

# CONnections

Winter  
2006-2007

## Transitions in Leadership

Introducing our new dean, Jane M. Kirschling

### Inside

Student Scholarship Showcase

Hall of Fame established

Comfortable with the critical and with each other

UK announces new hospital, health sciences campus

**UK** UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
College of Nursing

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# CONnections

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**UK** UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
College of Nursing

# From the dean

As I reflect on my 26 years as a nurse, I am struck by the richness of opportunities that I have had caring for patients and their families, guiding undergraduate and graduate students in the acquisition of new knowledge, and working with nursing faculty and staff to assure high quality nursing education and research. It is with great pride that I accepted this new opportunity to serve as the fourth dean of an outstanding College of Nursing. Without a doubt, I am following in the footsteps of three outstanding nurse leaders – Dr. Carolyn Williams, Dr. Marion McKenna, and Dr. Marcia Dake. I truly am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the future of nursing in Kentucky.



Beginning in fall 2007, the College of Nursing will be expanding enrollment in our traditional undergraduate program. With the full support of President Todd and Provost Subbaswamy, we will increase the number of baccalaureate nursing students admitted to the sophomore year from 80 to 160. This growth is very important for Kentucky as health care institutions will increasingly be faced with the retirement of the “baby boom” generation of nurses. As part of this expansion, we will also be growing the number of nursing faculty and staff. Over the next three years, we will add eight additional doctorally prepared faculty. The magnitude of this expansion means that we will experience some “growing pains” in terms of space, scholarship money, and clinical sites. I appreciate everyone’s ongoing efforts to help us effectively manage our growth – whether you are serving as a preceptor for one of our students, overseeing one of our clinical sections on a part-time basis, or contributing to our 2007 phonathon to build our endowment to student scholarships.

Another major initiative that the College is involved with is setting our course for the next three years – 2007-2010. President Todd, with the support of the Kentucky legislature, has laid out his Top 20 Business Plan for the University of Kentucky to be a top 20 public institution by 2020. This presents a wonderful opportunity for the College of Nursing to build on our strong foundation of rigorous educational programs, from the baccalaureate degree through doctoral education, strong practice partnerships both within UK HealthCare and the greater Lexington community, and the generation and application of research that impacts the quality of life of Kentuckians.

My hope is that we will have the opportunity to meet in person during the coming year. I would welcome the opportunity to hear your ideas about how the College of Nursing can continue to make important contributions in teaching, practice, research, and service. My phone number is (859) 323-4857 and my e-mail address is [janek@email.uky.edu](mailto:janek@email.uky.edu).

The College is very fortunate to have outstanding alumni who make a difference every day in the lives they touch. We are also grateful to have dedicated friends who financially support the important work of the College. Enjoy this issue of CONnections!

Jane M. Kirschling, R.N., D.N.S.  
Dean

From the dean .....	2
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## The College

Announcing the College's fourth dean.....	4
Kirschling the right leader to continue Williams' work.....	5
Celebrated and well-known dean steps aside.....	6
New dean begins talks with emeriti faculty.....	7
College welcomes new faculty.....	7
Faculty promoted, doctorates awarded.....	7
Planning for 2007-2010 College Strategic Plan.....	7
Assistant dean broadens her leadership.....	8
New end-of-life elective offered.....	8
Supporter of the College visits.....	8

## Development

Scholarship recipients.....	9
2006 phonathon big success.....	9
Scholarship news.....	11
Scholarship in your name.....	11
Our donors.....	12
Caring Society members and fellows.....	15

## Undergraduate Program

Teaching in Haiti.....	17
Deadline change for undergraduate applications.....	19
Undergraduates hold health fair.....	19
White coat ceremony held for seniors.....	19
Students participate in fund-raising walk.....	20
Undergraduate wins Lyman T. Johnson Award.....	20
College mourns loss of May 2006 graduate.....	21
Scholarship fund established for Lindsey Harp.....	21

## Graduate Programs

Ph.D. grad researches in tobacco policy control.....	22
Ph.D. students garner awards.....	23
Recent Ph.D. Program graduates.....	24
Recent D.N.P. Program graduates.....	24
Interested in becoming a neonatal N.P.?.....	25



Graduate Psych/Mental Health Track students growing in number.....	25
D.N.P. graduate immersed in College's life.....	26
UK pioneered D.N.P. Program; others changing nationwide.....	26

## Research and scholarship

Farms, bars, 18-wheelers, and single working moms.....	27
Psych faculty focusing on various areas.....	28
Staten focuses on reducing substance abuse.....	29
Faculty member wins award for ventilator bundle initiative.....	29
Research "comes alive" for undergraduates.....	29
Undergraduates have poster presentations accepted for SNRS.....	30
Student Scholarship Showcase.....	31
Selected grant news.....	33
Selected publications.....	34
Recently published books and chapters.....	36

## Alumni

2006 reunion.....	37
Alumni association presents awards.....	38
2005 reunion.....	39
Ph.D. graduate wins Lyman T. Johnson Award.....	40
B.S.N. alum part of local government.....	42
Hall of Fame established.....	43
Comfortable with the critical...and with each other.....	44
M.S.N. grad practicing, teaching, authored children's book.....	46
Alum's leadership leads to Magnet status at hospital.....	46
From your alumni association president.....	47
2006 alumni association board of directors.....	47

## Clinical practice

Team working to improve care for chronically ill patients.....	49
Ph.D. grad's work in promoting childhood weight management.....	49
Traveling Kentucky, providing diabetes education, camps.....	50
Jumpin' Jaguars: working to make kids healthier.....	50
Ph.D. student is state's N.P. of the year.....	51
Stanhope nominated as Edge Runner by academy.....	51

## Albert B. Chandler Medical Center

UK announces new hospital, health sciences campus.....	52
UK Chandler Hospital again redesignated with Magnet status.....	54
Collaboration benefits College and UK Hospital Nursing Services.....	55

## Organizational change

College begins 2007 with new administrative structure.....	56
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# Announcing the College's fourth dean

Jane Marie Kirschling, R.N., D.N.S.

In August 2006 Jane Marie Kirschling, R.N., D.N.S., became dean and professor of the College of Nursing at the University of Kentucky. Kirschling was formerly dean of the University of Southern Maine College of Nursing and Health Professions.

Kirschling has previously served as associate dean at the University of Rochester School of Nursing and Oregon Health Sciences University School of Nursing. A psychiatric nurse, she has published numerous research papers on the experience of terminal illness among patients and caregivers and the grief process, among other topics.

"The importance of preparing top students at the University of Kentucky for careers in nursing is paramount, as the need for health professionals continues to grow across the U.S.," said Kirschling. "I look forward to working with UK College of Nursing faculty and staff to chart the future growth and direction of the UK College of Nursing, to ensure that the University is doing its part to bolster the strength of Kentucky as a healthy place to live, learn and work. Under the able leadership of Dean Carolyn Williams, the College has gained national prominence for innovative educational programming, important contributions to nursing knowledge, and faculty practice in the community, as well as advanced practice nursing."

Dean Williams is returning to the College of Nursing faculty following a sabbatical.

"We are fortunate to have Kirschling join the University of Kentucky," said Kumble R. Subbaswamy, UK provost. "The UK College of Nursing faculty and staff are credited for their exceptional work that helped to attract excellent leadership to our University, as well as the search committee for their commitment to the selection process."

With superb credentials in management and educational leadership, and in the 46th year of the College of Nursing,

Dean Kirschling plans to continue to support the direction of the College. Bringing her own vision and style to promote continued excellence in education, research, and practice she will engage the College with the University in strategic events that will support the University's agenda to attain top-twenty status among public colleges and universities.

Kirschling completed her B.S.N. from Viterbo College (Wisconsin) and her M.S.N. and D.N.S. from Indiana University School of Nursing. Her graduate studies focused on mental health and end-of-life care. Her scholarship has focused on grief, family caregiving at the end-of-life, and the nursing workforce.

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dorothy Brockopp, co-chair of the dean search committee, recalls that substantial growth occurred under Williams' leadership, such as the start of the Ph.D. Program in 1987. Previous to that, University officials said the College lacked a solid research base and qualified faculty. Williams stepped up recruiting efforts, and by 1987, the College employed seventeen doctorally prepared faculty. Another nine faculty began pursuing their Ph.D.s. Today, 38 faculty members hold doctorates and the College's research program continues to grow. Additionally, under Williams' deanship, the nation's first Doctor of Nursing Practice Program was opened in 2001.

Brockopp says Dean Kirschling is the right person to build upon Williams' work.

# Kirschling the right leader to continue Williams' work

## Excellence in Education

- Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Professor, Oregon Health Sciences University (1994-1996)
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, University of Rochester School of Nursing (1996-1999)
- Dean and Professor, University of Southern Maine, College of Nursing and Health Professions (1999-2006)
- Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow (2000-2003)
- Harvard Institutes for Higher Education Graduate School of Education, MLE Management and Leadership in Education (2001)

## Leadership Excellence

- Chair, Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association Board of Directors (2002-2003)
- Chair, Sigma Theta Tau International Foundation Board of Directors (2003-2005)
- Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2003-present)
- Chair, AACN's Government Affairs Committee (2003-present)
- AACN's representative to the American Nurses Association Council on Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics (2006-present)
- Chair, Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation Board of Directors (2005-2006)
- Member, Board of Nursing Knowledge International, Sigma Theta Tau International (2006-present)
- Numerous articles, book chapters and presentations

## Awards and Honors

- Outstanding Alumni Award for Education, Viterbo College (1991)
- Beth Wessinger Award, Oregon Hospice Association (1995)
- Forty Under Forty, The Business Journal, Portland, Ore. (1996)
- Indiana University School of Nursing Alumni Association, Distinguished Alumna Award (1996)
- OMNE Leadership Achievement Award, OMNE Nursing Leaders of Maine (2003)
- The Agnes E. Flaherty Leadership Award, ANA-Maine (2006)

*"I look forward to working with UK College of Nursing faculty and staff to chart the future growth and direction of the UK College of Nursing, to ensure that the University is doing its part to bolster the strength of Kentucky as a healthy place to live, learn and work."*



# Celebrated and well-known dean steps aside

The College of Nursing honored excellence in leadership as Carolyn A. Williams stepped aside as the third dean of the College in August 2006 after twenty-two years of service.

Williams provided vision and direction for the College, working with the faculty to move into the twenty-first century with a top-twenty ranking among programs of nursing in public institutions. She is recognized internationally, nationally, and locally for her contributions to leadership, education, research, and to the improved health of populations as a public health specialist. As she continues the next steps in her career as an educator and researcher, Williams has established an endowment to provide a legacy for her family and her specialty area of public health nursing.

Williams is returning to the faculty following a sabbatical. Prior to appointment to the faculty at UK, she held several positions including: associate professor of epidemiology in the School of Public Health as well as associate professor of nursing in the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill; and professor and director of the graduate program and research at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University.

She has many publications in nursing, primary care, and public health, and she has served on numerous editorial boards and as a reviewer for several publications. Williams has held many leadership roles, described in the accomplishments highlighted below, as well as chairperson, Commission on

Nursing Research, ANA; member, Program Development Board, American Public Health Association (APHA); and current member of boards of the local American Red Cross, and Appalachian Regional Healthcare, Inc. She has held appointments on National Research Study sections and currently serves on review panels for the National Institute for Nursing Research.

– Professor Marcia Stanhope, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.



Former Dean Williams was presented with the traditional dean's portrait. Pictured with her is Dean Jane Kirschling.

## Excellence in education at the University of Kentucky

- Led the agenda and opened the Ph.D. program
- Created environment for a research agenda
- Created an environment for innovations in B.S.N./M.S.N. education
- Led the agenda for faculty/professional staff for clinical practice and development of faculty practice
- Created the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at the College of Nursing, the first in the nation

*education*

## Leadership excellence

- Advanced the agenda for development of D.N.P. programs nationwide
- Led the national agenda to support residency programs for B.S.N. graduates
- Commissioner, President's (Jimmy Carter) Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine, Biomedical, and Behavioral Research (1980-1982)
- President, American Academy of Nursing (1983-1985)
- Member, Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Teaching Nursing Home Program (1983-1988)
- Member, World Health Organization's Expert Advisory Panel on Nursing, Geneva (1983-2000)
- Member, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Washington. Appointed by Assistant Secretary of Health, Edward Bryant (1984-1989)
- Member, Board of Directors, Sigma Theta Tau International, Indianapolis (1991-1994)
- President, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2000-2002)
- Chair, AACN Roadmap Task Force for implementing the D.N.P. (2003-present)

*leadership*

## Awards and honors

- Carolyn A. Williams Award for Research (named award by Delta Psi Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau, 1998)
- Alumna of the Year Award, School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2000)
- Great 100 Nursing Alumni, Texas Woman's University (2001)
- Mary Tolle Wright Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership, Sigma Theta Tau International (2001)
- Carolyn A. Williams Award for outstanding Ph.D. graduate (named award by College of Nursing Alumni Association, 2005)

*awards & honors*

## New dean begins talks with faculty emeriti

Dean Kirschling hosted a lunch for College of Nursing faculty emeriti at Spindletop Hall on Tues., Oct. 17. After much animated conversation, including their fondest memories while at the College, the dean shared some of the plans for the future, such as increasing the size of the undergraduate class. All agreed this is needed.

The group had suggestions on things they were involved in that they felt were worthwhile and needed to be continued. Plans have already been set to make this lunch with the dean an annual event.

– Development and Alumni Officer Terry Green



*Pictured standing are Dean Kirschling, Barbara Sachs, Kathryn Sallee, and Ruth Berry; seated are Juanita Fleming, Ruth Assell, and Evelyn Geller.*

## College welcomes new faculty

	<b>Full-time</b>
Fran Hardin-Fanning	Undergraduate Program
Susan Frazier	Graduate Program
Jennifer Hatcher	Both programs
Vicki Hensley	Undergraduate Program

	<b>Part-time</b>
Kacy Allen-Bryant	Undergraduate Program
Traci Atkins	Graduate Program
Tami Baxter	Undergraduate Program
Roxanne Bowman	Undergraduate Program
Kimberly Brady	Undergraduate Program
Carole Crabtree	Undergraduate Program
Rebecca Dekker	Undergraduate Program
Paula Halcomb	Undergraduate Program
Karen Heaton	Graduate Program
Lara Morris	Undergraduate Program
Juawanna Schuller	Undergraduate Program

## Faculty promoted, doctorates awarded

	<b>Promotions</b>
Debra Anderson	awarded tenure
Pat Burkhart	promoted with tenure to associate professor
Judi Daniels	promoted to assistant clinical professor
Ellen Hahn	promoted to professor
Leslie Scott	promoted to assistant clinical professor
Gwen Short	promoted to assistant professor

	<b>Doctorates awarded</b>
Karen Butler	D.N.P., UK College of Nursing
Melanie Hardin-Pierce	D.N.P., UK College of Nursing
Jennifer Hatcher	Ph.D., UK College of Nursing
Gwen Short	D.N.P., UK College of Nursing
Kathy Wagner	Ed.D., Instructional Systems Design, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, UK College of Education
Darlene Welsh	Ph.D., Educational Psychology, Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, UK College of Education

## Planning underway for 2007-2010 College Strategic Plan

The College is engaging in strategic planning for 2007-2010. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, representatives from the Health Science Campus and community leaders had opportunities for input during three open forums held in November 2006. Forums were facilitated by Dean Kirschling and Strategic Planning Committee faculty members Associate Professor Terry Lennie, Assistant Clinical Professor Judi Daniels, Associate Professor Patricia Burkhart, and Lecturer Claudia Diebold.

*Related documents in pdf format can be found on our Web site, [www.mc.uky.edu/nursing](http://www.mc.uky.edu/nursing).*

## Assistant dean broadens her leadership in nursing

Congratulations go to Juliann G. Sebastian, Ph.D., A.R.N.P., F.A.A.N., professor and assistant dean for advanced practice nursing for the College, who was recently appointed as dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Missouri at St. Louis.



Since her appointment to the UK College of Nursing faculty in 1977, Sebastian served the College in innumerable ways and made major contributions to students and to the successes of all College of Nursing programs. She taught in the undergraduate program, served as interim assistant dean for undergraduate studies for a semester, advised Ph.D. students, and served as the assistant dean for advanced practice since 1996. This role included administrative responsibility for the M.S.N. Program, the College's academic clinical practice activities, and the Good Samaritan Center for Nursing.

Along with Marcia K. Stanhope, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N., professor, Sebastian had a key role in the development and implementation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program – the first of its kind in the U.S. – and co-directed that program since the program's initiation in 2001.

Throughout her tenure Sebastian's performance was outstanding, and she did all of these things with a deep commitment to supporting the mission of the College. The College was very fortunate to have had Julie as a faculty member and as a member of the administrative team. We have all benefited from our association with her. While it was very difficult to see her leave the College of Nursing and the University of Kentucky, we wish her all the best.

Sebastian began her work in St. Louis in August 2006.

– *Former Dean and Professor Carolyn Williams*

## New end-of-life elective offered to undergraduate and graduate students

There has been increased interest in end-of-life care as acute care settings contemplate incorporating the principles of palliative care, often proposing special nursing units to care for patients at the end of life.

A new elective, End-of-Life Care in the Acute Care Setting, was taught for the first time in fall 2006. The course is open to B.S.N. students and to graduate students, since even professional nurses may not be completely comfortable with the knowledge and skills needed to provide quality care to patients at the end of life – care that can positively impact the lives of patients and families facing this stage of life.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing teamed with the City of Hope to develop ELNEC (End of Life Nursing Education Consortium). The content of this elective is based on the ELNEC curriculum. Certificates of ELNEC training will be provided to nursing students who successfully complete the course. In accordance with the tenets of palliative care philosophy, the College also hopes to attract students from other disciplines.

Gina Lowry is lead faculty; Sue Snider, associate vice president of nursing for Hospice of the Bluegrass, serves as voluntary faculty. Local experts in the field serve as guest speakers/panelists.

More about the End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium is available at [www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC/about.htm](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC/about.htm)

– *Lecturer Gina Lowry, Ph.D.(c), R.N.*

## Supporter of the College visits new dean and RICH Heart Program team

Mrs. Linda Gill met with Dean Jane Kirschling, Professor Debra Moser, the Linda Gill Chair of Nursing, and Associate Professors Terry Lennie and Susan Frazier, members of the Research and Interventions for Cardiovascular Health (RICH Heart Program), in October 2006. The team shared the research, awards, and advances they have accomplished in the past year and expressed their gratitude for Gill's gift that has made all of this possible.

Gill said, "As a hospital volunteer for 30 years, I know who the heroes are... nurses. With the addition of a Chair and a Professorship, the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, already a leader in training cutting-edge nurses, will now become a leader in research and the development of nursing faculty. Their goal of being in the top 20 nursing colleges is poised to become a reality."

– *Development and Alumni Officer Terry Green*



*Pictured are some of the RICH Heart Program team principals. From left to right: Debra Moser, Terry Lennie, and Susan Frazier, along with Linda Gill.*

## Congratulations to scholarship recipients for 2004-'05 and 2005-'06

### College of Nursing General Scholarship Fund

Brittany Marcum  
Raven Stone  
Aliceson Trimpe

### Doris Hatchell Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Erin Bohannon  
Michelle Brown  
Carla Collier  
Sara Douglas  
Erin Evans  
Daniel O'Barr  
Stephanie Romelfanger  
Jasmine Sims  
Naketa Williams  
Timothy Yantz

### Gorman Merit Foundation Scholarship

Jennifer Pettibone

### Harry and Marc Sample Scholarship

Katherine Herkamp  
Lisa Whaley

### Holliday-Milton Scholarship

Amanda Lancaster  
Terre Ament

### Jane Badham Tudor Scholarship

Katherine Herkamp  
Lisa Whaley

### Melva Jo Hendrix Scholarship Award

Terre Ament

### Major Troy T. Gibson and Lt. Colonel Sally G. Siebert Scholarship

Khay Dougandara  
Kristen Ramsey

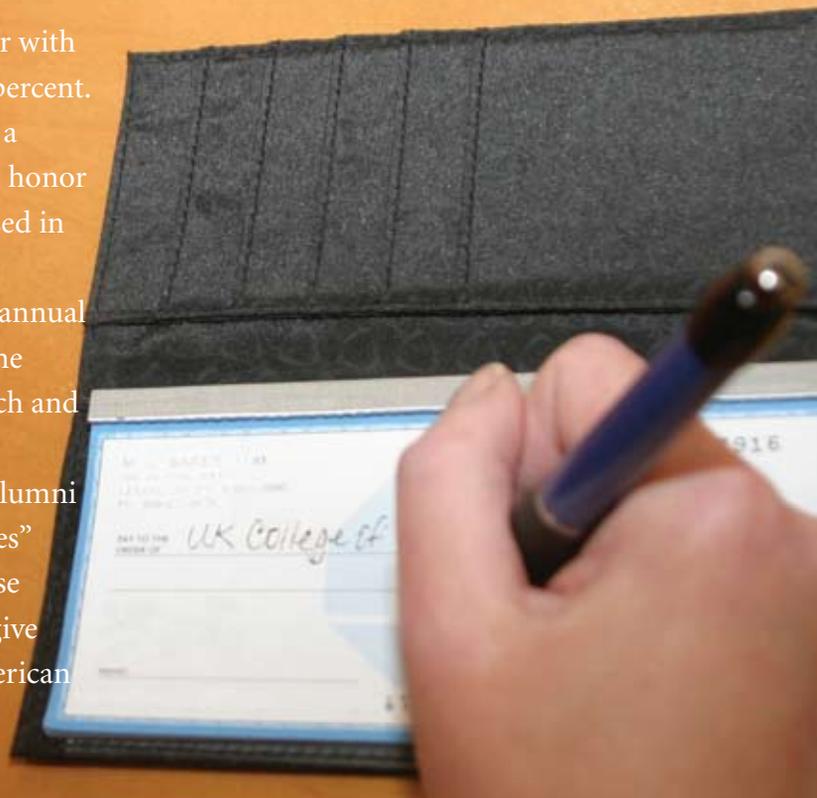
*Continued on next page*

## 2006 phonathon a big success – thank you!

The 2006 phonathon was the biggest ever with 425 pledges, an increase of more than 36 percent. The grand total pledged was \$20,874, also a record amount. The majority was given in honor of former Dean Carolyn Williams to be used in various areas of the College.

The College of Nursing depends on this annual event to help meet many of the needs of the College, and we are so very grateful for each and every gift.

Our goal for 2007 is to have even more alumni support their alma mater by answering “yes” when a UK student calls in February. Please join the millions across the country who give back to their colleges in this uniquely American tradition.



## Scholarship recipients – continued

### Marcia Boyd Donaldson Scholarship

Lindsey Harp  
Timothy Yantz  
Rachael Young

### Mary P. Winternitz Scholarship

Michael Kimbleton

### Metropolitan Woman's Club Scholarship

Whitney Mayer  
Rachael Young

### Nancy B. Hynson Memorial Scholarship

Raven Stone  
Kelly Smith

### Pamela Riggs Peters Scholarship

Kelly Smith  
Raven Stone

### Peggy S. McClintock Scholarship

Leslee Bertram  
Whitney Mayer

### Phyllis Antrim Briscoe Memorial Scholarship

Katherine Herkamp  
Lisa Whaley

### Samaritan Gift Shop Volunteers Scholarship

Kerri Clark  
Leslee Bertram  
Brandy Bowling  
Anne Hickman  
Amy Howard  
Julia Phillips  
Kerri Price  
Shannon Sizemore  
Maria Willey  
Timothy Yantz

### The 11/10/02 Foundation Scholarship

Kerry Druley

### UK Chandler Medical Center Academic Excellence Scholarship

Demetrius Abshire  
Kristen Bailey  
Sara Douglas  
Kerry Druley  
Natalie Gossum  
Amanda Fallin  
Sonya Lichtenstein  
Ashleigh Ohlmann

Kimberly Skeene  
Tracey Spafford  
Aliceson Trimpe

### UK Chandler Medical Center Wright Fund

Michelle Bischoff  
Shea David  
Mary Frances Gentry  
Christine Hoehne

### UK Chandler Medical Center Floyd Wright Fund

Leslee Bertram  
Khay Douangdara  
Kyle Howard  
Jennifer Pettibone  
Stephanie Romelfanger  
Ashleigh White  
Sarah Wright

### Chandler Medical Center Enhancement Scholarship

Sherese Bailey  
Vickie Brown  
Kirtricia Campbell  
LaTwanda Clay  
Ashley Coble  
Cheryl Mitchell  
Jasmine Sims  
Naketa Williams  
Nichole Wordlow



*Some of the 2005-'06 scholarship recipients joined us for the College's Second Annual Scholarship Showcase. From left to right: Ashley Coble, Kimberly Wordlow, Ashleigh White, Sonja Lichtenstein, Ashleigh Ohlmann, Dean Williams, Sally Siebert (co-sponsor of the Major Troy T. Gibson and Lt. Colonel Sally G. Siebert Scholarship), Demetrius Abshire, and Sherese Bailey.*

# Scholarship news

Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Lewis have endowed a new scholarship for College of Nursing students in public health. It is named and endowed in memory of their family member, Katherine Tenore Girone.

Thanks to generous donations in honor of former Dean Carolyn Williams, the Antonides-Williams Lectureship will soon be endowed and producing income in support of this lectureship that Dean Williams began in honor of her parents. Thank you, donors, and thanks especially to Dean Williams.

Associate Dean Marcia Stanhope has also established a new scholarship in honor of the woman who awarded her a scholarship while she was a student at the University of Kentucky. She has selected the name, La Sertoma, because that was the name of the organization that helped fund her education years ago.

The Millennium Fund, which was supported by multiple donors and matched by state funds, is now producing income that will begin to be used in support of student researchers this year. Thank you to the many donors to this fund. Your gifts are making a difference.

The very first Dottie Luther Fellowship was awarded this year to Christa Bledsoe, and the first recipient of the Pamela Kidd Scholarship will be announced shortly.

The College of Nursing gratefully acknowledges the generosity and care individuals have shown by establishing scholarships for our students. We also thank the Elsevier Foundation for their support of the Pamela Kidd Memorial Scholarship Fund.

– *Development and Alumni Officer Terry Green*

*Dream.*  
*Challenge.*  
*Succeed.*

## A scholarship in *your* name

The UK theme of “Dream, Challenge, Succeed” also applies to the College of Nursing. We challenge you - our friends and graduates - to dream of establishing a nursing scholarship in your own name or the name of a loved one. Imagine the satisfaction you will feel every year when you help a young nursing student succeed by reaching his or her dream of becoming a nurse.

Others have established scholarships in the names of loved ones and have felt wonderful about the experience. David Holliday of Florida established a nursing scholarship to honor his wife and her mother. Every year he receives thank-you notes from the recipients. He says, “The notes make me really feel great. I know for a long time to come the students will hear my wife’s name. I don’t know how you get a better feeling than that if you loved your wife, and I did. I am very proud of starting that scholarship and I know she would be, too.”

Jody Dorris established a scholarship in the name of her friend and colleague, Melva Jo Hendrix. She says it helps her to know that Jo’s memory is still alive and that her contribution is helping nurses continue their education.

Joyce Cox, executor of the estate for her cousin, Doris Hatchell, says, “The thank-you notes are particularly touching, and I am always thrilled to receive them. It keeps Doris’s memory alive knowing that she continues to do good work beyond her life.”

A scholarship can be endowed for as little as \$10,000 given over a ten-year period. If you are interested in memorializing a loved one or establishing a legacy for yourself, call Terry Green, director of development for the College of Nursing, for more information. She can be reached at (859) 323-6635.

– *Development and Alumni Officer Terry Green*

# Our donors make the difference

The following people have kindly and generously given to the College of Nursing during 2005 and 2006. We thank each and every one for helping to make a difference. Together we can do great things!

- The 11-10-02 Foundation  
Abbott Laboratories  
Mrs. Jean E. Abner  
Ms. Anna F. Abrams  
Ms. Cynthia G. Absher  
Ms. Dorothy H. Adams  
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Howard and Mickey Settle  
Sally G. Siebert  
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Barbara and Roger Teague  
Dr. Kathleen Wagner  
Jo Ann Wever  
Dr. Carolyn Williams  
William Winternitz  
Louise Zegeer

### **The following friends of the College have given at the \$10,000 level or above and have become College of Nursing Fellows in 2006:**

Dr. Jane Kirschling and Mr. Bob Flick  
Sheila Highgenboten  
Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Lewis

Howard and Mickey Settle  
Barbara and Roger Teague

*We appreciate  
your support*

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# Teaching in Haiti

## with peanut butter as a bonus

Nursing students are often interested in serving on medical missions due to their innate passion for global health care initiatives. In a single semester, four junior University of Kentucky nursing students, one instructor, and a father became interested in assisting Haitian women and children at an orphanage with health care needs. In a four-month period, the team implemented and lived the “nursing process.” A faith-driven commitment for assisting Haitian woman and children meet their health care needs carried the team through each step of the process.

After a class on childbirth in fall 2005, Amanda Wilhoite, one of the nursing students, announced that she was interested in planning a mission trip to Port au Prince, Haiti. Kristin Ramsey, Jenna Schultz, Danielle Kramer, and I lingered after class to hear Amanda’s vision.

Weeks later, our team, with the addition of Amanda’s father, Mark Wilhoite, met to discuss the intricacies of planning an international mission. For a thorough assessment of the needs at the orphanage and women’s program, we corresponded with the missionaries, who discussed the need for health promotion classes and child health/wellness classes for the nannies and local women.

Initial planning activities ranged from creating a timeline and defining the mission purpose, to fund raising and getting immunizations. After collaboration with the Haitian missionaries, the purpose of the trip became clear: to teach Haitian women and the orphanage nannies about women’s health and childcare; to support the missionaries; and to assist in improving childcare and child health at the orphanage.

These were timely goals, in that our nursing students would be completing their obstetrics and pediatrics coursework prior to the trip.

To meet the goals, fund raising was necessary. For several years, Harmony Christian Church in Georgetown, Ky., has supported the mission family that manages the orphanage. Through church contributions and individual fund raising, each team member raised more than \$800. This fund covered airfare, supplies, and financial support to the family with whom the team would reside. Supplies such as diapers,

medications, infant formula, peanut butter, and children’s toys and clothing filled six 70-pound bins and six large suitcases.

In addition to fund raising, the team divided the tasks of developing women’s health classes which consisted of: menstruation, birth control, pregnancy, infant nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, basic hygiene, and CPR. Child health classes centered on developmental milestones, play therapy, and nutrition. Research on the foods and health practices of Haitian women was critical in the development of the classes.

The mission itself began on Jan 1, 2006. Although delayed a day in Florida, we arrived in Port au Prince, Haiti the following day.

An hour after arriving, we came upon a class of eager women who had already waited a day for the classes to begin. We immediately began teaching a class with the assistance of an interpreter (the native language for Haitians is French or Creole).

A typical day consisted of teaching classes, caring for the children, and assisting the missionaries with everyday activities. There were 24 children at the orphanage during our week-long stay. Many of the children were left by their parents or brought to the orphanage to be cared for because their mothers died in childbirth. Children ranged in age from a few months old to thirteen years. Most of the children had been adopted by American families, but reside at the orphanage for months or years due to a lengthy and complicated adoption process.

Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, and is slightly smaller than Maryland in size. The tropical island is surrounded by the Caribbean Sea and paints a beautiful landscape, but in the residential areas, the poverty is overwhelming.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Although the average Haitian woman gives birth to five children, widespread poverty has raised infant mortality rates. Haitian infant mortality rates far exceeds those in the U.S. (73 deaths per 1,000 compared to 6 per 1,000). Life expectancy for Haitian women is 54 years, compared to 75 years in the

U.S. In addition, HIV/AIDS has reached epidemic portions, affecting over five percent of the nation.

Upon evaluating the mission, our team would agree that it was a life-changing event. After the last class, many of the women became overtaken with emotion (as did we). One woman with tears running down her face cried, "...what you have taught us, we will teach our families, and it will change our lives and generations to come..." Although these women and children live in extreme poverty, they take pride in their appearance, and are very gracious and respectful.

The women were like sponges during the classes, in that they soaked up every ounce of knowledge that we had to offer. They were engaged in the discussions and asked good questions. If I had to choose one of the many successes, it would be the class in which the women were challenged to develop a national slogan to promote breastfeeding. The winning slogan was, "Mommies Milk is Life." Because diarrhea caused by ingesting dirty water is the most common cause for death among infants, breastfeeding infants during the first year of life could dramatically decrease mortality rates.

Although civil unrest and numerous kidnappings in Haiti posed safety concerns, we felt moved by the hospitality and security extended by the missionaries. Whether changing diapers, reading to the children, teaching classes, or cleaning closets, we left Haiti with a renewed spirit and a profound appreciation for all that we have been blessed with.

*- Lecturer Kristin Ashford, M.S.N., R.N.*



## Deadline change for applications to all undergraduate programs

March 1 is now the deadline for all application materials to the four-year B.S.N. Program, the Second Degree Option, and the R.N.-B.S.N. Option. This will affect students entering the nursing program in fall 2007 and thereafter. More details are posted in the B.S.N., Second Degree, and R.N.-B.S.N. sections of our Web site, [www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic](http://www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic).

Be sure to see "From the Dean"  
on page 2.  
***Our four-year B.S.N. Program  
is doubling enrollment!***

## Undergraduate students hold health fair

Corey Southworth and Bryan Yankey, then seniors in the B.S.N. program, in fall 2005 planned and implemented a family health fair at Tates Creek Elementary School in Lexington.

As part of the public health learning experience, the students chose one leading health indicator and developed a plan to impact public health. Recognizing that the entire family needs to be involved before a positive impact on a child's health habits can be accomplished, the students encourage family participation.

Twenty-three booths and activities at the fair focused on exercise, good nutrition, and healthy lifestyles. Student volunteers from the senior, junior, and sophomore classes worked on the activities.

The students were assisted by their faculty preceptor, Carrie Gordy, M.S.N., R.N., A.R.N.P., and by the Tates Creek Family Resource Director Nancy Sprague.

*– Assistant Professor Carrie Gordy, M.S.N., R.N., A.R.N.P.*



## White coat ceremony held for seniors

The College held its white coat ceremony for second-semester seniors in October 2006. The event marks the transition from classroom lectures and one weekly clinical day to a capstone placement – 122 hours of clinical practice, over an approximate seven-week period – under the mentorship of an experienced nurse. The College's alumni association began the white coat tradition with the May 2006 class.

## Psychiatric nursing students participate in fund-raising walk

Undergraduate nursing students enrolled in NUR 881, Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, participated in the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill's NAMI Walk - for the Mind. The annual walk is held coast-to-coast. Kentucky's event, led by Governor Ernie Fletcher, was held in October 2006, at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Our nursing students, who raised \$1000, joined more than 2000 individuals from across the state who participated. The NAMI walk calls attention to the needs of the mentally ill and their families.

— Professor Ann Peden, D.S.N., R.N., C.S.



## Undergraduate wins Lyman T. Johnson Award

Kimberly Nicole Wordlow received the Torch Bearer's Award at the 16th Annual Lyman T. Johnson Homecoming Awards Banquet. Each college has the opportunity to nominate a current student for the Torch Bearer Award and an alumnus for the Torch of Excellence award. (See page 40 for the story on the alum who won the Torch of Excellence Award.)

Wordlow is a senior in the College. While pursuing her bachelor's degree in nursing, Wordlow serves as vice president of the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (M.A.P.S.), and as treasurer for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Mu Epsilon Chapter. She is a member of the Kentucky Black Voices Gospel Choir and the Black Student Union.

Her academic accomplishments include a 3.345 G.P.A., membership in Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society and the Phi Sigma Theta National Honor Society. She is a William C. Parker scholar as well as a Medical Center Enhancement Scholarship recipient.



Kim Wordlow and her mother, Wanda Wordlow, enjoy a proud moment at the awards banquet.

For two years, she was a volunteer at Kenton Healthcare Center, where she assisted with one-on-one recreational activities for residents, such as card-making, bingo, bowling, horseshoes, nail polishing, and letter writing. Wordlow continues to volunteer at the Hope Center, Hamburg Healthcare, Catholic Action Center, and Kid's Café.

She is a member of and involved in youth choir and youth ushers at Zion Missionary Baptist Church in her hometown of Louisville, Ky. In Lexington, she attends Consolidated Missionary Baptist Church.

Wordlow's current work as a nurse extern at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital has enabled her to demonstrate skills and knowledge in nursing gleaned through her studies at the College.

Kristin Ashford, a lecturer with the College, says, "Kim's enthusiasm in working with women, children, and their families is remarkable. She sets the bar high for other students regarding work ethic and her professionalism shines through in her patient care as well as her written work. Not only did I recognize her gift, the patients she cared for also commented on her pleasant, knowledgeable, and professional demeanor. Through each experience, whether it was in the Nursery, NICU, Antenatal Unit, Labor and Delivery or the Mother/Baby Unit, I knew Kim would accept the assignment with a smile. I have no doubt that she will excel in any opportunity she is given."

The banquet and awards are given in honor of Lyman T. Johnson, who was one of the most prominent and highly respected educators in Kentucky's history. As a teacher, humanitarian and freedom fighter, he worked tirelessly to change a brutally segregated society. In 1949, Johnson won a legal battle which resulted in the desegregation of the UK Graduate School. This landmark legal victory ultimately resulted in the opening of schools of higher education to all students, regardless of race or ethnicity.

# College mourns loss of May 2006 graduate

The entire College of Nursing family mourned the loss of Lindsey Marie Harp, one of our May 2006 B.S.N. graduates, who died tragically in September 2006 in severe flooding in Lexington.

Lindsey died along with friend Lauren Fannin, a third-year UK College of Pharmacy student.



Lindsey, 25, of Frankfort, Ky., graduated from UK's College of Nursing in May with a B.S.N. and had also graduated from Georgetown College (Georgetown, Ky.), where she had been a member of the golf team.

Her mother said Lindsey had just taken a nursing position in Kansas City in June.

Jennifer Cowley, an instructor with the College of Nursing, who taught Lindsey, could tell she was very passionate about nursing. "Lindsey was a very bright student who was articulate and compassionate about her nursing," Cowley said. "I feel like it's a great loss. She had a bright future ahead of her."

The College hosted a memorial service in Lindsey's memory.

*– Information reprinted by permission of UK's Kentucky Kernel*



*Karen Butler, faculty member, and Lindsey Harp celebrate at the first White Coat Ceremony in spring 2006.*

## Scholarship fund established for Lindsey Harp

The Lindsey Harp Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established for this former UK College of Nursing student who lost her life tragically in September 2006. This scholarship was established by Lindsey's family in her memory.

You may contribute to this fund with a donation to the UK College of Nursing. Donations can be sent to the University of Kentucky Office of Development, Sturgill Development Building, Lexington, KY 40506-0015. Please make your check payable to the UK College of Nursing and write "Lindsey Harp Scholarship" on the memo line.

# Ph.D. grad

## dedicated to research career in tobacco control policy

Chizimuzo (Zim) T.C. Okoli, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., 2005 Ph.D. graduate, received the first Carolyn A. Williams Award at the Graduate Program Hooding Ceremony in May 2006.

This award, named for Dean Emeritus Williams, will be given annually to an outstanding graduating Ph.D. student who exemplifies successful academic performance (GPA 3.5 or greater), demonstrates support of College of Nursing activities, publishes and/or presents scholarly papers, and mentors nursing students in the master's or bachelor's programs.

Okoli began his research career as an undergraduate student in our B.S.N. Program and continued to conduct it throughout his academic career at the College. For five years, he was a member of Professor Ellen Hahn's Tobacco Policy Research Team, working on funded research projects related to tobacco control and tobacco policy. He had a variety of experiences with transdisciplinary research at UK. He worked as a research assistant on Hahn's Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded project, "Smoke-Free Laws and Employee Turnover," in which he collaborated closely with a group of economists. He studied with Dr. Tom Kelly, a behavioral scientist, who mentored Okoli in the biobehavioral issues related to addiction. Okoli also worked with Dr. Al-Delaimy,

a physician and an epidemiologist from the University of California, San Diego, on Hahn's study of secondhand smoke exposure among restaurant and bar workers.

He completed a double major at the baccalaureate level in nursing and philosophy cum laude with a 3.9 GPA in the B.S.N. Program at UK. Okoli continued his education while working as a nurse with the mentally ill and received his M.S.N. degree in public health nursing. He also completed a master's in public health with a focus on health behavior while he was enrolled in the Ph.D. Program in Nursing.

Okoli is dedicated to building a strong research career in tobacco control/tobacco policy. He was sought out by faculty to do guest presentations in a number of courses not only because of his knowledge and exceptional presentation skills, but also because he provided such an excellent role model for other students.

After completing his degree requirements in December 2005, he moved to Vancouver where he began a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of British Columbia to further his research related to tobacco policy and tobacco control. This was a prestigious appointment and as part of this appointment, he received an award for a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategic Training Program in Tobacco Research.

Okoli is internally motivated, goal-oriented, and self-directed. He is very analytic in his approach to problems and has excellent critical thinking skills. Okoli is inquisitive, a good problem solver, and goes far beyond the minimum required of him. He excels in quantitative data collection, management, and analysis.

I have no doubt that Zim will establish himself as a well-funded researcher in tobacco control/policy. He will do this independently and working collaboratively, but not at the expense of others, as he is a team player and works extremely well with others. He has high ethical standards and the utmost integrity as a researcher and colleague.

Okoli is the co-author of four peer reviewed manuscripts. All are focused on tobacco control. He has presented six papers regionally and nationally on this topic at conferences



*Members of Zim Okoli's dissertation committee at his defense. Left to right: Mary Kay Rayens, Ellen Hahn, John Matthew Webster (Behaviorial Science), and Zim Okoli. Not pictured: Steve Browning.*

such as the American Public Health Association, the National Conference on Tobacco or Health, and the Southern Nursing Research Society. Okoli received the Jeffery Fellowship for Tobacco Research from the Graduate School of the University of Kentucky in 2004–2005.

– Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship and Professor Lynne Hall

## Ph.D. students garner awards

**Fawwaz Al Aloul**, (Ph.D. 2006), received a \$10,000 Oncology Nursing Society grant for his dissertation research titled, “Quality of Life of Jordanians Post Stem Cell Transplantation,” January 2005.

**Mohannad Abu Ruz**, (Ph.D. 2006), won second place for his poster titled, “The Brief Symptom Inventory Is a Quick, Reliable Way to Measure Anxiety in Patients Hospitalized with AMI,” at the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in Atlanta in February 2006.

**Marla De Jong**, (Ph.D. 2005), received first place for her poster titled, “Appraising Symptom Seriousness in Acute Myocardial Infarction: Emotional and Cognitive Variables Are Most Influential,” at the Southern Nursing Research Society Conference in Atlanta, February 2005.

**Seongkum Heo**, (Ph.D. 2005, postdoctoral fellow), was a finalist in the oral competition at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses in South Beach, Fla. She also was a finalist for the Martha Hill New Investigator Award at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions in 2005 in Dallas. Her presentation was titled, “Physical Symptom Status Is Predicted by Psychological Factors in Patients with Advanced Heart Failure.” The abstract is published in *Circulation*, 112, II-373.

**Connie Lamb**, (Ph.D. student), received a \$12,500 grant from the Christopher Reeve Foundation for her dissertation research, “Living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy: Measuring Quality of Life.”

**Susan Matthews**, (Ph.D. candidate), was named Kentucky Nurse Practitioner of the Year by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She was recognized for this honor during the annual conference of the Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives at Covington, Ky., in April. She received national recognition at the AANP national conference in Grapevine, Texas, June 2006.

**Jan Odom-Forren**, (Ph.D. student), received the 2005 American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Award in the critical care category for: *Practical Guide to Moderate Sedation/Analgesia*, 2nd edition, by Jan Odom-Forren and Donna Watson, Mosby, St. Louis. She also received a \$1000 scholar-

ship from the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses in August 2006.

**Zim Okoli** (Ph.D. 2005) received a \$36,750 award from the Canadian Institute of Health Research Strategic Training Program in Tobacco Research in 2006. This highly prestigious award will provide funding for one year of post-doctoral training at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He also was awarded a one-year \$50,000 postdoctoral fellowship from NEXUS, a multidisciplinary research group at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, August 2005.

**Judy Schreiber, Gwen Hayes, and Susan Hedgecock**, (Ph.D. students), were selected as predoctoral fellows in the Kentucky Cancer Prevention and Control Training Program based in the UK Center for Prevention Research (Mark Dignan, PI). They will receive additional training, a stipend of \$20,000 per year, and tuition.

**Judy Schreiber**, (Ph.D. student) received a \$15,000/year Doctoral Degree Scholarship in Nursing grant from the American Cancer Society for her doctoral work titled, “Spiritual Belief Systems Expectations: Impact on Anxiety and Depression,” July 2005. She also was chosen to attend an invitational program at the National Institutes of Health, July 2006. This is an intensive course on the Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention offered by the National Cancer Institute.

**Jia-Rong Wu**, (Ph.D. Student), was among six finalists chosen for the oral research competition at the 2006 meeting of the American Association of Heart Failure Nurses in South Beach, Fla., in June for her research titled, “The Effect of Depression and Anxiety on Medication Adherence in Patients With Heart Failure.”



*Did you visit our graduate programs open house in October 2006? We were pleased to see a number of potential graduate students. The group heard from faculty and from a panel of current graduate students, with opportunities for questions. If you came and your interest was heightened but other questions have come up, visit our Web site at [www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic](http://www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic), e-mail our Student Services Office at [conss@uky.edu](mailto:conss@uky.edu), or call (859) 323-5108.*

## Recent Ph.D. Program graduates and their dissertation titles

December 2004	<b>Judi Daniels, Ph.D.</b>	Women's Experience With Weight Loss: A Personal and Social Model of Action and Reaction
May 2005	<b>Sukjai Charoensuk, Ph.D.</b>	Factors Influencing Depression in Thai Adolescents
May 2005	<b>Peggy El-Mallakh, Ph.D.</b>	Evolving Self-Care Among Individuals with Schizophrenia and Diabetes Mellitus
May 2005	<b>D. Scott Treadway, Ph.D.</b>	A Feasibility Test of the Systematic Terraced Exercise Protocol in Fourth Grade Children
August 2005	<b>Marla DeJong, Ph.D.</b>	Anxiety in Patients with Cardiac Disease
August 2005	<b>Paul Lewis, Ph.D.</b>	Secondhand Tobacco Smoke, Adolescent Addiction, and Smoking Cessation Behaviors
December 2005	<b>Zim Okoli, Ph.D.</b>	Psychobehavioral Effects of Secondhand Tobacco Smoke Exposure
December 2005	<b>Linda Wray, Ph.D.</b>	Meaning-Based Coping in Adults with Chronic Low Back Pain
May 2006	<b>Esam Al Khasib, Ph.D.</b>	Patterns of Incidence of Colorectal Cancer in the Appalachian Region of Kentucky, 1995-2001
May 2006	<b>Mohannad Abu Ruz, Ph.D.</b>	Anxiety and In-Hospital Complications After Acute Coronary Syndrome
August 2006	<b>Brooke Bentley, Ph.D.</b>	Dietary Sodium Intervention in Heart Failure Patients
August 2006	<b>Jennifer Hatcher, Ph.D.</b>	The Mental Health of African American Single Mothers
August 2006	<b>Nancy York, Ph.D.</b>	Smoke-free Policy Change in Kentucky: Are Local Communities Ready?
December 2006	<b>Fawwaz Al Aloul, Ph.D.</b>	Quality of Life of Jordanians Post Stem Cell Transplantation
December 2006	<b>Said Abu Salem</b>	How Do Home Health Care Nurses Cope with Care Errors?

## Recent D.N.P. graduates and their capstone project titles

August 2004	<b>Victoria M. Bradley, D.N.P.</b>	Evaluation Of Nurse Acceptance and Medication Errors During Implementation of Computerized Prescriber Order Entry at a University Hospital
August 2004	<b>Robin Donohoe Dennison, D.N.P.</b>	Effects of a Medication Safety Education Program
August 2004	<b>Kathleen Valarie Haley, D.N.P.</b>	An Impact Evaluation of the Healthy Choices Abstinence Program
August 2004	<b>Barbara Ann Renner Kitchen, D.N.P.</b>	Integrated Model of Dementia Care
August 2004	<b>Karen Steffen Mutsch, D.N.P.</b>	Heart Failure Self-Management
August 2004	<b>Tukea L. Talbert, D.N.P.</b>	Tele-Visitation: A Strategy to Reduce Depression Among Blood and Marrow Transplant Patients Following Transplantation
May 2006	<b>Karen McBroom Butler, D.N.P.</b>	An Evidence-Based Toolkit to Prevent Meningococcal Meningitis in College Students
May 2006	<b>Kathy Kelly Hager, D.N.P.</b>	Self-Reported Diary for Assessment of Chronic Pain in the Nursing Home Resident: A Feasibility Study
May 2006	<b>Melanie G. Hardin-Pierce, D.N.P.</b>	Oral Care in an Adult Mechanically Ventilated Patient Population: Implementation and Evaluation of an Evidence-Based Guideline
May 2006	<b>Zebuline Elaine Koran, D.N.P.</b>	Impact of an Admission Unit on Failure to Rescue in the Emergency Department
May 2006	<b>Kathy Jolene Tackett Morris, D.N.P.</b>	Evaluation of a School Based Protocol for Exercise-Induced Bronchospasm
May 2006	<b>Leandra Marie Price, D.N.P.</b>	Transition to Community: A Feasibility Study
May 2006	<b>Gwendolyn Sue Short, D.N.P.</b>	Implementing Diabetic Group Visits into a Primary Care Clinic and Family Medicine Residency Program
May 2006	<b>Deborah Sue Smith, D.N.P.</b>	Reducing Surgical Site Infection in Cardiovascular Surgery Patients through the Development of Increased Situational Awareness

## Interested in becoming a neonatal nurse practitioner?

The College has a new track in the master's program – Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (N.N.P.). These advanced practice nurses, who currently are in great demand nationwide, assess, diagnose, and manage premature and ill newborns who require stays in neonatal intensive care units (NICU).

As a team, they collaborate with neonatologists, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, social workers, and other nurses. However, these nurses autonomously manage much of the newborn's illness care from entry into the NICU until the baby goes home, which may be several months, while consulting with and supporting the work of all other professionals on the infant's care team.

N.N.P.s are especially valued for the continuity they provide to families who find themselves dealing with many specialists and health care providers while also trying to cope with a child beginning life with a critical illness. Some N.N.P.s actually choose to care for “micropreemies” (extremely low birth weight babies) because their stays will be the longest.

N.N.P.s are known for helping families establish bonds with their sick infants, using various strategies, such as kangaroo care, interpretation of health status, recognition of the baby's behavioral cues when parents visit, and then telephone communication when parents cannot visit.

The program is a two-year full-time, or three-year part-time curriculum which includes core master's courses, neonatal pathophysiology, neonatal pharmacology, genetics, neonatal health assessment, and neonatal specialty courses. Specialty courses include didactic and clinical work. Clinicals give the student opportunities to work under a practicing N.N.P. and neonatologists over a three-semester period.

Prerequisites for admission include two years experience as a nurse in a NICU (Level Two and/or Level Three Nursery) and a graduate-level statistics course.

Nurses who have a passion for helping critically ill newborns and their families, and find reward in helping these infants progress toward healthy physical, cognitive, and developmental outcomes have an avenue to ascend to a leadership role of the newborn health care team.

For more information about this track, contact Associate Professor Teresa Free (e-mail tafree01@email.uky.edu; phone (859) 323-4726). For application information, visit our Web site at [www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic/msn](http://www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic/msn), or contact the College's Student Services Office (e-mail [conss@uky.edu](mailto:conss@uky.edu); phone (859) 323-5108).

– Associate Professor Teresa Free, Ph.d., R.N., A.R.N.P.

Peggy Tiller, director of nursing at the Lake Cumberland Health District (LCHD) and a public health nursing certificate student wrote, as part of a course requirement, and was awarded a \$300,000 grant for LCHD to implement a diabetes center of excellence. The proposal's purpose: “The Lake Cumberland District Health Department's mission of the DCOE is to improve diabetes outcomes and decrease medical expenditures for Medicaid patients in the service area. This will be accomplished by care coordination, intensive patient education and tracking of outcomes.”

## Graduate Psych/Mental Health Track growing, using video conferencing

### **M.S.N. Program**

The Psychiatric/Mental Health Track in the master's program has doubled its enrollment, attracting students from Kentucky and surrounding states. They represent diverse experiences and include post-master's students, R.N.-M.S.N. students, and several students working on their Ph.D. or D.N.P. in our College as well as in other disciplines.

These students bring a variety of clinical experiences including working with child and adolescent clients, inpatient and outpatient treatment, and population foci on the homeless and college-age individuals. This diversity enriches the experience for all.

This track recently received funding from UK to use desktop video conferencing to provide clinical psychotherapy supervision for students located throughout Kentucky. Students in remote or distant areas will be able to interact with faculty and other students while sitting at their home computers.

This cutting-edge technology will result in fewer trips to campus for distant students. The grant provides funds to purchase Web cameras for desktop video conferencing, training of faculty and students, evaluation of the technology as an effective strategy for education, and dissemination of the results. This is one example of the College of Nursing's response to the needs and realities of our students' lives.

### **Ph.D. Program**

The Ph.D. Program continues to attract psychiatric nurses. Currently, students are examining phenomena related to substance abuse, depression, neurological disorders, schizophrenia, and advanced practice psychiatric nursing outcomes. Their work has been reported in regional and national arenas.

### **D.N.P. Program**

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program also attracts students with interest in psychiatric mental health nursing. Student topics include transition from inpatient settings to the community and the long-term sequelae of adverse childhood experiences.

### **Post-Doctoral Scholar**

Peggy El-Mallakh completed the College's Ph.D. Program in 2004 and is currently completing the second of a two-year post-doctoral scholarship with Patricia B. Howard.

El-Mallakh's research concerns self-care among individuals with co-existing schizophrenia and diabetes mellitus.

– Associate Professor Patricia B. Howard, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.A.A.

# D.N.P. graduate immersed in College's life, scholarly, community activities

In May of 2006, the College of Nursing Alumni Association established the Sebastian-Stanhope Award for an exemplary graduating D.N.P. student. Criteria include:

- D.N.P. graduating class member
- GPA 3.5 or higher
- Demonstrated support of College of Nursing activities (in addition to course requirements)
- Demonstrated scholarly activity during tenure at the College, which may include national, regional, local educational presentations, publications, grant funding for scholarship, demonstrated activity in professional nursing organizations
- Demonstration of mentoring behavior to nursing students in the master's or bachelor's programs

The first winner of the Sebastian-Stanhope award was Karen M. Butler. As a relatively new faculty member she has immersed herself in the life of the College. She participates in the educational mission, the scholarship mission and service. She has taken a leadership role in many of her activities, contributing above and beyond expectations. She has done this while she excelled as a student in the D.N.P. Program – and graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

Her support of the College's goals attainment is reflected in the numerous college committees on which she has served, such as the Undergraduate Student Admissions and Progression Committee, Faculty Merit Committee, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Undergraduate Scholarship Committee, and the Scholarship and Showcase Committee, to name a few. In addition, she chairs the Adult Specialty Council and serves on the Dean's Council.



Butler contributes to the profession and community as well. She is active in Delta Psi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, currently serving as a co-chair of the membership committee. She is also a member of seven other professional organizations.

She is a member of the Fayette County Public Schools Health Professions Academy Advisory Council. This council works with a large minority and underserved population to provide opportunities and give direction to those who may not otherwise be encouraged to seek and succeed in higher education in a health profession. She works with the Jessamine County Health Department as a member of their bioterrorism emergency response team and is a member of the Jessamine County Clean Indoor Air Commission.

Her abilities are recognized by colleagues and administration

and she was selected to participate in the UK Health Center's Circle of Power: a Program for Women Faculty in Leadership.

Since joining the faculty in 2001 and as a student in the D.N.P. program she has participated in scholarly activity. She has made eight scholarly presentations internationally, nationally, and in the health center. In addition, she has had four published manuscripts. In all except one, Butler is the only author.

Butler's commitment to students is evident to faculty colleagues and students alike. She has integrated concepts and content from the D.N.P. program to assist undergraduate students to come to appreciate the role and importance of using evidence in their practice activities. An example was the award received by a team of eight of Butler's undergraduate students at the 2006 College of Nursing Scholarship Showcase. This team was selected to present their project at the University-wide Undergraduate Showcase. The project is titled "An Evidence-Based Project to Enhance Wound Assessment and Documentation in an Acute Care Setting."

The D.N.P. Program is available for people interested in becoming expert leaders and managers. More information is available on our Web site at [www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic/dnp](http://www.mc.uky.edu/nursing/academic/dnp).

– Professor Marcia Stanhope, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.

## UK pioneers D.N.P. Program; doctoral nursing programs changing nationwide

After five years of discussion and planning within the College of Nursing, the first Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) Program in the nation was opened at the University of Kentucky in 2001. In 2004, the program honored its first six graduates and in 2005 an additional eight graduates were honored.

With new developments occurring in doctoral education 11 D.N.P. programs have opened in the past two years and more than 100 additional programs are in the planning stages.

## Farms, bars, 18-wheelers, and single working moms?

**Question:** What do all these things have in common?

**Answer:** They are all part of the College of Nursing's focus on occupational health.

The faculty and students of the College of Nursing are gaining a national reputation for their groundbreaking research with underserved and at-risk occupational groups.

Associate Professor Deborah Reed heads the agricultural health research sector. Currently, she is analyzing data from more than 1,400 senior farmers to look at work organization, decision-making, and health and injury status. Recently, she and her research team completed an evaluation on the effectiveness of farm safety day camps in changing children and parents' safety behaviors on family farms.

Professor Ann Peden has studied depression among low-paid female workers and how negative thoughts lead to depression. She plans to test an intervention to combat negative thoughts in the workplace.

Associate Professor Ellen Hahn, a leader in smoke-free policy, researched bar and restaurant workers and found that smoke-free laws produce dramatic health improvements in this vulnerable worker population. This evidence helped support Lexington's 100 percent smoke-free ordinance.

Associate Professor Debra Anderson studies a very unique population, long haul truck drivers, in her research on violence in the workplace. Several other faculty have research that includes occupational issues and the College is building expertise by partnering with other institutions.

### Highlight on agriculture

Deborah Reed, Ph.D., R.N., came by her program of research naturally. Born and raised on a tobacco and beef cattle farm in nearby Woodford County, she has the genes for agriculture.

Her research began in 1991 at UK in the Department of Preventive Medicine. A product of the UK College of Nursing (B.S.N. 1974, M.S.N. 1993, and Ph.D. 1996), Reed's dissertation research on occupational rehabilitation of farmers following amputation launched her career.

Since that time she has had three CDC-funded R01 grants. Her first project resulted in a safety curriculum now used in high school agriculture classes across the nation. Reed includes students in her research. Undergraduates learn about the farm environment by going on farm tours and working on research alongside Reed. Students have presented at scientific conferences, conducted community programs about farm safety, and published articles in nursing journals and farm periodicals.

Through additional grants, Reed mentors faculty and students in other nursing programs across the U.S. on agricultural safety and health and how it applies to nursing.

“My goal is to have every nurse equipped with at least some working knowledge of the health risks involved in the production of food and fiber,” she says. “With more than 6 million people in this nation involved in production agriculture, and nearly 2 million farms, sooner or later nurses will care for a farmer or a member of a farm family. Nurses need to understand what health risks are included in agriculture. We need to intervene early to promote healthy and safe behaviors on farms, and we need to be at the table in planning and conducting research in agricultural health and safety. Right now only a handful of nurses have this expertise.”

– Associate Professor  
Deborah Reed, Ph.D., R.N.,  
M.S.P.H.



## Psych faculty focus on mental health care delivery, depression, underage alcohol use, new models of clinical education

**Patricia B. Howard**, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.A.A., is recognized for her leadership in advanced practice psychiatric nursing education and evaluation research in mental health services.

For the past decade, she has been a consultant and researcher on several projects at the Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services. Currently, Howard is co-investigator on two studies designed to evaluate the implementation of evidence-based practices in the treatment of serious mental illness. The studies are funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services.

She is also co-investigator on a psychometric study with a national group funded by Dr. Alec Miller of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

Results of Howard's research have been published in the *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, *International Psychiatry: Bulletin of the Board of the International Affairs of the Royal College of Psychiatrists* and *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*. She is a founding board member of the International Society for Psychiatric Nurses, a member of the editorial board of *Archives in Psychiatric Nursing*, and coordinator of the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing Track at the College.

Howard teaches and advises in all three graduate programs.

**Ann Peden**, A.R.N.P.-C.S., D.S.N., is an internationally recognized expert in depression in women. She continues to focus on the symptom of negative thinking as it affects women of different ages and experiences. Recent studies include the prevention of depression in low-income single mothers and smoking cessation and depression in pregnant women.

Recent publications include articles in the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association* and the *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*.

Peden teaches and advises students in both the M.S.N. and Ph.D. programs. Her qualitative methods course is highly respected by students and faculty on the University campus.

**Ruth "Topsy" Staten**, A.R.N.P.-C.S., Ph.D., provides leadership in psychiatric nursing and has been elected to the board of directors of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). Currently, she serves as president of the Kentucky Chapter of that organization.

Staten has been instrumental in uniting the UK campus and the Lexington community in the prevention of underage and high-risk alcohol use. Two recent efforts related to these interests are the Keep It Real campaign and Genesis, a UK student-led group working to change the college alcohol culture.

Staten continues to study young adult mental health,

particularly focusing on substance abuse. Look for soon-to-be published articles in *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, the *Journal of American College Health*, and the *Journal of Health Behavior*.

Staten teaches in the B.S.N. and M.S.N. programs, and serves on Ph.D. advisory committees.

Through the efforts of **Perry Bohanon** M.S.N., A.P.R.N., B.C., course coordinator and primary faculty for psychiatric nursing in the undergraduate program, NUR 881 has added two new community sites to the list of agencies used for clinical instruction.

Our students are now gaining experience through the Office of Community-Based Services, a division of Bluegrass Mental Health-Mental Retardation Board, Inc., as well as at two therapeutic rehabilitation programs in Harrodsburg, Ky.

With the impending B.S.N. program expansion (see From the dean on page 2), the faculty of NUR 881 are challenged to investigate new and different models for the delivery of clinical education. Our move toward placement in non-traditional settings will become even more important, as the bulk of mental health treatment moves into the community, utilizing increased collaborative efforts between agencies and providers.

Bohanon also provided leadership for students who participated in the annual National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk held at the Kentucky Horse Park in October 2006 (story on page 20). NAMI is a grass roots national organization that provides support and education for persons with severe and persistent mental illness, and their family members. For the second year in a row the undergraduate students in NUR 881, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing, brought home the award for the greatest number of nursing program participants in the annual event. The walk brought together hundreds of participants from across the state to highlight the cause of the mentally ill in Kentucky. In addition to having the greatest participation of schools represented, UK students raised just over \$1,000 to benefit NAMI.

— Associate Professors Patricia B. Howard and Ruth "Topsy" Staten, Professor Ann Peden, and Lecturer Perry Bohanon



Perry Bohanon, Topsy Staten, Ann Peden, Peggy El-Mallakh, and Patricia B. Howard

## Staten focuses on reducing substance abuse, underage alcohol use among college students

I have been a faculty member in the College of Nursing for 21 years and from 1997 to 2006 had a clinical and research practice with University Health Service. In this practice I had the opportunity to work individually with students with substance abuse problems, collaborated with others on campus to form a campus-community coalition to reduce high-risk alcohol use among students, and participated with the Mayor's Alliance, a community coalition to reduce underage alcohol use. These groups have been instrumental in passage of several ordinances by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

I provided leadership for the creation of the Keep It Real, Don't Drink campaign, a Web-based project for high school and middle school students to create videos and posters for a prevention competition.

Students and others can log on to [www.keep-it-real.us](http://www.keep-it-real.us) and view the videos. I received the 2005 Media Award from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association for my contributions to this project.

I have conducted numerous research studies including a 1999 and 2004 health behavior survey and in 2002, trends in tobacco use among college students. I am collaborating with others on campus to increase the awareness of students regarding alcohol related issues.

I was also recently elected to the American Psychiatric Nurses Association Board and am president of the Kentucky chapter of that organization.

– Associate Professor Ruth "Topsy" Staten, Ph.D., A.R.N.P.-C.S.



*Topsy Staten discusses campaign strategy with a student.*

## Faculty member and A.C.N.P. wins award for ventilator bundle initiative and oral care guidelines

Melanie Hardin-Pierce, D.N.P., M.S.N. A.R.N.P.-C.S., assistant clinical professor, won the Sigma Theta Tau International 2005 Innovations in Clinical Excellence award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to evidence-based nursing. She was recognized for her work with the



implementation of evidence-based practice in mechanically ventilated, critically ill adults, specifically concerning the ventilator bundle initiative and oral care guideline implementation begun in 2003.

The award was presented during the opening plenary session of the 38th biennial Sigma Theta Tau International convention in Indianapolis in November 2005. The award is sponsored by Nursing Spectrum and Sigma Theta Tau International.

Hardin-Pierce is a 2006 D.N.P. Program graduate. The work for which she received the honor is a project she began in the D.N.P. Program.

– Assistant Clinical Professor Melanie Hardin-Pierce, D.N.P., M.S.N., A.R.N.P.-C.S.

## Research "comes alive" for undergraduates

Including undergraduate students in funded research projects started in the College in 2002. At the sophomore level, students can register for independent study credit as a research intern under the direction of a faculty mentor. As a research intern, students learn basic skills for developing clinical research projects and applying tested outcomes to their practice.

Interns say that hands-on participation in a clinical study makes research "come alive" for them. With the principal investigator as their mentor, they begin to really understand what evidence-based practice means. They can immediately apply the research tools to their nursing careers with a better understanding of how research drives practice. For many students, this lays the foundation for graduate work following their undergraduate program.

The primary goal of the Research Internship Program is for students to gain an understanding of the basic steps for conducting research and to participate in an active study. Each semester about a dozen research interns and seven College of Nursing research faculty work together on research projects. Supervised by their faculty mentor, students:

- participate in research team meetings
- assist in the development of grant proposals
- attend IRB review of the research project

*Continued on next page*

- assist in screening and recruitment of research subjects
- assemble project materials for participants
- work with various measurement tools
- collect data
- assist with data management and analyses
- develop PowerPoint presentations for peer-reviewed conferences
- assist in the development of research manuscripts for publication
- apply for travel grants to present research at conferences

Selected achievements of UK College of Nursing research interns over the last several years have included: grant writing experience; research publications in national and international journals; research poster and podium presentations at regional, national, or international conferences; travel grant awards for student presentations at research conferences, and awards for their research publications.

– Associate Professor Patricia V. Burkhart, Ph.D., R.N.

## Undergraduates have poster presentations accepted for upcoming SNRS conference

Several undergraduate nursing research intern students have had poster presentations accepted for the Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) conference to be held in Galveston, Texas in February 2007.

Ashleigh Ohlmann (senior) and Jenny Baumgardner (junior) are co-authors along with colleagues at the University of Iceland of a student poster presentation titled, “Factors Related to Asthma Quality of Life for U.S. and Icelandic Adolescents.” They will present preliminary data from the pilot project. The students are part of Associate Professor Patricia Burkhart’s research team.

Ohlmann has been a research intern for five semesters, and Baumgardner for two.

Senior Amanda Fallin, who has worked with Associate Professor Debra Anderson for five semesters on her research project, “Workplace Violence Experiences of Homeless Women and Women Residing in Battered Women Shelters” had a poster accepted at SNRS as well. It is titled, “Intimate Partner Violence in the Workplace.”

Amber Hoehne, senior, had a poster accepted titled, “Youth Access Laws and Changes in Sources of Tobacco.” She is a research intern and has worked for three semesters with Professor Ellen Hahn and Associate Professor Carol Riker.

*Christina Knox, M.S.N. student, and Demetrius Abshire, B.S.N. student, presented a poster at SNRS in 2006. This was the first time one of our undergraduates presented at the annual conference.*

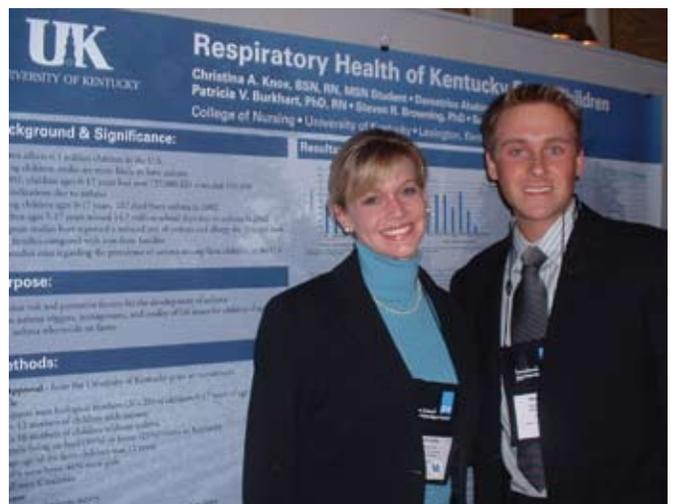
## Interested in becoming a research intern, or how about...

We offer several opportunities for involvement for our undergraduate students:

- Research Internships
- Nurse Scholars Program
- Nurse Ambassador Program
- Specialty Interest Groups (currently in these areas: cardiovascular, diabetes, leadership, and oncology)
- UNAAC (Undergraduate Nursing Activities and Advisory Council)



*Maria Sanker, Nurse Scholar, B.S.N. Class of December 2006*



# Student Scholarship Showcase

draws more entries, capacity crowd

Word spread among students about the College of Nursing's Student Scholarship Showcase, and for 2006, they submitted even more podium presentation and poster entries than the first showcase held in 2005.

The 2006 showcase, held in March, provided an annual opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to share with other students and faculty the knowledge they've accumulated through scholarship and research in the course of their academic studies.

Assistant Professor Mary DeLetter, faculty chairperson of the event, said, "This is a day when students can showcase all the great work they are contributing to nursing. Their level of scholarship and overall excellence is really gratifying."

Awards were given for each academic level in podium presentation and poster categories. Winners (denoted by an asterisk) each received a plaque and \$100.

**Melanie Hardin-Pierce, M.S.N., A.R.N.P.-C.S., D.N.P. student**, and assistant clinical professor in the College's undergraduate program, gave the keynote address, "Implementation of Evidence-Based Practice for Mechanically Ventilated Patients." Her work focuses on putting into place a regular oral health care plan for these patients, which aims to reduce the amount of bacteria in the mouth and, in turn, reduce the number of ventilator days and the frequency of ventilator-assisted pneumonia. Hardin-Pierce began this project as part of NUR 620, Evidence-Based

Practice, in which she co-developed an evidence-based practice clinical guideline for oral care in mechanically ventilated adults, and later modified it for implementation as a component of a comprehensive ventilator bundle quality improvement initiative.

**Ashleigh Ohlmann, B.S.N. student** and research intern working with Associate Professor Patricia Burkhart gave the closing address, "Behind the Scenes of a Clinical Trial: Through the Lens of a Research Intern." She talked about the various steps involved in a research project, from the literature review and grant writing to publication of the findings. She summarized by saying "I now truly appreciate the evidence-based interventions we implement because I know that somewhere in the world, clinical research experts worked very hard and for a long time to obtain the data that supports and guides nursing practice."

## Podium presentations

**Lisa Pedersen Turner, M.S.N., R.N., Ph.D. student**: "Walmart, Soda Pop, and Infant Feeders: The Influence of Community on Infant Feeding Practices"

\* **Lindsey Justice, Jennifer English, Ashleigh Ohlmann, Stephanie Barnes, Allison Rogers, Elviana Tur, Jonathan Banks, and Sarah Gillespie, B.S.N. students**: "An Evidence-Based Project to Enhance Wound Assessment and Documentation in an Acute Care Setting"

**Melissa S. Stephens, R.N., R.N.-M.S.N. student:** “Substance Abuse Among Registered Nurses”

**Sarah Kelly, R.N., M.S.N., Ph.D. student:** “Gang Violence and the Self-Concept of Adolescent Victims”

**Maurine Hume, R.N., A.D.N., R.N.-M.S.N. student:** “Nurses’ Attitudes Toward Complementary and Alternative Therapy”

\* **Lynne Jensen, M.S., A.R.N.P., Ph.D. student,** K. Dracup, S. McKinley, B. Riegel, L. Doering, H. Meishke, P. Howard, and D. Moser: “High Risk Cardiac Patients: Men are Less Knowledgeable About Heart Disease Than Women, but More Confident in Their Ability to Recognize Symptoms”

**Ashleigh White, B.S.N. student:** “Air Quality Research in Rural Monroe County, Kentucky”

\* **Carole Crabtree, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.N. student:** “Pre-Operative Education – Online!”

**Jennifer Hatcher, R.N., M.S.N., Ph.D. candidate:** “Psychometric Properties of Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale”

**Amber Hoehne, B.S.N. student:** “Qualitative Data Analysis Using Atlas.ti 5.0 Software”

### Poster presentations

**Demetrius Abshire, B.S.N. student and Christina Knox, M.S.N. student;** P. Burkhart, S. Browning, S. Westneat: Respiratory Health of Kentucky Farm Children

**Brooke Bentley, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., Ph. D. candidate,** M. DeJong, D. Moser: Factors Related to Nonadherence of a Low Sodium Diet in Heart Failure Patients

**Brooke Bentley, Ph. D. candidate;** M. DeJong, D. Moser: Predictors of Dietary Sodium Adherence in Patients With Heart Failure: Evaluation of the Theory of Planned Behavior

**Lindsay Budd, Sara Douglas, Eric Loy, Lauren Shipp, B.S.N. students:** Evidence-Based Practice for Stevens-Johnson Syndrome

**Amy Howard, Lindsey Boone, B.S.N. students:** Effect of Dietary and Behavior Modification on Reducing Childhood Overweight

\* **Sonya Lichtenstein, B.S.N. student:** The Role of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner in Lexington, Kentucky

**Evelyn Parrish, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., C.S., Ph.D. student:** Strategies Used by Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nurses in Treating Adults With Depression

\* **Mohannad AbuRuz, R.N., M.S.C., B.S.C., Ph.D. candidate:** Anxiety Can Be Measured Quickly and Reliably in Patients Hospitalized for Acute Myocardial Infarction

**Maria Sanker, Carolyn Twehues, B.S.N. students:** Effects of Working with Livestock on Farm Women

**Jia Rong Wu, M.S.N., B.S., Ph.D. student:** Factors Influencing Medication Adherence in Patients With Heart Failure

**Nancy York, M.S., R.N., Ph.D. candidate:** Community Readiness for Smoke-Free Policy Change in Kentucky

The College thanks the faculty and students who organized the event: **Assistant Professor Mary DeLetter, Associate Professor Patricia Burkhart, Lecturer Karen Butler, Associate Professor Debbie Reed, Lecturer Jessica Wilson, B.S.N. student Demetrius Abshire, and Lecturer Kristin Ashford (Ph.D. student).** Finally, thanks to **Dean Carolyn Williams** for her continued generosity and support in making this program possible and successful.

### \* Showcase winners

*Lindsey Justice, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Dorothy Brockopp, and  
Jennifer English*



*Lynne Jensen and Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship and Professor Lynne Hall*



*Carol Crabtree and Assistant Dean Julie Sebastian*



*Mohannad AbuRuz and Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship and Professor Lynne Hall*



## Selected grant news

**Assistant Professor Misook Chung** received a K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Career Development Grant in the amount of \$280,961 for a three-year period from the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health, titled, **“Impact of Family Distress and Burden on Patients Outcomes in Heart Failure.”** Her mentors for the study and training component are Professor Debra Moser and Associate Professor Mary Kay Rayens. The purpose of this longitudinal study is to examine the impact of family caregivers’ psychological distress on quality of life and physical health outcomes of adults with heart failure. A total of 180 heart failure patient-family dyads will complete questionnaires about emotional distress, caregiver burden, and quality of life. Patients will be followed for one year to collect rehospitalization and mortality data. This grant will allow Chung to obtain advanced knowledge about patient-family dynamics and psychological distress and to receive the training necessary to develop family intervention programs and conduct a longitudinal clinical outcome study.

**Professor Debra Moser**, Linda C. Gill Chair in Nursing, and colleagues from the University of California - San Francisco and the University of California - Davis, received a \$3.5 million grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health. The title of their study is, **“Improving Self Care Behavior and Outcomes in Rural Patients with Heart Failure.”** Moser is the site principal investigator for Kentucky. The study will include three rural sites (eastern, northern, and western Kentucky). Self-monitoring and timely response by heart failure patients to worsening symptoms caused by fluid overload (the primary reason for hospital readmissions) are important to minimize myocardial damage. However, patients often ignore symptoms or are reluctant to seek care. Disease management models have improved outcomes but are limited to major urban centers. These programs are also based on treatment guidelines for systolic heart failure and not patients who suffer from diastolic heart failure. Thus, the purpose of this study is to test the effects on clinical outcomes (heart failure -related hospital readmissions, mortality, heart failure severity, quality of life, self-care monitoring and behaviors, care-seeking behaviors, patient knowledge and cost) of two doses of an education intervention focused on fluid weight management designed specifically for rural patients. If effective, this intervention would be broadly applicable and lend valuable insight about treatment of heart failure in rural settings. Self monitoring and timely response to symptoms by heart failure patients is important to minimize heart damage. The intervention tested here could help patients with HF in rural areas avoid hospitalizations.

**Associate Professor Debbie Reed** received \$342,987 in continued funding for five years for phase two of the **“Nurse Agriculture Health Education Project.”** Reed's project is part of the National Institute for Occupational Safety

and Health (NIOSH) renewal for the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention, in the College of Public Health. In 2001 NIOSH funded the Nurse Agriculture Education Project, a five-year endeavor focused on improving the agricultural health and safety knowledge base of nurses in the southern U.S. The project implemented a listserv for nurses, provided limited funded opportunities in agricultural health and safety for nurse scholars and nurse faculty, and supplied guest lectures for campuses that did not include agricultural health as part of their nursing curriculum. The second phase will respond to input from stakeholders by expanding beyond the southeast and developing a national network of nurses with expertise in agricultural health, and by targeting undergraduate nurse scholars to work alongside seasoned nurse researchers in internships focused on agricultural health and safety. The intended goals of the project are to increase nurses’ knowledge of agricultural health hazards, form a nurse-based agricultural health group, and foster nurse-led agricultural health research and clinical practice in transdisciplinary teams. The aims of this project are to: increase the agricultural health and safety knowledge of nurse educators, researchers, and nurse students; provide formats for the training of nurse educators and researchers about agricultural illness/injury prevention; provide opportunities for students to participate in agricultural health research based on nursing principles; develop a networked cadre of agricultural health nurses; and determine how nurse educators use agricultural health context within their undergraduate and graduate curricula in nursing.

**Associate Professor Deborah Reed**, principal investigator, and Dr. Terry Bunn, co-investigator (College of Public Health) received a \$20,000 UK Faculty Research Support Grant for their study, **“Outcomes of Non-Motor Vehicle Crash Work Injuries to Commercial Truck Drivers.”** The purpose of this pilot study is to develop a case-based compendium of stories of injured truck drivers. These data will support an R21 and an R01 that will be submitted to the National Institutes of Health to develop and test a translational intervention research project using narrative simulations to reduce trucker injury.

**Professor Ellen Hahn** and her research team were awarded \$30,000 in funding from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. The award will support the **Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy** which is housed in the College of Nursing. These funds will be used to match community grant funds and support the Center's fall conference.

**Associate Professor Ruth “Topsy” Staten, Professor Ann Peden, and Instructional Technology Manager Brenda Ghalian**, received a \$5,250 technology and teaching innovation grant from the Teaching and Academic Support Center. The grant, **“Improving Distance Learning with Desktop Video Conferencing in the Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing Track,”** will enable students to remain in their home locations for clinical psychotherapy supervision and improve use of distance learning strategies.

## Selected publications

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- Burkhart, P.V., & Rayens, M.K.** (2005). Self-concept and health locus of control: Factors related to children's adherence to recommended asthma regimen. *Pediatric Nursing*, 31(5), 404-409.
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- Crobsy, R., Miller, K., **Staten, R.**, & Noland, M. (2005). Prevalence and correlates of HIV testing among college students: An exploratory study. *Sexual Health*, 1(2), 19-22.
- Daniels, J.** (2005). Weight and weight concerns: Are they associated with reported depressive symptoms in adolescents? *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, 19(1), 33-41.
- Daniels, J.** (2006). Obesity: America's epidemic. *American Journal of Nursing*, 106, 40-49.
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- DeJong, M.J., Moser, D.K., & Chung, M.L.** (2005). Predictors of health status for heart failure patients. *Progress in Cardiovascular Nursing*, 20, 155-162.
- Doering, L.V., **Moser, D.K.**, Lemankiewicz, W., Luper, C., & Khan, S. (2005). Depression, healing, and recovery from coronary artery bypass surgery. *American Journal of Critical Care*, 14, 316-324.
- Dracup K., McKinley S., Riegel B., Mieschke H., Doering L.V., & **Moser D.K.** (2006) A nursing intervention to reduce prehospital delay in acute coronary syndrome: A randomized clinical trial. *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 21(3), 186-193.
- El-Mallakh, P.** (2006). Evolving self-care in individuals with schizophrenia and diabetes mellitus. *Archives of Psychiatric Nursing*, 20(2), 55-64.
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# 2006 reunion

included breakfast and conversation with new dean

*Dean Jane Kirschling*



*From the Class of 1966, from left to right: Sherry Warden, Mary Jane Dillard, Marilyn Bryant, Marianne Olson, Vicki Gorman, Charlotte Noe, and Bessie McCord.*



*From the Class of 1976, from left to right: Laura Riddle, Laura Proctor, and Lee Ann Street.*

The 2006 homecoming/reunion for the UK College of Nursing had all the necessary elements of a great reunion - catching up with “old” classmates, awards for outstanding alumni, and having a lot of fun in the process. The graduating classes of 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986 and 1996 all had members of their classes at the Friday night reception. They had great fun filling in the years since they graduated.

The new dean of the College of Nursing, Jane Kirschling, welcomed all to “Breakfast with the Dean” and shared her vision for the future of the College, which included being part of President Lee Todd’s Top 20 Plan. Already our College is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as being 29th among all colleges/schools of nursing and 20th among public programs. Dean Kirschling also announced plans for increasing admissions to the four-year, traditional B.S.N. program.

The Reunion weekend continued with dinner and a lot of fun in the Phoenix Room at Keeneland, Lexington’s internationally known thoroughbred race course.

## Alumni Association presents awards

Two awards were presented by the College of Nursing Alumni Association during its annual alumni reunion in October 2006.

Associate Professor **Debbie Reed**, Ph.D., R.N., C., M.S.P.H., is the winner of the 2006 Research Award.

Lynne Hall had this to say of Reed: "Dr. Reed epitomizes the criteria for this award. She has received approximately \$3 million in extramural research funding as the Principal Investigator and published 24 data-based research manuscripts in a variety of nursing and interdisciplinary journals. She has disseminated her research findings via 32 international, 58 national, nine regional, and 15 state/local presentations to a wide range of audiences. She has also received numerous honors and awards that attest to her skill, expertise, and stature as a nurse researcher."



The main focus of her research has been the safety, injury prevention, and health of agricultural workers.

She has a Master of Science in Public Health from UK in addition to her B.S.N., M.S.N., and Ph.D. (1996), from the College of Nursing. She is an outstanding nurse researcher and educator, and always has been a credit to the College.

**Elizabeth E. Weiner**, Ph.D., R.N., B.C., F.A.A.N., was presented with the Outstanding Alumna Award. She is senior associate dean for educational informatics, professor of informatics, and associate director of the International Nursing Coalition for Mass Casualty Education at the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing.

She began her professional career as a surgical nurse at Saint Joseph Hospital in Lexington. From there she went on to various leadership positions at the University of Cincinnati while completing her doctoral degree at the UK College of Nursing.



She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and has a long list of awards and honors including being listed in Who's Who in American Nursing.

Weiner is considered a pioneer in informatics and technology as it is applied to nursing. Her recent interest in bioterrorism, emergency preparedness, and disaster response has brought her back to UK to teach a College of Nursing continuing education workshop.

She received her B.S.N. in 1975 and a Ph.D. in 1982 in Higher Education and Social and Philosophical Studies. Both degrees were awarded by UK.

## More 2006 reunion pictures!



*Associate Professor Ruth "Topsy" Staten and Professor Ann Peden with Bessie McCord from the Class of 1966.*



*Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship and Professor Lynne Hall, Associate Professor Debbie Reed, and Assistant Clinical Professor Emeritus Ruth Berry*



*Dean Kirschling, Brian Hill, Karen Hill (alum), and Kim Horne (president of the College of Nursing Alumni Association), share some laughs at Keeneland.*

# 2005 Reunion

showcased new clinical lab facility, faculty projects



*Six members of the class of 1975 had great fun laughing about the past and sharing stories of the present. Pictured here left to right are Denise Alvey, Ann Jones, Jan Gross, Elaine Haskins, Peggy Littrell and Lisa Barton.*



*Now, here are some alums and an associate dean that "got the memo" to wear red! From left to right: Kim Horne, Delanor Munson, Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship and Professor Lynne Hall, Marcia Roark, and Nancy Bronner.*



*Mary Jayne Miller, nursing instructor and clinical simulation coordinator, explains some of the new features and equipment in the new lab facility.*

Ninety people participated in one or more activities that were planned for the annual College of Nursing reunion in October 2005. A continuing education program featured some of the outstanding faculty of the College where they presented their projects in a fast-paced program that was entertaining as well as enlightening. The annual dinner, a tour of area horse farms, and a presentation in the new clinical simulation facility were all part of the fun-filled weekend.

Alums were amazed at the computerized patients and state-of-the-art technology now available to students in the newly renovated clinical simulation facility. Comments such as "I never dreamed it was this close to reality. I can see how the students can practice and become confident before they work

with real patients. I wish we had this kind of opportunity. It would have helped so much."

The College of Nursing Alumni Association gives awards to outstanding alumni every year. Congratulations went to the three recipients for 2005, Lorelei Fray, Melinda Blair, and Eula Spears.

The First Decade Award was presented to Lorelei Fray, B.S., 2000, M.S.N., 2004. Lorelei has been a nurse in the mother/baby unit at Lexington's Central Baptist Hospital since 1999. Her love for nursing and patients extends beyond the bedside into the community. She is active in her church and is involved in annual medical mission trips to third world countries.

Co-workers and supervisors have described Lorelei as a

great nurse, reliable, and always available to work when and where needed. One co-worker stated, "If I were sick, I would want Lorelei taking care of me."

The Education Award went to Melinda Lee Blair, M.S.N., 2004. Mendy is currently employed as the director of education at Central Baptist Hospital. She has been a key individual in developing a new leadership initiative for the hospital called the Evolving Leader Program, which promotes mentoring and education as a basis for developing new leaders.

She was recognized by her peers nationally for her expertise and leadership by being selected as Educator of the Year for 2005 by the National Staff Development Association.

The 2005 Outstanding Alumni Award Community and Professional Service was presented to Eula Spears, R.N., B.S.N., M.S. (B.S.N., 1965). Eula Spears has been a nurse for more than 40 years. The majority of her practice is in community and professional service.

One of her nominators said, "In many ways Eula exemplifies the best in community and professional service." Before she was in community health, Eula had experience in medical/surgical, obstetrical/gynecological, and college health nursing.

She has used her wealth of experience in teaching positions in health care settings and nursing degree programs. She has served as a preceptor for four-year nursing programs, acute and tertiary medical practices, community assessment, and research projects. She has numerous publications in the nursing literature.

In 2005, after many years with the Kentucky Department of Health, Eula accepted a new position at the University of Kentucky College of Public Health as the assistant dean for practice and service.



*Assistant Professor Melanie Hardin-Pierce demonstrates how realistic CPR can be performed on SimMan, a computer-driven simulated patient.*

## What's new with you?

*Stephanie Hamilton, B.S.N. 2003, won the 2005 Nurse of the Year Award from the pediatrics unit at Frazier Rehabilitation and Neuroscience Institute in Louisville, Ky., where she serves as charge nurse and house supervisor. She precepts University of Louisville undergraduate nursing students and plans to begin work on a master's degree in nursing education in 2006 following her wedding. She also teaches part time for the nursing program at Bellarmine University.*

Keep up with what your classmates are doing. Send your professional news to: Terry Green, University of Kentucky College of Nursing Alumni Association, 315 College of Nursing Bldg., Lexington, KY 40536-0232, or e-mail tgreen@uky.edu.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name at graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

UK degree(s) and year(s) awarded \_\_\_\_\_

Your news \_\_\_\_\_

## Ph.D. graduate wins Lyman T. Johnson Award

Jennifer Hatcher, Ph.D., R.N., (Ph.D. August 2006), was awarded the Torch of Excellence Award at the 16th Annual Lyman T. Johnson Homecoming Awards Banquet. Each college has the opportunity to nominate a current student for the Torch Bearer Award and an alumnus for the Torch of Excellence award.

Hatcher is an assistant professor with the UK College of

Nursing. She is committed to the elimination of health disparities for underserved and minority populations. Her dissertation, titled, “The Mental Health of African American Women,” addressed one such important inequity. Her current research focuses on the disparate rates of breast



cancer experienced by African American women. This work has been presented nationally for the American Public Health Association, Association of Black Nursing Faculty, Southern Research Nursing Society, and National Institutes of Health.

*Ph.D. graduate Jennifer Hatcher was awarded the Lyman T. Johnson Torch of Excellence.*

Jennifer is a member of several professional organizations and committees: the National Black Nurses Association, the Association of Black Nursing Faculty, the Healthy Kentucky Advisory Committee, the American Public Health Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and the Southern Research Nursing Society.

Jennifer is a mentor and advocate for black students in the College of Nursing at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She is active in the community and with Consolidated Baptist Church. She also is a member of Chi Eta Phi Incorporated, a nursing sorority.

The banquet and awards are given in honor of Lyman T. Johnson, who was one of the most prominent and highly respected educators in Kentucky's history. As a teacher, humanitarian and freedom fighter, he worked tirelessly to change a brutally segregated society. In 1949, Johnson won a legal battle which resulted in the desegregation of the UK Graduate School. This landmark legal victory ultimately resulted in the opening of schools of higher education to all students, regardless of race or ethnicity.

*(See page 20 for news on the undergraduate nursing student who won the Torch Bearer's Award.)*

## Showing pride in your College... and staying warm and dry doesn't hurt!



Let everyone know you're a nurse or on your way to becoming one. Both sweatshirt styles have an embroidered UK College of Nursing logo. The umbrella has the UK logo.

**“Wildcat Blue” pullover hoodie – \$28.00**  
**Gray zip-up hoodie – \$35.00**  
**UK umbrella – \$25.00**

Items are for sale by the College of Nursing Alumni Association. All proceeds benefit the College of Nursing.

Call Terry Green at (859) 323-6635 or Lisa Galvin at (859) 323-6533 for purchasing information.

**Order today – they're going fast!**

## B.S.N. alum still protecting public health as part of local government

Linda Bowers Gorton, R.N., B.S.N., UK 1971, is serving her fourth term as Fourth District Councilmember of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG), Kentucky. On Nov. 7, 2006, she was elected county-wide to a four-year Council At-Large position.

She is also currently a staff nurse for a Lexington physician.

Gorton played a key role in the 2004 passage of Lexington's Clean Indoor Air Ordinance, the first in Kentucky, prohibiting smoking in all indoor public places.

"Working with Linda during the Smoke-free Lexington Campaign was a joy. Linda takes her role as public servant seriously, and she values the role government plays in protecting the public health," said Professor Ellen J. Hahn of the College of Nursing. Hahn is also director of the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy.

Gorton has also served on the LFUCG Health Benefits Committee, the Committee to Evaluate Options for Treatment of Persons Arrested for Public Intoxication, Budget and Finance Committee, Intergovernmental Committee (Chair), and Stormwater Oversight Committee (Chair). She is a graduate of Leadership Kentucky (2001), Leadership Lexington (2000), LFUCG Citizen Police Academy (1999) and Citizen Fire Academy (2004). Gorton and her husband, Major General Charles Gorton, USAR, have been married 35 years and have two adult children.



*"Working with Linda during the Smoke-free Lexington Campaign was a joy. Linda takes her role as public servant seriously, and she values the role government plays in protecting the public health," said Professor Ellen J. Hahn of the College of Nursing. Hahn is also director of the Kentucky Center for Smoke-free Policy.*

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# Hall of Fame Established for College...

*there shall be no higher honor.*

The Hall of Fame committee has begun the process of naming the inaugural class into the University of Kentucky College of Nursing Hall of Fame. This highest honor of the College was established in 2006 to identify distinguished and noted graduates in order to recognize their extraordinary contributions.

The five candidates being considered for this honor far exceed the criteria set forth by the Hall of Fame Committee.

The criteria for selection are:

- earned a degree from the UK College of Nursing
- established an outstanding professional career
- made significant contributions to the nursing profession
- established a distinguished reputation at local, state, national, and/or international levels, reflecting great credit and honor upon the University
- demonstrated outstanding integrity and high ethical standards

The inductees will be honored at a formal dinner on June 1, 2007 at the Signature Club of Lexington.

For additional information or to nominate someone for the next Hall of Fame inductions in 2009, contact Terry Green, director of development and alumni at the College of Nursing. She may be reached at (859) 323-6635 or by e-mail at [tgreen@uky.edu](mailto:tgreen@uky.edu).

## Save the date!

### Inaugural University of Kentucky College of Nursing Hall of Fame Induction

**Join friends and colleagues as we celebrate outstanding graduates  
of our College with the Hall of Fame Award.**

**Awards Banquet**

**Fri., June 1, 2007**

**7 p.m.**

**Signature Club of Lexington**

**Hall of Fame**

**no greater honor**

**Watch for more information in your mail.  
Don't forget to mark your calendar for this important event!**

# Comfortable with the critical...

and with each other

“I remember everything happening so fast and I was very nervous. I was still on orientation so my preceptor was coaching me on what to expect.”

Kate Underwood Fletcher, B.S.N. 1996, M.S.N. 2006, found herself on her first run as a flight nurse with UK Hospital. The call was for a baby with a pneumothorax. After it was all over, Kate realized just how much she enjoyed her job and says, “I was ready to go again!”

Jon “Fletch” Fletcher had a similar first experience. His first flight involved an intubated overdose patient. “During the flight I was overwhelmed with the environment of the aircraft. I do not think I actually touched the patient.”

Both quickly got over their initial apprehensions and have flown on countless flights, finding themselves once again comfortable with the critical.

Kate became interested in nursing during her high school years when she volunteered at Columbus Children’s Hospital. She was also lucky enough to shadow some family friends who are nurses and that cinched the decision for her.

Straight out of her B.S.N. at UK, she accepted a position in the neonatal intensive care unit at Kentucky Children’s Hospital (then UK Children’s Hospital). Talking with the flight nurses bringing in new admissions caused Kate to set a new goal – to be a flight nurse and transport sick neonates.

So after a couple of years in the NICU and another year of being a traveling nurse, Kate returned in 1999 to Kentucky Children’s Hospital and joined the neonatal/pediatric emergency transport team, always ready to climb back into the helicopter, don her helmet, fly to the next critically ill or injured child, and keep them alive and to definitive care in the UK ED, a Level 1 Trauma Center, within that “golden hour.”

As you’d expect, some patients are memorable. When Kate and her team were “toned” for a run, they would be briefed on what to expect at arrival. Sometimes it was a surprise when they arrived and things were a lot different from what they had been told. On one transport, they had a report that a baby had a rash and poor blood flow. When they arrived at

another hospital to pick up the baby, the little boy had a small red circle on his chest but it wasn’t a rash. The circle was his only area of blood flow. He had no distal or central pulses and had a capillary refill of seven-to-eight seconds. He was unresponsive and in severe septic shock.

Kate and her partner, squeezed into their miniature intensive care unit, made quick work of performing multiple interventions. Finally, the baby got his blood pressure back and the team was able to get an oxygen saturation tracing. Sadly, the baby died after arriving back at UK.

“Most of the infants and children we transport do well. The positive outcomes certainly outweigh the negative. It is very rewarding to see a child improve during the actual transport. Our team is trained to assess their needs and apply interventions to improve their condition. Many times we will arrive at a nursery to find a neonate that is in severe respiratory distress. After intubating and administering certain medications, the baby’s condition improves and I feel that I have had a direct impact on their condition.

These are the children she remembers.

Fletch has several family members who work in the health care field. His father is a pharmacist, a grandmother was a nurse, and a grandfather, uncle and cousin are pediatricians. He grew up in the shadow of his pharmacist father, going to work with him many times, and learning to love medicine. He knew his own career needed to be different, though, because he wanted to have that direct contact with patients.

One summer during college he shadowed an emergency department nurse who encouraged Fletch to go into nursing. Emergency nursing was especially attractive – Fletch loved the teamwork and fast pace. For five years he was part of the Emergency Department team at UK Chandler Hospital.

During this stint, he hit a bit of a lull. While he still enjoyed being an ED nurse, he knew he was ready for the next level. When an opportunity came to serve as an emergency transport flight nurse, he jumped at the chance and straight into the helicopter.

Fletch has his own days he'll remember.

It was September 11, 2001. UK's medical helicopters (the hospital had two at that time) were grounded, along with all other aircraft in the U.S. and Canada. His team was toned to transport a patient from southeastern Kentucky to UK. Their pilots contacted the FAA, who obtained approval from the FBI, and UK was finally allowed to fly.

Not surprisingly, Fletch doesn't remember a thing about the patient that day. What he remembers is that his helicopter was one of only two aircraft flying in this region of the U.S. He remembers the odd, eerie feeling of not seeing other aircraft, and noticing the almost silent radio.

Flight nursing is decidedly different from working in a hospital setting. Each flight presents its own unique characteristics.

Fletch says flying and working in a medical helicopter takes some getting used to. "When the aircraft lifts off you are placing your safety in someone else's hands – the pilot's. The pilots do an excellent job of evaluating the weather and safety conditions to make sure that they complete the most important aspect of the flight, to return home safely.

"While the medical crew and pilot are able to talk using the microphones and headsets in the helmets, communication with the patient can be difficult due to the loud background noise of the aircraft. The tight quarters of the aircraft can make it difficult to perform patient care, so careful planning before liftoff can make the flight go much smoother," he says.

However, taking care of injured or sick patients does require rapid intervention, so many procedures are performed in flight. Flight nurses have advanced practice skills and do things that a nurse in a regular ED setting would not do, such as chest tube insertion and central line placement.

Fletch thinks of flight nursing as a totally different mindset – to arrive at a scene and have to make decisions on what actions to take (or not take), based on experience and protocols written by a medical director. "Overwhelmed" is how he felt many times when he was thanked by a patient's family for "saving their life."



Kate finds that flight nurses are highly regarded by physicians and other nurses. "People look at you and know that you fly on the helicopter," she says, "although I've been asked crazy questions as to whether I am a mechanic, astronaut, or pilot." She appreciates the autonomy a flight nurse has, and knows that the physicians and nurses in the hospitals listen and value their opinions and decisions.

So what's next for this pair? Kate finished with her M.S.N. here at UK, with a specialty in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Track. She loves her current job but is staying open to other opportunities, thinking she might like to work in a children's ED as a nurse practitioner, or even in a clinic setting where she can follow the same patients.

Fletch, while no longer at UK, began the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the University of Cincinnati in the fall of 2005. He is looking forward to graduation in December 2007.

Readers may notice Kate and Fletch share a last name. They were married in July 2005. Kate says that all through their bachelor's program, she always knew who Fletch was, but she was shy and didn't make an effort to get to know him. (Fletch is the outgoing one.) When they both began working on the flight team, they got to know each other a little better.

Kate still remembers how Fletch first asked her out. "I think he had been waiting until the end of the shift but suddenly got toned for a gun shot wound to the chest. He quickly asked me out and then loaded into the aircraft as the pilot was preparing for liftoff."

A friendship grown from love of their jobs grew to a love for each other. Two special nurses are happy to have someone to talk with at the end of the day who understands this business... of being comfortable with the critical.



*Photo reprinted by permission of Todd Pellowe.*

## M.S.N. grad practicing, teaching...and is a children's book author

We love to hear from our alums and what they're doing after graduation. Following is a recent e-mail Professor Marcia Stanhope received from a May 1999 public health nursing M.S.N. graduate. Let's hear from you next!

*Hey former UK professors!*

*This is Tristan Roberts Perry, nursing class of 1999. Remember me? I took classes from all of you at one point or another at the UK Center for Rural Health in Hazard. I hope this e-mail finds you all doing well. Congratulations on your many professional accomplishments.*

*I thought you might be interested in an update about me. About two months after graduating from the M.S.N. program, my husband, Will, got a job transfer within the National Weather Service to Virginia. This move placed us closer to family. So we've lived in Christiansburg, Va., for seven years now.*

*During that time, I've earned a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, practiced gerontological nursing, taught at Radford University in the nursing program for two years, and assisted the American Cancer Society with program evaluation projects.*

*While I continue to practice clinically, the coolest thing to happen to me is the very recent publication of a children's chapter book, Furry Tails: The Adventures of Cinnamon Persimmon. I'm so excited.*

*Anyway, I've been emailing my former profs, telling them what's happening. Just wanted to say that the UK program, stringent as it was, prepared me well for my other academic endeavors - particularly in the areas of critical thinking and writing/communication. It's a notch above!*

*Take care,  
Tristan*



## Alum's leadership success leads to magnet status at local hospital

Under the leadership of UK College of Nursing alumna Karen S. Hill, R.N., M.S.N., C.N.A.A., F.A.C.H.E., vice president/nurse executive at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, the achievement of magnet status at Central Baptist in October 2005 was an organizational and nursing



success. Outcomes such as high patient satisfaction with nursing care, excellent physician/nurse communication and the retention of experienced nurses are the result of teamwork and support from all disciplines within the hospital.

One of the many collaborative initiatives is the PEN (Partnership in Education and Nursing) program. It forges stronger relationships with regional schools of nursing, including the UK College of Nursing. Through the program, funded by gifts from the hospital auxiliary to nursing administration, over \$400,000 has been allocated for nursing student scholarships and awards.

A hospital-based skills lab was constructed and a full-time nursing educator works with students and new nurses at Central Baptist to enhance skill development. A secondary outcome of the recruitment efforts has been a nursing vacancy rate of less than three percent for more than two years and a gradual increase in the average years of nursing experience of the 900 nurses on staff to more than 13 years each.

Key to the awarding of magnet status is demonstration of the opportunity for nursing staff members to have input into department and hospital-wide activities and programs. Each unit at Central Baptist Hospital has a team of staff who work with the leader to have input into issues such as staff scheduling requests, the development of new programs and services, and community service projects. Staff nurses also have the opportunity to participate on hospital-wide teams including those which seek to improve patient care, such as the development of our new Chest Pain Emergency Service and the stroke response team, created in 2004, which has resulted in national recognition for the stroke program.

The nurses at Central Baptist have taken great pride in this national recognition of nursing excellence.

Hill, a native of Lexington, graduated from Lexington Technical Institute with an associate degree in nursing in 1978, and was awarded her bachelor's (1987) and master's (1990) degrees in nursing from the UK College of Nursing. Hill has worked at Central Baptist Hospital for more than 22 years as a staff nurse and now as the vice president/nurse executive. She is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, holds advanced certification in nursing administration, is a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow, and likes to write and publish articles focused on leadership.

# A letter from your alumni association president

Dear UK College of Nursing Alum,

I want to say “thanks” for all that you do for the students of the College. We are having a terrific year and the students are really benefiting from all that we have to offer.

We began last October with a showcase of the faculty and happenings in the College – WOW! They presented their research endeavors and integration of evidenced-based practice. We honored fellow alumni members with awards as we do annually. It is great to have the opportunity to recognize worthy individuals for their hard work in a profession that often does not get the praise and recognition that it deserves. As nurses, we are often so busy taking care of the needs of others we forget to take care of our own and ourselves.



We began a new tradition of having a White Coat Ceremony for the undergraduate students before they begin synthesis and then proceed to graduation. What a great way to begin their journey into a profession with the warm support of their alumni.

Our Third Annual Nurses Step Out event was a brunch at Spindletop Hall in the Oak Room and veranda in June 2006. It included a fashion show sponsored by Coldwater Creek, featuring CONAA members as models. There were vendors present and all attendees received a small gift from the alumni association. A very successful raffle raised \$2,000 for the purchase of white lab coats for graduating seniors. The event was such a success that we have already reserved Spindletop for the fourth Nurses Step Out event scheduled for June 2, 2007. Mark your calendars and watch your mail for more information.

As most of you are aware, Dean Carolyn A. Williams has stepped aside as dean after 22 years of service. She is an outstanding lady, a wonderful dean and always a big supporter of our alumni association. Under her leadership and guidance the College has flourished. Although we are sad to say “goodbye,” we would like to wish her well with all of her future endeavors. We honored her at the homecoming event last October, but wanted to mention again how much we love and appreciate her. It was great to hear from our new dean, Jane M. Kirschling, who spoke to the CONAA reunion group on October 28 at the Breakfast with the Dean. If you are not currently a member of the alumni association, my hope for each of you is that you will join and become involved. We look forward to your input and ideas as we continue our journey together.

– Kim Horne, UK College of Nursing Alumni Association President

## 2006 Alumni association board of directors

**President:** Kimberly Horne  
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Connie Enlow, Lexington, Ky., Class of 1989 (1995-1996)  
Tony Burgett, Lexington, Ky., Class of 1983 (1994-1995)  
Peggy Tudor, Lancaster, Ky., Class of 1973 (1993-1994)

**Executive Director:** Terry Green

**Dean:** Jane M. Kirschling

# hope

for now and the future

We **hope** your education at the College of Nursing provided you with a solid background that has enabled you to have a rewarding career as a nurse.

We **hope** you know that your alma mater is a nationally ranked college of nursing and is working every day to provide the nurses and leaders of the future.

We **hope** you will join the growing number of graduates who appreciate their education and are willing to support their alma mater by joining the UK College of Nursing Alumni Association.

## Stay CONnected... join the UK College of Nursing Alumni Association!

### Your membership fee supports the following activities of the UK CONAA:

- **Annual awards** for outstanding alumni, graduating seniors, and graduate students
- **Homecoming/reunion activities** for returning alumni
- **White lab jackets** presented to nursing students in a ceremony, which promotes ethical standards and professionalism
- **Hall of Fame of Distinguished Alumni** – newly established in 2005
- **Graduation activities**
- **Mentoring program** for undergraduate nursing students
- Development of a **Web page database** for alumni to keep in touch
- **College of Nursing merchandise** such as shirts, tote bags, and umbrellas
- **Networking opportunities** for alumni (*also known as having fun together!*)

*All activities support the mission of the UK College of Nursing. We invite you to participate today whether you live in the central Kentucky area or across the country. We need your help to accomplish the CONAA's goals of helping the College of Nursing and its students.*

## Yes...keep me CONnected!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include title, maiden name, middle initial, and credentials, please)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) and Date(s) \_\_\_\_\_

UK College of Nursing Alumni Association dues enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(annual: \$25.00; lifetime membership: \$150.00)

Please make check payable to *UK College of Nursing Alumni Association* and mail to: **UK CONAA, 315 CON Bldg., Lexington, Kentucky 40536-0232**

## Multidisciplinary team working to improve care for chronically ill patients

I just completed the University of Kentucky Doctor of Nursing Practice Program's Clinical Leadership Track. My final project dovetailed nicely with my work on a larger scale as a member of the UK Academic Chronic Care Collaborative Team, whose members represent the College of Nursing, Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Department of Internal Medicine.

As a family nurse practitioner in a busy clinical practice with mostly physician providers, I am challenged to look at the way primary care providers do their work and more importantly, how patients benefit from that work. It is apparent to all of us who work in this environment that improvements are needed, especially in the way we provide health care to persons with chronic illnesses. Specifically, I am interested in the collaborative nature of such work, and how health professionals can improve the care they provide to patients by working in multidisciplinary teams.



This interest led me to study the Chronic Care Model, a quality improvement model developed by Ed Wagner and colleagues in the late 1990s. The model has since been adopted and implemented by many organizations and health systems as a foundation for improving chronic illness care, and is currently being implemented in academic health centers across the nation.

My D.N.P. clinical project involved implementing and evaluating diabetic group visits in a primary care clinic. Testing yielded positive comments from both patients and providers, in addition to providing improved clinical outcomes. The group visit was seen as an enjoyable and effective manner in which to provide diabetes care. It focused on patient self-management, and was structured to encourage the patient to take the lead in the process of managing diabetes.

UK is one of 48 teams at 22 medical institutions and universities that participated in the Academic Chronic Care Collaborative (ACCC), a joint project between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Academy of Medical Colleges (AAMC). The goal of the ACCC initiative is to improve the care of patients with chronic illness and the educational outcomes of health professions students in the delivery of care to the chronically ill.

UK's team chose to focus on patients with diabetes, and is currently initiating two clinical system changes: developing a patient registry to track patient outcomes; and initiating diabetes group visits as an adjunct to one-on-one patient/provider visits.

The final meeting of the ACCC was held in October 2006, when the teams presented their "best practices." The UK presentation was the diabetic group visit project, which was identified as one of the outstanding team presentations. It is posted, along with other presentations, on the ACCC Web site at [www.aamc.org/patientcare/iicc/congress.htm](http://www.aamc.org/patientcare/iicc/congress.htm). Even though the collaborative's official work as a group has ended, work will continue within the academic institutions and among the national organizations to support the efforts of the collaborative.

– Assistant Professor Gwen Short, D.N.P., M.S.N., A.R.N.P.

## Ph.D. program began grad's work in promoting childhood weight management

My interest in obesity began in 1999 while working in a pediatric practice where the number of overweight children was overwhelming. There was frustration in helping their families who could not embrace the changes needed to improve their current lifestyle.

That was my impetus for entering the Ph.D. Program at the College of Nursing. Since then I have spent time exploring obesity issues from a number of perspectives and recognize that weight management is not simple, requiring effort and family support.

Currently I practice in an internal medicine-pediatric office and find opportunities to continue my area of research interest – weight management – on a daily basis. The skills I developed through my doctoral program as well as the mentoring I received have been invaluable.

I am involved in a multidisciplinary study to evaluate the attitude of health providers toward the care of obese clients. In addition I am interested in designing an intervention using Motivational Interviewing as a method for promoting readiness to begin a weight management program.

The early frustration I experienced with weight issues has since been channeled into a clinical program of research. This would not have been possible without the knowledge, skills, and collegial contacts I gained through my nursing doctoral program at UK.

– Assistant Professor Judith Daniels, Ph.D., R.N., A.R.N.P.

## Traveling Kentucky, providing diabetes education and camps for children

My area of interest is in the management of diabetes in children and in providing diabetes education for children and their parents. I've been a certified diabetes educator (C.D.E.) for 15 years and have had a clinical practice in pediatric endocrinology since 2002, where I have a collaborative partnership with two pediatric endocrinologists.

As I participate in regional traveling clinics for children with diabetes in eastern and south-central Kentucky, I find the children and their parents appreciative that they don't have to travel up to six hours round trip to see their diabetes care provider. These regional clinics also provide an opportunity for families of children with diabetes living in the same region of the state to meet and establish support relationships.



I also travel the state providing continuing education presentations on the management of diabetes in school-age children to area health professionals and participate in children's diabetes day and week-long camps in Kentucky. These camps give colleagues and me the chance to provide a safe and fun environment for children with diabetes. Unfortunately, often a child with diabetes may be the only child in the town/school with diabetes, which can result in feelings of isolation. Diabetes camps provide an opportunity for children to see that they are one of many children across the state with diabetes; thus they may gain a sense that they are not alone in their management of this disease.

Currently I am serving on a statewide diabetes coalition for the improvement of disease detection and control/management in all Kentuckians.

A related area of interest includes the presence of risk factors associated with Type 2 diabetes and its onset in children – particularly, the presence of insulin resistance and the detection of “pre-diabetes.”

I continue to tie my clinical practice in with my research interests. Recently, I received a grant from the Children's Miracle Network to develop and test a teaching tool and acanthosis nigricans grading tool for health professionals to detect and grade acanthosis nigricans in children.

Further plans for my research program include the testing of the developed tool as well as exploring management strategies for the child with diabetes on intensive insulin therapy.

– Instructor Leslie Scott, Ph.D., R.N., A.R.N.P., C.D.E.

## Jumpin' Jaguars: Working to make kids healthier

The College of Nursing has recently joined forces with the College of Medicine, the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, the YMCA, and others to improve the health of students at Lexington's Johnson Elementary school. The project, “Jumpin' Jaguars,” has three main objectives: to reduce children's risk for obesity; to improve management of asthma; and to get children interested in careers in health care.

Despite efforts to halt the childhood obesity epidemic in the U.S., prevalence rates continue to rise. The National Center for Health Statistics<sup>1</sup> reports that the percentage of overweight children and teens in America has tripled since 1980.

To address this issue, the Jumpin' Jaguars program provides an after-school program that meets twice a week for students who are at risk for being overweight. The after-school program teaches kids how to lead healthy lifestyles through fun, interactive games. Undergraduate and graduate nursing students are assisting the program in developing and teaching nutrition lessons for the students.

Some of the sessions will be spent on trips to the YMCA to exercise, using the student's one-year memberships donated by the YMCA. In addition to the gym memberships, children

who actively take part in 80 percent or more of the program will also receive a scholarship account at Community Trust Bank, based on their level of participation.

The Jumpin' Jaguars program is not limited to children – it also involves the teachers and parents at Johnson Elementary. Teachers are encouraged to use only non-food classroom rewards, such as stickers and pencils, and to increase the amount of daily physical activity by taking time throughout the day to have students exercise at their desks. Parents are invited to attend cooking classes that teach them how to cook healthy meals on a budget.

Our next objective involves improving the management of asthma. Asthma is the number one reason children are absent from school and is the leading reason why children are admitted to the hospital. To identify the students in need, parents of Johnson Elementary students were asked to complete a questionnaire that asked about frequency of symptoms associated with asthma. Students who had asthmatic symptoms or were already diagnosed with asthma were invited to participate in the asthma management program.

In this effort, students receive regular pulmonary function tests and follow-up care from a nurse practitioner and a pediatric pulmonologist. Again, parents are included in the program through participation in an asthma education workshop.

For our third objective – to get children interested in health

care careers – we integrated a mentorship program into the after-school program. College of Medicine and College of Nursing students serve as role models for kids interested in entering a health care field. One UK student is assigned to a group of four or five elementary school students to teach about healthy living. We hope that as the children get to know the UK students they will become inspired to pursue careers in health care, or to at least believe in themselves and pursue higher education.

The College of Nursing has several faculty, staff, and students involved in the project: Professor Marcia Stanhope; Elizabeth Hawkins, clinical staff nurse practitioner at Johnson Elementary School; Ph.D. candidate Lisa Pedersen Turner; B.S.N. seniors Sherese Bailey and Morganne Brackney; and M.S.N. student Nancy Barrett.

If this program is successful, the partners in Jumpin' Jaguars hope to expand to other schools in Fayette County.

– Lisa Pedersen Turner, M.S.N., R.N., Ph.D.(c)

## Congratulations to Ph.D. student – state's nurse practitioner of the year

Ph.D. student Susan Matthews was selected as the 2006 Kentucky Nurse Practitioner of the Year and awarded the 2006 State Award for Excellence by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).



“The UK College of Nursing is very proud of Susan,” said Jane Kirschling, dean of the College of Nursing. “She has been a doctoral student with the College since 2001 and has worked hard as she has progressed through the program.

We are excited for Susan as she receives these two prestigious awards.”

Susan was recognized for her accomplishments by UK President Lee Todd at a November 2006 UK men's basketball game.

The AANP annually recognizes nurse practitioners in each state who are demonstrating excellent health care delivery within their professional practice.

Ohio County, Ky., one of the few nurse practitioner-owned practices in the state. Pursuing her doctoral degree while maintaining a busy practice was a personal decision for Matthews. “I knew from the beginning that I wanted to reach the highest level that I could,” she said.

At some point, Matthews would also like to teach and pursue her research interests in diabetes management and adolescent health and risk behavior. Matthews received \$336,000 through the Kentucky Incentive Project Grant for her research project to reduce tobacco and alcohol use among adolescents.

While Matthews is honored to be recognized by her peers, she believes the award is not just about her.

“It makes me feel really good that other nurse practitioners from Kentucky took the time to recognize the hard work that I've done,” Matthews said. “I just want to see that nurse practitioners get the recognition that they deserve. It's not about me getting the recognition. I just represent nurse practitioners.”

– Ann Blackford, UK Public Relations

## Stanhope named as Edge Runner by American Academy of Nursing



In preparing for the 2006 American Academy of Nursing meeting, members were challenged to provide a few rich examples of interventions, programs, and projects that nurses have designed and used to integrate mental and physical care for patients, families, and communities.

They call these nurses Edge Runners, based on the work of health futurist and motivational speaker Leland

Kaiser. Convinced their ideas will produce results, Edge Runners push them forward – sometimes against formidable resistance. The momentum and the results often lead to necessary and permanent changes in systems and practices.

The response the Academy received after one call for nominations was overwhelming.

UK's Marcia Stanhope, D.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N., Good Samaritan Professor and Chair in Community Health Nursing, was one of 26 chosen as an Edge Runner, and one of six selected to present their projects at the annual academy meeting.

Beginning in 1996, Stanhope led the development of a multi-site integrated nursing center – the Good Samaritan Nursing Center for Health Promotion and Illness Prevention – providing post-graduate experiences for community health nurse interns and nurse practitioner fellows. Care is provided to people of all ages but with an emphasis on children and families. Physical and emotional/mental health issues are integrated not only into the care provided by nurse practitioner fellows and NP faculty and staff members, but also in the way body and mind health promotion is incorporated into health education classes, health fairs, and one-on-one coaching provided by B.S.N.-prepared community health nurse interns. For example, community health interns provided an annual series of health fairs, including one that targeted brain health and was linked with the local health department and the local children's museum's programming.

– Reprinted by permission of the American Academy of Nursing

# UK announces design for new hospital, health sciences campus

The design of the new \$450 million University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital, scheduled for completion in 2010, was publicly unveiled along with plans for a new health sciences campus that will help fuel UK's plans to become a Top 20 public research institution by 2020.

The expansion project – a new 1 million square foot UK Chandler Hospital to be finished in two phases – will allow for the step-by-step replacement of the existing hospital. Moreover, the hospital project will be the cornerstone for a new 20-year, \$2.5 billion plan on the south side of campus to construct a health sciences campus of the future that will further accelerate growth in research and health education, UK officials said.

The health sciences campus of the future will include:

- The new \$120 million pharmacy building, which will allow for an increase in student enrollment in the Top 10 ranked pharmacy program while also creating additional research space.
- Additional research buildings similar to the recently constructed Biomedical Biological Science Research Building.
- A new shared Health Sciences Learning Center, where students from different health disciplines will interact and learn together.
- Additional buildings to house the programs of the colleges of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Health Sciences and Public Health.

“This is really the beginning of dramatic, substantive and long-term change for the health sciences center and the UK

Chandler Hospital,” said Dr. Michael Karpf, UK executive vice president for health affairs. “This project will improve health care for the people of Kentucky, while also expanding the research and education agenda of the University of Kentucky and the economy of the region and state.”

The need for a new hospital facility is well-documented, given the changing nature of health care delivery and advances in health care technology, Karpf said. UK HealthCare officials expect to see 24,700 patients treated this year at UK Chandler Hospital – a 29 percent increase over the 19,098 of fiscal year 2003. From a low period in 2003, the hospital has seen a dramatic increase in patients, with the number growing more each quarter than the prior year for 10 consecutive quarters.

The increasing demand for the services provided by UK HealthCare over the past several years has spurred the need for additional staff — nurses, physicians and other medical providers. UK HealthCare has created nearly 1,300 new jobs since 2003 — an increase in the workforce of more than 26 percent.

The first phase of construction for the new hospital has begun, as crews have broken ground on a parking garage for patients and their families, slated for completion in 2007.

“Many people thought it would take many, many years to get here,” Karpf said about the construction project. “The

ultimate goal is to afford Kentuckians the peace of mind that no matter how sick they get, no matter how complex or unusual their illness is, they don't have to go to a Cleveland Clinic or Mayo for the best possible treatment. They can be taken care of in Kentucky at UK Chandler Hospital."

Along with the expansion in health care services has come a dramatic increase in health research at UK's six health sciences colleges. UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. said that for UK to reach its goal of becoming a Top 20 public research institution by 2020, the growth of the medical research enterprise will have to accelerate, prompting UK officials to begin long-range planning for a health sciences campus of the future.

In the last few years alone, health research in the UK College of Medicine has nearly doubled – expected to reach \$131 million in grants and contracts this year. The University's quest for Top 20 status among the nation's public institutions will require a significant research commitment from the academic colleges at the medical center, which account for more than 55 percent of UK's total research dollars.

"As we begin to take this slogan of being a Top 20 institution and bring it toward a reality, the medical center figures as a key component of our drive," Todd said. "The new hospital and health sciences campus of the future are going to be extremely important in helping us meet our mission, not only to meet the Top 20 challenge, but to achieve our mission to improve the lives of Kentuckians."

"One of the things that we take very seriously is our responsibility to create new knowledge, to develop the kinds of new treatments and understandings of disease, that make a difference to the people of Kentucky, and indeed the nation," said Dr. Jay A. Perman, UK College of Medicine dean. "To do that, we need to constantly attract the best medical scientists available, who are often highly sought after. They are going

to spend a good deal of their time doing research in order to create new knowledge. But, they also need to work in state-of-the-art facilities. So an outstanding new hospital, plus more academic and research space, gives us a leg up in attracting to Kentucky the very best professionals possible."

The first phase of the health sciences campus of the future will be the upcoming construction of a new UK College of Pharmacy building, scheduled to begin in 2007 with completion late in 2009.

"The new College of Pharmacy building will double the amount of our current classroom space and increase research space by about 40 percent," said Kenneth B. Roberts, UK College of Pharmacy dean. "Kentucky currently has a shortage of some 400 pharmacists in all regions of the state. Our Top 10 ranked program must grow to meet the state's needs. The UK College of Pharmacy has increased its enrollment by 50 percent since 2000, from 88 students to 132 admitted for the class entering in 2006. The new facility will enable us to continue our growth and allow us to offer these high-quality health care job opportunities to Kentuckians."

UK officials said it was important to begin planning for additional construction to accommodate the need for more research and educational space.

"Collaboration is a key factor in educating Kentucky's future health care providers," said UK Provost Kumble R. Subbaswamy. "As one of only a few universities in the nation to have all six health sciences colleges on one campus, UK is well-positioned to pursue inter-professional health care education and collaborative research. The entire Health Sciences Learning Center and Research Complex will offer unprecedented opportunities for the learning and research experience, in addition to the learning opportunities the new UK Chandler Hospital will provide for Kentucky's future doctors, nurses and allied health professionals."



*The design of the new \$450 million University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital, scheduled for completion in 2010, was publicly unveiled in June 2006 along with plans for a new health sciences campus that will help fuel UK's plans to become a Top 20 public research institution by 2020.*

# UK Chandler Hospital again designated with nursing Magnet status

Each October, UK Chandler Hospital Nursing Services celebrates Magnet designation and re-designation. This year the event was marked with several receptions, a keynote address by Jane M. Kirschling, new dean of the College of Nursing, and presentation of the Magnet Recognition Award.

College of Nursing Dean Jane M. Kirschling's presentation focused on the current and future state of the nursing profession as a foundation to validate the critical need for nurses to be life long learners and advance their education. She clearly articulated the need for the nurse to evaluate the reasons and outcomes of nursing practice in order to use nursing resources effectively and appropriately. The predicted future nursing shortage in Kentucky will mandate nursing practice models to change.

Six outstanding groups were nominated for the Magnet award, given in recognition of the team that has demonstrated excellence by creating an environment for professional practice through role modeling, coaching, teaching and advocacy.

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) was nominated by Darlene Spalding. She noted that between April 2005 and June 2006 the RRT rounded on 4,245 patients and responded to 975 calls for patients experiencing clinical decline. Of the 975, 45 percent were able to remain at their current level of care and only 37 percent required transfer to an ICU. Additionally, Code 500s outside the ICU have decreased from 40 percent to 26 percent. The RRT nurses serve as mentors and a resource for all staff. All eight of these nurses have acquired C.C.R.N. certification.

The Neonatal/Pediatric Transport Team was nominated by Shelly Marino. These nurses are all certified in B.L.S., N.R.P.,

P.A.L.S., and E.N.P.C., and are trained in ambulance and helicopter safety. They are active in outlying communities and do outreach education to our referring hospitals. They assume an active ambassador role to the Kentucky Children's Hospital when they visit these areas. When not transporting,



these nurses are available to assist with difficult children and procedures throughout the Kentucky Children's Hospital and the pediatric clinics. They are dedicated to their patients, the hospital and to each other. Quality of care is their strength.

The Markey-2 nursing staff was nominated by Patty Hughes because

they provide outstanding clinical care to the inpatient cancer population. Their unit demonstrates excellence through 100 percent compliance with JCAHO and by attaining in the 90th percentile in customer service. The nursing staff individualizes care so that regardless of disease stage or prognosis, the needs of the patients and families are met. Poor prognosis is an unfortunate commonality on this unit, but each nurse offers hope to each patient through compassion, empathy, education, and laughter. These nurses are active in the community, contribute to policy and standards development, practice evidence-based nursing, serve on many committees, and several are continuing their formal education.

The nurses on 6 Main were nominated for the Magnet Award. The nurses on this unit write they have implemented many new services to increase patient satisfaction, and consequently, their Press Ganey scores have improved. Committee representation and shared governance are key to the culture of the unit. Teamwork is yet another signature of this group. Audits have demonstrated that the commitment to quality and attention to detail are of critical importance to all nurses on 6 Main.

Nursing Staff Development, nominated by Phyllis Horn, gives 110 percent. They are the first contact for newly hired employees (nurses, techs, clerical). Their practice is well grounded in educational theory. One hallmark to their commitment to excellence is the B.S.N. Residency Program. B.S.N. retention has greatly increased as a result. The A.D.N. Support to Practice program quickly followed the B.S.N. Residency implementation. Staff Development guides practice through orientation, preceptor program, and annual competencies. No new clinical program is implemented until



*UK Chandler Hospital's Rapid Response Team is proving itself successful at keeping many patients experiencing clinical decline at their current level of care..*

staff is educated and proved competent. For example, the stroke unit required additional nursing competencies that staff development was quick to provide. Staff Development has shown great innovation by becoming a BETA site for computerized critical care classes in response to the need to do more faster, better, and with fewer resources.

The final nominee and recipient of the Magnet Award is the Markey Outpatient Cancer Services Nursing Staff. Their letters of nomination and support describe these nurses as strong patient advocates, educators, role models, and excellent care providers. They are committed to excellence:

- 73 percent of the MCCOP nursing staff are members of ONS and are active members of the Bluegrass Oncology Nursing Society
- 24 percent of the MCCOP nursing staff are Oncology Nursing Society Certified R.N.s
- 53 percent of the nursing staff have achieved Gold status on the NPA ladder

These nurses are highly involved in community services and cancer prevention. They are innovative in their care delivery model, called the Disease Team Leader (DTL) model, that assigns every patient to a team leader to manage and coordinate their care throughout treatment modalities. The DTL becomes the lifeline to immediate consultation, support, and care during treatments and between treatments when patient and family are coping at home.

All nominating letters can be found on the University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital Nursing Web site at [www.uky.edu/careweb](http://www.uky.edu/careweb).

## Collaboration benefits both College of Nursing and UK Hospital Nursing Services

The Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency Program began in 2002 as a pilot project with five other University Healthcare Consortium and baccalaureate nursing program dyads to facilitate the transition of the new graduate from student to nurse. Faculty and hospital nursing participated in the curriculum design, implementation, and evaluation measures. Faculty, hospital staff development nurses, and advanced practice nurses serve as mentors and facilitators of the program.

Since 2002, eight cohorts consisting of 226 new B.S.N. graduates have completed the year-long program. The major outcomes have been increased nurse retention at UK Chandler Hospital, greater nurse job satisfaction, a maturing of a collegial relationship between the UK College of Nursing and the hospital, significant evidence of growth in the new nurse as bedside clinical leader and the increase in evidence-based practice.

Thirty-three organizations are now participating in the program. The success of the program strongly suggests that

this eventually will become the standard expectation for all new B.S.N. graduates entering the work force.

Hospital Nursing and the College of Nursing also collaborate on UK Nursing Grand Rounds presentations. The “Art of Caring” presented in April 2006 and “Report Medication Errors and the Impact of Clinical Provider Order Entry (CPOE) and Clinical Decision (CDS)” in August 2006 were the first two statewide Grand Rounds presentations via telehealth technology.

The Grand Rounds initiative was conceived, designed, and implemented through College of Nursing and Hospital Nursing teamwork. Six programs will be presented annually, addressing topics identified by nurses in the state as needs. Presenters will represent the College and the Hospital. Following each live presentation, the program can be viewed online. Two presentations are posted thus far: <http://www.mc.uky.edu/uknursing/ngr1/ngr1.htm> and <http://www.mc.uky.edu/uknursing/ngr2/ngr2.htm>.

The College and Hospital Nursing also have been working together to design and pilot the Clinical Nurse Leader (C.N.L.) educational curriculum as well as a practice model to test the role developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in partnership with clinical nurse executives. The C.N.L. master’s curriculum is predicted to provide advanced education and leadership skills to the bedside nurse. The official implementation date is yet to be determined.

The Second Degree program resulted from collaboration of the College and local hospital nursing leaders in response to the rapidly growing need for nurses to staff the local agencies. Similar programs throughout the country have been very successful and have been in demand from prospective students. The program began in summer 2004. Currently, 46 students are enrolled and 12 have graduated.

Yet another partnership initiative has been the grant-funded Nursing Management Administrative Track in the M.S.N. program. Hospital nursing leadership throughout Lexington identified a need for advanced education to prepare nurses for leadership roles. UK Chandler Hospital formally submitted a supporting letter for grant funding and participated in curriculum development. Currently, 12 students are enrolled.

The College of Nursing has been very sensitive to the staffing needs of the Hospital in specific specialties and has responded to a critical need for neonatal nurse practitioners (N.N.P.) in the Kentucky (UK) Children’s Hospital. Through collaborations with the University of Louisville, the College now offers an Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Track in the master’s program. Two nurses are enrolled.

## College begins 2007 with new administrative structure

It is a dynamic and exciting time to be part of the University of Kentucky and College of Nursing. Working along with President Lee Todd to become a Top 20 public institution by 2020, we have the opportunity to assure that all areas of the College excel: our academic programs, research and scholarship efforts, and practice and community engagement. Building on the strong foundation laid under the leadership of former Dean Carolyn Williams, Dean Kirschling is pleased to announce the following administrative appointments.



**Lynne A. Hall, R.N., Dr.P.H.**  
**Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship**

Professor Hall received her Dr.P.H. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include social support, stress, and depression in vulnerable populations; single-parent families; and the effect of mothers' mental health on child outcomes. She has been a faculty member since 1985 and was previously assistant dean for research and the Ph.D. Program. Hall is also the Marcia A. Dake Professor of Nursing Science.



**Dorothy Y. Brockopp, R.N., Ph.D.**  
**Associate Dean for Academic Affairs**

Professor Brockopp was awarded her Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her research interests include the psychological and spiritual well-being of cancer patients with a focus on acute and chronic pain. She has been a faculty member since 1988 and was previously the assistant dean for the undergraduate program. Brockopp has also been chair of the (UK) President's Commission on Women since 2003.



**Patricia V. Burkhart, R.N., Ph.D.**  
**Director of the Undergraduate Program**

Associate Professor Burkhart joined the College of Nursing in 1999. Her research interests are in self-management of childhood asthma; adherence to treatment; and peak flow monitoring. She is also credited with beginning the College's Undergraduate Research Intern Program. Burkhart received her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh.



**Patricia B. Howard, R.N., Ph.D., C.N.A.A.**  
**Director of the Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice Programs**

Associate Professor Howard has been with the College since 1992 and also received her Ph.D. from the College of Nursing. Her research interests include family caregiving; persistent mental illness; and advanced practice psychiatric/mental health nursing. For the past decade, she has been a consultant and researcher on several projects at the Kentucky Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services.



**Terry A. Lennie, R.N., Ph.D.**  
**Director of the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Program**

Associate Professor Lennie received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has been part of the College's faculty since 2003. His research interests include determining the optimal diets for patients with cardiovascular disease. He is co-director of the RICH (Research and Interventions for Cardiopulmonary Health) Heart Program at the College of Nursing.

*To learn more about career opportunities in the College of Nursing, including the associate dean for practice and community engagement and tenure-track faculty positions, visit [www.uky.edu/HR/employ/faculty.html](http://www.uky.edu/HR/employ/faculty.html).*