Making An Impact:

Innovative Education
Interdisciplinary Research
Healthcare Delivery
Welcome to our annual edition of the Purdue Nurse. It is an exciting time for our profession and an exciting time to be involved with nursing at Purdue.

New forces are influencing our profession...the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) seminal report The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health, the focus on comparative effectiveness research by federal funding agencies such as AHRQ and NIH, expansion of electronic health records and use of technology for personal health management, as well as the initiatives of healthcare reform to enhance wellness and prevention are all pointing to tremendous opportunities for nursing to make an impact on the future of healthcare.

As the profession that has the most actual contact time with patients, we have earned trust and respect. Our patients and others need to clearly understand the role that nurses play in promoting optimal health and wellness in all environments, and it is up to each of us to communicate this message.

At Purdue, we are preparing nurses who are ready to meet this challenge. Our Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is preparing expert practitioners whose skills in systems engineering, evidence-based practice, finance, and healthcare policy are already making an impact. Creating unique opportunities for our students is the expertise available to them from our collaboration with Purdue’s world-class College of Engineering. Interdisciplinary collaborations are also emerging within our new College of Health and Human Sciences.

A wonderful gift from Michael Birck in honor of his wife’s career in nursing has endowed our first named professorship. In December, Dr. Laura Sands was appointed as the Katherine Birck Professor of Nursing. Laura Sands has made an indelible mark in the development of our DNP program and serves as a mentor to our emerging research faculty. She continues to bring new understanding of best practices for frail elders through her collaborative interdisciplinary work.

I am also pleased to announce our first joint faculty appointment between nursing and engineering. Dr. Sara McComb is a well respected researcher and innovative educator who has already facilitated new collaborations between our disciplines since joining us in January.

It is a joy to celebrate the many successes of our alumni. Patricia Tablowski (AAS’71, BS’73) was just inducted as a member of the Academy of Nursing and both she and Susan Riker Dolan (AAS’77, BS’79) have recently won AJN Book of the Year awards for their respective texts. Liz O’Neil (BS’96, MS’03), who practices at our nurse-managed FQHC clinic in Monon, IN, has been named the Indiana Nurse Practitioner of the year. Two nursing graduates, Lisa Dobogai Gaston (BS’94) and Laurel Finnerty (BS’03) were selected as members of Purdue’s elite group of “Forty under 40.” I know you will enjoy reading about Julie White Albert (BS’02) and Mary Anne Patton Sloan (BS’87), winners of the Young Alumni and the Career Achievement award in 2010. Nominations are now open for the 2011 alumni recognitions, to be announced at the Annual Helen R. Johnson leadership conference in April. Please send your nomination.

We have a long tradition of excellence in our undergraduate program and it continues to be in high demand. Our current freshmen are among the top students at the university. Not only are our students academically capable, they also are highly engaged. The leadership opportunities at Purdue through student-led organizations as well as course-based service learning projects provide invaluable skill development for professional careers in nursing.

We are in the process of revising the undergraduate program to keep it on the cutting edge of nursing. We welcome input from our alumni, practice partners, and other stakeholders. To share your input, please go to our webpage www.nursing.purdue.edu to find the survey link.

Preparing nurses for the ever-changing dynamic of healthcare is an exhilarating challenge. We are excited about the opportunities for our profession in the future and continue to strive for excellence in learning, discovery, and engagement. We are proud of our Purdue Nurses and the impact they are making.

Jane Kirkpatrick, PhD, RNC-OB
Head, School of Nursing
Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences
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A revolution is brewing in nursing and nursing education – and Purdue’s Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is helping to lead that revolution.

Recently, the Institute of Medicine, in their The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health report, identified three challenges facing nurses:

• To achieve higher levels of education,
• To practice to the full extent of their education, and
• To be full partners in redesigning healthcare.

Purdue’s DNP program is already seeing success in preparing nurse leaders to redesign healthcare and nursing education.

This success is driven, in part, by the unique collaboration with the University’s world-class College of Engineering. Through this collaboration, “nurses are taught to integrate engineering principles as they work to solve healthcare problems,” says DNP program director Nancy Edwards. “They break down problem processes and look at all the pieces.”

“For example, say a hospital has long waits in the Emergency Department before admitted patients can be moved to their rooms. Using a systems approach, all parts of the process of moving a patient from the ED to the nursing unit can be analyzed. This includes activities required of physicians, nurses, clerical, transport, and housekeeping staff.

“Sometimes the root of the problem is in a totally different place than you initially thought. This open and systematic approach avoids blame and allows problems to be solved in a more direct, cost-effective manner.”
Automated Reporting Helps Identify Cause of Falls

Yvonne Culpepper (DNP’10), Vice President of Nursing/Chief Nursing Officer, Hendricks Regional Health, in Danville, IN, relates how applying a systems approach resulted in fewer patient falls in her hospital.

“In the past, all falls data were collected manually by completing chart reviews and compiling tic marks. Nursing, with the help of our Informatics Department, developed a system to automate reporting of falls.

“Today the falls data is current and with the push of a button can be retrieved by shift, by department, by hospital, etc. Automating falls data gave us the opportunity to put the improvement efforts where they needed to be.

“We found that most of our falls occurred on our newly constructed medical unit and most events happened in the patient’s bathroom. Further investigation showed the height of the toilet was approximately six inches lower than the standard on the other nursing units.

“We costed out our fall injuries and compared it to the cost to replace 37 toilets. It was a no-brainer for patient safety to replace the low height toilet with a higher height.

“The outcome data showed that in about a year’s time, we decreased our falls by half.

“Application of knowledge learned in systems analysis, human factors, informatics, policy, health economics, EBP along with other courses in the DNP program had a positive effect on decreasing patient falls.”

Utilizing Electronic Medical Record Reveals Cause of Delays

Sheila Abebe (DNP’10) identified a system problem from the pain management clinic where she practices. Patients faced long wait times, supplies were not at hand, and the clinic administration was planning to add more exam rooms to accommodate patients, thinking that the delays were due to a lack of space.

Using the management concept of lean principles and the systems engineering tool of value stream mapping, Abebe used time-stamps in electronic medical records to analyze the problem.

“She demonstrated that the patients who had not completed pre-assessment paperwork were spending 3-6 hours in the clinic as opposed to 40-90 minutes for patients who had completed the paperwork prior to checking in. These additional hours resulted in exam rooms tied up and all patient care being delayed.

“When Abebe presented this data to staff and providers, discussion focused on options to minimize prolonged wait times. The decision was made to call patients who had not returned their paperwork prior to their scheduled appointment and to reschedule. They were also informed of possible extended wait times associated with paperwork not being completed prior to their scheduled appointment.

“Abebe used value stream mapping to assess the change in patient flow following implementation of this procedure. She reports that new patient wait times have decreased and clinic resources are being used more efficiently without the need to add more exam rooms.”

Combining advanced nursing practice with systems engineering knowledge prepares DNP graduates to re-engineer healthcare delivery.

The DNP plan of study centers on the integration of health policy, economics, quality improvement, clinical expertise, patient safety, and engineering. The end result is the ability to study, develop, and test unique and novel care delivery models that are able to be implemented.

As early as their orientation week, new DNP students identify an area of interest or a clinical problem they face in their professional positions. As they progress through the program, they acquire the tools and techniques that allow them to systematically examine the problem, synthesize the existing evidence, and build on that evidence to develop and test a solution that enhances patient outcomes and refines the healthcare system.

“Nurses have a long history of working around problems,” says Jane Kirkpatrick, Head of the School of Nursing. “But when nurses are thinking at a system level, they know when the system is broken when they see a work-around happening. A systems thinker will say ‘Wait, what’s not right? Let’s break it down and see what’s not working.’ That’s the kind of problem solving healthcare needs. That’s the revolution Purdue’s DNP students are helping to lead.”

Continued on next page
“We are educating a cadre of nurses who know how to translate research into practice, look at data over time, select outcome measures, and fully examine practice and policy implications.”

IMPACT: EVIDENCE
Translating Research Into Practice

“Empowering nurses to use data to demonstrate the impact of change for all stakeholders is essential. These skills provide nurses with the ability to more efficiently translate research from ‘the bench to the bedside,’” Edwards says.

“We are educating a cadre of nurses who know how to translate research into practice, look at data over time, select outcome measures, and fully examine practice and policy implications. Our DNP graduates’ ability to make change happen in a timely manner can dramatically impact an organization.”

In the DNP biostatistics course students learn to measure and analyze impact and translate statistical findings into conclusions.

Rachel Waltz (DNP’10), a women’s health advanced practice nurse, studied the impact of using a waterless milk warming system on gastric residuals, GI symptoms, oxygen consumption, weight gain, and length of stay in a neonatal intensive care unit.

A hospital had purchased four waterless milk warmers. The nursing staff was favorable to this new method of warming milk, but they wanted evidence to support this change in practice.

Waltz used methods she learned in her DNP courses to evaluate babies’ responses to the waterless milk warmer. She found that systematically collecting unbiased information was essential for establishing the credibility of her findings.

She will present her results to the nurses and the hospital administration to inform the decision of whether to incur the substantial expense of additional warming units for the seven NICUs in the multi-hospital system.

IMPACT: POLICY
Changing System Starts with Evidence

DNP students study policy by tracking a healthcare issue and spending time with state and national legislators and leaders.

“Policy work is advocacy at the highest level,” Edwards says. “One policy change can impact many more individuals than direct care by an individual nurse could ever accomplish.”

Jennifer Coddington (DNP’09) studied policy issues related to quality and access at a pediatric nurse-managed clinic. Her question: How does care received at a nurse-managed clinic compare with select quality indicators and targets set by the Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning?

She found that the nurse-managed clinic met or exceeded national benchmark standards of care and targets for quality of care. “Nurse-managed clinics have the potential to serve as an important safety-net for patients and can positively influence the health outcomes for vulnerable populations,” she says.

“Changing policy to allow nurse practitioners to serve as primary care providers with their own Medicaid panels can increase access for many patients. Nurse practitioners are considered primary care providers in the national healthcare reform legislation; however, because state laws dictate Medicaid policy, practice opportunities vary by state.”

Coddington received a first place award in the category of Evidence-Based Practice for her poster on this work at the 2010 National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) conference.
IMPACT: COLLABORATION

Learning ‘Languages’ Fosters Understanding


“Our students learn to speak the language and understand the priorities of various disciplines as we work together to promote improvement. This is especially true with communicating the fiscal impact of change,” says Jane Kirkpatrick, Head of the School of Nursing.

“Healthcare is a business and when nurses know how to communicate the financial implications of their recommendations in the language used in the business and finance world, they can be better advocates for patients.”

One such interdisciplinary project earned Deb Koester (DNP’09) her position as Project Manager of the Purdue Healthcare Technical Assistance Program (HTAP). Her DNP project was identifying factors that impact delivery of essential public health services in Indiana local public health systems.

A primary objective of her professional role at HTAP has been to develop a systems-based approach to improve population health in Indiana, with specific emphasis on public health systems, performance improvement in public health, and accreditation readiness.

IMPACT: CLINICAL

Finding Evidence-based Answers in Practice

Michael Criswell (DNP’08) and Polly Royal (DNP’08), have applied their DNP education to clinical practice at Indiana University Health Arnett. Criswell is a Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist and Royal is a Medical Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist Fellow.

“A large part of the job is educating nurses,” Royal says. “Another part is problem solving. Wherever there is a problem, I search the literature and find the best evidence and options. Then I present the evidence, get buy-in from all involved, implement the product or intervention, and then reevaluate. The health policy, economic, and systems perspective of my DNP education helps me pull it all together.”

Sally Lowrey, Nursing Quality Specialist and Magnet Coordinator for Indiana University Health Arnett, hired both Criswell and Royal.

“From the nursing leadership and employer standpoint, it is important that our nursing and clinical staff have ongoing access to the ever-emerging best practice and evidence of how to care for patients,” she says.

“The DNP-prepared nurse is a change agent. He/she brings forward evidence-based research findings to change and to improve the delivery of bedside patient care, which leads to our common and overarching goal of improving patient outcomes.”

Susan McAlister (DNP’08) is Director, Clarian Hospice in Indianapolis. She is also leading a chronic disease management program for the state of Indiana’s high risk insurance pool though collaboration with Indiana University Health.

“The DNP program provided me with the tools in policy, governmental affairs, assessment, evidence-based practice, and research that I needed to do this work,” she says.

Terry Ridge (DNP’09) is redesigning the delivery of diabetes care in his family practice group to include the use of shared medical appointments and integration of pharmaceutical trials as part of care.

“My DNP has given me the opportunity to lead a major change in how diabetes care is delivered in our practice,” Ridge says. “It has also given me the opportunity to be the primary investigator in several pharmaceutical trials which provide cutting edge diabetes treatments with new medications.”
IMPACT: EDUCATION
Helping Undergraduate Students
Question Practice, Search for Evidence

The DNP focus on systems and evidence is also spreading into the undergraduate level of nursing education as professors infuse systems thinking into their teaching.

Professor Kit Schafer (DNP’07) says the program’s focus on evidence-based practice taught her to challenge students she teaches in the Nursing Care of Developing Families course.

“For example, we look at the research that changed the recommendations about how often women need to do monthly breast self-exams and receive mammograms,” she says.

“The students had unquestioningly absorbed the media messages without being aware of the evidence used to make recommendations for standards of care. It is such an important process to stimulate a sense of inquiry about nursing practice – and to then excite them about the search for evidence.”

Karen Williams (DNP’09), sought a doctorate in order to meet her professional goals. Since completing the DNP program, she was promoted to associate professor with tenure, and was appointed to serve as Dean of the School of Nursing at Anderson University.

“The most valuable thing I learned in the course of my DNP studies was policy and finance and the value of multidisciplinary collaboration,” she says.

“In my role as dean, I serve on university-wide committees which tackle everyday issues such as enrollment, academic programming, wage and benefits, and marketing. These committees are made up of representatives from across campus coming together for the common good.”

School of Nursing Welcomes
Joint Appointment with Engineering

Sara McComb, PhD, has joined the School of Nursing faculty as Associate Professor, with a joint appointment in the School of Industrial Engineering. Her teaching and research efforts will focus on the intersection between Nursing and Industrial Engineering. She will teach in both programs, including in Nursing’s Healthcare Systems Summer Institute, and mentor graduate students.

McComb’s research interests center on examining team communication, cognition, and collaboration in a variety of settings, such as the interactions between physicians and nurses. Her efforts have uncovered how communication patterns, shared cognition, and collaborative activities impact team productivity and performance. She is also interested in identifying systematic improvement opportunities in healthcare delivery.

“Her expertise strengthens both the DNP program and the link with engineering,” says Jane Kirkpatrick, Head of the School of Nursing.

McComb earned her bachelor’s degree from GMI Engineering & Management Institute and her Master’s degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Her PhD studies were conducted at Purdue’s School of Industrial Engineering, where she examined the role of team dynamics and project complexity on performance.

She comes to Purdue from Texas A&M University, where she held the Parsons Career Development Professorship in Engineering Management in the Dwight Look College of Engineering. Previously, she was on the faculty of the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

DNP Survey Shows Satisfaction

A recent 360 evaluation study of DNP students, graduates, and employers found that graduates are viewed as leaders by their supervisors. They are recognized for their contributions to quality improvement projects and the resultant impact of these projects. Within a year after graduating from the DNP, graduates are advancing their careers; both responsibilities and salaries significantly increase.

Other findings from the survey indicate that Purdue’s DNP program is recognized for its engineering component. This expertise is emerging as a “signature flavor” among DNP programs.

The hybrid approach of the DNP program delivery brings the best of both face-to-face instruction and distance education. On campus contact with faculty from other disciplines during the summer intensive Institute has been an important contribution to the DNP students. As well, the sense of community that develops with the DNP student cohorts has provided support to students during their program.
Making an Impact with the DNP Degree

“I don’t know of a single nurse who doesn’t want to make an impact,” Kirkpatrick says. “The more tools at your disposal, the greater the opportunity! The goal of our DNP program is to generate nurses who can make a tremendous difference in healthcare at all levels. Their ability to analyze problems using a systems approach can improve the work environment, increase efficiency, improve patient satisfaction with the healthcare system, and decrease the cost of healthcare.”

“As you can see from the small sample of graduates highlighted in these pages, DNP graduates are movers and shakers. They learn how to look at things differently. They have built a tool kit to help them solve problems at a systems level.”

Mary Browning (DNP’10), Vice President of Nursing Ambulatory Services for Community Health Network says, “I particularly wanted a practice doctorate because the progression of my career provided an opportunity to work with NP’s and I wanted increased credibility with this group of nurses. I came to get the tools to do my job.”

Laura Beamer chose the DNP based on her desire to learn more about evidence-based practice, health policy, healthcare economics, and epidemiology as they relate to oncology and cancer genetics.

“Earning my DNP enabled me to be awarded an NIH-funded postdoctoral training fellowship in clinical cancer genetics at the City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, CA, where I am conducting a systems study of reflex microsatellite instability (MSI) and immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing on colorectal cancer tumors to screen for Lynch syndrome at 1,133 cancer programs in the U.S.

“This is the first study to look at the adoption of reflex MSI and IHC for colorectal cancer at the system level,” she says.

Summer Healthcare Systems Institute Combines Study, Networking

A six-day intensive Healthcare Systems Institute, June 20-15, 2011, offers nurses and other healthcare professionals the opportunity to learn more about systems engineering, human factors, and epidemiology. The courses can be taken as a certificate or for credit. This institute is offered with the support of the Helene Fuld Health Trust.

For more information and registration, visit www.continuinged.purdue.edu/hcsystemsinsitute or call Jenny Franklin at 765-494-9248.
Laura Sands, professor and Director of Research at the Purdue School of Nursing, has been named to the Katherine Birck Professorship, the school’s first endowed chair.

The appointment recognizes Sands as an excellent faculty member who has made significant accomplishments in research as reflected in a sustained body of work, publications in high-quality, peer reviewed research journals, and demonstrated excellence in teaching and mentoring.

“Kay Birck is interested in developing systems of care that are safe and effective for all patients,” Sands says. “She spent her nursing career improving a system for the delivery of care for expectant mothers. I am also interested in improving systems of care delivery, albeit with a very different population, the oldest old.

“With the resources of this chair, I will be able to continue my work as well as help nursing faculty develop research that will inform delivery of care for other patient populations. What I bring to the table is the interest and experience needed to help our faculty develop successful research programs.”

A Friend of Nursing

Although not a nurse herself, Sands is a friend of nursing in many ways. Her nursing colleagues recognized this early on, electing her the first person to be awarded the “Friend of Nursing” designation from Purdue’s Delta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Nursing Honorary Society.

Sands received a BA in Psychology, a MA in Biostatistics, and a PhD in Quantitative Psychology, all from the University of California, Berkeley. She came to Purdue as an associate professor in 2002 with her husband, Tim, and their four children.

“Working with School of Nursing faculty members is a joy because they are committed to improving healthcare,” she says.

“I have enjoyed what I’ve learned from them. They have helped me understand the many of the complexities of providing healthcare to patients. Nurses are very holistic not only in how they approach the diagnosis and treatment of a patient, but also in how they educate patients and students.”

Sands’ specializations are research methods, health services research and gerontology. At the school and university level, she focuses on these in teaching, mentoring, and her own research.

Her current research is focused on identifying care pathways that optimize health, functioning and quality of life in older adults, particularly those who require long-term care.

“Most long-term care services are paid through state and federal resources so it is important to evaluate whether current programs are meeting patients’ needs,” she says.

“Our recent research reveals that older adults who do not receive the long-term care they need are much more likely to be admitted to a hospital or nursing home compared to those who receive the care they need. Whether those outcomes can be avoided with additional in-home care is the topic of our continuing research.”

Teaching and Mentoring

Sands teaches Biostatistics, Health Care Policy, and Evidence-based Practice to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) students. She also works with graduate students from Statistics, Nutrition, Sociology, and Political Science.

She is also a mentor to faculty. “I help faculty frame research questions, then we work together to design their study. I provide analytic support and we work together to interpret the results and write the results of their study.”
Part of Laura Sands’ qualification for the Katherine Birck Endowed Chair of Nursing is her record of funding and publications in high impact journals. For many of these publications, she served as a mentor to the faculty or graduate students. Stars in the reference list below reflect her role as a mentor to that author.

Currently Funded Grants

Sands, L.P. (2011) Improving assessment of patient preferences in localized prostate cancer. Contract from the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center to Purdue University. $30,000.


Selected Publications


Kay Birck can remember two different times in her life when she had to go to work so there would be food on her family’s dinner table.

Those were the times when her husband, Michael, was starting out in new businesses. And she kept on nursing even as his businesses grew and prospered, eventually retiring in 2007 after 30 years as an office nurse in a five-doctor obstetrics/gynecology practice.

“I truly loved obstetrics,” she says. “That is such a happy time for most people.”

She also enjoyed working with competent doctors. She describes herself as an “old-school nurse,” concerned that things be done right, and that she gets things right.

She is also concerned that today’s student nurses learn the skills they need. “Every nurse needs to be able to do the basics well – clean wounds, take out stitches,” she says.

She also shares some advice for new nurses: there’s usually more to a patient than meets the eye, and more to their story than they might tell you at first. “It’s important to try to understand the whole person,” she says.

During her work life as an office nurse and manager, Kay Birck adhered to a simple creed: Don’t mistreat the staff at the desk or in the back, and don’t mistreat the nurses. If there’s a problem, talk to the person who can make the changes. Her advice to healthcare consumers is the same.

Michael Birck endowed this named chair in the School of Nursing as an honor to his wife’s years of nursing practice.

“Kay Birck was always concerned with efficient and effective practice and delivery of healthcare,” Laura Sands says.

“My goal is that the resources of this chair will enable us to conduct research at the Purdue School of Nursing that addresses these important issues.”
New College Generates Collaborative Opportunities

The new College of Health and Human Sciences at Purdue brings together nine academic units, including the School of Nursing, in an effort to enhance student opportunities and promote faculty collaborations aimed at improving health and quality of life.

The other units are Health and Kinesiology; Psychological Sciences; Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences; Child Development and Family Studies; Foods and Nutrition; Consumer Sciences and Retailing; and Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Health Sciences.

The new college is the third largest at Purdue with nearly 5,000 undergraduates, over 500 graduate students, and 200 faculty members.

A major focus of the new college is encouraging collaboration in the classroom and on identifying and supporting signature research area.

“The opportunities created by aligning these nine academic units together in one college are tremendous,” Chris Ladisch, inaugural dean. “We’re bringing together faculty and staff, students who share a common bond and expertise to discover and create new synergies that make a difference in people’s lives.”

Ladisch says one of the most common questions she hears is: “What’s going to happen to the students?”

“We want their transition from their current colleges to HHS to be as seamless as possible. And so we have academic advisors, along with the faculty, working hard to make that happen.

“The creation of the college is all about our students. It creates a focal point for students seeking academic programs in fields related to health and human sciences. We also hope to attract students who might not otherwise choose Purdue. We’re planning new transformational learning opportunities, and expanding study abroad and experiential learning programs.

“Something else important to me is reaching out to friends and alumni of the college. By virtue of having graduated from a certain program, they’ve inherited us as a new academic home. And we’ve inherited them as alumni. That doesn’t automatically make us feel a sense of community or appreciation for one another. So one of my goals this year is to visit with alumni, talk with them about the new college, and invite them to be a part of it.”

Nursing Partners with Med Students for Communications, Simulation

Better communication between nurses and physicians is the goal of a pilot study of junior nursing students and second year medical students. This is a part of a collaborative project between Purdue’s School of Nursing and the West Lafayette campus of the IU School of Medicine with IU Bloomington’s Schools of Nursing and Medicine.

Nursing students and medical students participated in a patient care scenario using one of the high-fidelity simulators in nursing’s simulation lab.

The case began with the nursing student receiving “report.” The nursing student assessed the patient and reported findings to the medical student. Together, the students collaborated to plan and initiate interventions.

Students are learning role responsibilities and communication skills as a result of this experience. Debriefing after the simulation generates much discussion.

“Learning to communicate with one another early in the educational process is a goal for both of our disciplines,” says Jane Kirkpatrick, Head of the School of Nursing. “We are very pleased to be collaborating with Gordon Coppoc and the IU School of Medicine faculty on our campus. The chance to collaborate with our Bloomington counterparts, Dr. Deanna Reising from nursing and Dr. Douglas Carr from medicine is a wonderful opportunity.”

Purdue nursing faculty involved in the project includes Mope Adeola, Rosanne Griggs, Susan Fisher, Courtenay Wells, and Elaine Hannigan.
Service Learning Projects
Hone Leadership Skills

Health Fair Wins Community Award

Each semester, students in the Senior Leadership class complete service learning projects. “Service learning is a powerful teaching strategy in which students, along with community agencies/organizations, create partnerships – with rigorous academic learning embedded in that service,” says Leadership professor Karen Foli. “The synergies between the community partners, students, and faculty create a win-win-win.”

During the fall semester, students choose a community organization to partner with. They perform a needs assessment, decide on a project, draft a memo of understanding, and apply for grants.

The Vice Provost for Engagement offers a Student Grant Program that allows students to apply for funds to support the service learning projects. As they complete the grant application, the students gain skills, such as budgeting, and learn how to communicate the mission of their community partners and their specific project objectives.

Additional funds for the School of Nursing service learning projects have also been gifted by Linda Rohrman, an advocate for children’s mental health needs.

“We are fortunate here at Purdue and the School of Nursing to have a strong infrastructure and external support that facilitates service learning. These funds have made a real impact in this community – to our partners and to individuals,” Foli says.

One of the groups was selected to receive the Greater Lafayette Commerce Community Activity Recognition Award for their project.

The award-winning group met with the principal of a local elementary school who told them that the school had many at-risk children who lacked basic healthcare information and services.

The nursing students planned a health fair, coordinating with a dozen local vendors and organizations to provide services and information booths. They also visited each classroom to talk about flu prevention.

“These students went above and beyond and took on a large project because they saw a need and aimed to meet that need,” Foli says.

Senior Class Brings Health Education to University Spring Fest

The Spring 2010 Senior Leadership class joined together to create a tent full of family-friendly health education activities for the University’s annual Spring Fest as their service learning project.

This was the first year the School of Nursing had a prominent place in the festivities, and it was a huge success.

Engaging games and activities provided information about mental health, stress relief, sleep, smoking cessation, healthy snacks, demonstrations with a simulation model, blood pressure checks, and hand washing.

Senior Leadership students will direct and manage the Spring Fest Health Tent again this year on April 9-10, 2011. We hope to see you there.
Three Nursing Students Who...

Over the past academic year, Purdue created a “5 STUDENTS WHO” series which focused on students whose unique activities distinguish them beyond the classroom. Three nursing students were among those featured.

John Scherschel is a passionate hiker, spending his summers backpacking in the rugged mountains of the Sangre de Cristo range of the Rockies in northern New Mexico. To stay in shape, Scherschel walks the two miles to class every day.

Besides hiking, Scherschel loves photography and has a book cover to his credit. His career goal is to work in the emergency room. In the long term, he wants to earn a graduate degree in an area related to wilderness therapy or become a professor.

Emily McHugh’s dream is to be an advocate for patient education and prevention for the Latino population or opening her own nurse-managed clinic providing prenatal and mother/baby care.

“I would love to become a certified translator so I could comfort Spanish-speaking patients in their own language,” she says.

After two medical mission trips to Ecuador as a student, Emily is now coordinating and leading medical brigades sent by the Indianapolis-based Timmy Foundation. She also serves as a community health nurse with mobile medical units traveling to the impoverished and isolated barrios of southern Quito. “When I think of the person I want to be, I know this will bring me one step closer to becoming that person,” she says.

Fittingly, two of the featured nursing students appeared in the “Live Well” category, exemplifying a balanced life of being physically active, eating right, managing money-related stress, and being educated on health options and opportunities.

Lung Chan believes that financial health is not about having a sound bank balance. Instead, it is about managing money-related stress. That is why he practices careful planning and budgeted spending. And that is why he helps students and parents through his part time job at the financial aid office.

Lung swears by his spreadsheet and uses it religiously to track his income and expenses. “I plan for bills like rent and groceries and at the end of each month, I compare it to the previous month to see if I am maintaining my average. It is important for me to know where my next rent is coming from.”
Nursing senior Lindsay Van Houten was coordinator of this year’s Purdue University Dance Marathon, a student-run philanthropy benefiting Riley Hospital for Children. During the marathon, over 1,100 students danced for 18 hours and raised a record $172,528. Lindsay has some personal experience with Riley:

“I was born missing a hepatic portal vein, which connects the spleen to the liver. I had many complications growing up and many surgeries at Riley Hospital for Children. The doctors and nurses at Riley took excellent care of not only me, but my family as well.

“Two summers ago, I went to Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago where they performed a shunt procedure that fixed everything. I no longer have complications or need any more surgeries.

“During that summer, I decided that I wanted to switch my major to Nursing. I knew I had to go into pediatrics to give back what was given to me.

“That is also why I became so involved and am so passionate about Dance Marathon. Students raise funds all year round to help offer hope and to save lives at Riley Hospital. It’s a unique organization that gives college students a chance to come together to be apart of something bigger than themselves.

“The children at Riley that we have the opportunity to meet through PUDM are truly amazing and are a constant source of inspiration. They have taught me that nothing is too difficult to overcome and that I should always ‘Dream Big.’

“Through being a part of Dance Marathon and my experiences as a patient at Riley, I am motivated to be the best nurse I can be so I am able to make that positive difference in the lives of others.”
“We wanted to make a gift that would support the future of excellence in nursing. The work of faculty is vital to producing the nursing leaders of tomorrow.”

Alumna’s Gift Supports Nursing Scholarships

Marilee Messersmith Williams (AAS’68) has fond memories of her time at Purdue.

She remembers playing clarinet in the Purdue Concert Band during the tenure of the dynamic Al Wright.

She remembers hearing “California Here We Come” by Phantom Planet being played on the organ in Elliot Hall of Music when it was announced that Purdue was going to the Rose Bowl. “That was a great time to be a Boilermaker!” she says.

She remembers going to the university bookstore to purchase her nursing cap. “It looked strangely like Purdue Pete’s hat and I had no idea how to keep it on my head,” she says.

Williams also remembers always wanting to be a nurse. “My mother hoped that I would attend a hospital nursing program close to my hometown of Castleton, IN,” she says. “But Purdue had recently started a two year nursing program and I convinced my mother that West Lafayette wouldn’t be too far.”

“During our first visit to campus, we interviewed with Helen Johnson. She was welcoming and encouraging. She told us that even though Purdue was a large university and that I would have to work really hard, each individual school was a small entity which gave individual attention to its students.

“Purdue just felt like the right place for me. That decision changed the course of my life and has become one of the best decisions I ever made,” she says.

After graduation, Williams started working at the Clinic of Family Medicine in Rensselaer, IN, founded by Dr. Paul Williams, who later became her husband. She then opened and ran a family practice clinic in Stockwell, IN, before moving to Kansas City, MO, where she ran a family practice clinic for the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Kansas City.

Capitalizing on her previous experiences, Williams became the research coordinator for a study on low birth weight babies. Rounding out her career in nursing, she developed and ran a hospital-based multi-specialty clinic for the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Kansas City.

When Williams “retired,” she graduated from a Legal Nurse Consultant program. She volunteers at St. Luke’s East Hospital and authored a “Scripture Prescriptions” booklet where all proceeds are given to charities.

She also developed a “Health & Wellness Ministry” at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City. One of the ministry’s programs, PRN Buddy, was recently recognized by the city on International Volunteer Day.

“The PRN Buddy program developed out of our ‘adoption’ of a retirement community,” Williams says. “The title describes the action, which is providing a ‘buddy when needed’ such as a ride to the doctor, help moving, presentations on health issues, flu shot clinics, quarterly luncheons, and an exercise program.

“We listen to and try to respond to requests. This concept has grown to involve many parishioners who can contribute a few hours. I was totally surprised about the recognition and the award. It just seemed right to be a good neighbor,” she says.

The Williams are life members of the Purdue Alumni Association. Marilee currently serves as vice president of the Kansas City Purdue Alumni Club, after previously serving as the secretary to the president and three terms as Region 13 director on the Purdue Alumni Board (1987-1999). She is also a volunteer/advocate for Purdue as a team leader in the “Purdue Alumni Recruiting for Tomorrow” program.

“While we were doing our estate planning, our attorney advised us to create the path of our gifting now while we can enjoy the giving,” Williams says.

“The School of Nursing was an obvious choice. We are pleased to support the great work being done by the Purdue Nursing faculty and students.”
Leaving a Legacy

Leave Your Mark on the Future of Nursing Education with a Planned Gift

IRA Charitable Rollover
Individuals age 70½ and older can donate up to $100,000 directly from your individual retirement account without experiencing any undesirable tax effects.

Real Estate Gifts
Receive a tax deduction and avoid capital gains tax when you give property.
- Life Estate Gift – Identifying Purdue School of Nursing as a recipient of your estate is a great way to leave a lasting legacy.
- Bargain Sale – Selling appreciated property to the Purdue Research Foundation for less than the present fair market value. A charitable deduction is allowed for the difference between the sales price and the fair market value.

Life Income Arrangement
Receive an income stream for life and an immediate charitable deduction with one of three arrangements.
- Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust
- Charitable Remainder Unitrust.

Charitable Lead Trust
Preserve your assets for your children, grandchildren, or others and provide support to Purdue with a charitable lead trust. This arrangement provides Purdue with an income from the trust for a term of years or for the lifetime of an individual. At the end of the payment period, the trust property reverts to the donor or, more commonly, passes to family members.

Bequest or Revocable Living Trust
Name the Purdue University School of Nursing in your will or living trust, and you may save on your estate taxes.

Life Insurance
A life insurance policy is an affordable way to make a significant gift to Purdue.

Retirement Plan Assets
Because these assets are subject to both income and estate taxation, naming Purdue as a beneficiary or your retirement plan makes a wise planned gift choice.

“The Purdue School of Nursing gave me the gift of my career! My planned gift is an expression of my love and appreciation for the nursing profession, the Purdue School of Nursing, and the education I received during my time there.”

Planned giving can generate many questions. Please contact Travis Stoutenborough if you would like additional details regarding planned giving options.
Travis Stoutenborough
Director of Development, College of Health and Human Sciences
765-494-4013
tstouten@purdue.edu
“I believe all people should have access to healthcare in a culturally appropriate way,” says Liz O’Neil, recently named Indiana Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

O’Neil is making that happen every day in a Purdue affiliated, nurse-managed clinic in small town in north central Indiana.

Her clients are mostly recent immigrants from Mexico and El Salvador. “All of them work, and many have several jobs, although the jobs are low paying and offer no insurance benefits,” she says.

The clinic is a unique model of interface between a university and a community for mutual benefit. Clients have access to quality primary healthcare, and nursing students learn the clinical and human side of nursing.

The clinic has a sliding payment scale, which means patients will come in sooner for care.

O’Neil’s biggest challenge is finding help for these clients if the problem is one she cannot handle. She and her office manager, Cindy Wasson (see story next page) are not shy about asking for help.

“If they have a medication that is not on the $4 list, or need a referral, we try to find it for them. We make calls, fill out applications, fax forms, arrange visits with specialists…whatever it takes.”

O’Neil opened the doors of the small storefront clinic in 2006 with only some volunteer help and a promise to the community.

Since finances are a major challenge for the clinic as well as the patients, O’Neil has learned fundraising and grantwriting—in four years she has been awarded over $125,000 in local, state, and federal funds for clinic operations.

She helped make possible the collaboration that earned Federally Qualified Health Clinic status for the Monon clinic and its sister clinic in Delphi, enlarging their services and helping their financial stability.

On a daily basis, O’Neil sees patients, manages staff and operations, and supervises Purdue nursing students. She is assisted by nurse practitioners Lynn Davis and Courtenay Wells, RN Karen Atcheson, office manager Cindy Wasson, and Spanish-speaking receptionist Michele Longoria.

“She has given of herself quietly, in a small rural Indiana town, and she has made an enormous difference,” Wells says. “Where before there was an empty storefront, now there is hope.”

Continued on next page
How smoothly a medical office runs is directly dependent on the front office staff. Cindy Wasson has been recognized with the 2010 School of Nursing Enhancement Award for her role at the Family Health Clinic of Monon.

Wasson began working at the clinic on the first day it opened in 2006. She has helped set the tone of the clinic for employees, students, and clients, as a friendly yet professional facility, according to Monon Clinic director Liz O’Neil.

“She is a great problem solver and an outstanding example of efficiency, effectiveness, ingenuity, thoroughness, and cooperative spirit. Our staff appreciates that she has managed to figure out, on her own, the vast mountain of issues related to Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance and medication assistance programs. She treats our patients with great respect and kindness. She helps them sort through assistance applications and insurance issues. She also treats nursing students with kindness and patience. She obviously enjoys having them around and makes them feel comfortable in the clinic and with the rest of the staff. She makes sure the students understand how the clinic works and helps them grow in their role while they are here.”

Stateside again, O’Neil continued her nursing education, earning a MS/FNP in 2003. At the Purdue School of Nursing, she taught OB, physical assessment, fundamentals, and Spanish for Healthcare Providers. She also took students to Nicaragua and Ecuador for healthcare learning experiences. She has been the lead nurse practitioner at the Family Health Clinic of Monon since it opened in 2006.

At first, the facility was only open part time, but when the clinic and its sister clinic in Delphi were granted federally qualified health clinic status in 2008, it quickly became a full time venture.

O’Neil agrees with the recent Institute of Medicine report that says nurse practitioners will be an important part of the future of healthcare, but she thinks that there need to be some changes made.

“We absolutely need resourceful nurse practitioners out in community settings taking care of people,” she says. “The future potential is great, but only if barriers are removed. Nurse practitioners need to be able to hold Medicaid panels, and we need to reduce the mountains of paperwork involved in healthcare reimbursement.”

Education in the Field

O’Neil earned her undergraduate degree in zoology, then served in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, Africa. Returning stateside, she worked in a research lab, married, and became a stay-at-home mom to four children.

In 1992, O’Neil and her late husband, Bob, a Purdue entomology professor, took their family on the first of three sabbaticals in Central America. During their first two stays in Honduras, she learned to speak Spanish and helped translate for visiting medical missions.

When the family returned to Indiana, O’Neil started nursing school at Purdue, then worked several years in the postpartum unit at Home Hospital. When the family returned for a third time to Honduras, O’Neil was prepared to be a nurse in a rural health clinic.

“I worked alongside local women with no formal training, but who could do anything,” she says. “There was no electricity, no running water, a limited number of meds, and we kept the vaccines in a kerosene-fueled refrigerator. But my Spanish and my skills got a lot better.”

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Wasson Earns Award for Work at Monon Clinic

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Sarah McComb, PhD, has joined the faculty as Associate Professor. She holds a joint appointment with Nursing and Industrial Engineering. See story on page 8 for more information.

Janet Thorlton, PhD, RN, has joined the faculty as Assistant Professor, teaching clinical applications in pathophysiology. She comes to Purdue from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Her research focus is on the use of performance enhancing substances by adolescents.

Jill Lintner, CNS, RN, BC, has joined the faculty as Clinical Assistant Professor, teaching psychosocial nursing. She also practices at Roudebush Veterans Administration Hospital, Indianapolis.

Anael Whitlock, RN-BC, MSN, CPNP, has joined the faculty as Clinical Assistant Professor, teaching pediatrics.

Vicki Emberton, RN, FNP, has joined the faculty as Continuing Lecturer, teaching health assessment and adult nursing clinical.

Kristi Abriani, RN, has joined the faculty as Limited Term Lecturer, teaching adult nursing clinical at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis.

Mary Ajuwon, RN, has joined the faculty as Limited Term Lecturer, teaching adult nursing clinical.

Julie LaMothe, MSN, RN, CPNP, has joined the faculty as Limited Term Lecturer in pediatrics. She also practices at Riley Children’s Hospital, Indianapolis.

Paula Reiss, MSN, RN, CEN, SANE-A, has joined the faculty as Limited Term Lecturer, teaching Foundations for Nursing Practice clinical.

Nurse Leads Blue Ribbon Healthcare Group

Nursing professor Pamela Aaltonen is leading Purdue’s Blue Ribbon Healthcare Committee, charged with recommending strategies for managing the University’s healthcare budget.

Nursing professor Jennifer Coddington is also a member of the committee.

“Our role is to critically analyze options in terms of validity, feasibility, value and costs, and make recommendations to administration,” Aaltonen says.

In 2009, claims paid by Purdue’s medical plans amounted to $118.8 million system-wide. The estimated claims cost for 2010 is $125 million, an increase of 5.2 percent or $6.2 million.

Aaltonen has also been asked to serve on the Indiana State Department of Health’s Primary Care Review Task Force.

Teaching Awards 2010

Congratulations to the following faculty, who were selected by the students.

- Graduate Teaching Assistant: Melinda Foley-Minks
- Level 1: Pamela Karagory
- Level 2: Polly Royal
- Level 3: Karen Foli
- Level 4: Karla Cheesman Ross
- LaNelle Geddes Teaching Award: Polly Royal

Appointments/Honors/Retirements

- Karen Yehle has been appointed to the Research Committee of the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses (2010-2013). She is one of two faculty at the university selected to serve as Senior Mentor in Purdue’s Teaching for Tomorrow program.
- Karen Foli was recognized as Parent of the Year by the Learning Disabilities Association of Indiana for her memoir: Like Sound Through Water.
- Nancy Edwards has been asked to serve as an on-site evaluator for CCNE.
- Susan Kauffman (Student Services) and Laura Curry (Academic Advisor) were honored for 25 years of service to the University, and Dorothy Collins (Family Health Clinic of Delphi) for 10 years.
- Loretta Coffman has joined the School of Nursing as Business Manager. She has been at Purdue for 30 years, the last 14 with the Pharmacy business office.
- Clara Richardson, Clinical Associate Professor, and Lynn Holland, Director of Communications, have retired from the School of Nursing.
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


Yehle, K., Plake, K., Albert, N. (2010) Health Literacy and Medication Hasseßs in Informal Caregivers of Patients with Heart Failure, AAHFN, $1,000.


Yehle, K. (2009) Purdue University Teaching Academy Educational Grant, $1,400.

Yehle, K., Plake, K. (2009) Health Literacy, Medication Burden, and Self-Care in Heart Failure: A Longitudinal Study, Kinley Trust, Purdue University $20,000.


Each year the School of Nursing selects two outstanding alumni for recognition. Meet the 2010 honorees:

**Julie White Albert**  
Young Alumni Award

**Mary Anne Sloan**  
Career Achievement Award

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Albert Focuses on Women’s Health, Education

Julie White Albert (BS’02) began her journey into nursing during high school, as a teen volunteer for the community hospital. She was assigned to the labor and delivery unit and quickly realized that she had stumbled upon her passion. Albert entered Purdue as an athletic training major, but soon decided she wanted to follow her heart and pursue nursing. However, there are not very many transfer spots in nursing, and she was told that she probably would not get in.

“I knew right then that I had a choice – I could give up what I wanted to dedicate my life to, or I could see this as the greatest challenge I’d faced so far,” she says.

She got to work right away making herself the best possible candidate for a transfer into the School.

That summer, she received her acceptance letter – which she still keeps to remind herself that despite obstacles, she is able to do what she sets her mind to.

Her senior year, Albert won the Spirit of Nursing Award from the Indiana State Nurses Association, the School of Nursing Leadership Award for her role as Purdue Student Nurses Association president, and the School’s Student Service Award.

After graduation, she hit the ground running and has not stopped. She is committed to her education, her patients, and women.

She has worked as a labor and delivery nurse, providing bedside support for women giving birth, and as the perinatal nurse educator for a large OB/GYN practice.

She has continued her education by earning a Graduate Teaching Certificate and a master’s as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner from Indiana University.

She has also completed the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program through Clarian Center of Hope.

Albert has been a Continuing Lecturer in Maternal/Child Nursing for the Purdue School of Nursing. She has just begun a new job as a Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner with Northside Women’s Care, Community North Hospital of Indianapolis.

Albert also writes a women’s health column in a local magazine, and has two children: Owen, 16 months, and Eleanor, two months.

“When I first found out that I had been selected as the 2010 Young Alumni recipient, I felt overwhelming pride… not for myself, but for how I was able to achieve the goals I set for myself because of the start I was given at the Purdue School of Nursing,” she says.
Sloan Leads Purdue’s Healthcare Technical Assistance Program

Mary Anne Patton Sloan graduated from the School of Nursing in 1987. The instructor she remembers most vividly is the late Dana Mason, a psych clinical professor.

“Professor Mason taught me several important things, including how to meet people where they are in life, how to not be judgmental, how to listen, and most significantly, how to be a strong woman,” she says.

After graduation, Sloan began her career with the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. Changing to reserve status after three years of active duty, she became a staff nurse on intensive care and transplant units in California and the Republic of Panama, eventually returning to Lafayette.

She began her administrative career at Arnett Health, and later United Health Plans, advancing from Utilization Management Nurse to Health Services Manager to Director of Operations.

In these positions she provided oversight of quality improvement, case management, disease management, health education and wellness, credentialing, provider relations and contracting, and formulary maintenance and development.

She also went back to school for a Masters in Business Administration in Healthcare Management.

Today, Sloan is back on the Purdue campus. In 2008, she was hired into a newly created position to develop the Healthcare Technical Assistance Program – called HealthcareTAP – which applies principles of engineering, nursing, management, and science to healthcare delivery problems.

The goal of Healthcare TAP is to improve efficiency, quality of care, productivity, and safety in healthcare delivery systems.

Sloan is recognized statewide for her helpfulness, vast knowledge of healthcare, and professionalism, and is known as the “go to” person when healthcare organizations identify a process or structure that needs to be fixed.

“My most fulfilling professional experiences have come in the development and implementation of programs that change how healthcare is delivered and that impact entire hospitals and healthcare systems,” she says.

Her latest accomplishment is a $12 million grant for a regional extension center to help medical offices make the shift from paper to electronic medical records.

Sloan is also proud of the medical mission work she has done in Honduras and Haiti. She recalls that there were very few supplies to work with and a very big language barrier.

“I called on every nursing skill I had ever learned, and found that even with limited supplies, the medical teams were able to do significant work,” she says.

“I think it is important to remember that no matter what our role as nurses, we have an impact on peoples’ lives every day.

“There are times when we are all overcome with the magnitude of what we do. However, we all entered this profession to make peoples’ lives better and for that reason we continue to do our job as only a nurse can.”

Sloan is recognized statewide as the ‘go to’ person when healthcare organizations identify a process that needs to be fixed.

Alumni Award Nominations Now Open

The Purdue School of Nursing 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, employers, students, friends, or patients. Recipients will be recognized at the Helen R. Johnson Leadership Conference on April 8, 2011. Nominations are due March 10, 2011. You can find the form at www.nursing.purdue.edu/alumni/awards.
The Purdue Alumni Association has chosen 40 alumni under the age of 40 to highlight and honor. Two outstanding nursing alumna are among them.
Lisa Dobogai Gaston, Clinical Nurse Consultant

Lisa Dobogai Gaston (BS’94), is a clinical nurse consultant specializing in hematological disorders that affect blood, bone marrow, and lymph nodes.

When she graduated in 1994, the nursing field was saturated, so she took a temp job in Illinois Masonic Hospital’s hematology and oncology unit.

Many of her patients were being sent to major medical hospitals for stem cell transplants. She decided she wanted more education to be able to work with this population, she enrolled in graduate school at the University of Illinois College of Nursing in Chicago in 1998.

Networking with colleagues in the Oncology Nursing Society led her to Celgene Corp., which develops drug and cell therapies to treat life-threatening conditions.

As a clinical nurse consultant for Celgene, she helps medical and nursing professionals in Indiana and Illinois manage patients who are using Celgene therapies.

The year 2010 brought another change for the Merrillville, IN, native. She married fellow Boilermaker Christopher Gaston (CFS’92).

While at Purdue, she was a member of Purdue Student Nurses Association and Sigma Kappa sorority, through which she was involved with Golden Gavel leadership honorary.

Now living on Chicago’s north side, Gaston is president of the Chicago Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society and past Vice President of the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing.

She has won numerous awards, including the Leukemia Research Foundation’s Hematology-Oncology Nurse of the Year Award in 2006. She is the co-author of a book chapter on hematological malignancies.

Laurel Finnerty, Healthcare Human Resources Manager

Laurel Finnerty (BS’03, MS M’07) is always thinking about the people who are behind-the-scenes creating and selling medical equipment.

Finnerty, a human resources manager at Ethicon Endo-Surgery, a Johnson & Johnson company, understands hands-on patient care as well as the business operations that are essential to ensuring patients have positive surgical outcomes.

While working at Clarian Health Hospital she was a charge nurse of an 18-bed surgical intensive care unit and a liver transplant coordinator.

In 2005, she returned to Purdue to pursue a master’s in management, and she quickly secured an internship with Johnson & Johnson as part of the company’s leadership development program. There she was part of a team that developed a business and human resources strategy for the implementation of a research and development center in China. She received an award for her work and was selected to join Johnson & Johnson’s HR Leadership Development Program.

Part of her success on the China center project was her focus on personnel talent, and she continued that trend with the implementation of an MBA internship invitational at Johnson & Johnson’s New Brunswick headquarters.

In 2008, she began working for Johnson & Johnson’s Ethicon Endo-Surgery. Her placement there was on the eve of an acquisition. “I had the opportunity to co-lead the acquisition of a company, SurgRx Inc.,” she says.

She had 90 days to integrate the two sales organizations — 80 people at SurgRx and 600 at Ethicon Endo-Surgery.

“With an acquisition you are really not allowed to talk with many people because things are confidential until you close. So we were flying blind. Given the ambiguity, short timeline, and the long-term impact of our decisions, this was certainly one of my biggest accomplishments.”

Finnerty credits Purdue for enabling her career success and providing her with the education and background to grow and develop within an organization she loves.

“There is nothing better than the ability to do what you love each and every day,” she says.
The plans for the anniversary year are underway, and we want each and every alumni and friend to take part!

There will be many ways to participate...

- Volunteer to be your class contact
- Help plan your class reunion
- Make a financial contribution
- Share photos or memories of your time at Purdue

Let us hear your ideas @
http://www.nursing.purdue.edu/alumni_news_form.php
1960s

Marilee Williams (AAS’68) is the Kansas City Purdue Alumni Club vice president. This year the club awarded its annual scholarship to nursing student Callie Jennings.

Beverly Laitar Krams (AAS’71, BS’75) has retired as a Clinical Nurse Manager for the Veterans Administration. <bevkrams@comcast.net>

1970s

Tabloski Named AAN Fellow

Patricia Dumont Tabloski (AAS’71, BS’73) has been inducted as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She is the first Purdue Nursing graduate to achieve this honor.

Tabloski is Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, and Associate Professor at Boston College.

After earning her BS from Purdue, she earned her MS from Seton Hall University, and PhD from the University of Rochester.

She teaches gerontology, end of life care, pharmacology and pathophysiology, and conducts research to improve sleep and reduce agitation using non-pharmacological interventions.

She has numerous publications, presentations and citations in the area of sleep and care of the elderly.

Her textbook earned third place in the gerontological category for most valuable text of 2009 by the American Journal of Nursing.

Gerontological Nursing (2nd edition, Upper Saddle River, NJ, Pearson Education) focuses on normal changes of aging and common diseases of aging as the basis of nursing assessment and planning.

Susan Riker Dolan (AAS’77, BS’79) authored a book named most valuable text of 2009 by the American Journal of Nursing.

Taking first place in the Consumer Health category was The End of Life Advisor: Personal, Legal, and Medical Considerations for a Peaceful, Dignified Death, by Dolan and her mother, Audrey R. Vizzard.

The book offers practical, step-by-step advice and guidance to improve the last days of life.

Content includes living wills, power of attorney for healthcare, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, choosing hospice care, managing pain, increasing comfort and making after-death plans.

In addition, there are inspirational (and sometimes humorous) stories of positive end-of-life experiences – where pain and fear were replaced with comfort and peace.

A registered nurse and attorney, Dolan has practiced healthcare and corporate law and has served as executive director for a national hospice organization. She is a healthcare consultant and a broadcast host for satellite radio station ReachMD XM 157, the channel for medical professionals.

Linda Alleyne Dye (BS’76) is a legal nurse consultant in Tampa, FL. <lncrm@hotmail.com>

Lori Terry Beck (AAS’79, BS’84) completed a class in Fundamentals of Healthcare Emergency Management at Ft. McClellan, AL. She is studying Homeland Security in Purdue’s DNP program and will graduate in December 2011.

In addition to her studies, she is an Adult/Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Community Hematology/Oncology Practice in Indianapolis. She has two children, Aubrey, 20, who is studying physical therapy at IU, and 12-year-old Samuel. <lbeck@clarian.org>

Candy Wuethrich-Meiss (BS’80) has been a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner since 1986. She worked in a Level III, 52 bed NICU for 20 years. She took a few years off to spend with her teenage children, during which time she was the substitute school nurse for the Paradise Valley School District. In 2008 she joined Banner Estrella Medical Center in a Level II EQ NICU. <candymeiss@q.com>

1980s

Douglas E. Fauber (AAS’73) is CNO /Assistant Administrator at Union Hospital–Clinton. He married a nurse from St. Anthony School of Nursing (Terre Haute) and has seven children and 12 grandchildren.

His hospital work included staffing in ICU, teaching at Deaconess School of Nursing (Evansville), and managing pediatrics and ICU at Union Hospital Terre Haute. His successes include telemedicine implementation for a rural critical access hospital, and serving as a member of ISDH Altered Standards of Care group for pandemic flu. <dougefab@abcs.com>

Karen Haynes Shankter (AAS’74, BS’76) is a Psych and Mental Health Nurse at Arizona State Hospital. <kshankter@cox.net>

Linda Bundy Watson (AAS’75) is employed by Tippecanoe School Corporation as a School Nurse/BCE. <lynwatson@hotmail.com>

Deborah McKee Stiffler (BS’82), PhD, RN, CNM, has been named the Executive Director of the Indiana University National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. The mission of the Center is to improve the health of Indiana women and is housed in the IU School of Medicine, OB/GYN Department, Indianapolis.

Tamara Griffey Barnes (BS’87) earned her CNS in oncology in 1990. She practiced at MD Anderson in Houston and served for many years on the committee that writes the certification exam for oncology nurses. Currently, she teaches nursing at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA. <tbarnes@mcneese.edu>

Amy Miller-Smith (BS’87) is an associate RN in the operating room at Clarian North, Indianapolis. <amymillersmith@netscape.net>
Editor's note: We decided to run this letter exactly as it came, since the best testimonials are those straight from the heart.

Dear Dr. Kirkpatrick,

My wife, Jackie LaManna, is a 1985 Purdue Nursing BS graduate (also AD’83). She was Jacqueline Marie Burton back then.

She was one of the program’s shining stars, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. Her name is on a plaque somewhere in the nursing building.

She does not know that I am writing you, but I wanted to tell you that she is doing quite well in her beloved profession.

As an ARNP, she ran the diabetes center at our local hospital for many years. For the past five years, she was the coordinator of the nursing program at the Cocoa campus of the University of Central Florida. She is also an instructor there.

This past year Jackie was recognized with the prestigious Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award at UCF. She was elated yesterday upon learning that this year’s graduating class on her campus had achieved a 100% Florida state board pass rate.

Jackie is in the latter stages of her PhD, having recently submitted her dissertation proposal. I just wanted to inform you that one of Purdue’s nursing alums is doing exceedingly well.

As my wife, I am very proud of her. Below is a link should you want to contact her. http://www.nursing.ucf.edu/faculty/index.asp

Sincerely,
Anthony (Tony) LaManna, Purdue Class ’85

Vicki Emmert Vaught (BS’94), after 13 years of being a stay-at-home-mom, now practices part time as a pediatric home health nurse (Help At Home program) and part-time as a school nurse at Mayflower Mill Elementary School, in the Tippecanoe School Corporation. <pednurse13@gmail.com>

Jean Young (BS’94) started her career as a Navy Nurse Corps Officer at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD caring for patients on a multi-service orthopedic and neurology/neurosurgical ward.

After 10 months, she became hospital-wide Nurse Manager after hours with the dual duty of Command Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Her critical care career continued at various duty stations including Naval Hospital Okinawa Japan, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton California, and Naval Hospital Bremerton Washington.

She attended graduate school at the University of Washington, where she earned a master’s as a Clinical Nurse Specialist with a focus in Neurological and Cardiovascular Systems.

After her tour at Bremerton, she finished her final two years in Okinawa Japan as Nurse Manager with the dual responsibility of hospital-wide CNS.

In 2009, Young retired at the rank of Lieutenant Commander, and settled down in Bremerton, Washington as a RN Option Nursing Instructor at Clover Park Technical College. <jean.young@cptc.edu>

April Hutt Sargent (BS’96), Assistant Nurse Manager of Neonatal Intensive Care at Kosair Children’s Hospital, welcomed her first child, Olivia Mae Sargent, on Jan. 28, 2010. <sargentapril@insightbb.com>

Elise Brooks Lyons (BS’97) and her husband, Adam, celebrated the birth of their third child, a son, on July 23, 2010. Preston Wayne Lyons joins his siblings, Spencer, 5, and Tabitha, 2, as proud Purdue fans!

Gina Schuler Dowd (BS’98) and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their second child, Elizabeth Caroline (Ellie) on Dec. 30, 2009. She joins Michael O’Ryan, 4. Gina works part time at Northpoint Pediatrics, Indianapolis. ginaesa@yahoo.com

Carla Walbolt Julian (BS’99) whose area of practice was previously cardiac, and is now natural health and alternative treatments, married Todd Julian (BS’96) in 2002. They have three girls, Morgan, 7, Devin, 5, and Aaron, 3. After living in Iowa and Ohio, the family is now back in Avon, Indiana. <jbpu99@hotmail.com>
**Elizabeth Sanders Sabau** (BS’01), her husband, Scott, and their daughter Audrey welcomed baby Charlotte Theresa on March 26, 2010. They live in Frisco, TX.

**Melinda Parker Raab** (BS’01) is a medical surgical staff nurse and diabetic educator at Decatur County Memorial Hospital. She and her husband, Charles (ED’01), welcomed a new baby, Abigail Grace, born 1/07/10. She was welcomed by three sisters, Olivia, 6, Megan, 4, and Isabel, 2. <melindaraab@yahoo.com>

**Jacob Warner Brown** (BS’01) gave birth to a son, Jacob Warner Brown, on Sept. 20, 2010.

**Julia Schauer Anton** (BS’03), a Labor and Delivery nurse at Littleton Adventist Hospital in Littleton, CO, says that when she chose nursing, it was not about having a secure job in an uncertain economy, about the flexibility, or about having a choice of jobs in different areas.

“While those are all benefits, I chose nursing to be able to deliver caring and compassionate work that is meaningful. “Every day when I go to work, I have the ability to make a difference in someone’s life.”

Recently, Anton had the opportunity to travel to Peru on a medical mission trip. “The Peruvians are very proud working people,” she says. “They were so gracious for even the smallest things. I never heard one complaint despite many people waiting hours to see one of the doctors.

“The conditions and way the Amazon River Peruvians live is very different from America. They cannot get medicine from the drugstore down the street. The medicine is limited to what we bring or natural remedies from the rainforest.

“Observing the lack of healthcare access in the villages was in stark contrast to the access issues we face in America today.

“Our team treated many wounds that were badly infected because clean dressings and antibiotic ointment are not readily available.

Anton says Purdue’s School of Nursing provided the foundation for her to make this journey of a lifetime.

“Purdue didn’t just teach me the basic clinical skills for nursing, but how to be a leader within the local and global communities, something I have found to be the most fulfilling part of my career.”

**Rudolph Pavlesich** (BS’00), staff nurse in the trauma ICU for the U.S. Army, writes: “Last year I was looking for a new job to get me geared up for CRNA school.

“One day I met someone who told me about a job in a military hospital in Germany called Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

“Since I had served as an Army Nurse for five years after graduation, I had heard about that hospital but didn’t know that jobs were available for civilians.

“All it took was one phone call to the Nurse Manager in the ICU and my hiring process was started. I’ve been working at Landstuhl now for about nine months and I didn’t realize how much I missed taking care of the wounded warriors.

“Plus, my wife and I are having a blast traveling around Europe and experiencing different cultures.

“While I was going through the hiring process to come to Germany, I had also e-mailed someone who staffs nurses in embassies around the world.

“I had originally thought it was a joke, but few months later I got a phone call asking me if I wanted to take a position in Cairo, Egypt.

“I wanted to post this to let adventurous people know that it’s possible to get jobs in different places around the world. “That was one aspect of being a nurse that I never even considered until last year. Happy traveling!” <rudolph.pavlesich@amedd.army.mil>

**Check out the Purdue School of Nursing Alumni Facebook page!**
Karen Jane Hescher (BS’02) recently became the Performance Improvement Coordinator at Terre Haute Regional Hospital. <karenderek@frontier.com>

Kimberly Benson Glover (BS’03) and her husband, Keith, welcomed the birth of their son, Keagan Michael, on Aug. 11, 2010.

Reid Pflueger (BS’03) practiced ER nursing for five years after graduation (Lafayette and Fort Wayne) and then entered medical school at LECOM – Bradenton (Florida). He will graduate May 2011 and then enter residency. He and his wife, Jaime, have two children: Lillian, 3, and Issac, 1. <pfpluger@frontier.com>

Lindsay Clem Sterling (BS’03) is a staff nurse in Labor & Delivery/High Risk Obstetrics at St. Vincent Women’s Hospital, Indianapolis. She married Matt Sterling on Sept. 5, 2009. <lindsayclem03@yahoo.com>

Dana Wolf Wisehart (BS’04) earned her MSN in 2009 from IUPUI. She works at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner for the Trauma Team. In September 2010 she got married on a beach in St. Lucia. <dwisehart4@yahoo.com>

Jessica Holst Ludwig (BS’05), a staff RN at Clarian North, passed her Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN) exam. <jessicaludwig@hotmail.com>

When Amanda Loepker (BS’07) raised her right hand and took the oath to defend America, it was her father, retired Lt. Col. Mark Loepker, who administered the oath. Loepker, a 2nd Lt. in the United States Air Force, finished commissioned officers training at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and is stationed at Wright-Patterson AFB, in Ohio where she will train for the Critical Care Airlift Team.

She has a six-year commitment to the Air Force will eventually go to Iraq and Afghanistan. “I want to be part of getting wounded soldiers back to their families,” she says. <mndalyynl@gmail.com>

Elise Bowman Lauderdale (BS’07) works in Dermatology at Northwestern Memorial Physicians Group, Chicago. She married Kyle Lauderdale on June 5, 2010.

Elizabeth Ackmann Smith (BS’07) works labor and delivery/ high risk OB at St. Vincent Women’s Hospital, Indianapolis. She married Jesse Smith on Oct. 4, 2008, and their daughter, Ellie Grace, was born May 18, 2010.

Regina Gregorczyk (BS’08) is an RN at St. Mary Medical Center in Crown Point, IN, and just purchased her first house. <regina.gregorczyk@gmail.com>

Brittany Clements Ryan (BS’08) works in Gyn/ Oncology Surgery at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis. She married Dan Ryan on Sept. 26, 2009, and their daughter, Ashley Elizabeth, was born on Sept. 27, 2010. <bryan423@live.com>

Kelli Yukon (BS’08) is an RN, Intensive Care, University of Chicago. <kellijoyukon@yahoo.com>

Laura Curr Beamer (DNP’09) presented her DNP Final Inquiry Project, “Preventive & Screening Health Behaviors In Unaffected Colon Cancer Family Members” as a podium presentation at the Western Institute of Nursing, 4/17/2010. <beamer@coh.org>

Ashley Vogt Pace (BS’09) is in pediatric ICU at Kosair Children’s Hospital in Louisville. She married her high school sweetheart, Scott, on Feb. 19, 2010. <anspace19@yahoo.com>

In Memory

Katie Traynor (BS’10) was killed in a boating accident on Sept. 4, 2010 on Dale Hollow Lake, on the Tennessee-Kentucky border. She was there as a part of an annual trip with friends.

Katie worked at the neonatal intensive care unit at the Clarian Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, IN.

Katie’s family and friends have established “The Katie Traynor, RN, Scholarship” through the Greater Lafayette Community Foundation to benefit Purdue School of Nursing students.

Contributions can be made by visiting www.cfglaf.org and clicking on the donate button. Please reference the name Katie Traynor in the notes section when making the contribution.

You can also mail a contribution to The Community Foundation, 1114 State St., Lafayette, IN 47905, referencing Katie Traynor in the memo line.

Additionally, memorials can be sent to the Funds for Little Babies at the Methodist Health Foundation, in care of Deb Ward, Room A3105, 1701 N. Senate Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

COMING EVENTS

April 8, 2011
8 AM - Noon
Helen R. Johnson Leadership Conference
Purdue Memorial Union Ballroom

April 9 & 10, 2011
University Spring Fest with School of Nursing Health Education Tent, Memorial Mall

June 20-25, 2011
Healthcare Systems Institute
Purdue West Lafayette campus

Oct. 22, 2011
Homecoming
Send us your news! We’re glad to hear about your professional or educational advancements (new job, promotion, honors, awards, degrees), or your personal joys (marriage, baby). We can also use PHOTOS. E-mail to martinrj@purdue.edu or mail to Roxanne Martin, Johnson Hall, 502 N. University, West Lafayette, IN 47907.

Name ____________________________
Maiden Name ________________________ Graduation year __________________________
Address* ____________________________ ____________________________ Zip ____________
City ____________________________ State ____________ Zip ____________
E-mail address ____________________________
Employer ____________________________ Position title ____________________________
* Is this a change of address?  Yes  No
News

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Mail responses to Roxanne Martin, 502 N. University St., West Lafayette, IN 47907.
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