School of Nursing 2006-07 student scholarships: see page 9

From left to right: Gail Armstrong, ND, and student scholarship recipients Genevieve Lamancusa, Eric Gerber, Jennifer Davis, and Rosemary Dominguez; Students Pauline Shell, Rosemary Dominguez, Armando Reyes, and Marie-Eve Tibe; and Sean Reed, MS, Paula Nelson-Marten, PhD, and Janet Mordecai, donor.
With summer upon us in this – our last year at the Ninth Avenue campus, which has been the school’s home since 1924 – we have a lot to reflect on.

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the first graduates of our PhD Program with a recognition dinner on April 21. Some one hundred alumni and their guests, along with current SON faculty, students and staff gathered at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver to celebrate the 25th anniversary milestone. It was great to see everyone at the event and for our alums to reconnect. With this celebration, the school initiated a PhD Alumni Fellowship Endowment to provide PhD student scholarships.

The anniversary celebration will be featured with an article and photo spread in the fall SON News, in late August. We also plan to put the photos on our Web site, so please stay tuned. We are very appreciative of all of the support from our alums – Thank you!

At the school’s May 25th convocation, the last to be held at the Ninth Avenue campus, some 209 students graduated, including 148 BS, 44 MS, nine DNP, three ND, and five PhD students (look for an article and photo spread in our upcoming fall edition of the SON News). With 114 students receiving their degrees last December, including 70 BS, 33 MS, eight DNP, and one ND student, more than 300 students have recently graduated and many have entered or soon will enter the nursing workforce.

Even with many new graduates, the School of Nursing is facing a faculty shortage, which mirrors the state of academic nursing nationwide. We are actively searching to fill several faculty positions. One way to recruit future faculty is to “grow” our own by encouraging nurses already in practice to earn their undergraduate and advanced degrees through the school’s online education programs. More than 75 percent of the school’s courses can be taken online, and the RN to BS and several masters’ degree program options can be taken fully online. Please visit our Web site at www.uchsc.edu/nursing. Or, if you have interest or know of someone who might be interested in one of our faculty openings, please visit the “faculty openings” area on the Web site, for more information.

The school has numerous goals for the next year, including expansion of faculty research grants and interdisciplinary studies in collaboration with other campus schools; continuing efforts to increase the school’s diversity by recruiting underrepresented students and faculty; and continuing active fund raising.

Our move to the Anschutz Medical Campus is scheduled for fall semester through January 2008. Classes, which begin on January 22, 2008, will be held at the new campus. Faculty and staff are taking “hard hat” tours of our new space in the Education 2 building, which is looking great, both inside and out! Paint is on the walls and carpet has been installed. Please visit us next spring and stay tuned for an open house announcement.

Our academic degree programs have again been ranked among the nation’s best, in the 2008 edition of graduate school rankings by U.S. News & World Report. Our masters’ program ranks 15th in the nation and several of the program’s specialty options rank in the top ten. The Clinical Nurse Specialist/Adult Medical-Surgical option ranks 6th; the Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP) ranks 8th; Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) 5th; and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) is 3rd.

Each year, U.S. News & World Report ranks professional school programs in business, education, engineering, law, medicine, and the health professions based on expert opinion about program quality as well as statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school’s faculty, research and students. I’m delighted that this national survey recognizes the superb quality of the faculty and students in our academic programs and clinical practices.

When life transitions happen, they can be wonderful for some and difficult for others. Just such events occurred during this past academic year as Wende Reoch, alumni director, and Anthony Kapp, alumni events and publications coordinator, left the campus to go back to school. Both of them are sorely missed as they were so important to the development and enhancement of the University’s and School’s link to our alumni. We thank them for their stellar and creative service and wish them well in their future endeavors.

After a search process this spring, Sarah Fischler has been appointed the new director of Alumni Relations, effective June 11. Sarah is an alumna of CU, receiving BA and BS degrees from the downtown Denver campus, where she currently is completing an MPA. We welcome her to the campus.

****

Dean Patricia Moritz, PhD, FAAN

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For more information, visit www.uchsc.edu/nursing and click on News & Events, then SON News.
Controlling chronic pain

By Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

The influences of spiritual beliefs and practices on pain, healing and health have long been of interest to Denise “Denny” Webster, PhD, a professor at the School of Nursing.

For 25 years, her research has centered on women’s self-care for poorly understood medical conditions, particularly interstitial cystitis (IC) and fibromyalgia. Following a thread in this area of work led her to study the effects of meditation and spirituality on healing from pain and trauma. Webster’s research looks at how patients tap into personal well-springs for strength and comfort.

In her research, Webster learned that some women can successfully use meditation or prayer as a means for managing the chronic and debilitating pain that accompanies IC and fibromyalgia. This holistic approach to managing pain encompasses the physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions of healing.

“There’s something powerful and healing and positive about taking control of a disease and being active in your own treatment,” said Webster.

In a subsequent study on fibromyalgia, Webster found a strong correlation with the report ed experience of abuse in childhood. She discovered that when physical, sexual or emotional trauma had occurred in childhood, the women who continued to experience abuse in adulthood did poorly in managing their pain. The women with fibromyalgia who were able to move past the experiences of abuse, however, fared better in managing their illness.

“It raised questions, but didn’t provide answers,” said Webster. “I became interested in the psychobiology of chronic pain and the hypotheses that brain changes occur when people live under chronic stress or in a state of continued chronic hyperarousal.”

One of the challenges of understanding fibromyalgia and IC is that a single physical marker or pathway hasn’t been found that reveals how they develop. Fibromyalgia sometimes develops after an accident or physical trauma from which the women don’t recover. When women with IC must urinate throughout the day and night, sometimes as often as every 15 to 30 minutes, many of them go on to develop fibromyalgia.

“Everybody has a breaking point and that point can manifest either psychologically or physically, but for most of us, it’s a little of each,” she said.

Annual DNP research conference

The annual DNP Student Conference on Research and Inquiry was held May 22 at the UCDHSC Ninth Avenue campus. Participants included, left to right: SON Dean Patricia Moritz; Victoria Erickson, PhD, DNP program director; DNP student presenters Mishcha McCabe, MS, Megan Graesser, MS, Taynin Kopanos, Gail Katz, MS, DNP, and Sachie Iwaisuchi; faculty member Paula Nelson-Marten, PhD; and DNP student presenter Sarah Derieg.

Home visitation program highlighted in research

By Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

Recipient of the 2006 Elisabeth Boeker Faculty Excellence in Research Award, Ruth O’Brien, PhD, FAAN, gave a talk titled Nurse Home Visitation: From Research to Evidence-based Practice, 1993-2006, to School of Nursing faculty, students and guests in December.

O’Brien, a professor at the school, was selected to receive the second annual award for her leadership in research-based interventions in public health nursing practice. 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 health public policy.

Currently, O’Brien is the primary investigator on two federally funded studies to identify how to maximize quality implementation of the Nurse-Family Partnership program, which has served more than 60,000 families in 22 states. Randomized clinical trials have demonstrated that this program reduces the risks for early antisocial behavior and prevents problems such as child abuse, maternal substance abuse and maternal criminal involvement. In each of the trials, the research showed that the program improves pregnancy outcomes and improves the health and development of children.

O’Brien’s work in this area began when she was co-investigator with David Olds, PhD, professor of pediatrics, on a study funded by The Colorado Trust to study the effectiveness of home visitation comparing paraprofessionals (who had no professional health degree) to nurses using a standard program model.

Since policy advocacy groups had been using results from prior studies of the nurse home visitation program to promote paraprofessional program models, although no such model had been tested in randomized clinical trials, O’Brien and her colleagues wanted to undertake a randomized clinical trial. Families received either the intervention using paraprofessionals or nurses. A third group of families received no home visitation services.

“Results of the trial supported the effectiveness of the nurses,” said O’Brien. “We don’t want to say that the families who received home visitation from paraprofessionals didn’t benefit, but the outcomes did not differ significantly from families that did not get any home visitation interventions.”

The original study spawned other studies looking at how well the home visitation model was working and trying different strategies to strengthen the program implementation. One study is funded by the Centers for Disease Control to examine the effectiveness of providing home visitors with additional training in the intervention model and whether more training would help nurses improve the outcome for the families served. Another study is funded by the National Institutes of Heath to look at how the influence of the social context might impact how nurses implement the program.

Prevention is a proactive approach to helping at-risk, first-time parents develop strengths to provide competent care giving for their children from the onset,” said O’Brien, “and from a policy perspective, is more cost-effective than treating children who have experienced abuse and neglect, injuries or developmental delays due to sub-optimal nurturance.”

The Elizabeth 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.
Development and fund raising update

Many thanks to all of you who have been so generous to the School of Nursing. In each issue of the SON News, I will share with you the needs of the school and ways in which you can help.

Support the Loretta Ford Faculty Endowment: A current priority of the School of Nursing is to complete the funding of the Loretta Ford NP Faculty Endowment to make it possible to support a Nurse Practitioner Endowed Professorship in the School of Nursing, the birthplace of the Nurse Practitioner Program. Since the beginning of the program, more than 160,000 nurse practitioners have been educated and are practicing all over the world. Because of the vision of Dr. Loretta Ford, co-founder of the NP program, nurses are shaping health care globally, which has revolutionized the scope of nursing practice in the world.

One of our own faculty members has made another significant gift to the Loretta Ford NP Faculty Endowment. We would greatly appreciate your support in joining her to help the School fully fund this professorship. We have included a gift form on this page of the SON News for your convenience. To find out more about how you can be our partner in this effort, please contact:

Terry Biddinger, RN, BSN
Director of External Relations
303-315-0768 or terry.biddinger@uchsc.edu

How to Make a Gift to the UCDHSC School of Nursing

Name:__________________________________________
Address:_______________________________________
City: __________________________ State: ___________ Zip:________
E-Mail Address:___________________________________
Phone:___________________________________________

Donor Information:
○ Enclosed is my check. Please make payable to University of Colorado Foundation. (Note: On the memo line of your check, please designate to which fund you are giving.)

○ I would like to charge my gift of $__________
  to: __________ Visa       ___ MasterCard
         ___ American Express  ___ Discover

Acct. No.:_______________________________________
Exp. Date _______________________________________
Signature:_______________________________________

Please designate my gift for:
○ Loretta Ford Nurse Practitioner Faculty Endowment.
○ Endowed Professorship in Rural Health Nursing.
○ Endowed Professorship in Mental Health Nursing.
○ “Touched By A Nurse” Fund, supporting evidence-based clinical practice and research.
○ MS to DNP or PhD Student Fellowships to prepare nurse educators.
○ Student Scholarships.
○ General support to the SON.
○ Other ________________________.

For further information, or to discuss your gift, please contact:
Teri Biddinger, RN, BSN
Director of External Relations
UCDHSC School of Nursing, Rm.1912
4200 E. Ninth Ave., Box C288-22,
Denver, CO 80262
Telephone: 303-315-0768 or Terry.Biddinger@uchsc.edu

Please use the enclosed envelope to mail this form with your gift.

THANK YOU! Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!

Program pairs disabled volunteers with students

By Kenna Bruner
Office of Public Relations

At a glance, it doesn’t look like homework — three women laughing and chatting — one of them in a wheelchair.

Yet when Kara Gosch and Nancy Wynalda, third year students of the UCDHSC Physical Therapy Program, meet with Teri Westerman, who works in the budget and finance department at the School of Nursing, they are satisfying curriculum requirements for the Community Volunteer Program. Perhaps more importantly, they are learning valuable life lessons from Westerman, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, and who is someone they consider a friend.

Implemented in 2004, the Community Volunteer Program is the first of its kind in the nation to be integrated into a university physical therapy curriculum. It is designed to provide students with real-world opportunities to interact with and learn from individuals with disabilities throughout the three-year doctoral physical therapy program.

Beginning in their first year, two students are paired with an individual who has a physical disability. Volunteers are recruited from the community to serve as mentors to the students, teaching them about the challenges and realities of a disability while encouraging them to look beyond perceived limitations.

Westerman, who works in the budget and finance department at the School of Nursing, shares with Gosch and Wynalda her experiences and frustrations as a disabled person, and her outlook on life. She encourages them to look beyond perceived limitations.

“I was reluctant to be a volunteer at first, because I didn’t want to be someone’s guinea pig,” Westerman joked. “When I was a little girl, I asked my mom why God had picked on me. My mom told me it was because I was strong enough to handle it (her disability).

“I knew that someday I’d be a teacher,” she said. “As a volunteer, I have the opportunity to teach them to look beyond the disability and see the patient as a person first.”

Teri Westerman, at right, enjoys interacting with the physical therapy students.
Outgoing President's Message

This is my last President’s Message, and I wanted to share with you what a great experience this has been. I couldn’t be more proud to be a graduate of the University of Colorado. My new grandson, Colin (my first) already has three CU outfits, one of which he wore to the spring football game! Of course, his father and grand-father wanted to introduce him to Coach Hawkins.

I would like to review some of the activities which have occurred during the last four years:

• Membership has increased significantly over this period of time
• A scholarship fund has been established for nursing students AND it has been named in honor of Clare Sandekian, MS, ’69, past president of the Alumni Association. Clare, as many of you know, has been a long-time supporter of CU, as well as former assistant director of nursing at Colorado General Hospital, where she hired me to work in Labor and Delivery when I was fresh out of the Army Nurse Corps.
• I have attended all graduations since becoming president, at which I brought greetings from the Alumni Association and gave each undergraduate an alumni pin – and of course – told them a story.
• The board has decided to change the annual meeting and celebration of previous graduating classes, particularly the 50 year class, to the fall during homecoming weekend. This was done, in part, to distribute the work load for the alumni office staff. This is the first year of this new venture and we hope all of you will attend. We particularly honor the 50 year class

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded a National Nursing Education Loan Repayment program to Zachary Mueller, DNP, CNS, director of Education at The Medical Center of Aurora.

The Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program (NELRP) is a competitive program that repays 60 percent of the educational loans for registered nurses selected for funding. In exchange, the nurse provides a minimum of two years of service at a hospital that meets specific community needs.

NELRP is authorized under the Public Health Service to assist in recruiting and retaining professional nurses dedicated to providing health care to underserved populations. During FY 2005, only 600 grants were made from 4,500 eligible applicants.

"I was thrilled to see the government provide assistance to support the UCDHSC School of Nursing. This is a fantastic program and a remarkable investment on behalf of the government – retaining nurses in high need areas is vital in health care today.”

Mueller holds a bachelor’s, a master’s and a doctorate degree in nursing from the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. He is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships including Sigma Theta Tau International, Robert C. Lewis Scholarship, and the Chancellor’s Diversity Scholarship.

His work experience in the Denver area includes critical care, oncology, and emergency department positions as a clinician and as a case manager. As director of education for The Medical Center of Aurora, he oversees the education of staff and patients of a three-campus system – The Medical Center of Aurora North and South Campuses and Centennial Medical Plaza. Mueller also recently assumed additional responsibility as the director of pediatrics.
Karren Kowalski, PhD, FAAN, MS, ’71, president of the School of Nursing Alumni Board, is co-author of the book, Beyond Leading and Managing: Nursing Administration for the Future, which was selected as one of the American Journal of Nursing Books of the Year for 2006.

Kowalski’s book was written for graduate nursing students with a focus on nursing administration. Chief nursing officers and director-level nurses will find it particularly helpful. Each chapter contains an interview with a nursing leader with a special connection to the content of that chapter. For example, the chapter on communications has an interview with Margretha Madden Styles, and was one of the last interviews she gave prior to her death in 2005. Other nursing leaders include Gail Wolf, Rheba de Tornyay, Angela Baron McBride, Margaret McClure, and Karlene Kerfoot.

The text contains valuable information about the financial and administrative aspects of leadership as well as the people skills and relationships which lead to success. It has been widely accepted in the academic world as well as the service leadership aspects of the profession.

Alumni Association at the National Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Symposium

Each summer, several members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors staff an exhibit table at the National Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Symposium in Keystone, Colo. This is an opportunity for the board to meet with alumni, helping them reconnect with classmates and learn more about the Alumni Association.

And each year, several hundred graduates of the UCDHSC School of Nursing are among the 1,400 attendees of this special conference. The Alumni Association shares space with the School of Nursing at a table near the Exhibit Hall. Association membership information and information about new programs are available.

Every year it seems that more networking and reconnecting with classmates and friends takes place. We are, of course, very proud of the fact that the first Nurse Practitioner program was offered by our school. The Advanced Practice Nurse Programs continue to be popular choices and our graduates are found in many diverse settings.

2006-07 Eunice Blair Lectureship

Rebecca Sanger, ND, ’04, second from left, presented her work, “Violence and Healing in Post-Conflict Liberia: My Experience with Doctor’s Without Borders, 2005-06,” for the SON 2006-07 Eunice Blair Lectureship sponsored by the SON Alumni Association. Pictured with her are, from left, Victoria Erickson, PhD, director of the MS/DNP Programs, Carol Alexander, MS, ’66, new president of the Nursing Alumni Association Board of Directors, SON Dean Patricia Mortiz and Lauren Clark, PhD, FAAN, associate dean for Research and Extramural Affairs.

CU license plates drive scholarship funds

Alumni association members enjoy the benefit of discounted prices for the CU license plates available in Colorado. Since the program’s inception six years ago, we have generated $10,755 for scholarships that go to deserving University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center students.

For more information about the CU license plates, or to become a member of the alumni association, please visit our website at www.uchsc.edu/alumni or call toll free 877-472-2586.

We need your e-mail address

The Alumni Association would greatly appreciate receiving your e-mail address. We do not sell the information nor do we share it outside of the organization. When there is special news to share or when we need your opinion on a question, etc., it is both time efficient and much less costly to send an e-mail rather than making phone calls or sending a letter.

If you have e-mail access, please send us a brief message with your name, year of graduation and the e-mail address. Also, if you move or change your e-mail address, please notify us of the new addresses.

Address your e-mail to Karen Marks in the Dean’s Office at the School of Nursing. Her e-mail address is: Karen_Marks@uchsc.edu.

Thanks!

The School of Nursing Alumni Association would like to thank everyone who has responded to our membership drives. Support from our members makes the difference between mediocrity and excellence. Membership in the Alumni Association helps to advance the programs of the SONAA, which benefit alumni, students, faculty and the community, and advance the vision and mission of the School of Nursing.

If you haven’t already become a member, there’s still an opportunity to join! Simply visit our website at www.uchsc.edu/alumni/ or download the membership form. Annual membership is just $35/year, or show your continuing support by becoming a lifetime member for $350 (which can be paid in 3 yearly installments).

Your membership, while advancing the success of the Alumni Association, also provides you with a variety of perks and benefits. The following is a list of those benefits:

SONAA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

• Alumni member-only invitations to special events including Legislative Day, CU Night at the National Western Stock Show, Ski Train, and others
• Alamo Rent a Car discounts
• Half price on CU license plates (For Colorado residents. This program supports student scholarships).
• Free access to Denison Memorial Library
• 25% off your total purchase at Pearl Vision
• Eligibility to join the University of Colorado Federal Credit Union
• Admission to pre-game Buff football functions at the Alumni Tent
• Alumni Decal to display your pride in your alma mater
• 10 percent discount on select CU merchandise from the UCDHSC Bookstore through the CU Health Sciences Center Alumni Store at www.uchsc.edu/alumni.
• Alumni members savings on long term care insurance premiums through Capstone Financial Assurance, LLC.
• Quality discount car insurance with complete 24-hour sales, policy and claim services through the GEICO Auto Insurance program.
• Discount travel packages through AHI International Corporation Alumni Campus Abroad travel program.

“The ultimate expression of generosity is not in giving what you have, but in giving of who you are.”
- Johnnetta B. Cole
Class Notes

1950s

Marie Blakey, BS, ’57, Colorado Springs, Colo., notes that she’s been busy working in her flower garden.

Mary Bradbury, BS, ’57, Casa Grande, Ariz., writes to report that she became a nurse because, “It seemed a good idea that if people were healthy and well, the world would be a better place.” During her nursing career, she worked with numerous school districts to improve public health.

Jessie Bryant, BS, ’57, Newton, Kan., reports that she traveled to Alaska last summer and has been busy with her church, quilting and helping her two grandchildren, who are four and five years old. She writes that although she worked in different areas of nursing, she found her niche in geriatrics.

Virginia Kloberdanz, BS, ’57, Sterling, Colo., writes to tell us that she volunteers at blood pressure and flu shot clinics, watches over three elderly ladies, and after 33 years is still singing with the Sweet Additions. For 20 years, until retiring in 1995, she was night supervisor at the Sterling hospital.

Sandra Ritchie, BS, ’57, San Jose, Calif., notes that she likes playing the flute in a community band, volunteering in health screening programs and touring California with her son. The area of her nursing career she enjoyed the most was as manager of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control for the Cleveland, Ohio, Health Department, which served 57 municipal jurisdictions.

Barbara Welch, BS, ’57, Albuquerque, N.M., writes to report that she still has her church and travels all over the United States with the Young at Heart Choir – and they have made five recordings. Her career highlights include working as a public health nurse and as a school nurse in New Mexico.

1960s

Terry Misener, BS ’66, PhD, FAAN, died of a sudden heart attack on May 29, 2007, according to the American Academy of Nursing (AAN). Misener had been dean of the School of Nursing at University of Portland since 1998. While dean, the degree programs expanded and he introduced the school’s first doctoral program. He also spearheaded a poster campaign entitled “Are You Man Enough to Be a Nurse?” that was an initiative to recruit more men into the nursing profession. Misener had several published articles regarding nursing administration, community health nursing, and issues surrounding nurse practitioner practice and HIV/AIDS.

Misener earned his MS-FNP in 1973 from University of California, Davis, and his PhD from University of Illinois, Chicago. He had spent 22 years in the Army Nurse Corps, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and also served as professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Nursing at the University of South Carolina.

In 1984, Misener was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing, and in 1994 won the Outstanding Teacher award from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioners. He served as a board member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, was a founding member of the Oregon Nursing Leadership Council, president of the Oregon Center for Nursing, and advisory council member to the US Army ROTC Training Programs.

A memorial service was held June 4 at the University of Portland. Cards or flowers may be sent to the attention of the Terry Misener Memorial, University of Portland School of Nursing, 5000 N. Williamette Blvd, Portland, OR 97203. For more information call 503-943-5721.

AAN commented that he will be truly missed, but his contributions to the nursing profession and education will not soon be forgotten.

Mary Ann Garcia, MS, ’77, Aurora, Colo., was selected as an item reviewer for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination (NCLEX). She participated with the NCLEX item development panel held in Chicago, Ill., in March 2007.

Susan ’Susie’ Law, BSN, ’79, was a finalist for the 2007 Nightingale Awards. Law, a former member of the SON Alumni Association Board of Directors, is currently the regional vice president of operations, and ethics and compliance officer for HCA/HealthONE’s All About Staffing for the Continental and Midwest Divisions.

1970s

Eve Hoygaard, MS, ’80, WHNP, ’96, is the current president of the Colorado Nurses Association. A member of the SON Alumni Association, Hoygaard is employed by Jefferson County Dept. Health/Environment as a WHNP.

Heidi Villegas, BSN, ’99, was the recipient of the Colorado Organization of Nursing Leaders Scholarship presented through the Colorado Nurses Foundation. Villegas is scheduled to complete a MSN/NPN at Regis University in May 2007. During graduate school, she has been employed full time as an evening charge nurse at Presbyterian/St. Luke’s Medical Center in Denver.

We want to know about you

Do you have news to share with your fellow alumni? Please send information about your career changes, honors, further education or any updates you’d like to share.

Include your name, class year and program, along with your contact information. Send your alumni news to:

UCD/HSC Office of Alumni Relations
Mail Stop A080, 4200 E. Ninth Avenue
Denver, CO 80262 or alumni@uchsc.edu

You can also send updates via our online form at alumni@uchsc.edu.

Alumni Reunion Weekend schedule of events set

Thursday, September 27, 2007
50 Year Class Event – Class of 1957
Luncheon and group photo at the Wells Center, Anschutz Medical Campus – Aurora, Colo.

Tour of the Center for Human Simulation laboratories and the Visible Human Project

Memorial service for class members who are deceased

Friday, September 28, 2007
Dean’s welcome and State of the School address – 9-10:30 a.m.
Student panel – 10:30 a.m. - noon.


Book signing – following the luncheon

CU-Boulder homecoming events: School of Nursing alumni are invited to participate in CU Boulder’s homecoming celebration. If you’re a Buffs fan, or just want to rekindle the memories of fun times in Boulder, be sure to check out the following events:

CU-Boulder homecoming parade on University Hill, in Boulder – 5 p.m.

Saturday, September 29, 2007
CU Boulder alumni pre-game party – 3 p.m., Benson Field.

CU vs. Oklahoma football game – Time TBA, Folsom Field.

**** Look for Reunion Weekend details in the invitation being mailed separately ****

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2006 Reunion attendees visit new Anschutz Medical Campus.
Friends of Nursing holds 25th Annual Spring Luncheon and Scholarship Awards

The Friends of Nursing (FON) held their 25th annual spring luncheon and scholarship awards, “A Celebration of Excellence,” on Saturday, April 14. President Judy Robinson opened the luncheon with a welcome, preceded by a social and silent auction. This year’s awards ranged from $3,000 to $5,000 each.

Karen Pennington, scholarships chairman, presented the 2007 scholarships; three SON students were among the scholarship recipients this year:

- Mary Ernest, a senior BS student, who received a FON scholarship and also was awarded a Doris and Rex Monahan grant, awarded to single parents who are pursuing a degree in nursing.
- Stephanie Kassels, a third year MS/DNP student, was this year’s winner of the FON President’s Scholarship, awarded to a student who demonstrates the potential to be a leader in the nursing profession.
- Irene Ochoa, a senior BS student, is the recipient of the Margaret Lewis Memorial Scholarship, awarded as a memorial to Lewis, whose professional life was devoted to public health.

The mission of FON is to advance professional nursing by providing scholarships for quality education in baccalaureate and higher degree programs in Colorado schools of nursing and improve the health of Colorado communities. More than a million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to nursing students over the years.

Colorado Nurses Foundation awards seven scholarships

The Colorado Nurses Foundation (CNF) announced the awarding of $33,500 in scholarships to students in six Colorado nursing schools, reflecting a diversity of programs, backgrounds and areas of interest. All recipients completed the Colorado Nursing Collaborative Scholarship Application. Fifteen School of Nursing students were among the scholarship recipients this year, receiving a total of $15,500.

Of these, the following five students were awarded “named” Nightingale scholarships, reflecting the organization or individual(s) who donated them:

- Jamie Back, BS student, Lola and Red Fehr: Nightingale Scholarship
- Mary Ernest, BS student, Seedworks Fund: Nightingale Scholarship
- Mary Fouse, BS student, Amy and Horace Hagedorn Fund: Nightingale Scholarship
- Martin Margulies, BS student, St. Anthony Hospitals, Denver: Nightingale Scholarship
- Cynthia Thomas, PhD student, St. Mary’s Hospital & Medical Center, Grand Junction: Nightingale Scholarship

Eight SON students were awarded CNF/Nightingale Scholarships:

- Ann Haster, BS student
- Erin Johnson, BS student
- Karen Johnson, BS student
- Stephanie Kassels, MA/DNP student
- Irene Ochoa, BS student
- Kim Pierce, DNP student
- Ngoc Schmidt, BS student
- Daniel Summer, BS student

CNF awarded two additional scholarships to School of Nursing students who met criteria specified by the donors in addition to the general criteria of GPA, financial need, etc:

- Amanda Araujo, MS-WHCPN student, H.M. Muffly Memorial Scholarship
- Holly Castle, BS student, the first Rocky Mountain Region of the Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses Society Scholarship

CNF is committed to creating nursing excellence through the promotion of educational, scientific, and community-based projects, and has awarded 174 student scholarships since 1999.

School holds December graduation celebration with record attendance

There was standing room only at the graduation celebration held Dec. 15 in the Ninth Avenue campus’ Denison Auditorium. Accompanied by family and friends, 125 nursing students celebrated their graduation from the School of Nursing.

Paula Nelson-Marten, PhD, associate professor, welcomed graduating students and their guests, and SON Dean Patricia Moritz awarded diplomas to the graduates, assisted by program directors; Gayle Preheim, EdD, associate professor and BS program director; Victoria Erickson, PhD, associate professor and MS/DNP programs director; and Kathy Magilvy, PhD, FAAN, professor, associate dean for Graduate Programs, and PhD program director.

December graduates included 70 BS students, 40 MS students, 11 DNP students – nine of whom also received master’s degrees – and four ND students.

Carol Alexander, MS, ’66, president-elect of the School of Nursing Alumni Association, welcomed the new graduates followed by the Charge to Graduates given by Dean Moritz. After the ceremony, graduates and their guests attended a reception at the school.

Graduates Jessica D’Amico and Leilani Swift
School of Nursing awards 2006-07 scholarships

The School of Nursing awarded 2006-07 student scholarships in the amount of $122,000 at a December reception. The annual scholarships were awarded for merit, financial need, and diversity. Sixty-eight students received awards ranging from $500 to $2,000, including:

- R & R Callaway Scholarship – Sarah Campoy, Katie Ehlers, Tayan Kopanos, Lynn Rutherford, and Molly Jo Wenger.
- Karina Chu Nursing Scholarships – Laura Armstrong.
- Pearl Coulter Scholarship – Lynne Andrus.
- Helene Fuld Scholarship Fund – Alison Bricker, Jennifer Davis, Mary Doran, Joelle Frey, Bonnie Garnett, Sienna Jensen, Genevieve Lamancusa, Irene Ochoa, Terry Schumaker, and Brande Uhrin.
- Mordecai Nursing Endowment – Alida Ashley, Marc Hoyle, and Sean Reed.
- Nursing Scholarship Fund – Ruth Garcia.
- Paralyzed Veterans of America – Adalyn Prewett.
- J. Rutherford Scholarships – Dennise Clermont and Anne Hastert.
- School of Nursing Endowment Scholarship – Nicole Babu, Elizabeth Bostriff, Amy Dinsmore, Kimberly Lowitz, Sarah Parker, Meredith Patterson, Pauline Sheil, Jennifer Suta, Elizabeth Tucker, and Lynda Vernikoff.
- Carrie Stark Scholarship – Mishcha McCabe.

Corrine Koehler, BS ’61, MPA

Sigma chapter holds spring annual meeting and awards

On April 2, the Alpha Kappa Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society held its annual spring meeting and awards ceremony in Denison Auditorium, preceded by a lively buffet dinner in the Humphreys Postgraduate Center.

Linda Campbell, PhD, president, welcomed attendees, presented awards, and installed new officers including the president-elect, Sara Jarrett, PhD.

Corrine Z. Koehler, BS, ’61, MPA, received the 2007 Doris J. Biester Award for Excellence in Leadership for her long history of scholarship, achievements and honors that exemplify nursing leadership. She is a charter member of the Colorado Foundation Nursing Historical Society, a life member of Friends of Nursing, has been the coordinator of the Colorado Nurses Foundation annual statewide Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence for the past eight years. For 16 years, she has been chair of the Nursing History Center at the SON, where she is overseeing the relocation of the school’s archives and History Center, as well as the chapter archives to the new Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. We salute Corrine for showing great leadership in preserving the history of nursing in Colorado.

A Research Dissemination Award was presented to SON adjunct faculty, Anne Marie Kotzer, PhD. Student scholarships were presented to the following SON students, who were among the recipients:

- Alison Bricker, traditional BS student
- Melissa Campbell, accelerated BS student
- Tasha Mansfield, MS/DNP student
- Stephanie Kassels, MS-FNP/DNP student
- MaryJo Coast, a PhD student

Learning about the Safe Haven Law

Jodi Brooks, a reporter for Denver’s Channel 4 News, was a guest lecturer March 28 in Marie Hastings-Tolsma, PhD, CNM’s master’s course, Care of the High Risk Pregnancy. She gave a presentation on Colorado’s Safe Haven Law, of which she is a strong advocate. The law protects unwanted newborns. She also discussed social policy and creating legislative change on health issues. Legislation was enacted as an incentive for mothers in crisis to safely relinquish their babies to a safe haven until a permanent home can be found.

Students and Sigma members get together at the annual meeting.
Faculty and Staff Milestones

Violeta Costache, MAOM, MSCIS, has been appointed the new director of Human Resources and Facilities at the School of Nursing. She brings extensive experience in human resources in health care and other private sector settings to the position. With her previous work experience and her master’s degrees in organizational management and computer information systems, she is well prepared for her new role. Costache was most recently director of human resources for nine years at Shalom Park, a large, high level nursing home facility in Aurora.

She has two daughters, Nastassia and Nicoleta, and originally came to the United States from Focsani, Rumania, in 1982. Her brother, on the faculty of the surgery department, also works at the campus. “I’m excited to be here,” she commented. “Human resources is a challenge that I like.”

Ruth Crowley, MA, joined the School of Nursing in August as Extended Studies Coordinator. She comes to the SON with many years of experience in managing extended studies programs and continuing education administration. She earned an MA in Training and Learning Technology from University of New Mexico and previously directed professional development and extended studies functions at UC Irvine College of Business Administration and the College of Architecture and Planning, with additional experience from the School of Pharmacy and other university settings. The SON is pleased to welcome her.

Bernadette Garcia has joined the SON as office manager in the Office of Clinical and Community Affairs. She came to the school from Denver Health and Hospitals, where she most recently was working in the Community Voices Program and gained experience from their community clinic system, according to Amy Barton, PhD, associate dean for Clinical and Community Affairs, and associate dean at the SON. Garcia will divide her time between working at the SON Clinical and Community Affairs office and at the school’s Sheridan Health Services Clinic. She and her husband John are the proud parents of a four and a half month old daughter, Ayla Jade.

At a breakfast reception on March 23, the SON bid farewell to Jerry Griffin, Director of Budget and Finance, who left the SON for a management position in the state government. Griffin will be senior program manager at PERA, the Public Employees Retirement Association, where he will be using both his extensive graduate education and much of what he learned at the School of Nursing, according to Dean Patricia Moritz. She commented that Griffin, who came to the School in 2000, “provided outstanding leadership and was instrumental in developing the financial plans and databases that have been so necessary for the successful management of the school. The SON will sorely miss him for what he has accomplished and for his exemplar dedication to the school.”

Jane Kass-Wolff, PhD, assistant professor, has joined the School of Nursing from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas where she was a faculty associate in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and practiced as an advanced NP in the Gynecology Clinic at the Women’s Center in Austin, lecturing and supervising NPs and medical students, and conducting research on contraceptive methods. Kass-Wolff has been practicing as an FNP for over 25 years and the SON is very pleased to welcome her.

Gail Katz, MS, DNP, joined the School of Nursing as coordinator of the simulation laboratory.

Marilyn Krajicek wins AJN Book of the Year Award

Marilyn Krajicek, EdD, FAAN, has been selected to receive a 2006 Book of the Year Award from the American Journal of Nursing (AJN) for her book, Nursing Excellence for Children and Families, published by Springer Publishing Company, New York.

Krajicek is professor of nursing at the School of Nursing and also holds an appointment as assistant clinical professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the School of Medicine. She is director of the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) and the Nursing Leadership: Pediatric Special Needs graduate program option. Krajicek is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Public Health Service, for these programs.

Krajicek co-edited the award-winning book with Martha Craft-Rosenberg, PhD, FAAN, professor and interim dean of the University of Iowa, College of Nursing. The two of also coauthored the book’s first chapter, entitled, “Background.” In addition, Krajicek co-authored another chapter, “Providing for Physical Safety,” with Barbara Hamilton, MA, assistant director of the NRC.

This book examines the assumptions and values of nurses who care for children. The contributing authors of the book are experts on identified indicators of nursing excellence for parents to use as guidelines in the selection of health care for their children and they serve as the chapter authors for each such indicator. The indicators were developed by the Expert Panel on Children and Families of the American Academy of Nursing.

“The members of the Expert Panel are continuing their work on these indicators for parents as advocates for their children’s health care, and panel members are developing a grant to further this work, said Krajicek. “We are pleased that the work of the past six to seven years has come to fruition with this book and we continue to move forward to make an impact on working with parents to make a difference in the provision of excellence in health care for their children and families.”
School changes online software system

The School of Nursing offered the first online degree program at the Health Sciences Center 10 years ago and was honored for this distinction by receiving the Super Dave Osborne Award at the 10th anniversary celebration for CU Online at UCDHSC.

This spring, the school completed a shift from the WebCT software platform to CU Online-Blackboard. Blackboard is a course management system used by SON faculty to upload course content; manage course communication; test students online; and post assignments.

Blackboard is used for web-based courses (instruction occurs entirely online), web-enhanced courses (traditional courses with internet enhancement), and hybrid courses (courses that blend the traditional format with online).

The school migrated from WebCT to Blackboard with the baccalaureate course offerings in the Fall 2006 semester and graduate class in Spring 2007. The school offers about 40 courses online a semester.

Accessibility and usage is comparable to the old system, plus it allows the school to eliminate operating costs, and take advantage of a benefit of consolidation with the CU-Denver campus.

“The decision to move to Blackboard made sense because of the campus consolidation (with the CU-Denver campus), which gave us the opportunity to explore options for continuing our success in online education while better managing our costs,” said Amy Barton, PhD, associate dean for clinical and community affairs.

Faculty and Staff Milestones

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According to Amy Barton, PhD, associate professor and associate dean for Clinical and Community Affairs, Katz has years of experience in development and administration of risk management, patient safety, loss prevention, case management and health care liability claim programs. She has developed programs, policies and processes to assist and support health care corporations, employees, providers, agencies, staff, students and insurance carriers to learn and apply communication skills that establish and maintain a safe health care delivery system. The clinical simulation coordinator role combines Katz’s skills and experience with patient safety, teaching, communication and program development as the SON continues to build and develop a simulation curriculum.

Katz earned a BS in nursing from Idaho State University and her MS and DNP degrees at the SON. Katz is a certified case manager and a legal nurse expert. Among her many past positions, she directed the risk and claim management program and functions for Columbia HealthOne LLC., Coram Healthcare Corporation and Five Star Quality Care, Inc.

Judy Roybal Retires

After 35 years of service to the School of Nursing, staff member Judy R. Roybal retired. Roybal was staff support to many faculty and programs, including former interim dean Juanita Tate, PhD, Carole Coates, PhD, Nancy Hester, PhD, Betty Mitsunaga, PhD, and Eunice Blair, PhD. She moved to the Dean’s Office in 1987 where she worked until 1993 for former dean, Jean Watson, PhD, FAAN, and succeeding deans. She also provided staff support to Judy Igoe, MS; Jurate Sakalys, PhD; and Denny Webster, PhD. Roybal was appointed clinical placement coordinator in the Office of Clinical and Community Affairs in 2003, where she worked with Jo Rhodes, MS, until her retirement in 2006.

"Judy was my right and left hand for more than 30 years – years consistently leavened by her rare excellence, dry humor, and system savvy. She was a priceless asset to the SON and is missed," said Sakalys.

Amy Barton, PhD, said, "Judy did a great job assisting with the automation of what used to be a largely manual process and increased efficiencies for placement management."

Rhodes commented that Roybal’s numerous positions and community contacts, and her extensive knowledge and understanding of the BS curriculum led to her great success as the clinical placement coordinator.

Rhodes added, "At meetings with nurse educators, Judy was skilled at thinking outside the box, was much respected, and everyone appreciated her sense of humor and great ideas. Her many accomplishments at the SON will long be remembered."

Former Dean Watson commented that for more than 30 years, Roybal was "there to offer continuity and expert knowledge and skills. Her dry wit, sense of humor and ‘take’ on all that was happening in the SON earned her a well deserved reputation as being the person folks turned to for information and lightness of being. I had the personal honor and pleasure of working with Judy, and staying connected with her from my first days in the SON, through the deanship and beyond. She kept me and others honest and humble. She left a gap when she retired, but her contributions and legendary reputation live on."
To hear Beverly Malone, PhD, FAAN, chief executive officer of the National League for Nursing, speak is to feel her passion for the nursing profession. Malone's talk, titled Leadership: Lessons in Transformation, was presented to faculty, staff, students and guests at the 10th Anniversary Lola Fehr Lectureship held April 20 to a standing room only crowd.

Drawing on her vast experience as a nurse leader, Malone provided insights on how to assume the mantle of leadership and urged audience members to do so.

Malone was introduced by Lola Fehr, MS, ’75, FAAN, a long-time benefactor to the School of Nursing, who established the annual lectureship.

“Let us be mindful of how desperate we are for leadership that can produce change in our society and health care system,” said Fehr. “Leadership is expected of all of us.”

Malone holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in nursing and a doctorate in clinical psychology. Her faceted career spans two continents and a variety of positions and experiences, from policy and education to administration and clinical practice.

Prior to her current position, Malone was general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, the United Kingdom’s largest professional union of nurses, with some 400,000 members. She has spoken with both U.S. President Bill Clinton and England’s Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

“Nursing needs more warriors,” she said. “Nursing needs individuals who understand their authority, understand their ability to make a difference and are ready to stand up for patient care.”

Malone explained transformational leadership as a leap that gets big results, not just making change. She divided leadership into concepts: vision, desire, mastery, mentoring, boundary management and power.

“I was mentored every step of the way,” said Malone. “I’ve stood on the shoulders of giants throughout my career. A mentor can help you. If you’re walking down the road, a mentor can say, ‘If you keep going in that direction, you’ll knock your head against the wall. Move over to the right a bit; turn the knob and walk through the door.’ A mentor can distinguish between a wall and a door.”

Photo: Beverly Malone, PhD, FAAN