Celebrating 50 Years

1st of 3 Commemorative 50th Anniversary Covers

1956-1969

The Early Years

GATOR NURSES

50 YEARS

care lead inspire

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF NURSING

1st of 3 Commemorative 50th Anniversary Covers
THE GATOR NURSE

A UF health center had been contemplated since at least the early 1940s, when the university’s third president, John J. Tigert, MA, began discussing the idea publicly.

A 1947 study recommended establishing schools of medicine, nursing and dentistry at UF. In April 1949, the Legislature authorized creation of medical and nursing schools, but offered no funding.

Newly arrived UF President J. Hillis Miller, PhD was intent on establishing the schools. The turning point came in April 1953 when the Legislature appropriated $5 million to the building project. Then, in early 1955 the Legislature appropriated $8.6 million for construction of a teaching hospital.

As construction progressed, the College of Nursing took shape. In November 1955, Dorothy M. Smith, MEd, a professor at Duke University, was hired to serve as the college’s first dean. Much like the College of Medicine Dean George T. Harrell, Dean Smith was an idealist, with progressive notions on how best to educate students.

A 1960s Health Science Center newsletter article highlights a day in the life of a student nurse.

But those were not the only reasons Smith was an ideal dean, added Jodi Irving, MS, ARNP, a UF Assistant Professor of Nursing who arrived at the College in 1970.

“She already had the clinical perspective from her previous work, plus she had administrative talent,” Irving said. “Her association with the National League for Nursing gave her a national view of nursing and the state of nursing education for the times. Additionally, she had the right mix of intellect, courage, assertiveness and ‘brashness’ to move nursing education into academia.”

In the 1950s, nursing had reached a critical point with the rapid advance of medicine and technology and countless numbers of new health professions that had evolved to help deal with the shortage of nurses during World War II. Salaries were similar for nurses from any program whether baccalaureate, associate degree and diploma nurses. Few baccalaureate nursing programs were fortunate enough to have all the needed clinical facilities co-located in the university campus.
Many programs offered the BSN degree without having a nursing major in the upper division. Many were longer than four years, and most hung onto the antiquated apprenticeship model. The UF College of Nursing founders possessed a different, exuberant vision.

Dorothy Smith envisioned the University of Florida College of Nursing offering a new kind of nursing program—where nursing education, research and practice were fully integrated, so that nursing would assume its responsibilities of meeting the health needs of society. Dean Smith’s philosophy was that nursing was an intellectual, scientific process designed to humanistically care for people.

She also believed that those who teach nursing should be directly involved in it. While Dean of the College, she served as chief of nursing practice at Shands Hospital and staff nurses there became able role models for students. Smith was a leader in launching a huge effort focused on nursing assessment and worked to develop a new technology known as the clinical assessment database.

The inauguration of the Unit Manager System in the Teaching Hospital and Clinics drew the attention of the hospital and the entire nursing profession allowing the nurses to give more time to patient care.

The legacy of the College of Nursing laid the groundwork for advanced nursing practice and the shift in nursing research to clinical effectiveness and outcomes.

“This quiet, unassuming woman demonstrated great courage and the ability to change the outdated traditions of professional nursing,” said Gloria Weber Calhoun, DSN, APRN, a graduate of the College of Nursing’s first class and now a clinical associate professor of nursing at Vanderbilt University.

“Our unspoken curriculum encouraged the attitudes and values of personal power, especially for women. Dean Smith demonstrated this through her behaviors and ability to think outside the box.”

Groundbreaking for the Teaching Hospital took place in April 1956, as the opening date for the Health Center approached. Twenty-five applicants were accepted to the College of Nursing’s first class.

“The J. Hillis Miller Medical Center was built while we were students and much of our ‘practical’ learning took place at Alachua County Hospital,” said Liz Segal Williams, a member of the first class. “I remember choosing our uniforms and caps with pins and...
designing our University of Florida College of Nursing Pin. The caps were actually detachable collars from another uniform we rejected."

The College of Nursing graduated its first class on June 5, 1960, awarding Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees to 25 students.

“Our graduates were strong women who did not let people walk all over them,” said Carol Hayes-Christiansen, MSN, a Professor Emeritus who served on faculty from 1957 to 1987, in her oral history. “They did not go into any institution or agency with the idea that they were going to just do what everybody had always done before.”

Early in 1959, planning was begun for the development of a graduate program in nursing. The program was first located in the College of Education, leading to a Master’s of Education degree. In May 1964, the College received approval to offer a program of graduate study leading to the Master of Nursing degree. Students were admitted to this program in fall 1964. By 1967, the program had grown from 1 graduate to 30.

In the 1960s, the Joint Appointment/Unification model evolved as the Director of Nursing for Shands Teaching Hospital was appointed as the Assistant Dean for the College of Nursing.

By 1967 the College of Nursing’s budget had grown from $160,000 (with $1 of each $30 coming from federal grant funds) to...
almost $500,000, with approximately $1 in every $4 coming from federal grant funds, for the primary support of research.

“I think one thing would be that basically everybody who started here, wanted this place to succeed. There was nobody dragging their feet or throwing stumbling blocks in the way. I think one of the biggest things we did was to work through things as a group. Not everybody gets a chance to start a new program. It really was very exciting—to work with a group of people that were interested in what you had to say,” said Professor Emeritus Jennet Wilson, who served on faculty from 1957 to 1981.

By the end of the 1960s, the College of Nursing was well underway toward its ultimate goals. The Quonset Hut dream had become a reality, and was growing.

1966
- May – Master of Nursing degree established at University of Florida
- November – Alpha Theta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau established
- July – Civil Right Act of 1964 After long fight, Civil Rights legislation of 1964 was passed, giving federal government broad powers to fight discrimination of all kinds

1965
- August – First candidate of graduate program receives MN Degree.
- January – Grant approved to develop programmed instruction in medical-surgical nursing
- February – Grant approved for exchange program of nurses and doctors between the Universidad del Valle Medical Center, Cali, Colombia, and the University of Florida
- March – Grant approved for a development program for nursing leaders: Lucille Mercandante (Public Health Service). First research article published: “The Measurement of Anxiety in Sophomore Nursing Students Using Zuckerman’s AACL” by Carol Hayes in Nursing Research
- May – Continued accreditation granted by the National League of Nursing for the baccalaureate program and initial accreditation for the master’s program
- July – Dr. Joan O’Brien appointed Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

1968
- April – Martin Luther King, Jr. Assassinated A lone assassin, James Earl Ray, kills Dr. Martin Luther King, America’s leading civil rights activist
- August – Woodstock Over 400,000 people attend the Woodstock Music and Art Festival with performances by Jimi Hendrix, Joan Baez, Joe Cocker, The Who and the Grateful Dead. Woodstock represented the culmination of the counterculture of the 1960s and the high point of the “hippie era”
As our country’s population continues to age, so grow the worries of many who lack faith in the quality and safety of the U.S. health care system. This year’s conference theme, “Quality: the Critical Variable in Health Care,” attracted national experts and leaders in nursing and health-care administration who discussed issues affecting quality in patient care, including the nursing shortage and quality patient outcomes. The conference took place January 19-20, 2006 and was presented by the College of Nursing and the Thomas M. and Irene B. Kirbo Charitable Trust (co-sponsored by Florida Hospital and Shands at the University of Florida, Golden Anniversary Underwriting Sponsors).

The keynote speaker was Linda H. Aiken, PhD, RN, a UF College of Nursing alumna and Director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Aiken spoke on saving lives through investments in nursing and reflected upon the history of patient safety and quality in health care.

“Quality has long been a cornerstone of professional nursing. The origins of contemporary quality can be traced to Florence Nightingale’s research describing variation in outcomes for hospitalized patients in Crimea,” Dr. Aiken said. “While quality has become a mantra in health care, there is less understanding of the important role of nurses in producing high quality care.”

Dr. Aiken highlighted the problems in patient safety that exist in modern hospitals and how nurse workloads and environments, burnout and inexperience contribute to latent errors. However, she warned against trying to fill only the number of available hands and noted that as the education level of nursing staffs increase, patient mortality goes down.

“We could improve the level of poor outcomes in our hospital if we could move to a more educated work force,” Dr. Aiken said. “This, coupled with improving nurse practice environments and staffing ratios, could save hospitals tens of thousands of lives annually.”
Also speaking at the conference were Audrey Nelson, PhD, RN, Director of Patient Safety Center of Inquiry and Associate Director of Nursing Service for Research at the James A. Haley Veterans Administration Medical Center in Tampa. She spoke about how nursing research can promote quality outcomes for patients. Dr. Nelson specifically discussed research at the point of care in hospitals and health care settings.

Polly Bednash, PhD, RN, Executive Director of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, explored how nursing education will shape the future of our health care system. She challenged the students, faculty, alumni and practicing nurses in the audience to improve the quality of our health care system and stressed the important link between quality and health professions education.

Susan V. White, PhD, RN, the associate chief for nursing services and quality improvement at the James A. Haley Tampa VA Medical Center, gave a comprehensive view of the magnet movement and its role in improving the quality of patient care, a position echoed by Dr. Aiken.

A panel discussion with nursing leaders Rose Rivers, PhD, RN, CNAA, the Vice President for Nursing and Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer from Shands at UF, Sharon Mawby, MSN, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist from Shands Jacksonville and Joan Shinkus Clark, CNAA, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer at Baptist Health in Miami, featured an interactive dialogue on outcomes from the magnet status process, an award given to hospitals that satisfy a rigorous set of criteria designed to measure the strength and quality of their nursing.

Dr. Doug Barrett and Dean Kathleen Ann Long officially kicked off the College of Nursing’s 50th anniversary with a special ceremony where the commemorative anniversary banner was celebrated and the College’s heritage was remembered.

“We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have led this College of Nursing through the past 50 years and who have educated a generation of nursing professionals,” said Dean Kathleen Ann Long. “These graduates have gone on to lead nursing in many settings and locations. Dean Smith, Dean Blanche Urey, Dean Lois Malasanos, and hundreds of faculty members have dedicated themselves to their students. In our 50th year, we celebrate these faculty as well as students, alumni, and staff of the College of Nursing.”

For more information on the College’s 50th anniversary, visit www.nursing.ufl.edu/50.
During the conference, the College recognized five extraordinary alumni with Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Awards in honor of the five areas of nursing that Dean Smith helped to unite: education, practice, research, health policy and community outreach.

**EDUCATION | Amy Barton, PhD, RN**

Dr. Amy Barton is currently the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professor at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center School of Nursing, where she has been teaching since 1997. Dr. Barton’s work has appeared in national and international nursing journals and academic textbooks. In addition to being selected for the 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship Program, Dr. Barton will participate in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing 2005 Leadership for Academic Nursing Program.

Dr. Barton is a member of the Denver School Based Health Centers Management Team and has been a professional reviewer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She is a member of the National Nursing Centers Consortium, serving as secretary on its board of directors.

Dr. Barton obtained her PhD in nursing at the University of Florida College of Nursing, and her BSN and MSN from the Medical College of Ohio.

**RESEARCH | Kristy Kiel Martyn, PhD, RN**

Dr. Kristy Kiel Martyn is the Family Nurse Practitioner & Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program Co-Coordinator and an Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan School of Nursing.

Dr. Martyn’s current research interests include adolescent female health promotion and risk reduction, sexual risk avoidance and health-risk assessment. Through her research she has authored over 10 publications, presented more than 50 presentations, and has received over $900,000 in funding. She is a reviewer for *Nursing Research* and *Qualitative Health Research Journal*.

Recently, Dr. Martyn received the 2004 Midwest Nursing Research Society Women’s Health Research New Investigator Award. She is currently a member of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Midwest Nursing Research Society, and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

Dr. Martyn received her BSN from Florida State University. She received her MSN and PhD in nursing science from the University of Florida College of Nursing.

**PRACTICE | Rita Frances Kobb, MS, MN, BSN**

Rita Frances Kobb currently serves as the Education Program Specialist for the VHA Office of Care Coordination. She is also the Director of VISN 8 Sunshine Training Center of Care Coordination & Telehealth with the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. In these two positions she has acquired specializations in Care Coordination/Care Management, Home Telehealth Consulting, and Gerontological Nursing.

Ms. Kobb is currently a member of American Telemedicine Association, Association of Telemedicine Service Providers, the Gainesville and Lake City Nurse Practitioner Networks, Lake City Nurse Practitioner Network and Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha Theta Chapter.

Ms. Kobb received her BSN and MN in Gerontological Nursing, both from the University of Florida College of Nursing. In 1991, she received her MS from Columbia Pacific University in Health & Human Services in Gerontology.

**POLICY | Mary Kay Habgood, PhD, RN**

Dr. Mary Kay Habgood is a retired professor of the UF College of Nursing and also served as an Educational Researcher and Instructor of the nursing program at St. Petersburg College. She currently holds the position of Vice Chair for the Florida Board of Nursing.

Dr. Habgood is a fellow of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Institute of Regulatory Excellence, the research liaison for the Florida Center for Nursing, a member of the examination committee for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and an active member of the American Nurses Association. She previously served as director and past president for the Florida League for Nursing.

She received her BSN and her MSN from the University of Florida. She received her PhD from the University of South Florida.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH | Vivian Washington Filer, MS, MSN, ARNP**

Vivian Washington Filer is a career nurse who passed her concern for patients and health care to generations of nursing students for 30 years at Santa Fe Community College.

With the Greater Gainesville Black Nurses Association, an organization she co-founded, Ms. Filer has helped organize health fairs that offer health screenings at churches and small towns all over North Central Florida. She currently hosts the “Community Talk” program on Magic 101.3 radio.

Ms. Filer has been a storyteller for more than fifty years and has entertained audiences of all ages in many cities all over Florida.

In the community, Ms. Filer has served as a member or leader of more than 35 organizations and councils. She has received the Women of Distinction of Alachua County award and the Rotary Club’s Volunteer of the Year Award. She recently was part of a select group to be inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Hall of Fame in Gainesville. Ms. Filer received her BSN from the University of Florida. She earned a master’s degree in education from Nova University and her MSN from the University of South Florida.
The conference honors the College’s founding Dean Dorothy M. Smith, who helped to lay the foundation for many of the most important nursing advances over the past few decades, notably an emphasis on quality in nursing and health care. The Dorothy M. Smith Professorship was established to attract a faculty member known for setting standards of excellence in innovative and dynamic education and research.

This professorship is currently at the term level and the College aspires to increase funding by an additional million dollars in order to create the Dorothy M. Smith Endowed Chair at the College of Nursing. The chair will enable the College to recruit a premier faculty member to focus on Dean Smith’s legacy.

The conference’s keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Aiken, who was closely mentored by Dean Smith as a student, is a lead donor to the professorship and the co-chair of the fundraising committee.

“The establishment of the Dorothy Smith Professorship will not only honor Dorothy Smith’s legacy but will allow the College to take credit for the innovations that have revolutionized nursing and health care,” Dr. Aiken said. “I hope I can count on all Gator nurses to contribute as much as they can to enable us to announce the completion of the funding of the professorship at the 50th anniversary closing celebration this fall.”

Dr. Aiken and her family have already given a significant gift to begin the effort of increasing the Smith Professorship to chair status. They provided a tribute gift in honor of their mother, Ms. Betty Warner. Later in the fall, Dr. Aiken committed an additional $70,000 gift to bring the family gift to $100,000. This gift was made not only to help fund the professorship and pay tribute to Dr. Aiken’s mother, an incredible individual and educator in her own right, but to inspire alumni and friends of the College to contribute to this effort.

“On the 50th anniversary of the founding of the College of Nursing, it is fitting that we make a national statement by endowing the Dorothy Smith Professorship that says the future of contemporary nursing started at the University of Florida.”

In addition, Dr. Mary Kay Habgood, a retired faculty member of the College of Nursing and a Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Award recipient, will serve with Dr. Aiken as a co-chair of the fundraising committee. Their support and dedication will help to memorialize our founding dean. The professorship will provide an appropriate and lasting tribute to the memory of Dorothy M. Smith, focused on linking nursing education to excellence in patient care.

Please consider making a gift to the Dorothy M. Smith Professorship and help us to build upon the foundation of Dean Smith’s dream and continue her legacy. The enclosed envelope offers a variety of ways to help support the professorship.

If you are interested in learning more about the Dorothy M. Smith Professorship or other funding opportunities, please contact Meg Hendryx at mhendryx@vpha.ufl.edu or visit the College of Nursing Alumni Web page at http://www.nursing.ufl.edu/alumni
In March, the College will honor its heritage of nursing research with its 50th anniversary commemorative Malasanos Distinguished Lectureship and Research Day. Events will run from 9 am to 12:15 pm, on Friday, March 31.

Lectureship keynote speaker and College of Nursing 2005 Alumna of the Year, Anna Schwartz, PhD, ARNP, FAAN, a noted researcher on cancer management through physical activity, will be speaking to faculty, students and other health professionals on “Physical Activity in the Care of Cancer Patients and Survivors: Exercise Prescription and Clinical Recommendations.”

The Malasanos Distinguished Lectureship brings distinguished speakers to the university every two years to discuss a wide variety of health topics. It was endowed in 1992 in honor of John Malasanos, husband of former College of Nursing Dean Lois Malasanos. This year's lectureship will also honor Dean Malasanos' contributions to the College of Nursing, notably her significant role in developing the College’s research program and founding UF’s PhD in nursing science degree, the first in Florida.

The College of Nursing Research Day, held in conjunction with the lectureship, will feature more than 40 faculty and student research poster presentations. Student posters will be judged and prizes awarded. For more information on the Malasanos Distinguished Lectureship and Research Day, or visit the College of Nursing’s 50th anniversary Web site at www.nursing.ufl.edu/50 and click on the event title.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Gift Aids Universities in Addressing Nursing Education Critical Issues

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida have donated $600,000 each to the University of North Florida and the University of Florida in an effort to address critical issues in nursing education. The State of Florida will match each gift at $420,000. UNF and UF were also awarded a $1.2 million SUCCEED grant from the state to increase the number of nurses who enter Florida’s workforce.

The nursing shortage in Florida, currently estimated at 34,000 and projected to hit 61,000 by the year 2020, has a negative impact on the quality and availability of health care. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida gift, combined with matching dollars from the state legislature, is a significant step toward expanding the education system, and generating more nurses to meet the increasing demand.

“The University of Florida is grateful for the generosity of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and their dedication to improving nursing education,” said Bernard Machen, UF president. “UF has been a leader in advocating better education for nurses, and this gift to UF will enable us to address the critical need for new nursing faculty. We are happy to be able to collaborate with the University of North Florida and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida to increase the number of well-educated nurses and ultimately improve health care for all Floridians.”

Blue Cross Blue Shield’s gift to UF will help expand and enhance the North Florida PhD Consortium, which links UF’s PhD in Nursing Science Program to students at sites located at UNF, Florida A&M University, Florida State University and the University of West Florida through a cooperative degree approach. This innovative approach provides access to doctorate-level nursing education in an efficient and cost-effective way through the use of sophisticated distance technology. Funds will also help maintain and improve distance delivery technology, add a Web-based component, and fund scholarships for selected students as well as travel costs for students and faculty.

UNF will use the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida gift to hire a professor to work with a database, which is the first of its kind in Jacksonville, allowing the School of Nursing to more efficiently schedule clinical rotations for all schools and health care organizations in the Jacksonville area. The professor also will staff a patient simulation lab at Shands Jacksonville for clinical education of UNF and UF nursing students as well as Shands staff. Ultimately, all nursing programs in the North Florida area will benefit from the ability to more adeptly schedule clinical rotations for their students.

“We recognize how important collaboration is to achieve meaningful progress in easing the nursing shortage,” said Robert I. Lufrano, MD, chairman and chief executive officer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. “Through our Generation RN program, we are able to support nurse education plus address a critical workforce and health care need in Florida.”
Retired Eminent Scholar Carol Reed Ash presented a review of the fifteen-year NCI grant findings at the Yale University Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Annabel Davis Jenks Endowed Professor Beverly Roberts traveled to Seoul, Korea in October for the International Nursing Research Conference, where she presented a pre-conference workshop on “Experimental Studies.” Dr. Roberts was involved in three different presentations/posters at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) meeting in November.

Assistant Professor Bryan Weber presented a poster at the GSA conference entitled “The impact of dyadic social support after radical prostatectomy.” He has also been elected the Chair of the UF Academic Infrastructure and Support Council for a 1-year term beginning January 2006, which also means he serves as a member of the Senate Steering Committee.

Clinical Assistant Professor Rosalyn Reischman successfully renewed her Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification in December 2005 for five years.

Assistant Professor Donna Neff is serving as the President of the Hartford Scholars and Alumni Organization for 2006.

Assistant Professor Mary Lane has had a number of articles accepted recently as well as having been quoted in several local and national general publications. In March 2006, she will have an article in the Journal of Holistic Nursing.

Associate Professor Meredith Rowe was invited to present her research mechanism CareWatch at the White House Council on Aging. She continues to disseminate information about the Safe Return program and frequently receives requests for consultation and assistance in finding lost elders.

Associate Professor Joyce Stechmiller continues to be sought out for her expertise in nutrition and wound healing. She participated as a major contributor to the ASPEN Geriatric Core Curriculum, which will be published in the near future. In addition she has been asked to present at the 19th Annual Symposium on Advanced Wound Care and Medical Research Forum on Wound Repair in May.

PhD Student Robyn Gleason has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Bethune Cookman College. Gleason is in the final stages of her PhD coursework at UF.

Clinical Assistant Professor Susan Schaffer has had a paper, “Measuring Asthma Self-management Knowledge in Adults,” accepted for presentation at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties to be held at Lake Buena Vista, Florida in April.

Associate Professor Sharleen Simpson has had a paper accepted for presentation at the Meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology, to be held March 28- April 1, 2006 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The title of her paper is “Gender and Power Issues Among Male and Female Inner City Adolescents with Repeated Sexually Transmitted Infections.” She has also had an abstract accepted for presentation at the 20th Annual Conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society this February in Memphis, Tennessee. The title of her presentation is “Narratives of Male and Female Adolescents with Repeat Sexually Transmitted Infections.”

Assistant Professor Shawn Kneipp, Assistant Professor Sunny Yoon, Program Assistant Karen Bender, and Program Assistant Kenneth Foote recently received the Division-level Superior Accomplishment Award.

Assistant Professor Nancy Menzel recently had a manuscript entitled, “Back Pain in Direct Patient Care Providers: Early Intervention with Cognitive Behavioral Therapy” accepted in the journal, Pain Management Nursing.

Clinical Assistant Professor Sandra Citty has been actively engaged with the staff at North Florida Regional Medical Center in helping them develop and implement an ongoing evidence-based journal club. She also participates as a liaison to their Policy and Procedure committee.

Assistant Professor Sunny Yoon will have her manuscript “Racial/Ethnic Differences in Self-Reported Health Problems and Herbal Use among Older Women,” published in the July issue of Journal of the National Medical Association.
A Fond Farewell to Dr. Carol Reed Ash

In December, the College bid a fond farewell to an esteemed longtime faculty member. College of Nursing Professor and Eminent Scholar Carol Reed Ash, EdD, RN, FAAN, the Kirbo Endowed Chair in Oncology Nursing, retired after 14 years at the College of Nursing. She will remain on the College’s faculty as an adjunct professor and will continue her work as editor of the journal Cancer Nursing, an International Journal for Cancer Care.

Dr. Ash’s “journey” has held a number of accomplishments and accolades. She recently served as the Associate Director of Cancer Control and Population Sciences for the UF Shands Cancer Center and is the Founding Editor of Cancer Nursing.

Dr. Ash is co-founder of GatorSHADE®, a skin cancer education program for elementary school children and their parents. The curriculum package includes games, a video, hat and sunglasses. She is also a principal investigator on the 15-year National Cancer Institute grant, “A Course for Nurse Educators: Cancer Control,” a cancer education program for nurses in developing countries. Dr. Ash has presented the curriculum, which includes instruction on cancer prevention and symptom management, to 123 nurses from 77 countries.

Dr. Ash was celebrated at a special reception in December where many of her colleagues as well as former students were in attendance. Shown here are Dr. Ash and Kirbo trustee and College supporter Murray Jenks.

Stechmiller Receives NIH Funding to Assess Wound Healing in Diabetic Ulcers

by Lori Spicer

College of Nursing Associate Professor Joyce Stechmiller, PhD, ARNP, has been awarded $200,000 from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to lead a 3-year research study for determining whether the antibiotic doxycycline can accelerate the healing of diabetic foot ulcers, reducing the number of amputations, decreasing costly interventions and ultimately improving the quality of life for these patients.

There are approximately 16 million people with diabetes in the U.S. Of these, 15 percent will develop lower-extremity ulcers, and approximately 50,000 per year will need amputations due to ulcers.

Previous research performed by Dr. Stechmiller showed that biopsies and fluids collected from chronic wounds demonstrated high levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines (proteins that can stimulate or inhibit the growth and activity of various immune cells) and proteases (enzymes that aid in the breakdown of proteins in the body). But fluids from a healing skin wound contained low concentrations of cytokines and proteases.

Dr. Stechmiller’s current study will address the theory of whether diabetic foot ulcers often fail to heal because persistently high levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines present in the wound induce high levels of proteases, which then destroy factors essential for wound healing. Researchers also will attempt to describe the molecular changes that occur in diabetic foot ulcers as they heal and detect changes in the patterns of gene expression in healing diabetic wounds treated with topical doxycycline.

Dr. Stechmiller and her research team will monitor four groups for 20 weeks, taking measurements every two weeks. Group A will receive doxycycline and Group B will serve as a control group. Researchers will measure the wound surface, cytokines, proteases and growth factor activities of both groups at specified times throughout the 20 weeks.

To assess molecular changes and gene expression, researchers will measure Groups C and D for changes in the relative levels of over 12,000 mRNAs in sequential biopsies from doxycycline-treated and vehicle-treated diabetic foot ulcers using Affymetrix GeneChip analysis.
College Says Goodbye to Alumna and Nursing Pioneer

by Lori Spicer

Nursing recently said goodbye to one of its modern pioneers. Margretta Madden Styles died on November 20, 2005 after a lengthy illness. Dr. Styles demonstrated a lifelong commitment to leadership in nursing by transforming the landscape of professional nursing practice and leaving behind an esteemed legacy.

Dr. Styles graduated from the University of Florida in 1968 with her EdD, at that time a program in partnership with the College of Nursing. She served as president of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Dr. Styles served as professor and dean of the schools of nursing at the University of California, San Francisco, Wayne State University, and the University of Texas Health Sciences at San Antonio.

In 2005, she was awarded Christiane Reimann Prize for her remarkable achievements and contributions to the nursing profession internationally. While her list of accolades is extensive, she is known for her academic leadership in the establishment of doctoral programs in nursing, development of a center for health care policy, pioneering the standard for the first comprehensive study of nursing credentialing in the 1970s, and for her advocacy for women’s rights and for the nursing profession.

Dr. Styles was an innovator in defining the critical work that recognizes and differentiates quality in all aspects of nursing practice.

“Dr. Styles was a role model and inspired so many in our profession. Her legacy will live on in nursing,” said Dean Kathleen Ann Long. “We at the University of Florida are honored to have counted her as an alumna.”

Dr. Styles received her MN at Yale University School of Nursing and her BS in biology and chemistry at Juanita College. Dr. Styles is the author of several books and book chapters as well as numerous articles published in a wide spectrum of national and international publications.

1970s

Kathleen (Freudenberger-Scott) Jett, BSN 1976, MSN 1984 & PhD 1994, has been recently promoted to Associate Professor at Florida Atlantic University. She focuses on gerontology research and cross-cultural communication.

Corrine La Mont, BSN 1976, is the Director of Maternal Child Services at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. She also serves as a legal nurse consultant.

Diane (Widell) Ross, BSN 1976, is retired. Before retiring, she worked as a critical care staff nurse for 19 years. Her areas of interest include mentoring nursing students, cardiovascular nursing, critical care visiting hours for families and spinal cord injuries. In 1999, she was presented with the First Coast Chapter AACN Award for Pioneering Critical Care Spirit.

1980s

Kathy (Ford) Sharkey, BSN 1980, graduated in December of 2005 from Florida Atlantic University as a Family Nurse Practitioner. Prior to graduating, she was a Sigma Theta Tau graduate assistant and a FAU research assistant.

Steve Graham, BSN 1986, is married to Alice and has two 15-year-old daughters, Charlotte and Olivia. After serving 20 years in the Air Force, he retired in May of 2001. Steve is currently the Director of Perioperative Services at Methodist Children’s Hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

Cathy Campbell, BSN 1986, MSN 2000 & PhD 2004 is currently employed at the University of Virginia as an assistant professor in the department of acute and specialty care. She graduated with her PhD from UF in 2004 and recently became certified as an adult nurse practitioner. Right now as a new faculty member Cathy does not have time for many hobbies, but loves to read, explore second hand bookstores and watch the sun set over the Blue Ridge Mountains from her window. Her favorite memories at the College of Nursing are her undergraduate and graduate classes with Dr. Snider.

1990s

Erin Peterson, BSN 1990, is living in Illinois and is on Active Duty for the Air Force. She is currently enrolled at Southern Illinois University (Edwardsville) to earn her MSN with a dual specialization in nursing education and family nurse practitioner.

Donald Connor, BSN 1993 & MSN/ARNP 2003, resides in Dunnellon, Florida and works in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Shands. He also practices at a private pediatrician office and is a clinical faculty member for Pediatrics at UF.

Maureen (Moe) Golway-LaTour, BSN 1993, currently lives in Gainesville and is the Research Coordinator for the UF Department of Pediatrics.

Nancy (Wetterstand) Gwadry, BSN 1993, is living in Calgary, in Alberta, Canada. She is a nurse practitioner in cardiac surgery.

Kim (Clouse) Mulvihill, BSN 1996, lives in Gainesville and is starting a position with Pediatrics at Shands. She has also worked for the UF Child Protection Team. Kim just had her first child, a baby girl.

2000s

Steven & Libby (Ithier) Scheffer, BSN 2002 & BSN 2003, respectively. Libby is currently attending Duke University to earn a PNP/PACNP. Steven recently graduated from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) with his MSN and is pursuing a job in a family practice. Steven and Libby were married on July 23, 2005 after first meeting at UF College of Nursing at an Nursing Christian Fellowship meeting.

Nancy Johnson, MSN 2005, is an Active Duty Navy Nurse stationed at Naval Medical Center. She and her husband Duane have four children: Phillip, 22, Christopher, 9, Emma, 6, and Lauren, 21 months. Nancy loves to swim, jog, and lift weights in her free time.

To reconnect with old friends, faculty and classmates, please contact the Alumni Office at (352) 273-6360.
50th Anniversary Event Preview

March 31, 2006 – Malasanos Lectureship and Research Day

April 21-22, 2006 – Spring Weekend

Concert & Pep Rally, April 21, 2006

Bring your chair and head to the lawn of the J. Wayne Reitz Union on Friday evening, April 21st for a concert and pep rally. The concert will feature “The Landsharks” – a Jimmy Buffet tribute band.

Orange & Blue Pre-game BBQ, Saturday Afternoon

Meet up with all your friends under the tent outside the stadium for BBQ two hours before kickoff.

Silver Society Reunion & Dinner, Saturday Evening

Celebrating those who have graduated 25 years ago-calling all Class of 1981 alumni!! Journey back to Gainesville as the UF Alumni Association holds a reception in your honor on Saturday evening.

May 4-5, 2006 – Commencement 2006 Festivities

Graduation BBQ & Birthday Bash, Thursday, May 4, 12:15 pm

The UF Nursing Alumni welcome the Class of 2006 as Gator Nurses. Graduates can attend the annual Graduation BBQ to celebrate their accomplishments. They will also receive 1 year free membership with the UF Alumni Association and enjoy a College of Nursing birthday cake to celebrate the 50th Anniversary!

College of Nursing Commencement Ceremony, Friday, May 5, 1 pm

All College of Nursing 2006 degree candidates are invited and encouraged to participate in commencement at 1 pm on May 5, 2006 at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Prior to commencement, the College of Nursing will host an Open House Reception for nursing graduates and their families & friends from 10 am to noon.

We’ve Only Just Begun….

UF to Recognize College’s Distinguished Young Alumni

Congratulations to Jessica (Roberts) Williams, BSN 2003, and Jennifer Dungan BSN 2001, MSN, 2003, PhDc 2006, who have been selected by the College of Nursing as 2006 University of Florida Outstanding Young Alumni. The UF Alumni Association has established these awards for distinguished alumni who have graduated in the last 10 years. Williams is currently in the MSN/PhD program at John Hopkins University. She was awarded the Ellen Levi Zamoiski Doctoral Fellowship from JHUSON as well as a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Nursing Research. Williams was an active member of her BSN class, serving as vice-president of the Nursing College Council.

Dungan was one of the first students enrolled in the College’s prestigious BSN to PhD program and recently successfully defended her doctoral dissertation. She is now a Postdoctoral Fellow in Aging at the Duke University Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development where she will focus on the impact of aging and genetics on cardiovascular disease.

Williams and Dungan will be honored during the 2006 Spring Weekend at a breakfast at Emerson Alumni Hall and will then have the opportunity to watch the Orange & Blue game from the President’s Box.
Greetings from the UF Nursing Alumni Council! As we embark upon a new year, allow me to recap on a major accomplishment of the Alumni Council from this past year and to tell you about the exciting celebratory events planned for 2006.

Last year was a busy one for the Council. We were able to raise monies through gifts, silent auctions and Reunion to put towards the Nursing Alumni Book Awards. The book awards were given to eight outstanding and well-rounded junior students to help with the purchase of textbooks. If you would like to learn more about donating to the book award program, please contact the Alumni Affairs office at (352) 273-6360.

Now, on to 2006! This year promises to be an exciting one as well. On January 19 & 20, the College hosted the Biennial Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Conference. I would like to thank all of you who returned to the College for what turned out to be an informative and inspirational conference. Approximately 500 alumni, faculty, students and friends gathered at the HPNP Complex for two days to listen to leaders in research and practice focusing on quality in health care. Not only did we have the opportunity to hear some wonderful presentations, we were able to officially kick off the College's 50th Anniversary!

More recently, the College hosted a Nursing Career Fair for students and alumni. Over 25 top health organizations from Florida and Georgia participated. Gator Nurses are in high demand! All monies raised from the Nursing Career Fair are allotted for the Book Award program and alumni activities.

Every year, the Alumni Council acknowledges the accomplishments of our graduating students by hosting a graduation barbecue. This year, the Alumni Council is also hosting the College of Nursing Pinning Ceremony on April 28 at the HPNP Auditorium with a reception to follow. All alumni, faculty and students are invited to attend. This ceremony will represent the transition to alumni. It will provide alumni the opportunity to congratulate the graduates, to wish them well in their nursing careers and to inform them about the purpose and activities of the Alumni Council.

The Nursing Alumni Council is looking forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the College. We look forward to working with other alumni to help promote nursing and the wonderful events planned throughout this year. We need your help! Contact me at barbeegeiger@hotmail.com to find out how you can get reconnected and become more involved!

BarBee Geiger
Nursing Alumni Council President, BSN 1974

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**GATOR MAKEOVER**

Yes, it is true! Our fabulous Gator Nurse has lost some weight. Wanting to get ready for the 50th Anniversary of the College of Nursing, the Gator Nurse decided it was time for a change. After dieting and exercising to feel healthier and look fitter, the new Gator Nurse is sporting a positive self image. Check out our before and after pictures below.

After cutting back on its diet, the Gator Nurse is only eating Georgia Bulldogs, LSU Tigers, and Florida State Seminoles. The Tennessee Volunteers and Auburn Tigers have become too fatty and it was suggested by a health care provider to stop eating them altogether. Dessert is the Sugar Bowl!

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**Nursing Alumni Council to Honor BSN Graduates with Pinning Ceremony**

The UF Nursing Alumni Council cordially invites all 2006 Baccalaureate Graduates, College Faculty and Alumni to attend the College of Nursing Pinning Ceremony.

WHERE: HPNP Auditorium

WHEN: April 28, 2006

TIME: 3:00 pm

Reception to follow

2006 graduates who purchase a College of Nursing pin will receive the pin at the College Pinning Ceremony. These pins symbolize a rich heritage and a future of clinical excellence and leadership.
In the Next Issue…

1970s and 80s

at the UF College of Nursing

Growing to Meet New Challenges

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