Nurse Practitioner education turns 40

Dr. Loretta Ford reflects on groundbreaking NP program

You are invited!
Message from the Dean

The School of Nursing has some exciting news to share with you.

We are delighted that the year 2005 marks the 40th anniversary of Nurse Practitioner education and practice in the United States and are proud our school is the birthplace. This issue of the SON News features numerous articles about the NP program and its history. Please join us November 14 for a reception honoring Loretta Ford, EdD, DAAN, and the late Henry Silver, MD, co-founders of the NP role.

We have initiated a new graduate program in nursing – the Doctor of Nursing Practice. On Feb. 24, the University of Colorado Board of Regents approved changing our 15-year-old Doctor of Nursing (ND) degree to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). After a whirlwind admissions process of highly qualified applicants, our first DNP students started classes this fall.

The new DNP program was precipitated by recent recommendations from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to standardize the preparation and degree title for professional practice doctoral programs in nursing across the United States.

We are the first in the Rocky Mountain region to initiate the DNP program. In 1990 we were innovators, one of the first nursing schools in the nation to offer a professional doctorate in nursing and today we’re using this experience as we convert to the DNP degree. The interest in the program nationally and in Colorado suggests that the DNP is going to be one of our strongest programs, and graduates will likely set the standard for advanced practicing nursing in the future.

The DNP degree appeals to nurses with an MS or a BS degree in nursing who are interested in a practice-focused doctorate, as well as graduates from other fields who want to become nurses and continue into graduate study. DNP graduates will build on nursing specialty practice and will be prepared as leaders who will design models of health care delivery, evaluate clinical outcomes, identify and manage health care needs of populations, and use technology and information to transform health care systems.

The DNP program hopes to attract MS-prepared, advanced practice nurses who want to expand their education as well as BS graduates who want to pursue a specialty with preparation at a doctoral level, and the program will continue to recruit people from other fields.

If you would like more information about the new DNP program, please contact our admissions office at 303-315-5592 or 800-248-2344, by email at son.oasis@uchsc.edu, or go to the School’s Web site at www.uchsc.edu/nursing.

In other exciting news, we are delighted to have nine new faculty joining the School this fall, including: Paul Cook, PhD, assistant professor; Michael Galbraith, PhD, associate professor; Cathy Jaynes, PhD, assistant professor; John Mutikani, PhD, assistant professor; Leli Pedro, DNSc, ONC, assistant professor; Karen Peifer, PhD, MPH, assistant professor; Indy Reynolds, PhD, assistant professor; Teresa Sakraida, DNSc, assistant professor; and Lynda Stallwood, PhD, PNP, assistant professor.

The ability to hire new faculty has allowed us to increase enrollments in our academic programs. This fall enrollments are at an all-time high. The baccalaureate program has a record 371 students including traditional, accelerated, and RN to BS students.

We have 63 students in the DNP and ND programs, 43 of whom are entering the program and 20 who are planning to graduate with the ND degree. There are 289 master’s students this fall, another record, and 46 PhD students. We also have 105 Post-MS Certificate and Extended Studies students. Our total student population this fall stands at 874 students, the largest in our history!
1966 was a year of potential and achievement. An artificial heart was installed in the chest of a young boy. The manned Soviet Luna 9 spacecraft makes the first controlled rocket-assisted landing on the moon. Indira Gandhi is elected Prime Minister of India. President Lyndon Johnson signs the Freedom of Information Act into law.

And Susan (Stearly) Ripley became the nation’s first nurse practitioner. She looks back on an adventurous career which helped shape the role of nurse practitioners.

‘Adventure’ has been my trigger word for 50 years. As a diploma gradu-
2005 Nightingale awards event draws record attendance

A record-breaking crowd was on hand for the 20th Anniversary Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Human Caring held May 7.

Two alumni of the CUJ School of Nursing were among the six recipients of the prestigious award for their contributions to the profession of nursing.

- Robert Montgomery, ND ’95, clinical nurse specialist, anesthesiology, acute pain service, University of Colorado Hospital
- Cindy Neal, MS ’96, family nurse practitioner, Marillac Clinic in Grand Junction

There were 285 nominations from around the state for the annual award.

“Dr. Montgomery has been an example of leadership in nursing and interdisciplinary collaboration,” said Lauren Clark, PhD, FAAN, director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program (formerly the Doctor of Nursing program).

The 20th annual event, hosted by the Colorado Nurses Foundation, was held May 7 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver. A record attendance of more than 700 people attended the 2005 “Nightingala” event.

Jean Watson, PhD, FAAN, provided a special presentation titled Caring and Love: Illuminating the Light of Nursing.

Finalists who are SON alumni included:
- Kelly Johnson, MS ’03, vice president, patient care services and chief nursing officer, Craig Hospital, Englewood
- Barbara Wertz, BS ’62, vice president, patient services and chief nursing officer, Exempla St. Joseph Hospital, Denver

Sandra Jones portrayed Florence Nightingale and presented a likeness of the Turkish lantern she carried during the Crimean War to Dr. Jarrett as a gift from Corinne Koehler, BS ’61, MPA, event chair, and her husband Ken Koehler, long-time supporters.

Palliative Care Certificate Program: Sustaining an NCI/NIH Grant

Palliative care offers nurses the opportunity to provide comfort, care and support to patients requiring a continuum of care from chronic illness to end-of-life.

Palliative care is a holistic approach that manages symptoms and pain, and emphasizes spiritual and emotional care for patients and families. The goal is not to cure, but to maintain the highest possible quality of life for the patient, according to Paula Nelson-Marten, PhD, AOCN.

Now in its second year, the Palliative Care Certificate Program at the School of Nursing prepares nurses to provide compassionate palliative care to patients and their families and appreciate their complex needs. The program involves two three-credit courses that include both classroom and online study, and grants graduate credit upon completion.

“Palliative care really should start when an individual is first diagnosed with a chronic illness,” said Nelson-Marten, who has been involved in oncology nursing, supportive care, and end-of-life care since 1982. “About 70 percent of illness is chronic in nature and many individuals would benefit from palliative care.”

Friends of Nursing scholarships awarded

The 24th annual Friends of Nursing scholarship awards were presented April 23 at the spring luncheon held in the Denver Marriott. Seven students from the UCDHSC School of Nursing received scholarships for the 2005-06 academic year.

Recipients included:
- Deborah Kendall-Gallagher, PhD student, FON Scholarship
- Mary Khoury, PhD student, FON Scholarship
- Jami McClaran, ND student, Viola Baudendistel Memorial Scholarship
- Serah Oneyali, BS student, Margaret Lewis Memorial Scholarship
- Cynthia Thomas, PhD student, FON Scholarship
- Elizabeth Tucker, PhD student, FON Scholarship
- Stacey Wall, MS student and NP preparation, Lelia B. Kinney Scholarship

Ann Smith, PhD, president of FON, commented, “Friends of Nursing has a single purpose: Providing scholarships for nursing students enrolled in degree programs in Colorado schools of nursing. Through this effort, we hope to advance leadership roles in professional nursing and to improve health and patient care.”

The featured speaker was Clay Yeager, CEO and president of the Nurse-Family Partnership, whose keynote address was titled Nurses Make a Difference. Greta Pollard, BS ’64, co-founder and founding president of Friends of Nursing, was recognized at the luncheon and gave a brief history of the organization.

Friends of Nursing members are community leaders, about half of whom are nurses, who actively support the profession of nursing. Since its founding in 1983, 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., 80151-0735.
Dr. JoAnn Congdon receives first Elisabeth H. Boeker Award

School of Nursing Professor JoAnn Congdon, PhD, FAAN, has been selected to receive the first Elisabeth H. Boeker Faculty Excellence in Research Award for her special achievement in gerontological nursing research that has applications to clinical and education settings. As part of this award, Dr. Congdon received $8,000 to support her research and will present a lecture in the fall on a topic related to her research program.

The Elisabeth H. Boeker Faculty Excellence in Research Award is awarded to faculty to promote and reward excellence in faculty research at the UCDHSC School of Nursing and to support further development of the recipient's research program.

Dr. Congdon received the Boeker Award at the School's annual Convocation ceremony, held on May 27. She commented, “I was highly honored to receive this award and want to thank the Selection Committee, Dean Moritz, and especially Mrs. Elisabeth H. Boeker and the Boeker family for their generosity in establishing this award to support the School of Nursing faculty with their research.

You are invited!

SPEAKER:
JoAnn Congdon, PhD, FAAN
2005 Recipient of Elisabeth H. Boeker Faculty Excellence in Research Award

Presentation on her gerontological nursing research

WHEN:
Thursday, December 1, 2005
3:00 PM
Reception follows

WHERE:
School of Nursing Auditorium
9th Avenue HSC Campus

R.S.V.P. by November 21, 2005 to Eileen Rollo, School of Nursing, 303-315-0168 or Eileen.rollo@uchsc.edu.

Sigma Theta Tau holds spring awards meeting

Mary M. D'Arigo, PhD, associate professor and president of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, brought Sigma's Spring Program and Awards Meeting to order on April 4 in the UCDHSC Denison Auditorium with a Welcome to the attendees.

Colleen Goode, PhD, FAAN, adjunct professor in the SON and Vice President Patient Services and CNO, University of Colorado Hospital, was awarded the 2005 Doris J. Bieder Award for Excellence in Leadership. SON faculty and/or alumni recipients of the Research Award included Katherine Bent, PhD ‘00; Anne Marie Kotzer, PhD, associate professor adjunct; Gary Laustsen, PhD ‘05; Karen LeDuc, MSN, senior instructor adjunct; and Ruth O'Brien, PhD, FAAN, professor.

Scholarship award recipients included seven SON students:

- Tanya Dodge, BS student, Agnes Love Scholarship
- Stacey Wall, MS student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Donnamarie Whitfield, MS student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Silja Haagenson, MS student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Vicki Grossman, MS student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Deborah Kendall-Gallagher, PhD student, Henrietta Loughran Scholarship
- Thuy Nguyen, Jean Watson Nursing Doctorate Scholarship

Jean Watson, PhD, FAAN, distinguished professor and Vicki George, PhD, FAAN, senior vice president/CNO of Catholic Health Initiatives, closed the meeting with a presentation, Caring Nursing Leadership in Theory and Practice.

Nursing associate dean selected for prestigious national fellowship

Amy J. Barton, PhD, associate dean for clinical affairs, is among 20 health care professionals in leadership roles nationwide to be selected for a 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship, a program designed to lead the nation's health care system through the 21st century.

Dr. Barton will participate in the prestigious three-year fellowship program, which is part of a national strategy to position the voice of nursing across multiple sectors of the United States economy at a time when the country's health care system is undergoing unprecedented changes and challenges.

"Nurses must and will play a pivotal role in leading the restructuring of the nation's health care system and ensuring its future success," Dr. Barton said. "I'm honored to be chosen as a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow and look forward to collaborating with nursing and health care leaders from around the country.

Now in its seventh year, the fellowship enables participants to further develop critical leadership skills under the direction of nationally recognized coaches and instructors from the health care industry and other sectors of the economy. For her part, Barton will undertake a leadership project to benefit the School of Nursing, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and matching UCDHSC funds.

Amy Barton, PhD

Barton has taught at the School of Nursing since 1997. She obtained a doctorate in nursing at the University of Florida College of Nursing, Gainesville, Fla., a master's degree in nursing at Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, Ohio, and a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, where she graduated magna cum laude. Barton's work has appeared in national and international nursing journals and academic textbooks. She has presented research at conferences and forums in the United States and abroad.

In addition to the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship, she has been selected to participate in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing 2005 Leadership for Academic Nursing Program, another in a long list of awards and accolades she has received over the past 21 years.

Dr. Barton also has been selected to receive the 2005 Distinguished Alumna Award from the College of Health and Human Professions at the University of Toledo.

Dean Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN commented, "I believe Dr. Barton is particularly well suited to become an RWJ Executive Nurse Fellow due to her unique background that combines academic and experiential preparation in informatics and administration."

JoAnn Congdon, PhD, FAAN
Evidence-Based Practice topic of Lola M. Fehr Lectureship

The standing-room only audience of nurse practitioners, nursing leaders and students in the School of Nursing auditorium was eagerly awaiting Dr. Bernadette Melnyk’s talk, Making a Case for Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare, at the 8th Annual Lola M. Fehr Lectureship held April 28.

“Evidence-based practice is a problem solving approach to the care that we deliver which takes into consideration the best evidence from research studies in combination with the clinician’s expertise and the patient’s preferences and values,” Dr. Melnyk told the roomful of nursing professionals.

Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, CPNP/NPP, FAAN, FNAP, is a distinguished foundation professor and dean of the College of Nursing at Arizona State University and has practiced for more than 20 years as a pediatric and psychiatric nurse practitioner. She is founder and chair of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners’ KYSS (Keep Your Children and Yourself Safe and Secure) Program, a national mental health promotion campaign for children and teens, and is a development expert for national ABC news. She co-authored the book, Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing and Healthcare: A Guide to Best Practice.

Basing clinical healthcare on research rather than tradition is not a new concept in nursing practice, but has become much more significant as nurses have begun looking at patient care procedures through the lens of modern evidence-based practice (EBP).

Evidence-based practice is the process of systematically locating, appraising, and using research findings as the basis for clinical decisions. It emphasizes the use of research and evidence to guide clinical decision making.

As an example of how a clinician weighed a patient’s preferences and values into the EBP decision-making process, Dr. Melnyk told about a 92-year-old woman who had been a professional tap dancer. After retiring from professional tap dancing, the woman held charity shows where she performed and donated the proceeds to charitable organizations.

Dean Pat Moritz, Dr. Bernadette M. Melnyk and Lola Fehr, M.S.

After a debilitating ruptured disk sidelined her from dancing, her physician was reluctant to do surgery because of the evidence of risk at her age. When the woman said she was willing to take the risk because life wasn’t worth living if she couldn’t dance, her physician agreed to arrange for her to receive the surgery. Six months later the elderly woman sent the physician an invitation to her next charity dance recital.

“That’s a good example of how our patients’ preferences need to enter into our decision along with our clinical expertise and the evidence from studies,” Dr. Melnyk explained.

Dr. Melnyk recommends using the five steps of EBP in clinical practice:

1. Formulate a clear clinical question about a patient’s problem using the PICO formula, which stands for Patient Population; Intervention or area of Interest; Comparative intervention; Desired Outcome.
2. Search the literature for relevant clinical articles for the best available evidence.
3. Evaluate the evidence for its validity and usefulness.
4. Implement useful findings in clinical practice.
5. Evaluate the outcome in the clinical setting.

“Doing something because you’re told that’s the way it’s always been done isn’t good enough any more,” she said.

School of Nursing honors nursing pioneer

The UCDHSC School of Nursing’s annual Diversity Leadership Reception honors nurses who have made significant contributions working with diverse populations. One of the honorees was Zipporah Parks Hammond, who in 1946, became the first black woman to graduate from the University of Colorado’s nursing program.

When Zipporah Parks Hammond was in fifth grade, the teacher had the class draw a picture of what the students wanted to be when they grew up. Hammond drew a picture of a nurse, because she just knew that’s what she wanted to be someday. Little did she know that her decision to become a nurse would make her a pioneer. With no role models to follow, she became the role model, eventually penetrating segregated environments to achieve her dream.

Hammond, 80, is “one of the school’s real pathfinders,” according to Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, school of nursing dean.

When Hammond was accepted to the nursing school in 1941, she was the only black woman in a class of 30 students. She was barred from rooming with white students, who became angry at the school for allowing Hammond to even study with them. Over time, she made friends with her classmates and earned the nickname “Zippy,” which she has kept ever since.

After graduation, Hammond worked as a surgical operating room nurse at Colorado General Hospital. A year later she was recruited by the chief of orthopedics at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama as his chief surgical nurse. She worked at John Andrews Hospital-Infantile Paralysis Unit, the institute’s polio clinic.

While there, she contracted tuberculosis and was sent back to Denver to recuperate at a sanitarium run by the National Jewish Hospital. There she met her future husband, Sheldon, who was also a patient at the sanitarium.

Because the tuberculosis left her lungs scarred, Hammond’s doctors discouraged her from returning to nursing, so she enrolled in the Medical Records Librarian Certificate in 1948. She became assistant director of the Medical Records Department at University Hospital and in 1953 became medical records director at Presbyterian Hospital until resigning in 1956 to raise a family. In 1964 she again went to work at University Hospital and retired in 1991.

Hammond’s influence extended beyond nursing.

Her passion had an impact on her family as well. One son is leading the way as one of the few minority deputy directors in the United States Geological Survey while another son is blazing trails of diversity in executive assignments in human resources.

The UCDHSC School of Nursing salutes Hammond for her tenacity, passion and vision. The Diversity Leadership Reception, held in Humphrey’s Lounge at the School of Nursing, on Dec. 3, 2004, was sponsored by the UCDHSC School of Nursing. Guest speakers were Margie Bal-Cook, PhD, ANP, president of the Colorado Council of Black Nurses, and Cathy Benavides-Clayton, MS, NP, president of the Colorado Hispanic Nurses Association.
Reunion Weekend 2005 recap and a look forward to 2006

The 2005 Reunion Weekend kicked off Thursday afternoon, April 28, with the Eighth Annual Lola Fehr Lecture ship in which Dr. Bernadette Melnyk gave a lecture on “Making a Case for Evidence-Based Practice.”

The lecture was followed by a reception attended by faculty and students from across the campus as well as alumni and honored guests.

Friday, April 29, alumni gathered on the Ninth Avenue campus to attend a student panel presentation and the annual reunion luncheon. Student panelists Tanya Dodge, Mary Khoury, Beth Tucker and Stacey Wall, along with student moderator Kari Hopper, discussed the various programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The annual reunion luncheon honored members of the Class of 1955 and three recipients of awards from the Alumni Association. Janice Pigg (BS ’55) represented the 50 year class and talked to the group about the significance of her education at CU.

Saturday morning, April 30, alumni enjoyed a tour of the new Fitzsimons campus and presentations by Dean Patricia Moritz and members of the faculty.

Plans are now underway for the 2006 reunion. Mark your calendar for Reunion Weekend 2006 – April 27-29, 2006. The Class of 1956 alumni reception during the annual Faculty Reception.

SONAAL recognizes contributions of alumni and friends

A special part of the annual reunion luncheon is the opportunity for the School of Nursing Alumni Association to recognize outstanding alumni and friends of the school. This year’s reunion luncheon was no exception. We were pleased to present three awards on behalf of our alumni:

Denise Geilot, PhD., RN., FAAN (MS ’71), received the 2005 Distinguished Alumna of the Year award for her major contributions to the school through her instrumental early leadership of Nurse Practitioner education in the nation. Dr. Geilot also started one of the early acute care emergency trauma nurse practitioner programs at the University of Virginia and, in addition, helped lead the early federal program in primary care education to prepare nurse practitioners and nurse midwives. Throughout her career, she has continued to advance the concept of nurse practitioner education and practice and has made a significant contribution to the education of primary care practitioners through her work with the National Clinical Nurse Practitioner Education Program and the National Institute of Health-funded faculty development program.

LaFawn Biddle, Clare Sandekian (MS ’69) and Karen Kowalski, PhD., FAAN (MS ’71) and Ramey Johnson, RN (MS ’93) were also presented with the 2005 Distinguished Alumnae Award to Dr. Geilot at the Friday evening CU Alumni Reception.

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Nurse Practitioner Symposium in Keystone, Colo.)

Ramey Johnson, RN, (MS ’93) received the 2005 Alumni Distinguished Service Award for her contributions as a State Representative for Colorado as well as 20 years of outstanding service as a health professional in the community health arena.

LaFawn Biddle received a special commendation for her support of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education efforts throughout the State of Colorado. Through her dedicated and sustained efforts, many nurses have benefitted from scholarship funds that have been established for support of nursing students to make significant contributions to health care at the local, state, national and international levels.
SONAA President’s Column

Recently, I heard an interesting story about a nurse - a lovely, courageous, yet hard working ED nurse from the state of Washington, who in the normal course of events, occasionally suffered periods of burnout, felt under-appreciated and sensed a significant misunderstanding about what nurses do.

She was flying home from Minneapolis when a flight attendant asked for assistance from anyone on the plane with medical training. There was a medical problem in first class. As no one else was jumping to their feet to help, the nurse walked forward to the first class cabin to assess the situation.

She found a 54-year-old man exhibiting signs of a significant cardiovascular problem. He managed to tell her that he had previously had bypass surgery, had a pacemaker in place and also carried emergency nitroglycerine. She found the tablets, had him take an aspirin plus his nitroglycerine. Using the airplane's first aid kit, she started an IV while the pilot turned the plane around.

It was a fairly bumpy ride both for the plane and for the patient. The nurse did receive assistance from a fellow passenger who tore tape for her seat, the passengers applauded her and the pilot turned the plane around.

As the nurse made her way back to her seat, the passengers applauded her for her efforts and asked what it was that led to a nurse, to save a life. The nurse was grateful although somewhat embarrassed (as nurses frequently are) by the unexpected interest and recognition. The flight crew also gave her two free gin and tonics. Not bad for a day's work.

What I liked most about this story was the recognition of nurses and what they do on a daily basis. I also liked that the nurse had a sense of humor about the surprise of “Joe public” regarding what nurses do both with and without physicians.

I shared this story with the senior nursing students when I met with them (the last class prior to graduation) to tell them what the Alumni Association is about and why they should be interested. We are about role modeling what we want for the future of the profession. We are about CU nurses going the extra mile and helping the school as well as the students who are the future of our profession. For us it is an example of giving back to the school which prepared us for the profession and the many roles that are possible.

The association has been involved in several strategic planning sessions this summer to help us shape the future of the association. We are interested in helping students by providing financial support in the form of scholarships, sharing information about job search techniques and offering mentoring opportunities, to name but a few of the efforts. We encourage long term efforts to connect our alumni with each other and with the university through our annual reunion activities.

I hope many of you are interested in helping us. The first step is to renew your membership or join the association as a new member. The next step is to volunteer for one of the committees or work groups that are focused on these opportunities to enhance the student experience as well as the profession. Just contact the alumni office at 303-315-8832 or by email at alumni@uchsc.edu. And remember, we have FUN!

Karen Kowalski, PhD, FAAN (MS ’71)

Become a member of YOUR alumni association

Membership in the School of Nursing Alumni Association helps provide programs and services that stimulate interest, build loyalty for, and increase support for the School of Nursing. Your membership will involve you in the life and growth of the School of Nursing and helps the Nursing Alumni Association financially support class reunion activities and educational seminars, student scholarships and providing a CU Nursing pin for the graduating class each year.

Membership Benefits include:
- eligibility for membership in the U of C Federal Credit Union,
- special privileges at the Denison Memorial Library,
- Alamo auto rental and Paele Vision discounts,
- admission to prefootball game activities in Boulder, and
- invitations to special events for alumni members only.

Please visit our new, improved web site and download a membership application today! www.uchsc.edu/alumni/nursing/

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Website: www.uchsc.edu/alumni

ND Program celebrates homecoming

More than 100 alumni and faculty attended the first ever homecoming reunion for the Doctor of Nursing (ND) Program. The Doctor of Nursing Program: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, was held Jan. 24 at the Fitzsimons campus in Aurora.

For 15 years, the ND program at the SON has educated students entering the nursing profession at the graduate level for positions of clinical and entrepreneurial leadership in nursing and health care. In the fall, the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center is offering a new graduate program in nursing, converting the ND to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

Outstanding ND Alumni Awards were presented to Robert Montgomery, ND, and Teri Chase, ND. Awards were given to two current SON faculty who teach in the ND program, Gail Armstrong, ND, and Joan Nelson, ND, MSN, ANP.

For attendees, this first reunion was an inspiring celebration of accomplishments and memories. But it was also an opportunity to look to the future of the new DNP program.

“The homecoming was a bridge, celebrating and bringing closure to the ND program, and paving the way for the DNP program,” said Lauren Clark, PhD, FAAN, director of the ND program and now director of the new DNP program.
As temperatures in Denver reached nearly 100, many School of Nursing alumni were enjoying a comfortable 73 in Keystone, Colo., at the 30th National Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Symposium.

Alumni connected with colleagues, friends and classmates at a reception hosted by the School of Nursing Alumni Association (SONAA) on Friday evening July 22. More than 100 alumni gathered for refreshments and the opportunity to reminisce, discuss their current successes and challenges and enjoy each other’s company.

The evening included a brief program that honored fellow alumnae Loretta Ford, EdD, FAAN (BS ’49, MS ’51) and Denise Geolot, PhD, FAAN (MS ’71), for the vision and dedication that made them pioneers in the Nurse Practitioner field. Karen Kowalski, PhD, FAAN (MS ’71), president of the SONAA, presided over the program, and Dean Patricia Moriitz, PhD, FAAN, provided a brief history of the Nurse Practitioner program and the many contributions made by the honorees.

The evening’s festivities closed with a drawing for several raffle prizes donated by the Office of Alumni Relations and the School of Nursing.

Janice Pigg

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master’s degree in health service administration, shared that story and others during Reunion Weekend April 28-30 while in Denver to celebrate the 50th anniversary of her graduation from the School of Nursing.

She credits the importance of patient education and teamwork as two of the most significant lessons she learned at the SON. Those two concepts became the foundation on which her practice of nursing was based. With an interest in rheumatology, Pigg was one of the first in this nursing area and fashioned positions for herself when none had existed, whether it was as a staff nurse or administrator. And she was never shy about questioning the status quo.

“I’ve always challenged things,” she said. “Nothing infuriates me more than to have someone say they do things a particular way because that’s the way it’s always been done. That’s a red flag for me.”

After graduation, she worked as a nurse – and the sole staff employee – in the Champaign-Urbana, Ill., hospital’s busy emergency room.

Drawing on the skills she learned at the school, Pigg taught classes in the fundamentals of nursing, pharmacology and medical-surgical skills at the Julia F. Burnham School of Nursing in Champaign.

“The first naso-gastric tube I ever passed was to show a student how to do it,” she said. “Teaching really motivates you. I was one page ahead of the students all the way.”

After a five year hiatus to look after her small children, Pigg returned to nursing and spent the next thirty-one years of her career at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee, Wis.

By partnering with rheumatologists, orthopedic surgeons, physical and occupational therapists, social workers and dieticians Pigg helped to pioneer multi-disciplinary arthritis care teams.

“I began to do my own patient assessments and demonstrated to other team members the contributions nurses could make,” she said.

Since the mid-1970s, Pigg has been involved in nursing research. She studied whether patient education affected the outcome of rehabilitation in individuals with early rheumatoid arthritis and those who had total hip replacements, and fatigue as a nursing diagnosis. Drawn by her pioneering research and publications, nurses came from as far away as Australia, New Zealand, and the UK to study with her. These experiences and her work in continuing education formed the basis of the book Rheumatology Nursing: A Problem Oriented Approach, for which she is the first author, (John Wiley 1983) and over a dozen chapters contributed to medical-surgical textbooks and books on chronic disease.

Now retired, Pigg remains active in her field. She is participating in a task force to plan a clinical focus course for nurse practitioners in rheumatology for the next annual meeting of the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals (an arm of the American College of Rheumatology).

“Only by sharing your knowledge, beliefs and philosophy with others are you able to really make a change,” she said. “We’re moving more and more into the age of chronic disease. We’ll need the continuity of teamwork and patient education – the kind emphasized at the school – to make sure those patients are well cared for.”

Reunion weekend

Continued from page 7

Reunion Committee is active and already at work planning activities for that weekend, including a possible extension of festivities to Estes Park. Diane C. Hughes (MS ’75) is interested in planning events for a 30th Reunion.

If you would like to get involved in reunion activities for these or other classes, please contact the Alumni office and we will put you in touch with the alumni volunteers who are planning the events or help you with organizing a reunion for your class. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 303-315-8832 or toll free, 1-877-HSC-ALUM (472-2586) or by email at alumni@uchsc.edu.
1950s

Marjorie V. Baty, PhD, FAAN (MS '56), Seattle, Wash., was a 2004 inductee in the Washington State Nurses Association Hall of Fame. Additional Awards are given every two years to up to six deserving registered nurses in recognition of their lifelong contributions and achievements in professional nursing and for their leadership in the advancement of nurses and healthcare in Washington State. Dr. Baty, an emeritus professor of nursing at the University of Washington, was one of the key people in the early development and growth of nursing research as a discipline. Dr. Baty has thousands of articles and reviews and edited the first 10 volumes of Communicating Nursing Research from its inception in 1968 until she retired in 1993. She was one of the founders of the Western Society for Research in Nursing. Her own research and editorship set high standards for the reporting of nursing research nationally and internationally. She also remained active in professional association activities throughout her career and served on the boards of both KCNA and WSNA and helped establish the first Council of Nurse Researchers at ANA.

1960s

S. Clare Sandekian (MS '69), Denver, Colo., received the Founders Award from Peer Assistance Services, Inc., at the 2005 Annual Awareness Event in April. In his comments during the award presentation, President Jeff Downing noted that “Clare is tireless in her work and advocacy for people with substance abuse and mental health disorders. She has a 50-year career in psychiatric and addictions nursing, education and administration. Clare has always been an advocate for employees, and for nurses, believing that if you take care of the staff and remove the obstacles that get in their way, they are empowered to do their best work with clients and patients.” Ms. Sandekian helped to guide the agency for Interim and Board-President roles, including holding offices as secretary, president and treasurer. Clare accepted the award as more than 200 supporters gave her a standing ovation.

1980s

Paula Sexton (MS ’80, FNP ’82), Silverdale, Wash., has had a successful 15-year career in the U.S. Navy and is now a commander stationed at Bremerton Naval Hospital. She writes that in her practice as an FNP/Licensed Independent Practitioner, she manages primary care of patients from infants to elderly with a range of episodic and chronic care needs. She has been stationed at two Family Practice Residency Training Programs and has served overseas duty in Spain and Italy. She has also realized her dream of assisting in a humanitarian cause during the Haitian immigration crisis in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She credits Kathy Magliy, PhD, FAAN, professor and assistant dean of the school’s graduate programs, for her success in the Navy and as a family nurse practitioner.

1990s

Robert Montgomery (ND ’95), Denver, Colo., was selected to be a 2005 Nightingale award recipient for his work in pain management and the SIUC at University of Colorado Hospital. He was selected as one of six recipients from 285 nominees throughout Colorado. Congratulations Rob! (See related article on page 4.)

2000s

Jana Berryman (ND ’04), Denver, Colo., is employed by the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence and has been working since her graduation in May of 2004 on a project to fund the first phase of the Work, Education and Lifelong Learning Simulation (WELLS) Center. The Center will be one of the most sophisticated clinical education facilities in the country for nurses and nursing faculty. Dr. Berryman notes that the project has been exciting work and she credits her experience at CU with preparing her for this work. She wrote that she was “…able to reach a variety of landmarks within this past year: co-authored a publication, co-presented with Dr. Gail Armstrong at a national conference, presented at local conferences, and has had opportunities to work with nurse and other healthcare leaders within our community (and nationally) that are working collaboratively to build the nursing profession. It has been an exciting experience and I firmly believe that it was the ND program (classmates, director(s), professors, instructors, and mentors) that prepared me for this journey. Thanks!”

Amy Stigil Hindman (ND ‘00), Hay Springs, Neb., will soon be starting as director of Nursing Services at Gordon Memorial Hospital in Gordon, Neb. She is also receiving Federal Nursing Education Loan Repayment (visit hrsagov for more information) and hopes to have 75 percent of her student loans forgiven by 2007. She encourages other alumni to look into this program. She and her husband Todd have a beautiful 21-month-old son named Sam. Dr. Hindman sends her regards to the class of 2000!

Zachary D. Mueller (ND ’05), Aurora, Colo., was recently promoted to director of education at The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA). After making an impact during his residency year, he assumed the position in June 2005. In this role, he will oversee the education for the TMCA health system (South and North campuses, as well as Centennial Medical Plaza). His duties will consist of strategic planning, ensuring staff competency, arranging clinical placements, managing as well as acting as a resource and support for the clinical educators, reviewing and updating policies and procedures, being heavily involved in JCAHO surveys, and promoting and mentoring research. He is excited about this new role and the direction that TMCA is headed. He writes “I wanted to share this information with you for two reasons. First, I think it is important for alumni to share what is happening in their professional lives, and how education at the SON has impacted that. Most poignantly, my ND has played a strong role in my success. My MS (soon to be completed) has certainly played a very strong supporting role as well. I wouldn’t have done it any other way, and I am very grateful for my nursing education at the SON, and how it has been such a good fit for me. Second, I wanted to thank the CU faculty for the role they played in my development as a professional nurse and nurse leader. Although many have impacted my life, each made a special impact and contributed something especially valuable to my life during my time at CU, and I want to thank them for that – I don’t think I would be the same if it hadn’t been for them.”

Rebecca Singer, (ND ’04), is working with Doctors Without Borders/ Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Monrovia, Liberia, providing treatment and support for victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence at Benson Hospital’s Gender-Based Violence Clinic. Singer was an ND case management intern and a teaching assistant with the clinical practice serving survivors of torture at the Rocky Mountain Survivors Center in Denver. She wrote about her experiences in the September Docters Without Borders online newsletter. Six to 15 new patients come to the clinic each day. Approximately one-third of the patients treated there are children under the age of 18. Victims of sexual violence are examined and provided with medications to prevent sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS, or an unwanted pregnancy. They are also given a medical certificate that could help them in court if they decide to pursue legal action.

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Barker Bilsbysky (BS ’47), Eugene, Ore., died Jan. 10, 2005 at the age of 79. She lived in Colorado, Minnesota and Arizona and spent most of her career teaching nursing. She was a nursing administrator at UCLA Medical Center from 1960 to 1965. She worked at Santa Monica College from 1965 to 1984, founding and directing the licensed vocational nurse program and two years later started the registered nursing program and programs for other health occupations. Following her “retirement” in 1984 she returned to Arizona and worked as a community health nurse for Yavapai County from 1988 to 1999. Margaret moved to Oregen in 2000 and was a member of Valley Covenant Church where she taught a Sunday school class and was involved in other activities of the church. She remained a member of Eastern Star Diamond Chapter 7 and PEO Chapter I of Cottonwood, Ariz. Survivors include her son Stephen Bilsbysky of Springfield, Ore., her daughter, Helen Pearson of Keizer, Ore., her sister Marjorie Anklam of Tucson, Ariz.; three grandchildren, Matthew Alexander and Susan and Joanna Bilsbysky; and several nieces and nephews.

Gretchen Oaks Porter (BS ’60), Denver, Colo., died July 17, 2005 at age 67. She will be remembered for her love of family, travels to exotic lands and involvement in charitable causes such as Girl Scouts and Denver Digs Trees. She is survived by her four children, Brian Porter of Brookfield, Conn., Laura Porter of Livingston, N.J., Holly Vitullo of Dallas, Texas, and Alison Dosher of Denver, Colo.

Yaowaluk Limpanichkul Pokaiyavanichkul (PhD ’04), Bangkok, Thailand, died Oct. 6, 2005. A recent graduate of the PhD program, Dr. Limpanichkul’s dissertation was titled, “Thai Caregivers of End Stage Renal Disease Patients: Quality of Life”. In 1990, she earned a BS degree in Nursing at Thai Red Cross University, her MS in Physiology at Mahidol University in 1995 and her MS in Nursing at University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2000. She worked as a staff nurse in pediatric intensive care and on a postgraduate unit before joining the faculty of Assumption University and Chulalongkorn University, both in Bangkok. Dr. Limpanichkul was the recipient of many academic honors and awards including a scholarship from the Royal Thai Government to pursue masters and doctoral studies in the U.S. While completing her doctoral studies, she worked as a research assistant in the Center for Nursing Research at the CU School of Nursing where she will continue as a Research Nurse. Much of her work and research has been centered around the South East Asian community and faculty and students knew her as Oi, translated as “Little Sister,” and will deeply mourn her passing. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Taweek Pokaiyavanichkul of Bangkok, Thailand, and her mother, Chaunpit Limpanichkul. The School of Nursing will hold a memorial service for Dr. Limpanichkul in late October.
McKesson and School of Nursing partner to promote technology use

As part of their joint commitment to advance the field of nursing informatics amid national nursing shortages, McKesson Corp. and the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center School of Nursing have entered into a strategic relationship to study how technology can be used to promote patient safety, support evidence-based practices in rural settings, and help consumers make better healthcare decisions.

UCDHSC is located near one of McKesson’s leading clinical software development centers, and nursing students in training at the University of Colorado Hospital have used McKesson’s clinical solutions there for many years.

“One of the most important factors in alleviating the national nursing shortage will be the increasing intersection of clinical information technology with patient care,” said Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, dean of UCDHSC’s School of Nursing, citing a finding from the Commission on the Workforce of the American Academy of Nursing, on which she serves. “As care managers, nurses must have real-time communication with all other departments that influence patient care. This collaboration is designed to ensure that the evolution of nursing informatics supports such requirements.”

Through the agreement, the two organizations will conduct joint research and technology evaluation, promote job opportunities in nursing informatics and disseminate knowledge through publications and conferences. Specific projects include McKesson internships for UCDHSC students, guest lectures by McKesson informaticists at the UCDHSC School of Nursing, guided research reports and grant proposal submissions.

UCDHSC faculty and students will also provide input on usability, workflow and direction for McKesson’s nursing-related applications. They include Horizon Expert Documentation™, which streamlines documentation and reduces charting time, allowing nurses to spend more time on direct patient care. Horizon Admin-Rx™, an industry-leading, advanced point-of-care system that incorporates barcode scanning at the bedside for preventing critical errors in medication administration.

“It is clear that nurses must be directly involved in the planning, design and testing of clinical technology,” said Dean Moritz. “Recently the University of Colorado Hospital completed a new facility at our Fitzsimons campus. By including nurses, other clinicians, patients and community representatives in the planning and design phases, we were able to build a patient-centric facility that is truly a healing environment.”

Construction of new SON building to move forward at Fitzsimons

The last major phase of construction on the Fitzsimons campus, which includes the new school of nursing building, has the green light to move forward.

The Colorado Supreme Court chose not to review the April 2005 ruling of the Colorado Court of Appeals upholding the use of Certificates of Participation (COPs) for educational facilities on the Fitzsimons campus.

The construction go-ahead means that the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center will be on schedule to complete the move and vacate the property at Ninth and Colorado in 2008.

NP 40th anniversary

Continued from page 1

Loretta Ford

Continued from page 1

populations.” NPs programs were developed to provide additional education for registered nurses so they could provide health care services to underserved areas. The first program was in pediatrics, but the resulting impact of NPs can now be felt in many health care specialties. Their impact is also felt in graduate nursing education, leadership in health care organizations, and in relationships with other health professionals, as well as the public’s perception and acceptance of them.

With a strong emphasis on primary care, NPs focus on health maintenance, disease prevention, counseling and patient education.

In addition to providing primary, specialty and acute healthcare, nurse practitioners strive to empower patients to improve their health by providing health education and counseling. The core philosophy is individualized care, focusing on prevention, wellness and patient education.

“The NP program has created tremendous changes in the individual nurse practitioners and the institutions in which they serve, whether it’s legislation, education or practice,” said Dr. Ford.

Entrepreneurship, Dr. Ford believes, is the next avenue for nurse practitioners. Signs of this are already evident. An example is the “minute clinics” set up in such venues as malls and large retail stores. Those clinics provide healthcare services to people who ordinarily would go to the emergency room as the only resource available to them.

“I’d like to see more nurses in political positions and making policy,” said Dr. Ford. “There’s no way NPs are not going to expand. Our future is limitless.”

She closed by saying, “As your role changes and evolves, expect a transformation of self, self-concept and relationships…” How you believe in yourself, she said, is the only way you can think about yourselves, and act in your own and your patient’s interest, and your own enthusiastic, ongoing commitment to nursing, all attest to your transformation. Your intellectual and emotional energy enthusiasm, eagerness to keep learning and encouragement to others are models of professionalism.”

The first NP Symposium was held in 1975 in classrooms at the School of Nursing.

Today the symposia draw upwards of 1,500 attendees from around the world.

Dr. Henry Silver
Co-founder of N P program

Mary Wagner, MS, project director of the NP Symposium, spearheaded the 40th NP anniversary celebration.

S O N faculty Drs. Lynn Gilbert, Susan Hagdorn and Victoria Erickson enjoy NP gala with NP co-founder Dr. Loretta Ford (second from right).
Menstrual cycle is a vital sign of women's health

From Iceland and Israel to Australia and Mexico, women's health care providers, educators, researchers and advocates met in Boulder June 2-4 to share information and raise awareness about the role of menstruation as an indicator of a woman's overall physical health at the 16th biennial Society for Menstrual Cycle Research conference.

Sponsored by the School of Nursing, this year's theme was The Menstrual Cycle is a Vital Sign. At the heart of the conference was discussion on the importance of identifying health issues connected to the menstrual cycle, as well as clarifying misconceptions about menopause.

The menstrual cycle offers a critical look at a woman's overall physical and mental health, according to Tracy Quinn, PhD, FNP, an associate professor at the SON.

Along with her blood pressure, pulse and respiration, the menstrual cycle provides important medical information that should be monitored by women and their health care providers.

“We look at the sociological, physiological and bio-psychosocial areas of menstruation and menopause,” said Dr. Quinn. “The Society was founded in 1977 by a multidisciplinary group of women who were pioneers in understanding the importance of menstrual cycle and menopause research to women’s health.”

Members of the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research have become an international interdisciplinary group of male and female researchers that include physicians, nurses, sociologists, social workers, physiologists, psychologists and anthropologists who share an interest in women's lives and health needs as they relate to the menstrual cycle.

The Society's mission is to be the source of guidance, expertise, and ethical considerations for researchers, practitioners, policy makers and funding resources interested in the menstrual cycle. Members offer a network of communication and support that spans discipline, professional responsibilities, and geography to provide woman-centered perspectives on menstrual experiences.

“Very little research had been done on menstruation and menopause 30 years ago,” she said. “The founders wanted to know what is normal and what is abnormal.

“In our society, menopause is looked at as something abnormal, an estrogen deficiency condition. It’s a normal process, why was it being thought of as a disease? There are many reasons why women go through menopause. From a sociobiological perspective menopause evolved over the ages so that the woman would not be involved in reproduction during her later years, but in the teaching of the younger generation how to care for the young,” she said.

The conference began with a talk by Nancy Fugate Woods, PhD, FAN, dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Washington. Dr. Woods' recent projects include a study to characterize the natural history of the transition to menopause and the symptoms women experience during the menopausal transition.

Sessions included a documentary film by cinematographer Giovanna Cianci titled Period: The End of Menstruation, workshops that included Reproductive Lifestyle and Advertising for Menstrual Products and a panel discussion on Women & Menstruation: Developing Awareness in Women Care Providers.

“The knowledge of what we know about women's health is still being expanded,” said Dr. Quinn. “We want to really have a thorough understanding of women's experiences so we know what to expect as women move through their reproductive life.”

Susan Ripley
Continued from page 3

health problem management services for children seen in a public health setting.

Would I be interested in being the first to be prepared in this way? There would be much to accomplish with Lee and Henry - develop a curriculum, work with boards of nursing and medicine on licensure issues, organize clinical settings, develop a formal assessment study for the program, find a name for this new kind of nurse.

I gave it much thought. There are so many times when public health nurses work alone. I remembered occasions when I wished I could have help.

Remembering Public Health Nurses (PHN) who had on-the-job learning and quietly practiced in this fashion, I realized that this program would legitimate their work. So I accepted their invitation to become the first Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

The experience was an adventure that had highs and lows.

There were the highs of learning new scientific information, decision making and physical assessment skills. There was the high of identifying a list of common remedies for common problems that the medical board agreed a PHN could recommend. There was the satisfaction of the course notebook growing fatter with each new curriculum entry.

There were the lows when nursing colleagues hissed in passing that I was a pawn of the doctors, a traitor to nursing, but there were the highs when a nurse would say, “Go for it!” There were the lows of doctors who muttered about nurses practicing medicine without a license. There were the highs when pediatricians said it made perfect sense. It was a high when a mother thanked me for helping her child without having to see a doctor first.

There was always that fine line to walk. The details have been well described over the years, the expansion of our original vision there for all to see. The bottom line is that the dream became a reality.

What did I learn from the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program, besides the book and clinical work? Established entities resist change, but there are ways to accomplish it nevertheless. I learned that my previous notion of being a professor of nursing was not for me. I realized that I could not be content with a specialty focus.

I was homesick, for lack of a better word, for generalized public health, the variety of settings, populations and challenges.

Leaving the PNP program, I had a six month breather traveling in South America on $5 a day and having lots of adventures. Eventually I settled in New Mexico, working for the Department of Health. I occupied a variety of positions, each with its own demands, usually involving changes. The PNP program had taught me how to meet those demands, and along the way I taught many others how to do it as well.

Even in retirement I have found adventures and challenges – as a volunteer PHN in our local public health office, in the dedication of a government building to the contribution of Public Health Nurses, studying the arts instead of the sciences at our local community college, travel to foreign lands.

May I always have an adventure in my future.
Collaborative Bruce Randolph Middle School clinic opened

The Bruce Randolph Middle School clinic in Denver serves kids that, in many cases, don’t otherwise get regular health care. The clinic is a collaborative effort with Denver Health, the Denver Public Schools and the School of Nursing.

School health center team members include nurse practitioners, social workers, mental health therapists and substance prevention counselors who provide primary care, health education and mental health care for students.

The new middle school was built with space set aside for the clinic in the building’s plans. The clinic opened in February 2005. More than half the students who come into the clinic for treatment do not have health insurance.

The SON provides a community health nurse at the clinic and serves as a liaison between school nurses with the Denver Public School system, as well as providing case management for children with complex health care needs.

Elizabeth DeYoung initiated the nurse case manager role during her Doctor of Nursing residency and is working at the clinic. While she finishes her Family Nurse Practitioner specialty in the school’s master’s degree program. She works with the children and their families to find sources of care above the routine care; works on locating specialized services and conduct follow-up appointments to ensure the child receives the services.

“This is an exciting collaboration because it provides us the opportunity to evaluate what a case manager can bring to that kind of setting,” said Amy Barton, PhD, associate dean for clinical affairs at the School of Nursing.

Two Long-Time Staff Retire from School of Nursing

Barbara Fallon leaves SON in February 2005.

In 1995, Barbara Fallon, MPA, began her work in the SON as an Administrative Assistant III with Kathy Maglivy, PhD, FAAN, professor and assistant dean for graduate programs, and former faculty Ginette Pepper, PhD, in support of master’s and doctoral students. From there, she moved to the Office of Research and worked for Dean Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN, then associate dean for research. Later, she served in the Human Resources Office with Mary English, MA, director of human resources. Barbara was promoted to General Professional II and since 2001 was the School’s Clinical Placement Coordinator, working with Amy Barton, PhD, associate dean for clinical affairs.

In 2003, Barbara was selected as a Health Sciences Center Employee-of-the-Month, and her nominators said that her “ever-positive personality, drive, and determination are an example for all of us in the SON.” She was lauded for her hard work and was recognized as “a cornerstone of the Clinical Affairs office,” where she “made numerous contributions to its success.”

Barbara remarked, “My greatest honor while in the SON was my nomination for the University’s Thomas Jefferson award, as initiated by Jeanette Regas, with treasured letters of support from ‘the kids’ and Ginny Pepper, among others.” She said that she appreciated working for and learning from the School’s students, sharing in their achievements, and respecting their contributions, both current and future.

Staff member Jeanette Regas retires in June 2005.

After a 20-year career on the staff of the School of Nursing, Jeanette Regas, General Professional III, retired June 30, 2005. Ms. Regas, who started her career at the Health Sciences Center in 1983, began working in the School of Nursing in 1985, for the Nurse-Midwifery Program. She then worked for seven years with the Executive Associate Dean for Research, Marilyn Stember, PhD, FAAN, professor emerita. Along the way she was promoted to program assistant and administrative program specialist.

Jeanette worked for the acting dean at the time, Juanita Tate, PhD; was promoted to General Professional II (GPII), working with Mary Blegen, PhD, FAAN, associate dean for research affairs; and then as clinical placement coordinator with Amy Barton, PhD, associate dean for clinical affairs. During her last years at the School, 2002-05, Jeanette was promoted to General Professional III in the position of facilities and payroll manager, working for Jessica McCoy, MBA, director of human resources.

Jeanette was selected Health Sciences Center Employee-of-the-Month for June 2005, and nominators said: “In every program or office in which Jeanette has worked at the SON over the years, she has brought new ideas and ways of doing things; she is bright, committed...demonstrates a high level of competency; has outstanding organizational skills that she is ready to apply in a variety of situations...has a phenomenal way of sharing her skills in a non-threatening way...has made an enormous impact on employees...”

Palliative Care

Continued from page 4

care. It’s really about the good care we’re already supposed to be giving.”

Palliative Care Beyond Hospice: A Nursing Education Model was a project funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute. The project was designed to integrate palliative care principles into nursing practice through education and research. The sustaining product of the grant is the Palliative Care Certificate Program which has two components – educational content and a project to change practice. Participants develop a change project within their institutions that will enhance and sustain high-level palliative care.

“My vision is that every nurse would be prepared to offer palliative care as part of a patient’s care,” she said. “There’s a continuum from a chronic illness to end of life. You offer curative care when appropriate; supportive or palliative care during chronic illness, and then comfort care at end-of-life.”

Dr. Nelson-Martzen points out that during active palliative care, patients can also receive treatments considered curative, such as chemotherapy or surgery. An important part of palliative care is asking patients and families to decide what their goal is for care. Another important component is that palliative care is interdisciplinary care and involves a health care team.

“There’s the mistaken belief that palliative care means ‘there’s nothing more that can be done for a patient, but there’s always more you can do,’” she said.

For more information, visit the Palliative Care Certificate Program webpage at www.uchsc.edu/nursing/pallcare.
The 11th Gateway to the Future conference held May 26 was much-anticipated by the 24 students of the 2005 Doctor of Nursing (ND) program. The conference marked the culmination of four years of study and practice when the graduates could look forward to beginning their careers as ND professionals. The 15-year-old ND program converted to a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program this fall.

The highlight of the conference was the presentation of research papers by each student.

Dr. Ruth O'Brien joins ND graduates and alumni during lunch at the ND conference.

During the final year of the ND program, students receive clinical experience and conduct research into clinical topics of their choice. The conference has provided them an opportunity to share the results of their hard work with their peers, family and faculty, according to Lauren Clark, PhD, FAAN, associate professor, director of the ND program and now director of the new DNP program.

"This was the last traditional ND research conference," said Dr. Clark. "There were some bittersweet feelings for the graduates and alumni who attended. This is the end of an era for the ND program, but it's also the beginning of a new era for the DNP program."

Keynote speaker was Roxie Foster, PhD, FAAN, whose talk, The Clinical/Practice Doctorate and the Evidence Base for Practice, was a poignant and encouraging look at the evolution in nursing practice in clinical settings and the need for nurses to continue evidence-based practice in their careers.

Research presentations this year reflected current topics of interest and concern including evaluation of obesity and weight management programs, evaluation of complementary and alternative therapies for symptomatic patients, and end-of-life issues.

Presenting research results at a year-end conference will likely continue as a requirement for graduation in the DNP program, according to Dr. Clark.

"Since the DNP program is brand new, we're trying to decide what the final outcome experiences will be," she said. "We will hold a conference again next year but it will be different, a combination of our traditional ND students along with some of our DNP students."

For Zach Mueller, ND, CNS, one of the 2005 graduates, the conference was a time of mixed feelings. Mueller was a member of the last full ND class and had just finished his master's degree in December 2006 as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in acute and critical care with an emphasis on leadership and management, he'll be applying for admission into the DNP program.

A graduate of the ND and MS programs, newly developed admissions criteria and a portfolio review will streamline his entry into the DNP program.

During Zach's residency, he worked as a clinical case manager for the Emergency Department at The Medical Center of Aurora. After graduating from the ND program, he was promoted to director of education for his hospital system.

"It was great being there to showcase what I've done as a professional nurse so my family and partner could see what I had spent so much time doing," he said. "I'm a huge supporter of the ND program and philosophy. To get this type of job in clinical education so soon after graduation is huge. There's a lot of power in the ND, and now the DNP as well."

Dr. Diane Skiba receives 2005 Award for Excellence in Teaching

Diane Skiba, PhD, FAAN, FACMI, professor, received the NLN Award for Excellence in Teaching at the 2005 National League for Nursing (NLN) Education Summit held Sept. 29-Oct. 1 in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Skiba was selected from a pool of 31 nominees to receive the prestigious award given every other year by NLN.

The NLN award recognizes the contributions of an outstanding nurse educator who fosters excellence in the teaching-learning process. The award announcement read that Dr. Skiba is "known throughout the nursing education community for her outstanding contributions to the resourceful use of technology and her insightful innovation in bringing it to the nursing classroom... she is a consummate educator and a pioneer in nursing informatics... Her 1-Collaboratory Project: Partnerships in Learning is one of the most acclaimed advances in distance and web-based learning for the nursing community."

The tribute said that the pursuit of new knowledge underlies Dr. Skiba's commitment to active student involvement in their own learning and inspires her students to reach for the heights throughout their nursing programs, and her students attest to the enthusiasm she exudes in her mission to teach.

Dr. Skiba serves as the chair of the NLN Educational Technology and Information Management Advisory Council. A prolific and respected author and speaker, Diane has traveled the world teaching others. Her countless works and commitment to teaching excellence are an inspiration to students and faculty alike.

SON Faculty Departures

On May 15, the School of Nursing held a farewell reception for Lena Sorensen, PhD, associate professor, and Diane Ernst, MS, instructor, who resigned from the School.

Dr. Sorensen was active with the School’s ND students during her five-year tenure at the SON. Her expertise was in nursing informatics and she taught courses including Human Technology Interface, Health Communications, and Foundations of the Discipline and Profession of Nursing. Dr. Sorensen is now associate professor at New York University College of Nursing, New York City.

Diane Ernst, MS, an instructor at the SON in 2004-05, taught the undergraduate public health nursing courses and supervised students at public health clinical sites. She left the school to pursue her doctoral studies.
Mary Blegen, PhD, FAAN, professor and associate dean for research affairs, received the 2005 Nurse Researcher Award from the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE). She was presented with the award at AONE’s annual meeting and exposition held April 15-19 in Chicago.

The award recognizes a nurse researcher who has made a significant contribution to nursing research and is recognized by the broader nursing community as an outstanding nurse researcher. Dr. Blegen’s research is in nurse staffing levels and the issue of quality of care for hospitalized patients with the current shortage of nurses.

“As the Baby Boomers get older and need more health care, the projections for 2020 and 2030 in terms of the supply of nurses compared to the need, is really very scary,” said Dr. Blegen. “Nurse staffing in hospital units has a big impact on the quality and safety of care.”

Lauren Clark, PhD, FAAN, associate professor, has been selected to be a Fellow of the University of Colorado’s Emerging Leaders Program. She was nominated by the SON and endorsed by James Shore, MD, UCDHSC Chancellor.

Lynn Gilbert, PhD, PNP, assistant professor, was selected to participate in The Bighorn Center for Public Policy’s Leadership Development program during 2005.

Susan Hagedorn, PhD, FAANP, associate professor, has been selected as a 2005 Fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP). The FAANP Program recognizes nurse practitioners who have made outstanding contributions to health care through clinical practice, research, education or health policy.

Dr. Hagedorn was inducted at the AANP 2005 National Conference held June 17-21 in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Mary Krajicek, EdD, FAAN, professor, was awarded a five-year renewal grant for over $1.75 million from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, for her National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care.

Ellyn Matthews, PhD, assistant professor, was elected this spring as Director-at-Large to the Board of Directors of the national Oncology Nursing Society.

John Mutikani, PhD, new assistant professor in the SON, received a Developmental Award from the Colorado Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) for his pilot study, Using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and the Impact of Events Scale in Psychosocial Adjustment of Orphans and Non-orphans affected by AIDS in Botswana and Zimbabwe.

He also presented a poster, The Lived Experiences of Family Caregivers of AIDS Orphans and Other Orphans in Rural Zimbabwe, during the campus’ 3rd Annual Diversity Research Exchange on April 7.

Ruth A. O’Brien, PhD, FAAN, professor, has been selected as a 2005 Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing The American Academy of Nursing recognizes nurses who have made significant contributions to the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.

Dr. O’Brien has been recognized for her scholarship and leadership in research of community public health interventions, and for contributions to the nation’s health through increasing our understanding of the impact of nursing intervention strategies on the health of pregnant women, their children, and their families. Also recognized as a national leader in public health nursing, she has made major contributions to our understanding of how nurses work with women to foster healthy families and prevent child abuse and other social and health problems. In addition,

Dr. O’Brien has been instrumental in examining organizational and other health system factors on the success of public health interventions, and methods of longitudinal analysis that combine client, intervention, organizational and system factors.

Dr. O’Brien will be inducted into the American Academy of Nursing on November 12, 2005, at their Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ.

Jean Watson, PhD, FAAN, AHN-BC, distinguished professor, has been the invited keynote speaker at several international conferences this past year in Germany and Taiwan:

She is the author of a new book, Caring Science as Sacred Science, published by F.A. Davis, Philadelphia, PA, 2005 for which she received the Book of the Year Award in the nursing research category from the American Journal of Nursing.

Ruby Martinez, PhD, associate professor and director of the Office of Student Services and Diversity, retired from the SON and a celebration was held in her honor on July 28th. Gene Marsh, PhD, associate professor and division chair, served as master of ceremonies and hosted the event. She remarked that Ruby brought a sense of community to the School’s students and faculty. “Understanding and supporting the wholeness of each person with whom she worked was always a priority for her,” said Marsh.

On behalf of nursing students and the Student Services staff, Mary Diaz, Information and Student Services Specialist, commented, “Ruby’s retirement is a great loss to the SON. She contributed so much to making the School a more diverse place and was a wonderful advocate for the students.”

Dr. Martinez came to the School of Nursing in 1997 as assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 2004. She was appointed director of the Office of Student Services and Diversity in 2003. A published author, Dr. Martinez also taught in the School’s BS, MS and M.S degree programs. Previously, she was at Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan from 1979-97, where she was assistant nursing services administrator since 1985. Dr. Martinez served on numerous university committees and community advisory boards, and was invited to serve on the prestigious National Advisory Council for the Center for Mental Health Services from 1998-2002. She was the recipient of many teaching and diversity awards during her tenure at the SON.

Most recently, on May 4, Dr. Martinez received the 2005 University of Colorado President’s Diversity Award to Faculty for her many contributions to the University, the Health Sciences Center campus, and the School of Nursing. Dr. Martinez said the award was especially meaningful to her because she was nominated by her staff in the Student Services and Diversity office.
SON Convocation held May 27

Convocation Marshal Susan Hagedorn, PhD, FAANP, associate professor, led the School of Nursing at the May 27th Convocation Ceremony in the campus quadrangle. One hundred and seventy-five students graduated from the School’s four degree programs at this year’s ceremony.

There were 125 bachelor’s degrees; 16 Doctor of Nursing (ND) degrees; 29 master’s degrees; and five PhDs. In addition, 27 master’s graduates and one PhD graduate from December 2004 attended the School’s annual Convocation Ceremony.

Faculty awards at Convocation included:

Gail Armstrong, ND, assistant professor, was recognized as the recipient of the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award, which she received earlier in the day at the campus Commencement Exercise.

James Sampson, PhD, assistant professor, was recognized as the recipient of the Chancellor’s Teaching Recognition Award.

The Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching went to two faculty members:

Paula Nelson-Marten, PhD, associate professor, made major contributions to teaching in the bachelor’s, master’s, and nursing doctorate programs.

Diane Skiba, PhD, FAAN, FACMI, professor, made major contributions to teaching master’s and nursing doctorate students.

Ralph Altiere, PhD, professor and associate dean from the School of Pharmacy, received the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Leadership in the School of Nursing. This special award is given from time to time to recognize faculty who have provided exceptionally meritorious service. Dr. Altiere made major contributions to the School of Nursing through his outstanding and continual service to the Dean’s Review Committee for many years. His efforts were extremely valuable and beneficial to the SON.

Three nurses were recognized as recipients of the 2005 Nursing Alumni Association Awards.

Mrs. LaFawn Biddle, a member of the Board of Directors for the Friends of Nursing, was recognized as the recipient of a 2005 Special Commendation from the Nursing Alumni Association. Mrs. Biddle was commended for her dedicated and sustained efforts on behalf of the nursing profession, which have benefited many nursing students. (See article on page 7.)

Mrs. Ramey Johnson, MS ’93, was recognized as the recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Service Award for 2005 for her contributions as a State Representative for Colorado and her 20 years of outstanding service as a health professional in the community health arena. (See article on page 7.)

Dr. Denise Geolot, PhD, FAAN, Director of the Division of Nursing at the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions, Rockville, Maryland, who was not able to attend the Convocation Ceremony, was recognized as the Nursing Alumni Association’s 2005 Distinguished Alumnae of the Year for her major contributions to the SON through her early leadership of Nurse Practitioner (NP) education in the nation and her continued advancement of the concept of NP practice and education. Dr. Geolot was one of the School’s early master’s graduates. (See article on page 7.)

JoAnn Congdon, PhD, FAAN, professor and chair of the School’s Division of Health Outcomes, Populations, and Environments, received the first Elisabeth H. Boeker Faculty Excellence in Research Award for her special achievements in gerontological nursing research. The Boeker Award was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Elisabeth H. Boeker and the Boeker family. (See article on page 5.)

Sarah Elliott Stewart received the first Spirit of Nursing Award, which is being given to an outstanding B.S. nursing graduate who has made major contributions to their community and to the School of Nursing.

Graduates selected by faculty for Student Leadership Awards were: Jerilyn Block, BS graduate; Carmencita Lorenzo, BS graduate; Sarah Elliott Stewart, BS graduate; Elizabeth Mann, MS graduate; Darren Moffitt, ND graduate; Zachary Mueller, ND graduate; and Sarah Combs, PhD graduate.