis Heart Center, Indianapolis. She married Michael Kefer (BS’04 College of Science) and graduated in May from the University of Indianapolis as a Family Nurse Practitioner. <skefer@gmail.com>

Holly Martin (BS’03) and her husband, Mike, welcomed a daughter, Hannah Marie, on Oct. 29, 2009. <PURDUENUR03@yahoo.com>

Maribel Alvarado (BS’06) is an RN on the OB unit of Saint Joe Regional Medical Center in Plymouth, IN.

Paige Morrow Larsen (BS’06) and her husband, Joshua, celebrate the birth of a daughter, Hannah Joy, born Sept. 23, 2009. Paige works as a postpartum nurse at Clarian North Medical Center.

Trista Anderson Stormer (BS’06) is an RN in Labor and Delivery at St. Francis, Indianapolis. She married Brock Stormer (BA’07 Liberal Arts) on Sept. 27, 2008. <tristamichelle_RN@yahoo.com>

Jennifer Lasher (BS’07) graduated in August 2008 from Vanderbilt University, passed boards, and is working as a pediatric nurse practitioner in primary care in Evansville, IN. <jmlasher@gmail.com>

Barbara Smith (BS’07) is an RN in the Specialty ICU at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago. <barbarajanesmith07@gmail.com>

Melinda Peters Henke (BS’08) is employed as a staff RN in surgery at the LaPorte Hospital. She was married on May 31, 2008. <mindyhenke@gmail.com>

Jenna Giesler Smoker (BS’08) and her husband, David, welcomed a son, Wyatt Allen, on Sept. 11, 2008. Jenna is an RN on the Labor and Delivery/Post Partum Unit of Union Hospital in Terre Haute, IN. <jngiesle@purdue.edu>

Lea Baunach (BS’09) is an RN on the medical surgical floor at Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis. <lbaunach09@gmail.com>

Alexandra Masching (BS’09) is an RN at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago. <alexandramasching@gmail.com>

Deanna Stiefel (BS’09) is an RN in the Emergency Room at The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, OH. <deanna.stiefel@gmail.com>

Reconnect with classmates—Check us out on Facebook: Purdue Nursing Alumni
Beth Ellen Risch Stayer (BS’99), of Whitestown, IN, died Friday, June 12, at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. She was 34.

After leaving Purdue, she specialized in postpartum care and was employed at Clarian North Medical Center in Carmel. Raised on a farm, she enjoyed the outdoors and was very athletic.


Born in West Virginia to missionary parents, Eoto grew up in Africa in the Belgian Congo. She earned a BA in English at Transylvania University, BSN in nursing at Vanderbilt, and Master’s in Nursing Education at Indiana University.

After serving as a public health nurse in Tennessee and working at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, she was invited to teach in the new nursing program at Purdue University in 1963, ultimately serving as assistant head and director of academic counseling until her retirement in 1988.
Friday, April 16, 2010

12th ANNUAL HELEN R. JOHNSON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AND LUNCHEON

“Nursing’s Quest for Quality of Care”

Speakers:
Barbra Wall, PhD, RN
“Catholic Hospitals, Nurses, and The Historic Quest for Quality of Care”

Angela Barron McBride, PhD, RN, FAANP
“A Decade of IOM Quality Reports: Is Nursing Prepared for Leadership?”

2010 School of Nursing Outstanding Alumni Winners

Jane Kirkpatrick, PhD, RN, Head of the School of Nursing

Conference details and luncheon registration at www.nursing.purdue.edu

Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18, 2010

PURDUE SPRING FEST

School of Nursing Senior Leadership students will host a tent full of hands-on health activities for this university-wide celebration!

Spring Fest details at www.ag.purdue.edu/extension/springfest

Nominations are due March 1 for 2010 Outstanding Nursing Alumni nominations. Check www.purdue.edu/alumni for information and forms.