On May 26, 195 graduating students gathered with their families and guests for the annual School of Nursing convocation held in the campus quadrangle. Graduates included: 161 BS degree students, 27 students from the MS program, two ND students, two students from the school’s new DNP program, and three PhD students.

During the ceremony, Student Leadership Awards were presented to graduates from each degree program, including BS graduate Barbara Anderson, MS graduate Joseph Cabell, ND graduates Kari McLennan and Jennie Pike, DNP graduate Suzette Reuschel, and PhD graduate Lenora Follett. The recipients of the awards were selected by SON faculty. Congratulations to the newest alumnae for their outstanding leadership.

Faculty honored for their teaching excellence were: Tammy Spencer, MS, recipient of the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award; James Sampson, PhD, assistant professor adjunct, for the Chancellor’s Teaching Recognition Award; and Cathy Thompson, PhD, assistant professor, for the Chancellor’s Teaching Award-Graduate School. These faculty awardees were chosen by the graduating students. Elynn Matthews, PhD, assistant professor, received the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in the baccalaureate program and Lynn Gilbert was the recipient of the Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in the graduate program.

The Dean’s Award for Leadership was presented jointly to two faculty and a staff member for their educational technology excellence and innovation in the development of the school’s new Simulation Laboratory. Awarded staff member Timothy Martinez, and faculty members Gail Armstrong, ND, assistant professor, and Gayle Preheim, EdD, associate professor.

Three of the 161 BS graduates in the class of 2006 anxiously await the Convocation ceremony held in May.

Clare Sandekian, MS, ’69 received the 2006 Dean’s Award for Leadership in Nursing for making major contributions to the school through her long-term legacy of involvement as a nurse leader in the state; her continued support of the SON from the time she was a SON student; and as a previous SON faculty member who left her “leader’s mark” on the school.

Recipients of the dean’s teaching and leadership awards were nominated by graduating students and selected by Dean Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, and her associate deans: Amy Barton, PhD, Lauren Clark, PhD, FAAN, and Marline Smith, PhD, FAAN.

Gene Marsh, PhD, professor and division chair, was recognized as the recipient of the U.S. Public Health Service 2005 Hurricanes Coin in recognition of her volunteer work providing community health services with the U.S. Public Health Service for two weeks in post-Katrina Louisiana, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ruth O’Brien, PhD, professor, was awarded the school’s prestigious Elizabeth H. Boeker Excellence in Research Award in the amount of $8,000. (See related article, below.)

Ruth O’Brien receives Faculty Excellence in Research Award

Professor Ruth O’Brien, PhD, FAAN, was selected to receive the second annual Elizabeth H. Boeker Faculty Excellence in Research Award for her special contribution to research-based interventions that improve public health.

The award was announced at the School of Nursing Commencement in May.

Her work with nurse home visitation for low-income, first-time parents and their infants and toddlers is a model of interdisciplinary collaboration to improve health and shape healthy public policy. As part of this award, O’Brien received $8,000 to support her research. She also presented a lecture Dec. 7 entitled Nurse Home Visitations: From Research to Evidence-based Practice.”

The Elizabeth H. Boeker Faculty Excellence in Research Award is awarded to faculty to promote and reward excellence in faculty research.

Selection criteria included recognition nationally/internationally for significant substantive contributions to knowledge development in a focused area relevant to the nursing discipline, a sustained record of peer-reviewed publications and presentations, influence on the work of other scholars directly or indirectly through explication of germinal ideas, and evidence of research funding.

2006 Nightingale awards

Susan Hagedorn, PhD, ’95, associate professor at the School of Nursing was a recipient of a 2006 Nightingale Award.

The 21st annual Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Human Caring, hosted by the Colorado Nurses Foundation, was held May 6, at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, with 600 in attendance.

Continued on page 3...
As the School of Nursing prepares to move next fall to new space in the Education II/Administrative Office East building, currently in construction at our new 21st century campus in Aurora (see photo on back cover), we continue to have the largest undergraduate enrollments ever. This fall there are 376 BS students in the SON. We had a record of almost 1,000 applicants to the undergraduate program this year, resulting in the admission of 240 new BS students. We also have more than 300 graduate students enrolled this fall.

The vibrancy of the SON is so evident from the palpable enthusiasm of our student body. The CU Student Nurses Association (CUSNA) is very active this year and we are making every effort to keep our many distance students, throughout diverse areas of the state, actively engaged in the SON and their educational process. We are substantially enhancing our Web pages - watch for the new look that will be up and running in spring semester! The SON is very pleased to announce the appointment of Kathy Maglthy, PhD, FAAN, professor, as associate dean for Academic Programs, effective August 1 of this year. (See article on page 4).

As part of our diversity activities, the SON has initiated a set of “inclusiveness” workshops for cultural awareness for faculty and staff, taking place throughout 2006-07 and led by Amy Barton, PhD, associate professor and associate dean for Clinical and Community Affairs. Additionally, a series of “Theme of the Year (Respect for Person)” discussion sessions have been organized for faculty and staff by Paula Nelson-Marten, PhD, associate professor and chair of the School’s Faculty Executive Committee.

We initiated an electronic Alumni eNews last June to better communicate with alumni. If you haven’t already done so, please send us your email address and we’ll include you in upcoming issues of the eNews. Forward your email address to Karen Marks in the SON Dean’s Office, at karen.marks@uchsc.edu.

It was great to see many of our terrific alumni at this year’s Reunion Weekend, held in April. Alums were enthused to hear about the latest accomplishments of the School of Nursing and were excited to catch up with one another. Everyone seemed to have a great time and it was so nice to see such a big turnout! We’re looking forward to next year’s reunion, which will be held Sept. 27-29, 2007 – we hope to see you there!

Best Poster Award at WIN

Congratulations to faculty members who received the Best Poster Award at the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) conference this year. Their poster was entitled “Transition to Self-management in Chronic Illness: A Concept Analysis.”

Applause to the award-winning colleagues: Assistant Professors Teresa Sukraida, DNSc, Leli Pedro, DNSc, and Paul Cook, PhD, and Assistant Professor Adjunct Katherine Bent, PhD, authors of the poster, for their solid work and artistic rendering of results.

Paving the Way for Student Opportunity

CU Regent Pat Hayes was the keynote speaker for the CUSNA-CU Student Nurses Association - 2006-07 lecture series. Lunch was provided at the noontime event and Regent Hayes, a nurse, spoke about the leadership potential in all of us, as she addressed this year’s CUSNA theme: Pathways to Nursing: Paving the Way for Student Opportunity. Regent Hayes, center, appears with BS students Kathryn Lynch, CUSNA president, and Karen Johnson, president-elect.

Save the Date!

Calling All PhD Alumni -
25th Anniversary of the PhD Program
School of Nursing Gala Celebration

April 21, 2007

Gala Dinner, Saturday evening, April 21
10th Annual Lola M. Fehr Lectureship, April 20
PhD Cohort Events, April 20 - 22

For more information, please email karen.marks@uchsc.edu with your mailing address and your email address.

M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS, is new UCDHSC chancellor

M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS, took the helm as chancellor of the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center effective July 1.

Wilson came from the four-campus Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, where he served as president since 2003. As chancellor, he oversees three campuses: the downtown Denver campus and the Health Sciences Center campuses in Denver and Aurora. He joins the university as it oversees final construction at Fitzsimons.

Wilson succeeds former UCDHSC Chancellor James Shore, who retired last year.

Wilson received his medical degree from Harvard University Medical School and his master’s degree in epidemiology at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Health. An international glaucoma expert, Wilson has published more than 200 articles, book chapters and abstracts.
Nursing was a foundation for me that really helped create opportunities,” she said. “It’s important to think about how to make things better; how to develop effective programs and how you can co-innovate with other professions to achieve better patient care outcomes.”

**Nightingale - Hagedorn**

“Sue was recognized for her work among those who are most vulnerable and for her lifelong commitment to Nursing,” said SON Dean Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN. “She joins a group of illustrious Colorado nurses who have been recognized through Nightingale Awards.”

Hagedorn also received a 2006 Supportive Persons of The Arc (SPARC) Award, from the Jefferson County chapter of The Arc for the achievements of the Capstone program which is part of the required curriculum. Four alumni of the School of Nursing were among the six recipients of the prestigious award for their contributions to the profession of nursing:

- Carol Conger, MS, ‘97, family nurse practitioner, Vail Valley Medical Center
- David Kearns, MS, ‘94, flight nurse and clinical coordinator, St. Anthony Hospitals in Denver
- Ruth West, BS, ‘69, public health nurse, Weld County Department of Public Health & Environment, Greeley
- Terence Shea, BS, ‘76, director of regulatory compliance and care process, Denver Health & Hospital Authority
- Jill Taylor, MS, ’79, chief nursing officer, Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center in Denver.

The Nightingale Awards were established in 1985 as a tribute to the professional excellence of Colorado’s registered nurses.
School of Nursing appoints a new associate dean

Professor Joan K. (Kathy) Magilvy, PhD, FAAN, has been appointed associate dean for academic programs and director of the PhD program at the School of Nursing. Magilvy has been a professor at the SON for 24 years. She served most recently as assistant dean for graduate programs and director of the PhD program. "Kathy is an accomplished researcher in community, rural and public health nursing, cross-cultural aging, and long-term care. She has expertise in community-based health services for older people and those with chronic illness and disability," said Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, professor and dean of the School of Nursing.

In her new role, Magilvy will continue to direct the school’s PhD program, and will be senior administrator for its undergraduate and graduate programs. A noted expert in qualitative and ethnographic methodologies, Magilvy has received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal agencies for her studies during the past two decades. Within nursing and gerontology, Magilvy has received numerous regional and national awards, including the Nightingale and Shannon Mentor awards, and has been inducted as a fellow into the American and Western academies of nursing.

Magilvy is a member of a partnership of five western nursing schools, including UCDHSC and the universities of Arizona, Utah, Northern Colorado, and the Oregon Health and Science Center, in a project called NEXus—the Nursing Education Xchange: Partnership to Increase Capacity of Nursing PhD Programs that is a three-year grant through the Western Institute of Nursing from FIPSE, the U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

Magilvy also has done extensive international work and she currently serves on the International Advisory Board of the Japan Journal of Nursing Science published by the Japan Academy of Nursing Science, the first English language nursing journal in Japan.

Marlaine Smith leaves SON

Marlaine Smith, PhD, FAAN, former professor and associate dean for academic affairs, has left the School of Nursing to join the faculty of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton, Fla. She accepted the position as associate dean for academic affairs and has been appointed to the Helen K. Persson Eminent Scholar Chair in Community Caring to provide leadership in transforming health care through research, teaching and influencing public policies related to health care.

During her 18 years at the School of Nursing, Smith made many important contributions to the school, its academic programs and its students. A recognized scholar in caring concepts and Rogerian inquiry, she has collaborated with colleagues at CU and elsewhere in studies of complementary therapies for patients with serious illnesses.

What originally attracted her to the SON was its innovation and pioneering spirit including its leadership in implementing caring theory, advancing qualitative research methods, and developing one of the first clinical doctoral programs in nursing. Early in her career at the SON, Smith was involved with the work of Jean Watson, PhD, FAAN, distinguished professor, and the Center for Human Caring (now called the Center for Integrative Caring Practice).

"Technical skills will always be a part of nursing, but that’s not the essence of nursing," she said, “Nurses need to develop and apply the knowledge of healing through caring relationships with patients. This is what is needed to transform health care and ultimately improve the quality of life of people we serve.”

New program aimed at helping women make better health choices

The link between prenatal alcohol exposure and birth defects has been known for 30 years. However, the message is still not getting through to enough women of child-bearing age in the Denver area.

The goal of the program, Personal Choices, is to change risky, alcohol-related choices among women in Jefferson, Adams, Denver and Larimer counties. Organizers said the voluntary program is designed to educate women about the health risks of drinking alcohol while pregnant, and the permanent effects alcohol can have on the developing fetus. The program is also for women who are not pregnant, but are drinking and engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse.

“We came up with a program we think will prevent alcohol-exposed birth defects and improve the longterm health prospects of women and their children,” said Pam Gillen, ND, assistant professor of nursing research and a principal developer of Personal Choices.

The brainchild of a team of health care professionals who work one-on-one with women through the university’s Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention Outreach Project and Colorado Statewide Area Health Education Centers, the project is based on Project Choices, a research project conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the Department of Health and Human Services.

National Nurses Week

SON faculty served ice cream to students at CUSNA-sponsored National Nurses Day celebrated in May.

2007 Nightingale Awards Set

The 22nd annual celebration of Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Human Caring is coming.

Saturday, May 12, 2007
The Renaissance Hotel
3801 Quebec, Denver, Colorado

For nomination criteria and form go to:
www.coloradonursesfoundation.org

For further information, please contact:
Colorado Nurses Foundation
Corinne Koehler, Nightingale Coordinator
7831 Lewis Court
Avada, Colorado 80005
Phone/Fax: 303.758.4291
Patriotism in spite of prejudice
Japanese American women serve in Cadet Nurse Corps during WWII

By Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

When Thelma Robinson decided to write a book about the Cadet Nurse Corps, she wanted to tell the little known story of young women recruited by the United States government to alleviate a critical nursing shortage during World War II.

While conducting research for the book, Robinson uncovered an even more obscure story about some second generation Japanese Americans (or Nisei) who braved the racism and hysteria that swept the United States after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to join the Cadet Nurse Corps.

In the fall of 1941, more than 350 Nisei women were enrolled in nursing schools on the West Coast, but the events of Dec. 7, 1941, changed the course of their lives. They were forced to leave school and enter internment camps. Once the United States was at war and until 1943, only 84 of those students were permitted to re-enter nursing schools.

In February 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the War Department to relocate from “military areas” anyone deemed a threat to national security. Considered a host of sabotage and espionage, entire communities were uprooted and moved inland. Some 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were held in bleak internment camps, living in tar paper barracks surrounded by barbed wire and under guard for the duration of the war.

Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II: Patriotism In Spite of Prejudice, published this year, tells the experiences of some of these young Nisei women, of their lives disrupted, nursing careers delayed and personal liberties denied. Robinson shared their stories with SON faculty, students and alumni at a book signing held during the School of Nursing’s Alumni Reunion Weekend Luncheon on April 28.

“Through the experience of writing about the Cadet Nurse Corps, I met several Japanese/American women and heard about their stories,” said Robinson, MS, ’70, a former faculty member at the School of Nursing. “Nothing had been written about them and I felt they needed a book to tell their stories.”

The government had responded to the nursing shortage by developing the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, the country’s first federally subsidized nursing recruitment program. For Robinson who grew up in Chicago, “The experience of seeing nurses at the hospital every day made me decide to become a nurse.”

For Robinson, being chosen for the Cadet Nurse Corps was a way to get an education. For the Nisei women, joining the corps was also a way out of the internment of people of Japanese descent.

The government had promised they would eventually be allowed to return to their homes and resume their lives. However, few of the Nisei nurses were able to do so.

During the early internment years, the SON was one of only three collegiate nursing programs that accepted Japanese-American nurses. Twelve Nisei were accepted at CU while the two other schools admitted one Nisei each.

“That says a lot about how open-minded CU was during that time,” said Robinson.

As America engaged in war, many registered nurses were recruited into the Army Nurse Corps and sent overseas, leaving the nation’s hospitals with a serious nursing shortage. This came at a time when more illnesses and injuries were being treated in hospitals rather than at home, increasing demand for nursing staff. Despite a desperate need for nurses, hundreds of Japanese American women were denied admittance to nursing schools. It was feared that patients would react negatively if cared for by a Japanese American nurse while the country was at war with Japan.

To ensure that the United States had enough nurses to care for patients’ needs at home and on the war fronts, President Roosevelt signed into law the bill that created the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps in June 1943. The legislation fully funded the training of nurses for civilian, military and veterans’ hospitals, thus preventing a potential medical crisis. Although the corps was not a military unit, it functioned as a uniformed service under the U.S. Public Health Service.

Japanese American women were given the opportunity to leave the camps and serve as nurses until the corps’ end in 1948. They felt it was their patriotic duty to respond.

Robinson chose not to write the book as a scholarly publication, but rather as a historical book in order to reach a wider readership.

“We need to remember what they did for this country and to realize the prejudice they endured in spite of their sacrifices,” said Robinson.


Thelma Robinson, MS, ’70, signs her book Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II: Patriotism In Spite of Prejudice

For more information, visit www.cadetnurse.com. To purchase a copy of Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II: Patriotism in Spite of Prejudice, contact the university bookstore at 303/315-5725.

President’s Message

We hope you will be pleased to know that the CU School of Nursing Alumni Association awarded its first scholarship to Tasha Mansfield. Tasha is a bright student who maintains a 3.9 GPA while demonstrating leadership skills, integrity and a strong commitment to the discipline of nursing. Please see page 6 for an interview with Tasha to learn more about her. Thanks to all of our members who support these scholarship awards through their membership dues and to those of you who contributed additional gifts to support scholarships and the work of the association.

The board unanimously voted to name this scholarship in honor of Clare Sandekian, MS, ’69. Clare is a past president of the association, served on the board of directors for seven years and works tirelessly in support of the school. She has been responsible for the awards committee and the annual reunion activities, attending every reunion weekend since I joined the board. Clare received her Master of Science degree in psychiatric nursing and served as associate director of nursing at University of Colorado Hospital (then called Colorado General Hospital), from 1969 to 1974, where she interviewed and then gave me my first job here in Colorado in 1969. When Clare discovered our plan to name this scholarship, she said she was grateful it was not “in memoriam.” Those of you who know her can appreciate her sense of humor.

The board would not like only to continue these annual scholarships but would like to expand both the number and the amount of the scholarships awarded. To do that, we need your help. Please support your alumni association and its scholarship fund. With the cost of education today, students definitely need support and the work we accomplish together will benefit not just one or two individuals but society at large.

Best regards,

Karen Kowalski, PhD, FAAN, MS ’71
Tasha Mansfield, BS, ’06, was selected to receive the first CU School of Nursing Alumni Association Sandekian Scholarship because she is a wonderful example of the caliber of nursing students in the school today. Not only is she academically proficient, but she achieves this while balancing a job and family. She is focused and has a strong commitment toward her specialty area and graduate degrees. Her instructors and colleagues feel that she has the potential to make a significant contribution to the nursing profession.

Wende Reoch: What prompted you to consider nursing as a career?

Tasha Mansfield: I come from a very loving and compassionate family. I have many nurses in my family and very nurturing parents; they have all been an inspiration to me to treat others in a caring way. I originally began a career as an animal science major and worked for years as an ‘animal nurse’ or veterinary technician. I enjoyed the work I did, however it was not a long-term career for me. In evaluating what I liked about the job in particular, I really liked the interaction and education with the patients, the variety in the work day, and the team environment. Nursing encompasses all of these aspects.

WR: You have a degree in veterinary science; what prompted you to change your focus?

TMs: Before I began college, I had years of volunteer experience in my hometown. In particular, I volunteered for a park district program in which we took children with special needs on day trips. I truly loved that time of my life. I also come from a large family and by growing up around many children I knew I enjoyed them. Upon starting nursing school, I was immediately drawn to maternal-child nursing. In working with children as a population, but especially with children with special needs, education and relationship building is a critical piece of providing good nursing care. This was attractive to me and applicable to both hospital-based care and public health nursing.

WR: Tell us a little bit about yourself and your family - what do you like to do for fun?

TMs: I was a military child; my father was in the Navy. I moved approximately every three years until I was in college and have to-date lived in more than 20 places across the United States. I have very fond memories of growing up, traveling with my father, mother and younger brother, and spending time up in North Dakota and Minnesota with our large extended family. I am now married almost five years and have two cats. I do not have children yet, but look forward to starting a family. Due to my family influence of being in Minnesota, I love the water and look forward to summers when I can spend time at the pool and lake. I also enjoy time with family, friends, traveling, watching movies, and spending time outdoors and exploring new places.
Loretta C. Ford, BS, ‘49, MS, ‘51, RN, PNP, EdD, Wildwood, Fla. In May 2006, Ford received the Columbia University School of Nursing Second Century Award for Excellence in Health Care. In July 2006, she received the Elinor Reed Distinguished Lecturer Award and The Lena Angeline Award for Outstanding Leadership in Nursing. In April 2006, New York’s University of Rochester School of Nursing dedicated an educational wing in Ford’s name to honor her 34 year tenure there as Dean and Director of Nursing.

Adele Parsons de Ryk, BS, ‘53, Loveland, Colo., writes to tell us she is still involved in nursing, “I now own a senior citizen’s residence.” She is a parish nurse for her church; she took the CU parish nurse certificate course. She also volunteers for Planned Parenthood on a weekly basis. “Seems like once a nurse, always a nurse! I continue to be proud to be a CU nursing alums,” she said.

Mary Lee Bradbury Mathias, BS, ‘57, Casa Grande, Ariz., and her husband, Norman, just returned from a river cruise down the Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers, where she ran into a fellow CU grad. She wrote, “Who should I meet but Barbara Lavin, with whom I took the Class of In. The trip in itself was terrific, but having a fellow Buff aboard was a delightful surprise.” The Mathias’ are enjoying good health and good friends in Arizona.

Mary Haave, BS, ‘58, Everett, Colo., reports that the Class of 1958 Scholarship Fund is GROWING - thanks to all of you who have contributed. The current balance is $26,787, and she says “We would like to have 100 percent contribution rate from the Class!” Mary encourages support of the scholarship through gifts made payable to the CU Foundation/c/o SON Class of 1958 Scholarship Fund at 4200 E. 9th Ave, A-080, Denver, Colo. 80262. The Class of 1958 would also enjoy hearing from you. Send a short email to maryh12-@yahoo.com.

Janet (Sollenberger) Pugliesi, BS, ‘67, Longmont, Colo., was recently honored as the Director of Professional Home Health, Inc., located in Denver, Longmont and Boulder. She writes, “Are there any class of ’67 nurses out there? I would love to hear what some of you are doing.”

Jeannie O’Sullivan, MS, ‘71, San Antonio, Texas, taught at the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Nursing after graduating from the CU School of Nursing. Classmates may remember her as Evangeline Ochoa. In 1983, she began working with a private psychiatric group and acquired ANA certification as a psychiatric and mental health nurse.

As managed care evolved in Texas, she was developing special services for women and children. In 1994, Jeannie established a solo practice and acquired a license as a professional counselor and a marriage and family therapist. Three years later, she completed a doctorate in mental health from St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, Texas. Jeannie’s work continues to affect mental health. In 1995, she began working with a private psychiatric group and acquired ANA certification as a psychiatric and mental health nurse.

Martha D. (Knox) Michael, MS, ‘72, Charlotte, recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill with her mentor, Mary H. Palmer, PhD, RNC, FAAN, the Unpletted Distinguished Professor in Aging. Her research interest is fatigue among heart failure patients.

Sharon Baker, BS, ‘83, MS, ‘95, CNRN, APIN-BC, Lakewood, Colo., writes to tell us that she is retired from Point Loma Nazarene University as an assistant professor. She taught pediatric nursing and health assessment. She also worked as a PNP prior to her appointment at the college. She lost her husband more than two years ago, and has done a little travelling and a great deal of quilting since then.

Marlene McAllister, MS, ‘77, Odessa, Texas, is now the CNO at medical Center Hospital in Odessa, Tex. Medical Center Hospital is the regional referral center for the Permian Basin in West Texas.

Mariah A. Taylor, MS, ‘79, Portland, Ore., started a grass-roots, community-based Clinic for the poor in November of 1980 and has seen more than 30,000 children of the medically poor, furniture indigent, and uninsured families of the community. She writes, “Families have traveled for more than 300 miles to receive care from someone who cares. Love is such a valuable and precious commodity.”

Chuck Shelly, PMC, ‘83, MSN, APIN, Reno, Nev., completed the CORE Primary Adult Nurse Practitioner Program in August of 1981. In 2003, he retired as a Commandant after a career as Navy Nurse Practitioner. He is married to the former Laura Hughley, a fellow classmate during his undergraduate years at the University of Texas School of Nursing in San Antonio. Chuck is currently splitting his time working at Planned Parenthood and MedWest for Seniors (along with Laura) an internal medicine practice for geriatrics.

Natalie Hawkins Debbaker, BS, ‘88, Fraser, Colo., recently returned from a month-long adventure traveling through England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, and Denmark with her son Drew, a new high school graduate, and daughter, Mia, 15. Drew will attend CU Boulder this fall. Ms. Debbaker works as a fulltime staff RN at Seven Mile Medical Clinic at the base of the Winter Park Ski Area.

Theon Sea Renae Hardin, PhD, ‘90, Hickory, N.C., associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, recently completed a post doctoral fellowship at the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill with her mentor, Mary H. Palmer, PhD, RNC, FAAN, the Unpletted Distinguished Professor in Aging. Hrdin has a research interest in fatigue among heart failure patients.

Betsy Cummings, MS, ‘95, CFNP, Greenville, Miss., is a member of the Delta Artist Association, and has been actively pursuing her love of painting for the past four years. She has entered several contests and received honorable mentions for two acrylic paintings, and is currently in change of a fall, judged art show. Two years ago, she was on the Northern’s pharmacists and therapists committees for the state of Mississippi, after the legislator mandated that a nurse practitioner sit on the board. She writes of the experience, “It was definitely enlightening. I served for three years and saw how long and drawn out passing laws can be.”

Rose Craigo, PMC, ‘94, Centennial, Colo., will be moving to Minneapolis in September or October. The move has been transferred. She is excited about exploring a new home state and job opportunities.

In Memoriam

Barbara McGibghy, BS, ‘53, Denver, Colo., died April 21, 2006. A Denver native, she married Richard McGibghy in 1959 and together they had two children, a daughter, Suzanne, a nurse, and a son, Scott, of Phoenix, Arizona. Scott said of his mother, “She always gave of herself. It was just in her blood. Her mom was a nurse, too.” After working as a school nurse in Fresno, Calif., she retired to Colorado in the early 1970s to work as a nurse in the Adams County Five Star School District 12. Grade schoolers called her “nurse” because they found her last name difficult to guess the pronunciation. She retired in 1997 and was a volunteer three days a week at the Colorado AIDS Project. In addition to her son, Barbara is survived by one sister, Helen Linn, of Golden and a nephew, Casey Linn of Golden.

G. Lavinia Flaherty, BS, ‘61, MS, ‘66, Chicago, Ill., former nursing supervisor and assistant director of Nursing Education, died on April 12, 2006 after a long illness. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Edward Michael Flaherty, losing mother of Kass F. (Michael S.) Sigal, and beloved grandmother of Sarah C. Sigal. She was laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Sharon Baker, BS, ‘83, MS, ‘95, CNRN, APIN-BC, Lakewood, Colo., writes to tell us that she has changed jobs to become the nurse and family therapist. Three years ago she retired from the University of Colorado School of Nursing. She was also certified as an advanced practiced nurse this year, and writes the test questions for AANN national certified examination. Sharon is an active member in the Colorado Nurses Association, and is on the nominating committee for the Colorado Nurse Association. She belongs to NACNS and reviews books and articles for publications.

Barbara McGibghy, BS, ‘53, Denver, Colo., died April 21, 2006. A Denver native, she married Richard McGibghy in 1959 and together they had two children, a daughter, Suzanne, a nurse, and a son, Scott, of Phoenix, Arizona. Scott said of his mother, “She always gave of herself. It was just in her blood. Her mom was a nurse, too.” After working as a school nurse in Fresno, Calif., she retired to Colorado in the early 1970s to work as a nurse in the Adams County Five Star School District 12. Grade schoolers called her “nurse” because they found her last name difficult to guess the pronunciation. She retired in 1997 and was a volunteer three days a week at the Colorado AIDS Project. In addition to her son, Barbara is survived by one sister, Helen Linn, of Golden and a nephew, Casey Linn of Golden.

Lavinia Flaherty, BS, ‘61, MS, ‘66, Chicago, Ill., former nursing supervisor and assistant director of Nursing Education, died on April 12, 2006 after a long illness. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Edward Michael Flaherty, losing mother of Kass F. (Michael S.) Sigal, and beloved grandmother of Sarah C. Sigal. She was laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Sharon Baker, BS, ‘83, MS, ‘95, CNRN, APIN-BC, Lakewood, Colo., writes to tell us that she has changed jobs to become the nurse and family therapist. Three years ago she retired from the University of Colorado School of Nursing. She was also certified as an advanced practiced nurse this year, and writes the test questions for AANN national certified examination. Sharon is an active member in the Colorado Nurses Association, and is on the nominating committee for the Colorado Nurse Association. She belongs to NACNS and reviews books and articles for publications.
Partnership and teamwork: Formula for a great 50th class reunion

By Mary Racen Brown
Class of 1956

The 18 members of the class of 1956 who attended their 50th reunion in Denver have now experienced all three phases common to such a milestone event: anticipation, celebration, and post-celebration memories. Partnership and teamwork enhanced each and every phase.

Anticipation

Two years beforehand, in 2004, Nancy Inge Baker, Betty Locke Oswald and I met with Wendie Reoch at the HSC Office of Alumni Relations to discuss ideas to make our celebration a truly special event. Following that initial meeting, the “usual suspects” – classmates who gather annually to enjoy being together – decided in addition to attending activities common to the annual Alumni Weekend events in Denver, we would also incorporate Louise King Rausceo’s offer to coordinate a three-day Estes Park YMCA Site Extension option for everyone. Using their address database, the alumni office sent out letters to all our class members describing our plans, and helped facilitate the one-on-one phone calls we made to encourage classmates to come. Nancy Inge Baker located and initiated contact with Marty Howell Clift, long listed as “lost,” and Ardis Phillips Miller was invaluable as the person who agreed to coordinate contacting various Colorado-resident classmates, encouraging them to come. We contacted former instructors, inviting them to attend, as well as Alice Haakinson, our former CG “dorm mother.”

Celebration

Imagine all the catching up we got to do when we were reunited with Frieda Arnold Holt, Grace Leonard Proctor, and Marty Howell Clift - classmates we hadn’t seen in 50 years - as well as all the classmates who were last together at our 25th reunion!

Highlights of the Denver celebration included a tour of the new campus in Aurora; a box supper evening at which Mary Jo Barnhart Powell treated us to a slide show composed of old pictures from our nursing school years; a delightful, and very special “Dinner at Arnie’s,” prepared for us by the family of the former Casa Mayan, and the annual alumni luncheon, at which our class was honored. We were doubly, and very deeply honored to have Janet Velazquez, our anatomy instructor, and Dorothy Gregg, psychiatric nursing instructor, attend the luncheon with us. We had fun teasing Dorothy Gregg about the timing of the sabbatical leave she took just before she would otherwise have had the joy of being our psych instructor!

Loretta Ford, our public health nursing instructor, sent us her regrets that she could not attend because she was at the dedication of a building being named in her honor at New York’s University of Rochester; Eugenia McClure was unable to leave Grand Junction; and Miss Ruegeberg sent regrets and her best wishes to all of us from her home in Illinois. Just prior to the luncheon, we were saddened to learn that Alice Haakinson had passed away in South Dakota.

During the luncheon, we presented the school with a recreation of our class picture to hang alongside the school’s other class pictures – a replacement for our original one that was lost. After the luncheon, Dorothy Gregg conducted a tour for us of the school’s burgeoning History Center.

Those of us who went on to the Estes Park Extension were treated to a gorgeous setting, a herd of elk outside the lodge we stayed in, and wonderfully cooperative weather.

Memories

The Alumni Office printed a memory booklet for us; a collection of informational pages about ourselves that all the members of the class were invited to submit for inclusion. We were especially pleased that Floydette Eaton Seal, Barbara Lockie Auter, Audrey Wood Fenton, Katherine Ferguson, and Nancy Waterfield, who couldn’t be with us in Denver, each sent a page about themselves to be included. It was a great way for them to “be with us,” too.

The memories will long linger through the photographs the alumni office’s Anthony Kapp put onto a disk for us, and the many pictures classmates took, and have since shared with each other.

Thanks to partnership and teamwork, our 50th reunion was a grand event!
Moms bring a heaping portion of culture to the table

By Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

Graciella Contreras takes pride in providing healthy meals for her five children. Guests to her Denver home are offered fresh fruit as snacks and there is not a calorie of junk food to be found in her cupboards.

Contreras, who emigrated from Mexico as a young adult, can’t understand why many Latina mothers in this country let their children get fat. It’s easier for them to teach for a bag of chips or bring home a dinner in a bag than to prepare nutritious food for their babies, she told Lauren Clark, PhD, FAAN, associate dean for research and extramural affairs at the School of Nursing.

“When my first child was born, my life changed,” Contreras explained. “Now I had a child, someone I was responsible for. That responsibility changed the decisions I made about my own health and made me determined to help my child make healthy decisions.”

Contreras’s success in creating a healthy home environment can be seen in her five healthy, normal-weight children, ranging in age from eight to 17.

Clark wanted to get Contreras’s perspective on healthy eating habits for a study she and her collaborator – Susan Johnson, PhD – are conducting on the obesity epidemic among Hispanic children in the Denver metro area. Their goal is to understand the influence of Hispanic culture on food habits and the role of women in nutrition.

“Obesity begins early,” said Clark.

According to national estimates, 40-50 percent of school-age Mexican-American boys and 34-52 percent of school-age Mexican-American girls are overweight or obese, compared to 2025 percent of non-Hispanic white children. In 2005, Hispanics made up 19 percent of Colorado’s population.

Obesity is a complex issue

Overweight and obese young children are like the canaries in the coal mine for the health care system, since their expanded girth puts them at greater risk for hypertension, stroke, type 2 diabetes and certain cancers.

Hispanics have a three-fold increase in the prevalence of diabetes and a diabetes mortality rate twice that of the white population.

Through their research, Clark and Johnson learned that families with a parent working two jobs or doing shift work tended to substitute snacking in place of regular meals, serving fast food and will be faced with a morbidly obese, dysfunctional population that will strain the health care system with an appalling array of health problems. Nurses on the front line in the obesity battle

The staggering rise in the numbers of overweight children, with its associated health ill and financial burdens, is an issue that health care providers are facing on a daily basis. It has been noted that school nurses may soon be regularly called upon to administer insulin shots and hypertension medication.

Lack of a “medical home” (a dedicated health care provider or facility) can set patients up to have escalating health problems that aren’t noticed or dealt with in a timely fashion. Nurses may see overweight kids occasionally for lack of a medical home a dedicated health care provider or facility.

Clark and her research team are interested in how cultural beliefs and practices in families like Contreras’s set up parents and grandparents to value fresh food, family mealtimes, gardening and developmentally appropriate introduction to weaning foods. “Parents have to make hard choices. I have never had much money,” said Contreras, “and it is my job to see that I use that money to buy healthy food. I have to say ‘no’ a lot.”

“Biology is not destiny, nor is the answer is vigilance. Improvement of health of young children who are overweight depends on structuring conversations with parents about obesity prevention, integrated with an understanding of cultural norms and feeding practices specific to the family.

“Biochemistry is not destiny, nor is the answer vigilance. Improvement of health of young children who are overweight depends on structuring conversations with parents about obesity prevention, integrated with an understanding of cultural norms and feeding practices specific to the family.

“Biology is not destiny, nor is the answer vigilance. Improvement of health of young children who are overweight depends on structuring conversations with parents about obesity prevention, integrated with an understanding of cultural norms and feeding practices specific to the family.

Improving the health of young children who are overweight depends on structuring conversations with parents about obesity prevention, integrated with an understanding of cultural norms and feeding practices specific to the family.
Linda Krebs, PhD

Linda Krebs, PhD, distinguished professor, has been selected as a Fellow in the prestigious American Academy of Nursing (AAN).

“This is a great national honor that recognizes her accomplishments in the care of those with cancer, and her outstanding contributions in oncology,” said Dean Patricia Montz. Added Krebs, “I am thrilled to be elected to the Academy. It is something I had really hoped for and will be one of the highlights of my career.” (Look for an article featuring Dr. Krebs in the spring 2007 issue of the SON News.)

Jean Watson, PhD, distinguished professor, gave the opening keynote address at the 25th Anniversary of French University, in Beirut, Lebanon in May and the keynote address for the first International Congress of Arabic Nursing. She also gave the keynote address for the International Conference in Human Caring in Perth, Western Australia, in June.

Amy Barton, PhD, associate professor and Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Affairs, has received a five-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Division of Nursing. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to fund the salaries and operating expenses of the School’s Sheridan Health Services clinic. The clinic provides primary health care services to persons of all ages, including physical assessments, immunizations, minor acute care, management of stable chronic disease conditions, and referrals for complex and emergent care. The SON acknowledges the generosity of the Sheridan School District in providing space and utilities for the clinic and recognizes The Children’s Hospital, which originally initiated the clinic.

Drew Mirque, who directed the SON Web efforts and associated technology projects, has left the school to move back to the East coast to be closer to his family.

He joined the school in 1992 to develop the Denver Free-Net, a community information system.

Janice Kelly awarded scholarship

Congratulations to Janice Kelly, recipient of the 2006 Colorado Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (CHIMSS) Health Information Technology Scholarship Award for Leadership. Kelly is an MS student in health care informatics at the SON and plans to graduate in the summer of 2007.

Kelly has been in nursing informatics for the past 10 years. Prior to her informatics career, she spent 16 years as a critical care nurse working in a variety of critical care environments. She has assisted Hospital Corporation of America and MEDITECH in the development and implementation of multiple clinical information systems projects.

Kelly is board certified in nursing informatics and has presented at the CHIMSS Nursing Informatics Committee on Barcode Medication Administration and the Impact of Computerized Physician Order Entry on Nursing.

“Winning this scholarship was an honor,” said Kelly. “It demonstrates how nurses are respected in the areas of health information management and the important role the informatics nurse has on nursing practice.”

The $5,000 CHIMSS scholarship is awarded to a student pursuing an advanced degree in the field of health care informatics.

Friends of Nursing awards scholarships at spring luncheon

The Friends of Nursing (FON) held its 2006 Spring Luncheon and Scholarship Awards on April 22, 2006 at the Pinehurst Country Club in Denver. Eight students from the SON received FON scholarships for the 2006-07 year.

Recipient this year include:

Lory Maddox, PhD student, FON President’s Scholarship; Leslie Monk, BS student, FON Scholarship; Laura Murtaugh, BS student, Dusy Biddle Memorial Scholarship; Amanda Pacshall, MS student, FON Scholarship; Cynthia Thomas, PhD student, FON Scholarship; Elizabeth Tucker, MS/DNP student, Verda Richie Scholarship; and Stacey Wall, MS student, FON Scholarship.

FON members are community leaders, about half of whom are nurses, who actively support the profession of nursing. Since its founding in 1981, the organization has awarded more than $1 million in scholarship and grant assistance directly to nursing students. For more scholarship or membership information, write to FON, Box 735, Englewood, Colo., 80113-0735.

Master’s student honored

Carole Cassidy, a master’s student in the Health Systems Leadership online program at the School of Nursing, has been named one of the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council’s Great 100 Nurses for 2006.

Winners are chosen by their peers and patients, and are selected because they most exemplify excellence in the art and science of nursing. Criteria for nomination includes leadership, service, acting as a role model, compassion and significant contributions to the community and the profession.

Cassidy is manager of ambulatory services at Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, Texas. She is a specialist in peroperative nursing and is a Certified Nurse of the Operating Room. She graduated with a BS in 1985 from George Mason University. In 2003, she earned a certificate in clinical education from the School of Nursing.

She credits Mary McHugh, PhD, SON associate professor, for being a strong influence in her pursuit of higher education in nursing. The flexibility of the SON’s online programs allows her to pursue her MS degree while working full time and raising three children with her husband.

“I am driven to push the limits and create experiences that are meaningful for patients, their families and my colleagues,” she said. “I have a true love for nursing and the impact it has on individuals and society.”
Fall 2006

Sigma Theta Tau holds spring awards meeting

The Sigma Theta Tau International, Alpha Kappa Chapter held its annual awards meeting April 3 with a buffet dinner, followed by the installation of officers and award ceremony. Sharon Pappas, MS, outgoing vice-president, welcomed attendees to the spring awards program. New officers were installed, including Linda Campbell, PhD, as president; SON professor Ruth O’Brien, PhD, FAAN, as vice-president; and SON associate professor Cathy Thompson, PhD, as counselor. Three SON faculty received the Research Award, including senior instructors Victoria Baker, MS, and Mary Beth Makic, MS, and Teresa Sakrada, DNSc, assistant professor.

Research Dissemination awards were presented to SON students – now graduates, Hannah Sandy, MS, ’06, and Candy Wilson, Phd, ’06. Gary Laustsen, PhD, ’05, chair of the Student Scholarship Committee, was recognized for his scholarship, leadership, and research.

He presented scholarships to the following SON students who were among the recipients:

- Leslie Moak, BS student, Agnes Love Scholarship
- Emily Smitm, MS student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Lisa Thompson, MS to DNP student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Mishca McCabe, ND to DNP student,
- Jean Watson ND/DNP Scholarship
- Jammi Rutledge, MS to DNP student,
- Jean Watson ND/DNP Scholarship
- Cathy Emeis, PhD student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Yuki Tasaka, PhD student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship

Mary Austin wins prestigious scholarship

Mary Austin, a graduate student in the SON master’s program—Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) option, is the recipient of a Gastroenterology Endowed Scholarship from the Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation (NPHF) and Procter & Gamble. The scholarship is given to a NP student whose clinical and/or research interests are in the field of gastroenterology.

Austin plans to graduate from the MS program in May of 2007. Her goal is to work as an NP with adults, children and families who are afflicted with chronic illness, specifically inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), using medical management, support groups and teaching individuals and families positive adaptive coping strategies to improve their quality of life in the presence of lifelong illness.

She commented, “The absence of an effective transition from pediatric care in IBD to adult care has been evident throughout my years as a Gastroenterology Nurse Specialist and I have subsequently developed a particular interest in assisting children during their transition from pediatric care to adult services.”

Master’s student Mary Austin (right) receives NPHF/Procter and Gamble scholarship award from Victoria Erickson, PhD.

Baccalaureate student wins national essay award

Kathryn Lynch, a nursing student in the BS program at the School of Nursing, received an award this past spring for her essay, “How can the nursing profession best prepare for the ever-growing population of older adults,” from the Nursing Spectrum/National Student Nurse Association. Her essay is being published in Nurse Week, Nursing Spectrum, and Imprint.

At 14, Lynch was volunteering in nursing homes and at 16, she went to work in long-term care centers in the Chicago area. It was through subsequent life experience, including her father’s stroke and gradual decline that Lynch became interested in pursuing a nursing career.

“I saw there was a terrible deficit in the capacity of current institutions and methods to address the human, health and spiritual needs of older adults,” said Lynch. “I believe there is imminent and positive change flowing into this realm of health care and feel called to be part of it.”

After she graduates in December 2006, Lynch plans to enter the BS-PhD program and work in geriatrics.

One of her goals is to establish a healing place where elderly patients can recover from an acute condition after leaving the hospital, rather than being placed in a nursing home for rehabilitation. She wants to integrate complimentary and alternative therapies into the patients’ recovery process. Otherwise healthy elderly patients often become depressed and fearful when they’re sent to a nursing home to recuperate, says Lynch, even though it may only be a temporary stay. They equate being in a nursing home with their life being over. This existential crisis can lead to a rapid deterioration of their health.

“I want to make sure there’s someplace else for them, other than a nursing home, a place that’s life-giving,” said Lynch. “Working with the elderly tires my passion. I look forward to contributing to the profession of nursing through this calling.”

Karren Kowalski, PhD, FAAN, project director at the Center for Nursing Excellence and president of the SON Alumni Association, closed the meeting with a presentation entitled, “Who You Are Speaks Louder than What You Do or Say.”

SON students enjoy the buffet dinner preceding the Sigma annual meeting and award ceremony.
The School of Nursing is pleased to announce that an advisory board has been initiated at the school. President Angie Romani leads the board in its mission to support SON efforts to prepare nurses in a university setting with a commitment to education, clinical practice and research. The board has 16 supportive members from the community who have been generous with time and resources. In addition to Angie Romani and Terry Biddinger, they include: Pat Cortez, Steve Edmonds, Jan Friedland, Maribeth Hanzlik, Carl Mahnke, Ann Moore, Janet Mordecai, Mary Osborn, Linda Pryor, Pierre Prouty, Barbara Robb, Jane Robb, Caroline Shreve, and Gene Sobczak.

Last summer the school received a $15,000 donation from a generous donor to kick off its new “Touched by a Nurse Program,” to support evidence-based clinical practice and research in the school. The SON is grateful to the many other donors who have contributed to this program since then. The school continues to fundraise for this ongoing effort.

The School is continuing a successful program to fully fund the Loretta Ford Faculty Endowment in support of the future of nurse practitioner education, practice, and research. Plans for an all-out campaign to complete the fund during the 2006-07 academic year are underway. Stay tuned!

Congratulations to the Class of 1958 who have worked very hard to make an endowment from their class a reality. The class includes: Mary Haave, Kaye Lemon, Henrietta Riedel, Sharon Rutledge, and Sauri Tagawa.

The school’s new Simulation Laboratory helps prepare nursing students for their clinical experiences using lifelike mannequins who “simulate” real symptoms of many disease processes. Another generous donor has just given the funds to purchase a defibrillator for the lab. The SON is so appreciative of the many donors and committed alumni who support the school.

If you have questions about the school’s fundraising programs or would like to talk about a gift to the School of Nursing, please contact Terry Biddinger, BSN, director of External Relations, at 303-315-0768, or terry.biddinger@uchsc.edu.

You are invited
The Art of Nursing
A Fundraising Benefit for the School of Nursing
Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007
5:30 – 8:30 PM
Brushstrokes Studio – Gallery
1059 South Gaylord Street
Valet parking available.
Tickets are $100 per person.
For more information please contact:
Angie Romani
Chair, SON Advisory Board
303-986-6261

Artists will donate 10 percent of all sales to the School of Nursing.

The School of Nursing is pleased to announce that it has received a $15,000 donation from a generous donor to kick off its new “Touched by a Nurse Program,” to support evidence-based clinical practice and research in the school. The SON is grateful to the many other donors who have contributed to this program since then. The school continues to fundraise for this ongoing effort.

The School is continuing a successful program to fully fund the Loretta Ford Faculty Endowment in support of the future of nurse practitioner education, practice, and research. Plans for an all-outcampaign to complete the fund during the 2006-07 academic year are underway. Stay tuned!

Congratulations to the Class of 1958 who have worked very hard to make an endowment from their class a reality. The class includes: Mary Haave, Kaye Lemon, Henrietta Riedel, Sharon Rutledge, and Sauri Tagawa.

The school’s new Simulation Laboratory helps prepare nursing students for their clinical experiences using lifelike mannequins who “simulate” real symptoms of many disease processes. Another generous donor has just given the funds to purchase a defibrillator for the lab. The SON is so appreciative of the many donors and committed alumni who support the school.

If you have questions about the school’s fundraising programs or would like to talk about a gift to the School of Nursing, please contact Terry Biddinger, BSN, director of External Relations, at 303-315-0768, or terry.biddinger@uchsc.edu.

You are invited
The Art of Nursing
A Fundraising Benefit for the School of Nursing
Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007
5:30 – 8:30 PM
Brushstrokes Studio – Gallery
1059 South Gaylord Street
Valet parking available.
Tickets are $100 per person.
For more information please contact:
Angie Romani
Chair, SON Advisory Board
303-986-6261

Artists will donate 10 percent of all sales to the School of Nursing.