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A message from the Dean

This has been a very busy fall season for all of us at the School of Nursing. We welcomed a group of faculty members who are taking on exciting responsibilities, some who have been with the School for many years and a few who recently joined us.

We also celebrated a memorable Reunion Weekend in October, with about 150 alumni visiting from all over the country — some from as far away as Arizona and California. It was great to see everyone as we caught up on news and reminisced about the School and all it means to us.

In addition to a busy Reunion Weekend, there have been several unique developments that promise to further strengthen the School's curriculum as well as the offerings of our Community Nursing Center, which is featured in this issue of *Rochester Nursing Today*.

First, I am thrilled to announce a new initiative that



links us with Ireland's University of Ulster. Nurses and nursing students will learn how to respond to bioterrorism attacks, chemical warfare and other disasters through new coursework offered via interactive, online sessions by the University of Rochester School of Nursing.

The coursework begins in January and will be completely up-to-date, addressing anthrax and other concerns made urgent by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Students will



access the course through the University of Ulster’s new “virtual campus,” a distance-learning Internet portal called Campus One. The online sessions will connect students with others from around the world. Any nurse or nursing student in the country can enroll.

We are pleased to be working with the University of Ulster, whose degree program in disaster relief nursing is the first in the world. Its faculty’s expertise will assist our nurses in focusing on management and leadership during disasters and in acquiring specialty skills that will prepare them for dangers that may lie ahead in this ever-changing world.

In other good news, the Community Nursing Center recently signed an exclusive partnership with HomMed LLC, a telemedicine company based in Wisconsin that will provide health and wellness and disease-state management services. This collaboration links Community Nursing Center staff with satellite health care sites, businesses and other nontraditional settings that are convenient for consumers, and will allow us to enhance the services offered by the CNC.

These are just two examples of the diversity nurses are experiencing in the workplace and of the opportunities that await potential nurses. Gone are the days when nurses were only recognized as working in hospitals and school infirmaries. We provide services that vary from travel health and vaccination clinics, to school-based initiatives such as permanent health clinics and counseling services, as well as

educational experiences for general audiences, businesses and nurses themselves. We are out in the community, caring for people in businesses, churches, community and senior centers — a message that is spreading as we continue to recruit new nursing students.

Finally, I’d like to congratulate our own Harriet J. Kitzman, PhD, RN, who was honored with the 2001 Distinguished Scholar in Nursing Award by the New York University Division of Nursing. Harriet was recognized for her child-focused research, particularly her studies regarding symptom perception and symptom monitoring in childhood asthma, both funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research/National Institutes of Health. The data was featured in numerous publications, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. We are proud of her and the difference her research makes in the lives of children. Congratulations, Harriet!

These initiatives and so many of the accomplishments of our students and faculty could not be achieved without the support of our donors. Your gifts make our success a reality.

Sincerely,

Patricia Chiverton, EdD, RN, FNAP
Dean



Community Nursing Center

Improving the health of the community

The work of the Community Nursing Center (CNC) had an impact on Rochester's health long before it was given an official name.

In the early 1980s, leaders of the School of Nursing, including former associate dean for Undergraduate Studies Elaine Hubbard, EdD, RN, had a vision to provide traditional nurse-managed clinics to geriatric groups, foster-care children and indigent populations in the Rochester area.

The services the School offered then were invaluable, according to Donna Tortoretti, RNC, BSN, BA, CMAC, and they still play a key role today in addressing the health issues facing our community. But five years ago, a slightly different vision of community service began to emerge.

Tortoretti and Pat Chiverton, EdD, RN, FNAP, considered diverging somewhat from the traditional in an effort to concentrate on marketing the innovative practice models and areas nurses are experts in, such as patient education, health promotion, and disease prevention and management.

The endeavor started out with two main goals — to provide community care partnerships with businesses and organizations, and to develop a school-based health initiative. It is

currently successful on those fronts as well as numerous other areas, and its impact is being felt beyond its geographic region.

“We want to be recognized not only as a leader in health and disease prevention on a local level, but also through national recognition by providing consulting services across the United States,” Tortoretti says.

Meeting the needs of many

The scope of the Community Nursing Center's responsibilities is broad, creating a diverse group of offerings and programs. Researchers contract with nurses who are experts in a particular field and who can assist with data collection and facilitate studies. Hospice agencies and other organizations seek nurses who can facilitate care. A school-based health clinic in the City of Rochester is staffed in part by CNC faculty, who also are involved in a mentorship program designed to decrease truancy at the school.

The year-old Well Aware Corporate Health Management Program is another example of how community nursing meets the health care needs of the area's residents, by serving businesses.

The CNC staff offers flu shots at a fall clinic: (facing page) Rebecca Locke, RN, and patient Paul E. Baker; (top right) Sheldon Fields, PhD, APRN, BC, FNP, and Nancy Jones, MS, HSA, CMA; (below right) Rita D’Aoust, MS, RN, ANP with patient Joyce Button.

Headed by Nancy Jones, MS, HSA, CMA, and Eva Bellis, RN, CCM, the Well Aware program provides a variety of services by first working with companies and their employees to ascertain what they may want and need. As part of the process, an employee survey is typically conducted to find out whether there is a desire for smoking cessation or weight management courses, life-long planning, or a nurse on-site a few hours a week for consultations, glucose monitoring or blood pressure checks. Once needs are identified, employers are invited to pick from a list of health care options.

“We provide a la carte service,” Jones says. “Some companies only want a flu clinic once a year; others may choose a number of options that will meet the healthcare needs of their workers. We assist them with those needs by providing our experts in whatever form they request, and they benefit by not having to employ a full-time nurse.”

Jones relates that one company sought the advice of the Well Aware program after installing a gym at its work site—and employees weren’t using it. After an employee survey was conducted, the owners of the business understood what health care options the workers wanted. Unfortunately for the company, it wasn’t a gym, but the Well Aware program was able to provide other services.

Providing flu clinics is a significant focus in the fall months before flu season gets underway. Wegmans Food & Pharmacy stores partners with the CNC and this year nurses will staff 12 different sites, even at the company’s Pennsylvania locations.

“We’ll be doing about 50,000 flu shots this year,” Jones says.

The Well Aware program can assist businesses with complementary alternative therapies, such as massage and Qi Gong; crisis management after a trauma or death affects a workplace; and even planning for retirement. Additionally, Passport Health provides year-round information, immunizations and consultation for those traveling for business or pleasure to other parts of the world.

The goal of the Well Aware program is to support employers in promoting health and wellness and offering whatever services will ensure that employees are well and at work, Jones says.

“The idea is to make the employer’s vision a reality.” The CNC recently signed an exclusive partnership with HomMed LLC, a telemedicine company based in Wisconsin that will provide health and wellness and disease-state



management services. More details will be available soon about this collaboration, which links Community Nursing Center staff with satellite health care sites, businesses and other nontraditional settings that are convenient for consumers.

Learning: an ongoing process

The Community Nursing Center not only caters to the needs of businesses, but also offers enrichment for health care personnel who seek learning experiences that advance them personally and professionally.

The Center for Lifelong Learning provides didactic knowledge and a clinical internship that allows registered nurses to become credentialed as Registered Nurse First Assistants, a requirement of New York state for those performing duties specific to that role. The RNFA is a technically skilled and highly educated nursing professional who renders direct patient care and functions interdependently with the operating surgeon.

Center for Lifelong Learning Director Pamela Smith, MS, RN, ANP, was working as a nurse practitioner for a local surgeon in 1999 when she sought out a program to become certified as an RNFA. There was only one in the state, in Buffalo, and that program was offered sporadically.

“I was surprised that the state mandated credentialing but there were almost no programs to support that,” Smith says.

The need was obvious to her, as well as to Donna Tortoretti, who invited Smith to join the Community Nursing Center and begin an RNFA program. In addition, there are



training and refresher courses for medical students, nurses and nurse practitioners, and programs about health care financing, as well as many other services provided by the Center for Lifelong Learning.

“Our RNFA program is providing a unique learning experience that helps nurses build upon

the knowledge many of them already possess,” Smith says. “We’re taking nurses who are already experts and credentialing them in the eyes of the state so they have official credibility.”

The program has taken off, with 15 students completing the fall 2000 class, followed by another six in the spring.

Diane Szpiller, RN, CNOR, RNFA, is one who took advantage of the opportunity. She had been employed as a staff nurse in the main operating room at Strong Memorial Hospital since the summer of 1994. After completing a full orientation that encompassed nearly a dozen different services, Szpiller was asked to join the open-heart surgery team in the winter of 1995.

“The challenges within the cardiac service were tremendous and highly rewarding,” she says. “However,

I felt the need for continued professional growth in an expanded nursing role.”

Szpiller credits her success in the RNFA program to many individuals who lent support during the program and months of internship, including RNFA Kimberlee Gaffney, and George L. Hicks Jr., MD, chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery and a lecturer for the RNFA classes.

“The program coordinators at the School of Nursing provided enthusiastic and energetic input and encouragement,” Szpiller says. “All the surgeons proved kind and patient and genuinely appreciative of my clumsy efforts. My colleagues were so helpful in my transition from staff nurse to RNFA. And certainly, I could not have achieved my goal had it not been for the direct support of the nurse leaders and my OR manager, who all demonstrated a belief in the value of the RNFA role within the operating room.”

Smith says the Center for Lifelong Learning offered the RNFA curriculum again in October, when it was attended by six nurses from across New York state and Pennsylvania. There are plans to market the program in other areas of the New York state, across the country and in Canada for nurses who desire the additional training.

The Community Nursing Center has announced a new partnership with the University of Ulster in Ireland that will focus on lifelong learning initiatives in the areas of disaster nursing, forensic nursing and e-health. These programs are being developed and will begin to roll out in spring 2002.



(facing page) Diane Szpiller, RN, CNOR, RNFA, member of the RNFA program, in surgery with pediatric heart surgeon George Alfieris, MD; (left/below) Nutrition/Weight Management Center participant Jim Silverman and Betsy Crumb, BS.

In search of better health

At more than 300 pounds, Jim Silverman knew he needed to lose weight but wasn't sure how to do it.

He'd tried various diets and was successful at bringing down his weight, only to find he gained it back. Then it was suggested he contact the Nutrition/Weight Management Center provided by the Community Nursing Center.

"It's working," says Silverman, a certified public accountant who works at home. He's lost 50 pounds in the past six months and is learning how to control his weight through exercise, proper nutrition and behavior modification. He meets once a week with either a member of the Nutrition/Weight Management Center staff or a support group made up of people who are similar to him in their desire to lose weight and stay healthy.

Nutrition/Weight Management Center Director Nellie Wixom, RD, says the success of the program's participants is based on their ability to make healthy lifestyle changes in the areas of diet and exercise.

"We're an incredibly valuable resource for people who want to lose weight the right way and keep it off," Wixom says. "Our multidisciplinary approach to healthy living involves the resources of experts associated with the School of Nursing, such as exercise physiologists, social workers who specialize in behavior modification, dietitians, nurse practi-

tioners and endocrine experts."

The program has existed for more than 20 years but was re-evaluated five years ago to include the CORE program, a combination of group support, individual counseling, routine medical monitoring and use of anti-obesity medication when appropriate. Adults are served, as well as adolescents, who are provided with a family-based program.

"If an adolescent is ready to lose weight but the family isn't ready to make lifestyle changes to help, that's going to be a barrier," Wixom says.

"Obesity is a serious public health issue that needs to be addressed nationally," she adds. "Currently, about 61 percent of adults in the U.S. are overweight, as are 14 percent of adolescents. Our goal is to help people develop the skills needed to manage a healthy weight long-term."

The philosophies that support Community Nursing Center programs are aligned with those of Project Believe, Strong Health's 20-year initiative to help Rochester become the healthiest community in the nation by the year 2020.

"We adopted similar goals a long time ago, finding ways to improve the community's health, developing initiatives and practice models that promote health throughout entire populations, and really focusing on the quality of life, which hinges on good health," Tortoretti says proudly.

"At the Community Nursing Center, we're constantly working to move away from diagnosis and treatment, toward promoting the aspects of prevention and wellness through all of our programs."





Nursing profiles

This issue of *Rochester Nursing Today* profiles individuals who are undertaking new responsibilities within the School of Nursing

in an effort to enhance the School's mission in the areas of education, research and patient care.

Charlotte Torres, EdD, RN, CS, FNP

Charlotte Torres, EdD, RN, CS, FNP, began this fall as the director of Masters Programs for the School of Nursing. She returns to the School after a seven-year hiatus. In her previous position here she coordinated the undergraduate program.

In her new position, Torres oversees all masters programs. A major focus is to facilitate the smooth operation of the programs and ensure the curriculum meets state and national standards so students receive a quality education that allows them to practice locally and nationally.

Torres' practice expertise is as a Family Nurse Practitioner and a Public Health Nurse. She also has several years of experience in nursing administration, including experience as founder and director of the School of Nursing at



Texas A&M International University and director of the Rural Health Family Nurse Practitioner Program at SUNY Brockport. She practices at Rochester's Anthony Jordan Health Center.

"As an educational administrator, I have a responsibility to make sure our programs prepare students to provide quality care while being flexible enough to help design and shape health care systems that are responsive to the health needs of individuals, families and communities," Torres says.

"The University of Rochester School of Nursing is known locally and nationally as a leader in nursing education, practice and research," she adds. "With the support of our visionary dean and faculty, we will continue to set new standards for meeting the educational and practice needs of students who will work in an ever changing health care system."

Torres earned a bachelor's degree at Greenville College in Illinois, a master's degree in nursing at New York Medical College, a master's in community health nursing and a doctorate degree in education at the University of Rochester. She completed a post-master's certification/family nurse practitioner at Grand Valley State University in Michigan.

Sheldon Fields, PhD, APRN, BC, FNP



Sheldon Fields, PhD, APRN, BC, FNP has joined the Center for High-Risk Children and Youth. In his new position, Fields will develop a program of research for the prevention of HIV infection that will target young minority men (mainly African-American and Hispanic). He will be teaching in the master's

program, focusing on the preparation of nurse practitioners. And, in keeping with the School's unification model, he will practice as a family nurse practitioner in an inner city, community-based clinic.

"Health care disparities among minority populations is an historic problem and HIV/AIDS has again proven this to be true," Fields says. "The AIDS epidemic is devastating people of color, as the latest statistics from the Centers for Disease Control show.

"Although African-Americans are roughly 13 percent of our population, they represent more than 50 percent of all newly diagnosed AIDS cases. This trend has been continuing for several years and the research to combat the problem in many areas is simply not being done. There is a need for minority investigators to actually be involved in developing effective, cultural competent and appropriate solutions to the current HIV/AIDS crisis."

Fields earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Decker School of Nursing at Binghamton University, and his doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing.

Sally Norton, PhD, RN



Sally Norton, PhD, RN, has joined the Center for Clinical Research on Aging. Her new role entails teaching, research with Judith Baggs, PhD, RN, as well as service with the Community Nursing Center, medical ethics department and palliative care.

Her areas of focus consist of end-of-life decision-making, clinical bioethics and palliative care. Norton chose these focus areas because she feels they are inseparable in a critical care environment.

Norton worked for four years in an ICU at the University of Iowa, then spent two years in an ICU at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Australia, where she was totally immersed in another culture.

"I began to see how treatment decisions were not always as clinically driven as I had often assumed, but rather steeped in the values and policies of the unit and political culture," Norton says. "It was also a great way for me to begin to examine my own culture—from the outside."

She will work to improve patient and family care as patients move toward the end of life, and will join with faculty of the Community Nursing Center to improve the preparation of nurses to care for patients and families of patients as they near that stage. She also plans to further improve access to palliative care for those patients and families who may benefit from those services.

Norton earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, and her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She recently completed a two-year, post-doctoral research fellowship at the Oregon Health Sciences Center.

Janice Grzankowski, DNS, RN



Janice Grzankowski, DNS, RN, has been appointed a part-time faculty member with the Center for High-Risk Children and Youth.

Grzankowski will create and teach an online physiology class as part of her new position.

Her research focus includes re-testing a massage-like intervention

for tactile defensiveness (TD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), an expansion of her dissertation study funded in part by the National Institute of Nursing Research. The study will look at the extent and nature of the co-morbidity between TD and ADHD, and how the balance between the fight or flight (sympathetic) and relaxation (parasympathetic) branches of the autonomic nervous system correlates with the symptom levels of these disorders.

Grzankowski also serves as a data analyst for the Veterans Healthcare Administration Department of Medical-Legal Affairs, analyzing national data and looking for trends to identify areas where improvements in patient care may be needed. She works closely with the directors of VA Medical-Legal Affairs located in Buffalo, and with the VA Department of Forensic Medicine and with the chief of VA Patient Care Services, both located in Washington, D.C.

Grzankowski earned her bachelor's degree at D'Youville College, and her master's degree and doctorate of nursing sciences at the University at Buffalo.

Patricia Coleman, PhD, MSN, BSN

Patricia Coleman, PhD, MSN, BSN, has been named to a post-doctorate fellowship position in the Clinical Center on Aging.

Her new role gives Coleman the opportunity to focus and expand her research interests on improving the quality of nursing care for the institutionalized elderly. She is particularly interested in understanding and improving the oral health status of nursing home elders through improving nursing interventions, a neglected area of nursing practice for older adults, she says.

Coleman's practice expertise is as a gerontological clinical nurse specialist and nurse practitioner. Her most recent practice has been on a hospital-based medical floor, serving primarily older adults with acute and chronic medical conditions. She also teaches undergraduates geriatric nursing in her position as assistant professor at Syracuse University.

"I chose geriatric nursing because I have always felt successful in my personal and professional life with older adults," Coleman says. "I lived with my grandmother and grandfather every summer while growing up, and they had a profound influence on the way I see older adults and how I value them as positive role models. I also took care of my mother- and father-in-law for 10 years, while they lived with my husband, myself and our children, until their deaths—so older adults have been an integral part of my life."

"I get immense satisfaction from working with older adults who appreciate and value nursing care. I find geriatric nursing intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding and feel I can make a difference as a nurse on the health of a very vulnerable population."

Coleman earned her BSN from D'Youville College, a post-master's certificate from SUNY Upstate Medical Center and her MSN and PhD from Syracuse University.

Rochester Council Chair

The Rochester Alumni Council appoints Elizabeth Kellogg Walker and Carol Brink



Members of the Rochester Alumni Council are pleased to announce the appointments of Elizabeth (Liz) Kellogg Walker, PhD, and Carol Brink, RN, MPH, effective Sept. 1. Both are distinguished clinicians, educators, researchers and administrators who bring much expertise and creativity to the Rochester Alumni Council.

Walker is a 1962 graduate of the University of Rochester School of Nursing's Baccalaureate Degree Program and received a Master of Science in Nursing with a major in Medical-Surgical Nursing in 1973. In addition to nursing, she received a Master of Arts degree (1981) and a doctorate (1986) in sociology from the UR College of Arts and Sciences.

Walker is Dean Emeritus at the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome. Prior to her tenure at SUNY Utica/Rome, she was the chair of the Division of Health Care Systems and program director of the MSN/MBA Planning Initiative for the University of Rochester School of Nursing and the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration. In addition to administration, her career embraced teaching, consulting, research and clinical nursing.

Brink received a Diploma in Nursing (1956) and a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (1962) from the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She received a Master of Public Health (1969) with a major in nursing administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (1969) and

completed an advanced course in physical rehabilitation methods from the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at New York University. She also completed the Medical Nurse Practitioner Continuing Education Program at the School of Nursing in 1973.

In recent years, Brink has focused on gerontological nursing in her clinical work, as well as in her teaching and research. However, her career has been broad based in community health nursing, and she was an associate professor of clinical nursing and specialty director for the Gerontological Nurse Practitioner Program at the School of Nursing. In addition, she was the Associate to the Clinical Chief for Ambulatory Care at the School of Nursing and Director of Nursing at the Anthony L. Jordan Health Center. She is well known in the community and country for her trail blazing work in urinary incontinence. She is widely sought as a consultant on a variety of topics.

Both peers and professional organizations have acknowledged Walker and Brink for their contributions to nursing. Brink was nominated for ANA Gerontological Nurse of the Year in 1985. She received the Outstanding Scholarly Practitioner Award in 1995 and the Outstanding Faculty Colleague Award in 1998 from the U of R School of Nursing. In addition to clinical and research awards, Walker received the Award for Excellence in Nursing Education from the Genesee Valley Nurses Association in 1992 and the Outstanding Faculty Colleague Award in 1988 from the U of R School of Nursing.

Both of these distinguished alumnae have raised the level of clinical practice by their numerous contributions to scholarly journals and professional presentations. The members of the Rochester Alumni Council are pleased and proud to have these illustrious alumni join in our local efforts on behalf of the School of Nursing.

Carol B. Henretta, EdD, RN
Rochester Alumni Council chair

Sights of Reunion Weekend 2001

Informational Session 1—Master's Program highlights



School of Nursing luncheon

Class dinner at Hutchinson House



Clare Dennison Lecture

Recipients of the Mabel M. & A. T. Hatch Memorial Scholarship, Members of the Davenport-Hatch Foundation



**Informational Session 1
RN-BS Program**

Scholarship recognition event



50-Year Club reception

School of Nursing reception



50-Year Club reception

School of Nursing luncheon



School of Nursing News

NINR grant expands study of successful patient-focused intervention

Following the success of a pilot study that showed parent-focused early interventions significantly improve the outcomes of low-birth-weight premature infants and their mothers, researchers at the School of Nursing have been awarded a \$2.4 million dollar grant from the NIH/NINR to further investigate the potential of this intervention program.

Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN-CS, PNP., associate dean for research and director of both the School of Nursing's Center for Research and Evidence-Based Practice and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, along with co-investigators Linda Alpert-Gillis, PhD, Department of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, and Nancy Fischbeck Feinstein, PhD, RN, led the pilot and will oversee the expanded study, which will take place in the neonatal intensive care units at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester and Crouse Hospital in Syracuse.

The COPE Intervention (Creating Opportunities for Parent Empowerment) provides parents with necessary education and reference points that eliminate some of the fear and trepidation that naturally accompanies the birth of a low-birth-weight premature baby and enables parents to interact with their children in a more positive way.

The pilot study looked at 42 babies and their mothers. Melnyk and her team found that mothers who received the COPE intervention experienced less depression and stress and were more confident in caring for their infants. The group also discovered that at six months adjusted age, the COPE babies scored 14 points higher—a significant difference—on the Mental Development Index of the Bayley Scales of Infant Development than non-COPE babies.

The intervention program involves meeting with parents within two to four days after the birth of their infants. Other meetings to deliver additional phases of the intervention program are scheduled two to four days after that, one to four days prior to discharge, one week after discharge, and at 2, 9 and 18 months adjusted age.

The full-scale study will enroll 240 low-birth-weight premature babies and involve both their mothers and fathers.

Other members of the University of Rochester team are Eileen Fairbanks, MS, RN, Patricia Stone, PhD, RN, Leigh Small, MS, RN-CS, PNP, Zendi Moldenhauer, MS, RN-CS, PNP, Nancee Bender, MS, RN, Holly Brown, MS, RN, NPP, Robert Sinkin, MD, Christine LeMoine, MS, RN, NNP, Diane Hust, MS, RN, PNP, Jean Johnson, PhD, RN, and Hugh Crean, PhD. Steven Gross, MD, and Diane D'Eugenio, MA, are part of the team at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse.

Former cancer center patient, nurse speaks at conference



The James P. Wilmot Cancer Center of the University of Rochester Medical Center held its third annual Thriving After Breast Cancer conference on Oct. 20 in Rochester. The event is an opportunity for women affected by breast cancer, to learn more about recovering and share thoughts and questions with health professionals and each other.

The day-long event included a presentation by former Cancer Center nurse and breast cancer survivor Lillian Nail, PhD, RN, FAAN, of the School of Nursing at Oregon Health Sciences University.

Nail earned her bachelor's degree in 1971, her master's in 1975 and her doctorate in 1985 at the University of Rochester and is a former assistant professor. She was thrilled to give the keynote address because it was a homecoming, of sorts.

"I spent many years at the Cancer Center and the University of Rochester, and look forward to sharing my experience, as a clinician, researcher and patient, with other women who have endured breast cancer," Nail says. She was a nurse at the Medical Center for 20 years, working 10 of them in the Cancer Center, from 1983–93.

"Overcoming breast cancer is an incredible challenge and this event is a great opportunity for women to learn how to move on," says Nail, diagnosed with breast cancer in 1986. She was treated at the Cancer Center before relocating to Oregon. She battled Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 1994 and in 2000.

Save the date for Reunion 2002

Save the date for the School of Nursing 2002 Fall & Reunion Weekend to be held Thursday, October 3–Saturday Oct. 5, 2002! Please stay tuned to the School of Nursing events page on the website for updated information and a complete listing of the weekend's schedule of events.



Chinese health care charts new course, thanks to Rochester nurse

Hong Li, RN, PhD, (*lower left corner*) assistant professor of nursing, is helping lead a Chinese-American team of researchers on a nursing project unprecedented in China.

With Li's guidance, Chinese nurses will study—through interviews with families and patients—how families provide care to elderly patients hospitalized with cancer.

The collaboration has its roots in a year-long visit Li made to the Oregon Health Sciences University in 1985, after working seven years as a staff nurse at Beijing Hospital.

"My first year in the United States was an eye-opening experience," Li says. "I saw that nursing here is something quite different than in China. I realized that nurses can come up with ways on their own to improve the care of patients. In China, we call the nurses the 'doctor's legs'—the doctors tell the nurses what to do."

She remained in the U.S. and pursued a research opportunity unknown to nurses in China, earning her bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in Oregon before joining the Rochester faculty three years ago. In the U.S., her research has focused on care of the elderly in hospitals, a topic she experienced personally while caring for her father-in-law who was hospitalized in China.

During a recent trip to Beijing, Li led nursing instruction focused on teaching Chinese nurses interviewing, data collection and analysis skills. Li's research suggests families report substantial benefits to patients when nurses and families work together—hospital stays are shorter, patients are less confused by the unfamiliar environment, and patients eat and drink more, maintaining strength and preventing dehydration.

Li and Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk, PhD, RN-CS, PNP, are launching a pilot study to explore these findings. Li hopes to investigate issues surrounding care for elderly in U.S. hospitals and compare results to China, where there are more than 130 million people over the age of 60.

Class notes (new section, please send in your news)

'59 Astrid S. Cooper writes that her daughter, Kristina Cooper, graduated in May from Rochester with a master's degree. Kristina received her BSN in 1994 from Florida State University and has been employed at Strong Memorial Hospital for seven years, the last five in the burn/trauma unit.

'69 Sally S. Blowers, MS, won the Nurse of the Year Award for Teaching from East Tennessee State University School of Nursing. She is an assistant professor in the department of adult nursing.

'73 Pamela Austin Thompson, MS, writes that she just finished her first year as the executive director of the American Organization of Nurse Executives. She moved from New Hampshire with her family to Manassas, Va., and she now works in Washington, D.C.

'74 Geri LoBiondo-Wood, AS, '78 MS, was elected to the American Academy of Nursing 2001. She also co-edited the "5th Edition of Nursing Research: Methods, Critical Appraisal and Utilization," scheduled to be published this month. She completed her third year as president of the Visiting Nurses Association Foundation of Houston in 2001.

'81 Corine E. Slawin Milgram, of Needham, Mass., writes that she and her husband, Jerry, are enjoying their new house and have a 6-year-old son, Robert, and a 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Natalie. Corine is working three days a week as a pediatric nurse practitioner at Dedham Medical Associates in Dedham, Mass.

'81 Cheryl Mahoney was promoted to instructor of nursing at Monroe Community College in Rochester, where she has worked since 1998.

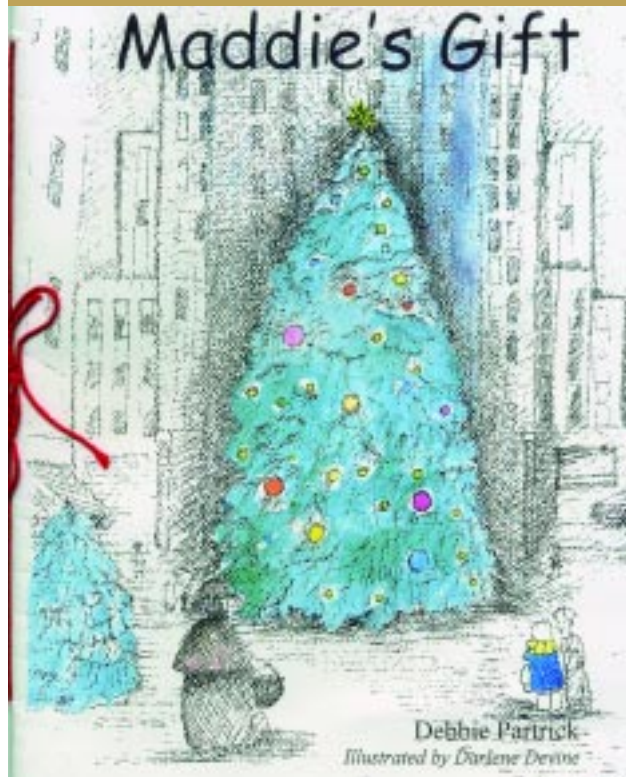
'84 Bonnie L. Petrosino, MA, was promoted to professor of nursing at Monroe Community College in Rochester, where she has been a faculty member since 1982.

'91 Carolyn Carrier Hopfinger writes that she is living in Pittsford, NY, with her husband, Carl, and sons Jake and Max. She is a family nurse practitioner and is staying home with her children.

'92 Mary F. Kelly, MS, was promoted to director of education for Visiting Nurse Service and Community Care of Rochester. She is responsible for developing training programs for the home health aides and nurses.

'96 Todd M. Smith participated in the American Lung Association of Washington's 14th-annual Climb for Clean Air in July 2001. He was required to raise \$3,500 for the charity before climbing the 14,410-foot high Mt. Rainier.

'01 Rebecca Carp married Reid Genauer on May 27 in Rochester... Heather A. Ogilvie married Joseph F. Dailor on May 26. Heather had worked as a registered nurse in the pediatric intensive care unit at Strong Children's Hospital, and Joseph is an attorney in Albany.



SON student publishes children's holiday tale

Debbie Partrick's book about two young friends who give of themselves at Christmas is the result of a collaboration between her and her good friend, Darlene Devine.

"Maddie's Gift," published last year by Soleil

Publishing of Rochester, tells the tale of Maddie and her friend, Kirby. As they discuss what they want for Christmas, Maddie wishes for a doll named Madeline and Kirby hopes for a baseball glove and toy fire truck. The gift they end up receiving, though, is far more valuable.

Partrick, who graduates in May with the last class of the School of Nursing's four-year RN program, wrote the story for an English class and then asked Darlene Devine, an art and music teacher, to illustrate it. The project held great significance for the two friends, especially as Devine was going through treatment for cancer.

"It meant a lot to have this published," Partrick said. The project is a symbol of her friendship with Devine, she says, and of all friendships.

The book will be reprinted for the upcoming holiday season. It will be available in the Barnes & Noble store at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Helene Fuld Health Trust supports nursing students

The Helene Fuld Health Trust, HSBC Bank USA, Trustee, has awarded a scholarship grant of \$97,720 to the University of Rochester School of Nursing to support economically disadvantaged students in the RN to BS and the RN to BSN to MSN programs. This gift will enable deserving RNs to more readily pursue advanced degrees. It will help more students pursue their educational goals full-time, and thereby enable us to develop a more representative cadre of nursing leaders in a shorter period. This is great news in and of itself, but it is even better because Fuld's grant will be matched 2:1 and bring in an additional \$195,940 in scholarships through the McClouth Challenge.

AACN names alumna chair of board

Elizabeth M. Nolan, RN, MS, CS, a University of Rochester School of Nursing alumna, has been appointed by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses to the AACN Certification Corp. for 2001-02.

Nolan received her nursing diploma from St. Michael's Hospital School of Nursing in Toronto, Canada. In 1975, she earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Michigan School of Nursing, followed by a master of science degree in 1978 from the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She is currently a doctoral student at the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

A founding member and past president of the Washtenaw County Chapter of AACN, Nolan serves as a cardiac clinical nurse specialist at the CardioVascular Center, University of Michigan Hospital and Health Centers, Ann Arbor. She has been a member of AACN since 1979 and recently completed a three-year term as treasurer of the AACN board of directors.

585 area code change reminder

A reminder for those of you who live outside of the Rochester region: We're undergoing a two-year process to change the area code from 716 to 585. The new number took effect Nov. 15, and a six- to nine-month period of "permissive dialing," in which both area codes work, will follow.



A Day at the Races

School of Nursing alumna Dorothy Kondolf and Robert Guinan enjoy "A Day at the Races" in Saratoga Springs for the running of the Whitney on July 28, 2001.

Nurse midwifery program graduates 5

The School of Nursing master's program in nurse midwifery proudly congratulates its 2001 class for passing the American College of Nurse Midwives Certifying Council certification exam in the spring.

The five graduates of the 2001 program are: Laura Burgess, Sandra Jones, Mary Jo Spallina, Susan Vert and Heidi Zielinski.

These five students join those before them in passing as a class. In fact, all 23 students who have completed the program during its six years in existence have passed the certification exam the first time, according to Kathleen Utter King, CNM, MS, director of the Nurse Midwifery Education Program.

The American College of Nurse Midwives Certifying Council is the organization that certifies nurse midwives. Certified Nurse Midwives provide comprehensive prenatal and well-woman gynecological care for women throughout the life span, and also care for laboring women and assist with births as independent care providers in the United States.

NLNAC reaccredits School of Nursing

The School of Nursing had an accreditation visit earlier this year. The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) and the New York State Department of Education visited the School of Nursing on Jan. 30 and 31 and Feb. 1, and interviewed faculty, students, alumni and administrators from the School, the Medical Center and the University. The NLNAC visitors recommended re-accreditation for eight years. The state visitors recommended re-registration of the program.

The School of Nursing was first accredited by the NLNAC in 1969 and has been continuously accredited since that time.

The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission is responsible for the specialized accreditation of about 200 nursing education schools and programs, both post-secondary and higher degree.

School receives \$2M Challenge Grant

Charles McLouth III of Palmyra, NY, recognized the importance of the work done at the School of Nursing to educate nurses who become leaders in their field. Through his estate, Mr. McLouth made provisions for a \$2 million challenge grant to inspire alumni, friends and organizations to invest in the School's students and exceptional programs.

The School must raise \$1 million by June 30, 2002, in order to receive the \$2 million grant that will establish the McLouth Scholarship for Nursing Students. All new and increased gifts to the School will receive a 2:1 match through the Challenge. Though more than halfway to its goal, the School of Nursing still needs your help to succeed.

Many alumni and friends have already come forward to help in this effort, including Dr. Jean Johnson, Professor Emerita and former clinical chief of Oncology Nursing, and associate director of Oncology Nursing at the Cancer Center. By making a gift of nearly one-third of our goal, she provided the momentum needed to launch this incredible effort.

When asked why she made this gift, Dr. Johnson said, "During my entire span as a nurse (over 50 years), there is a better chance now for nursing to be recognized by the public for what it really contributes to the health care of our nation. Our School of Nursing leadership and faculty are well-situated to meet that challenge, but need the necessary funding to make this happen."

Other major contributors to the McLouth Challenge include:

- The Helene Fuld Health Trust, HSBC Bank USA, Trustee, which made a significant grant to support economically disadvantaged students in the RN to BS and RN to BSN to MSN programs
- Carolyn T. ('68) and Roger B. Friedlander, who made a major contribution to the Carolyn Taksen Friedlander Scholarship for Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Students
- Eleanor Hall ('61), whose gift made possible an archivist project for the School of Nursing
- Josephine ('46, '60 MAS) and Russell Craytor, whose gift established the Josephine Craytor Nursing Faculty Award Fund
- Fay W. ('61) and Ralph Royal Whitney, who made a major contribution to the School's Telehealth Initiative
- Dr. Malin B. Shaw, whose gift established the Ruth Gianniny Shaw Memorial Scholarship

Stanley A. Gordon, Esq., trustee of the McLouth Estate and member of the University of Rochester Medical Center Development Committee, was influential in building the relationship between Mr. McLouth and the School of Nursing. His efforts have helped inspire individuals to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. "I hope this challenge brings together alumni and community members in support of nursing in Rochester. Now, more than ever, we need your support."

For information about the McLouth Challenge, call Vicki Dodds at (585) 273-5935 or 1-800-333-4428.

Dear 2000/2001 Donors,

A resounding thank you! We have achieved tremendous success in our fund-raising efforts at the University of Rochester School of Nursing, and your support and enthusiasm have made it possible.

Listed on the following pages are those alumni, friends and faculty whose support has made our successes possible. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and all you do to sustain the traditions of excellence in nursing education, research and practice.

The School of Nursing would like to extend its sincere apologies to those alumni who contributed to the Alumnae Scholarship Fund as well as the Annual Fund and were erroneously omitted from the Annual Fund proof mailing in June. Our thanks go out to those who brought the error to our attention.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you already and look forward to meeting more of you soon. I am proud to be affiliated with the University of Rochester School of Nursing.

Sincerely,
Andrea Marshall
Associate Director of Alumni Relations & Development

School of Nursing
Donor Report for
July 1, 2000—
June 30, 2001

We apologize in advance for any omissions or errors in the names of any participating contributors. This report lists gifts received as of June 30, 2001.



**Message from
Elizabeth Smith, '50**
National Alumni Board
President

I am so grateful to the many alumni and friends listed in this donor report. The McLouth Challenge is nearly two-thirds of the way complete with six months to go to meet our goal of \$1 million. Thank you all for your outstanding support of the School of Nursing. I look forward to another successful year!

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Dean's Diamond Circle members are patrons whose gifts to the School of Nursing exceed \$1,000 annually.

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Emily Jones Lawrence
Barbara Hiler McCullough
Patricia Pendergrass McElrath
Stella Hulsberg Megargle
Sharon Carlson Nazarian
Lottie Neal North
Carole Shaner Ryan
Karen Bigwood Shinn, '90, '91M
Barbara Purcell Sosiak
Virginia Davis Strand
Josephine S. Emy Whang
Shirley J. Robinson Young

1963

24% Participation

Grace L. Reid Society

Susannah Mallery Rank

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Engleman
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Carole Hartwig Schroeder
Gayle Ann Traver

1964

19% Participation

Helen Wood Society

Genevieve Kaiser McQuillin, '64M

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Elizabeth Hodge Butler
Helene K. Shetler Charron, '66M
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1965

29% Participation

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Ann Kuebler Hager

Grace L. Reid Society

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Joan Marie Kallenbach Thorn

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Marcia Gaugel Whitmarsh
Kay P. Seawall Yost

1966

27% Participation

Grace L. Reid Society

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Jayne Ehlers Richards

1967

30% Participation

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Helen Wood Society

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Susan M. Griffiths Miller
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1968

28% Participation

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Janet Kaplan Capen
Susan Toce Caprio
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Janet Scroger Peer
Janet Page Price
Kathleen Hansen Putnam
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1969

38% Participation

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Carolyn Marie Schodt
June Frei Seeley
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Dayl Elizabeth Randall Zesk

1970

20% Participation

Donors

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1971

11% Participation

Donors

Mary Ann Mandrick Frank
Carol Blanchard Kenyon, '76M, '86PhD
Marianne Doran Steinhacker, '71M
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1972

31% Participation

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1973

33% Participation

Donors

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Rosemary Higgins Strub
Beverly Bronson Theuer
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1974

17% Participation

Helen Wood Society

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Grace L. Reid Society

Gabriele Kuett Harrison

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1975

19% Participation

Grace L. Reid Society

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1976

31% Participation

Dean's Diamond Circle Patrons

Kathleen B. King, '76M, '84PhD

Grace L. Reid Society

Carol Buttenschon Feeney

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1977

32% Participation

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Grace L. Reid Society

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28% Participation

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Kenneth D. Walgren, '78M
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1979

27% Participation

Helen Wood Society

Gloria Jean Horsley, '81M

Grace L. Reid Society

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22% Participation

Grace L. Reid Society

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Sandra S. Berg, '80M
Aileen Beneroff Binder
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Suzanne Gorman Maithel
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Sheryl Lynn Silberman, '86M
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Suzane White Villarini
Joan Linhos Whittenberg, '80M

1981

21% Participation

Grace L. Reid Society

Susan A. Flow

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Joan Baker-Yager Castleman, '81M
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Pamela Gay Lowe, '81M
Linda Ann Ziegler McInnis
Erika J. Myers Pfeiffer, '81M
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Polly J. Straub-Spengler
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1982

16% Participation

Grace L. Reid Society

Sandra J. Cooper, '89M

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Ellen Maurer Balon, '82M
Carmen Louise Christopherson,
'82M
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Amy Tanaka Lwin
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Midge Chafee Miller, '82M
Susanne Mayre Mohnkern, '82M
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Pia Stanek Schmekel, '82M
Thomas J. Szopa, '82M

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Deborah Ann Vink
Leanne Debra Amelio Wood

1983

14% Participation

Grace L. Reid Society

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Gail Laura Ingersoll, '83M
Dorothy I. Meddaugh, '83M, '87PhD

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Pamela Murdock Drake
Susan Lee Greene, '83M
Rebecca M. Hardie, '83M
Erika Moore
Carolyn T. Magee Nolan, '83M
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Karen Tuck Rosenblum
Linda Marie Pierce Smith
Denise Amy Isabelle Stirpe

1984

19% Participation

Donors

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Karen Merl Banoff
Kelly Could Bugos
Linda Kuebler Curiale
Karen F. Duffy-Durmin, '84M
Sarah A. Floyd
Teresa Landry Grimm
Ellen Bechhofer Kitchen
Joyce Katonah Kreis
Patricia Dooley McDonnell, '86M
Louise I. Walker McDougal, '84M
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15% Participation

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Margaret A. Wiltberger

1986

17% Participation

Donors

Patricia M. Allen, '86M
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Linda Closs Leoni, '86M
Jacqueline Marple Leysath, '86M
Linda M. Dombrowski Lord,
'86M, '94PMC
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Andrea Jill Rein Storper
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1987

18% Participation

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Shirley G. Tiffany, '87M
Brigit Beth Brown Vangraafeiland,
'90M
Penny Michele Shilling Warren
Susan Mary Zuk, '87M

1988

17% Participation

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1989

16% Participation

Helen Wood Society

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Grace L. Reid Society

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1990

10% Participation

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Stephanie Elizabeth Von Bacho,
'94M
Susan Jacobus Wilson, '90M
Sharon Lee Zache, '90M

1991

7% Participation

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Diane Michele Downing, '98M
Julie Tomaino Duff, '91M
Margaret Frances Lash, '93M
Tammy Marie Serio

1992

15% Participation

**Dean's Diamond Circle
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& James R. Mills

Grace L. Reid Society

Bernadette J. Vulcan Melnyk,
'92PhD

Donors

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Kristin Rene Hayes Asis

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Maureen Reid Krenzer, '92M
Joanne Clark Lembach, '92M
Susan Jane McClenathan Macyko,
'92M, '94PMC
Suzanne Marie Richmond, '92M
Cheryl Ann Thompson, '92PhD

1993

7% Participation

Donors

Laura Holland Gaudlen
Carrie Dawn Gaynor
Susan Wrisley Groth, '93M
Eileen Margaret Johnson, '93M
Dianne Carol Morrison-Beedy,
'93PhD
Linda Geiwitz Nicholson, '93M
Constance F. Visovsky, '95M
Mary Hooper Wegenka, '93M

1994

6% Participation

Donors

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1995

8% Participation

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Diane Louise Hust, '95M
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'00PMC

1996

5% Participation

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Kerry Garcia McGhie Dewberry
Mary Delia Minotti Gerbino, '96M
Teresa Michelle Stanley
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1997

9% Participation

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Diane Marie Salipante, '97M
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2% Participation

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4% Participation

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6% Participation

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George Terry

Dean Chiverton has made a gift in
memory of each of these alumni.

**School of Nursing graduate, husband killed
in Sept. 11 terrorist attacks**

Jean Peterson, 55, of Spring Lake, N.J., a 1969 School of Nursing graduate, was with her husband, Donald, 66, on United Airlines Flight 93 when the San Francisco-bound jet took off from Newark International Airport and crashed south-east of Pittsburgh the morning of Sept. 11.

Mrs. Peterson was deeply involved in activities at her church, Community Baptist Church in Neptune. Her daughter, Jennifer Price, told the Associated Press that her mother was devoted to her children, and, when they grew up, "devoted her life to helping other people's children." She was born in Evanston, Ill., and grew up in Lancaster, Pa. She earned a nursing degree from the University of Rochester and a master's degree in education from Columbia University.

The couple married in 1984 and are survived by six children: David, Hamilton and Royster Peterson, and Jennifer, Grace and Catherine Price. Mrs. Peterson also is survived by her parents, Walter and Virginia Hoadley; a brother, Richard Hoadley; and a granddaughter, Charlotte.

School of Nursing listserv

The School of Nursing is updating its alumni web page and invites alumni to inform classmates of their accomplishments. Interested in being notified of alumni events by e-mail and/or belonging to a listserv specifically for alumni of the School of Nursing? (A listserv is mailing list program that allows "subscribers" to subscribe or unsubscribe from the list and sometimes have Web access to archived threads). Contact: Andrea Marshall, Associate Director of Alumni Relations & Development, at RochesterNursingToday@urmc.rochester.edu

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Rochester Nursing Today

Rochester Nursing Today is a bi-annual publication of the University of Rochester School of Nursing in conjunction with the University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Nursing Alumni Relations and Development and the Department of Public Relations.

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Comments

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School of Nursing

Vicki M. Dodds
Assistant Director of Development
School of Nursing

School of Nursing Rochester Alumni Council

Carol B. Henretta, '62 MS, '94 EdD (Margaret Warner School), Chair
Patricia Allen '86 MS
Carol Brink '56 BS, '62 BS
Mary Sue Jack, '80 FLW, '85 PhD
Mary Kincannon '95 BS
Marilyn McClellan '59 MS (Margaret Warner School)
Margaret Odhner '97 BS
Elizabeth K. Walker '63 BS, '73 MS, '81 MS (The College: Arts & Sciences)
Anna Young '41 BS
Andrea Marshall, Associate Director of Alumni Relations & Development
Christopher Raimy, Director of Development for Medical Alumni Programs

School of Nursing National Alumni Board

This Board is currently being developed. All alumni are eligible for membership on the Board. If you are interested in serving as a member of the School of Nursing National Alumni Board, please contact:
Andrea Marshall, Associate Director of Alumni Relations & Development at 1-800-333-4428 or (585) 273-3173.

Elizabeth W. Smith, '50, Chair
Junko M. Mills '98MS, '00PhD
Lisa H. Norsen, '77, '83MS

On the cover

Nurse Diane Szpilar is part of the RNFA credentialing program offered by the Community Nursing Center.

What's happening?

Please send us information about your career advancements, papers, honors received, appointments, further information and family updates. We'll include your news in the Alumni Class Notes section as space allows. Indicate names, dates and locations. Photos are welcome. Please print clearly.

Name _____

Degree / Year of Graduation _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____

Business Address _____

Business Telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Position(s) _____

News

Please return to
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