On the Ground in Haiti as the Earthquake Hits

IN THIS ISSUE
Our New Dean: Dr. Terri E. Weaver
Focus on Pain
It has been my honor and privilege to be the interim dean of the College of Nursing during the 2009–10 academic year.

The College means a great deal to me—it’s values, its mission, and most importantly its faculty, students (past and present), and staff. Having served as dean from 1988 to 1995, I was humbled and pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the College and the University in this way.

Now, I have the distinct pleasure of working with our new dean, Dr. Terri E. Weaver, in my role as executive director of the Global Health Leadership Office, building upon the legacy of my esteemed colleague, Dr. Beverly J. McElmurry, who passed away last spring.

Please join me in welcoming Dean Weaver to our UIC nursing community.

Yours truly,

Mi Ja Kim, PhD, RN, FRCN, FAAN
Professor, Dean Emerita, and Executive Director
Global Health Leadership Office
Proud and excited—those are my feelings as a new member of the UIC College of Nursing community. I have the extraordinary opportunity to lead one of the top-ranked nursing schools in the country, located in a world-class city that I have come to love and call my own—Chicago!

Thanks to the generous welcome extended by my colleagues in the College and in the University community, I truly feel at home. I am grateful to Dr. Mi Ja Kim for being an excellent steward of our research, teaching, and practice missions as interim dean.

This is a time of transition, for me, for the College, and for the nursing profession. At the College, we are upgrading our technology to enhance capabilities in the skills labs, reviewing the curriculum to provide the best education possible for our students, maintaining robust programs of research, and honing our strategic plan to address current challenges and guide future growth. I will have more to say about these initiatives in the next issue of Vital Signs.

Our cover story features the transformational experiences of Clinical Instructor Sue Walsh (MS ’00, BSN ’80) who, along with six nursing students, now alumnae, witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by the deadly earthquake in Haiti last year. Closer to home, we note the passing of three beloved College leaders: Drs. Virginia M. Ohlson, Beverly J. McElmurry, and Norma R. Kelly.

This fall, we were delighted to have Ted Kennedy, Jr. as our keynote speaker at the Power of Nursing Leadership event, where more than 500 nursing and healthcare leaders heard his insights on the impact of healthcare reform on chronic illness.

In the months and years ahead, I hope to meet personally with as many of our alumni, advocates, and supporters as possible. In the meantime, I want to hear from you! Please send your questions and comments to me at teweaver@uic.edu.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support of our College!

Terri E. Weaver, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Dean
College Administration

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Vital Signs

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LITTLE BY LITTLE:
On the Ground in Haiti as the Earthquake Hits
Little By Little. That’s the name of the nonprofit medical mission group founded by Sue Walsh (MS ’00, BSN ’80), and it is also her philosophy on how to approach the overwhelming need in Haiti, the country where Little By Little focuses its efforts. She travels there twice a year, each time to the same clinic in the mountains 15 miles from Port-au-Prince, leading teams of primary care providers—nurse practitioners and physicians, graduate nursing students, registered nurses, pharmacists, and laypeople willing to learn simple medical tasks. The team treats more than 200 patients per day over the course of a week. Little by little, they make an impact.

Walsh, a clinical instructor in the UIC College of Nursing Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) Program, is also a preceptor for graduate students and started Little By Little to combine service learning with healthcare.

Walsh took the group’s name from a Haitian proverb: “Little by little, the bird builds its nest.”

Over the years, a number of students in the nurse practitioner programs have volunteered their time and talents to go on the missions. Through that experience, they gain knowledge and skills and what Walsh calls “cultural humility.”

There were four such PNP students on Little By Little’s trip in January 2010, during the UIC winter break: Heather Vruggink (MS ’10), Sarah Kane (MS ’10), Anna Arens (MS ’10), and Amy Kaplan (MS ’10), all nurses at Chicago-area hospitals. Two other members of the team were College of Nursing alumnæ: Walsh’s former students Tricia Wirth (MS ’08) and Dawn Ribnek (MS ’02). The team had a great week seeing 1,200 patients at the Mountain Top Ministries clinic in the mountainside village of Gramothe, where hundreds of Haitians are usually camped out waiting to be seen by a healthcare professional. Little by little, they made a difference in many lives.

But as the sun began to set on their last afternoon in Haiti as they walked home, the earth shook. It was the antithesis of Little By Little—it was not small, it was not gradual, it was not healing. The students thought at first that there was an approaching brigade of trucks or that perhaps Haiti was under attack.

It was a massive earthquake, immediate and devastating. The clinic stood very near the epicenter.
When the earthquake hit, Walsh had just returned to the house where the team was staying. This is her account:

"It was the loudest sound I’d ever heard, like standing under the elevated tracks in Chicago when a train goes overhead, but multiplied hundreds of times over. I went outside and the trees were swaying, almost hitting the ground on either side, but there was no wind and the sky was clear. It went on and on for a full minute."

After the ground stopped shaking, four of us got on ATVs [all-terrain vehicles] and went down to check the village. First, we found several small dwellings that were demolished, but nobody was seriously hurt. When we got all the way down across the river, a man was running toward us, holding his daughter. She was unconscious and had a severe head injury. We had to get the little girl to the hospital, which was about five miles up the mountain. I had the little girl in my arms and was doing mouth-to-mouth while also holding onto the four-wheeler; it was a crazy ride up the mountain.

When we got to the hospital, about an hour after the earthquake struck, they had set up a trauma room that was no larger than my office, with four gurneys in it. There were probably 16 people in the room, all gravely injured, three or four on each gurney.

Supplies were so limited. I never in a million years thought I would compromise my nursing training—my sterile techniques and all the other things that are so ingrained in me from 30 years of nursing. But we were so desperate for bandages. We were cutting up our own scrubs, our T-shirts, anything that could stop the bleeding and supply some compression.

At one point, I was suturing and I was desperate to find something to soak up some of the blood, and I looked over on the ground and saw some used gauze with a little spot of white; everything else in the room was soaked. I grabbed it. It was better than nothing. I was thinking that this had to be what Civil War medicine was like.

We had sent word back to the clinic that we needed help. Someone drove a dump truck to our clinic and loaded it up with bandages, syringes, suture materials, antibiotics, pain medicine—everything we would need. They filled the whole truck, got the rest of the team members, and arrived at the hospital about an hour and a half later. By that time, there were 100 people waiting, many with very severe injuries. They were outside, in hallways—everywhere.

"It was quite a relief when the rest of the team arrived. I finally got a pair of gloves and a gown. It was dark by then, and there was no electricity—we used headlamps and there were a couple of dim generator-powered overhead lights. But everybody started to work—triaging, suturing, setting limbs, bandaging, starting IVs, administering pain medication. We all found some reserve within our exhausted minds and bodies, and that emotional strength surprised pretty much everyone.

The little girl that I had held in my arms ultimately died, but first we were able to get her comfortable so that her parents could hold her.

We treated every person there, and about 1 a.m., I started an IV for one last patient. There was a huge aftershock, and this hospital, which was on the very top of a mountain, started shaking badly. We ran out of the building and decided we were done for the night. On our way down the mountain, we stopped at a home where people were injured and did some more suturing and bandaging. We did not get back to our house until 2:30 a.m.

We had no idea of the breadth of the destruction. We went online and found out it was a major earthquake. We made contact with people stateside and let them know that we were in no danger. The team was scheduled to depart the next morning, but the airport had been damaged, so there were no options for leaving. We slept a bit and when we woke up, people were coming to the gate of the house, looking for help. We still had some supplies left, so we set up a makeshift clinic in the front yard and did suturing, bandaging, bone-setting all day.

On the third day after the earthquake, the U.S. Embassy sent word that they were starting to evacuate and that we should proceed to the airport. To get there, we traveled through Port-au-Prince, which was totally and completely devastated beyond what you could ever imagine. All the little towns on the trip down the mountain had been destroyed. Few structures survived. Dust was everywhere. So many people had died.
I’ve developed a level of acceptance. At first it was heart-wrenching, but you have to get to a point of acceptance, because you have to understand that you can’t help everybody. You see things that you know, medically, you could treat very simply in the U.S., but you can’t do it there and you have to reconcile yourself to that. Otherwise you can’t bring yourself to return.

Other teams from Little By Little returned to Haiti in May 2010, and one year after the earthquake in January 2011. If for some reason it was not safe, I wouldn’t have put others in a situation that could be compromising. You just can’t control an earthquake.

BACK HOME: REMEMBERING HAITI

The College of Nursing graduate students and alumnae who returned from Haiti were confronted with the usual shock of an abrupt shift between cultures, amplified by the trauma of the earthquake and its aftermath—not to mention the endless questions from friends, family, and journalists.

“I’ve had to strike a balance of how much attention to give to Haiti versus how much to jump back into my regular life,” says Dawn Ribnek, like Sue Walsh, a PNP preceptor. “People keep asking about it, and it can get a little tiring to tell the story over and over. But the people in Haiti deserve us putting them front and center. I consider this an opportunity to bring Haiti to life for people.”

Little By Little, the nonprofit organization that sponsored the trip, offered post-traumatic stress counseling for team members and their families. Amy Kaplan says the trip changed her perspective.

“These people had so little to begin with, and now even that is gone. All the buildings, all of their homes, are just destroyed,” she says. “I feel a sense of obligation now because I’m a nurse, and I have skills that can help in places where there is so much need. I also have this sense that the problems I face in Chicago aren’t a big deal. We’re very fortunate here.”

Both Ribnek and Kaplan say they plan to return to Haiti with Little By Little.
Sitting Down with Our New Dean

Dr. Terri E. Weaver
Dr. Terri E. Weaver, the new dean of the UIC College of Nursing, arrived on campus in August 2010. Dr. Weaver comes from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where she was the Ellen and Robert Kapito Professor in Nursing Science and chair of Biobehavioral and Health Sciences.

Dr. Weaver began her education with a BSN from the University of Pittsburgh. She received a master’s degree in advanced clinical practice in adult health and illness and her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, where she spent most of her career.

She is a member of the board of directors of the American Academy of Nursing and the Sleep Research Society, and former chair of the national board of directors of the American Lung Association.

Dr. Weaver is an expert in sleep research and focuses on the effect of daytime sleepiness on daily behaviors, and on the evaluation of treatment outcomes. She developed the gold-standard instrument for assessing daily functioning in sleep disorders.

She tells *Vital Signs* that the Center for Narcolepsy, Sleep and Health Research at the College of Nursing was one factor that drew her to Chicago.

VS: Welcome to the College of Nursing! What appeals to you about the College of Nursing, UIC, and the city of Chicago?

TW: Thank you! Everyone has been extremely warm and welcoming, and I’m very excited about being part of the UIC community. The College of Nursing has such a strong national reputation for excellence in science, with such a stellar faculty. I also like the fact that the College is on a campus with other sciences such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Applied Health Sciences. Plus, UIC has a strong liberal arts presence.

This position provides the opportunity to lead a research-intensive, highly ranked College of Nursing and to have the challenge of continuing to grow its eminence and to look for new avenues of scholarship for the College. It’s really quite an honor for me to have this opportunity.

VS: Much of your research relates to sleep, and UIC—and Chicago, generally—is a center of sleep and narcolepsy research. How did that affect your decision?

TW: That was yet another attraction to UIC. The Center for Narcolepsy, Sleep and Health Research, which is an endowed center, provides a wonderful opportunity to grow research about narcolepsy and sleep, and to improve the health and lives of so many people who struggle with sleepiness.

In addition, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society are also in the Chicago area. So for my own science, I will have a number of colleagues in the area and can continue my program of research in sleep.

VS: How would you describe your leadership style?

TW: I like building teams, getting input from individuals, and being as transparent as possible. Of course, there is a point when...
VS: How do you see your role in working with alumni and donors?

TW: Alumni are the living history of a school—the storytellers of our achievements and experiences—and they provide our strength. They also are integral to the support of the College, which enables us to create and pursue innovative programs in practice, education, and research. Alumni and donors are critically important.

VS: What are some of the things you've been doing in your first six months?

TW: I've been meeting with and sharing ideas with many of our constituencies—students, alums, faculty, preceptors—conducting my own "listening tour." I've also been talking to people from outside the College and UIC to understand what are the concerns and issues of leaders in nursing, healthcare, and business, and what types of partnership initiatives might be possible.

Early on, I made it a priority to visit each of our programs in Urbana, Peoria, Rockford, and the Quad Cities. There is such vitality and commitment in the regions! I'm working with each of the directors to expand scholarship opportunities for our regional students and to engage local alumni and community leaders to build more support for the programs.

VS: What is the future of nursing in an era of healthcare reform?

TW: Advanced nurse practitioners will increasingly provide primary healthcare to pediatric, adult, and geriatric patients. It's happening already, and the College is particularly well suited for this next phase of healthcare—our midwifery and nurse practitioner programs are consistently ranked in the top ten nationally. Currently, nearly 700 of our students throughout the state are enrolled in our master's and DNP programs, which includes specialties in adult and geriatric care, midwifery, pediatric care, women's health, mental health, and family healthcare.

VS: What do you like best about Chicago?

TW: Oh, that's hard to answer—the city is fantastic. Right now, I'm living in downtown Chicago with an amazing view of Lake Michigan and Navy Pier, and I'm across the street from Millennium Park, where I enjoyed listening to the Grant Park Symphony last summer. I'm learning my way around the city. I love deep-dish pizza. And, I'm proud to have mastered the art of taking the EL—it's so fast and easy! I'm thrilled to be in Chicago and at UIC.
As a researcher studying the detrimental effects of unhealthy alcohol consumption on people’s hearts, Mariann Piano (PhD ‘89, MS ‘84) knew all the statistics for college binge drinking before visiting her oldest son, Michael, for his college’s Parents’ Weekend. Still, she was unprepared for what she saw: students with beers in hand at 10 a.m., and others downing bottles of wine and champagne.

Mariann Piano: A Personal Experience Reinforces Need for Research and Education

“To see this extreme form of drinking was frightening,” says Piano, a UIC College of Nursing professor and interim head of the department of Biobehavioral Health Science. But the experience fueled a new sense of urgency in her research.

Piano, a nationally recognized leader in cardiovascular nursing who serves on the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Nursing Expert Panel, is a former cardiovascular nurse at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago. She became interested in the effects of alcohol on the heart after seeing patients in their 20s and early 30s with alcoholic cardiomyopathy, a condition that is characterized by heart enlargement and changes in how forcefully the heart contracts.

Last year, she finished a study funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism that used an animal model to examine the effects of binge drinking and cigarette smoking, as well as the combination of the two, on cardiovascular function. “It is important to study the two habits together, since these behaviors coexist and are prevalent in our society, especially among adolescents and young adults,” states Piano. Despite the extreme prevalence of these behaviors, how these combined behaviors might adversely affect heart structure and function remains unknown.

“Our findings were very interesting; however, those related to cigarette smoking were amazing and revealed just how toxic and addictive cigarette smoking can be,” she says.

Rats given the equivalent of about a pack and a half of cigarettes a day had enlarged hearts by the end of the five-week experiment. Piano was surprised to see how quickly the rats grew to like smoking. For the first few days, they tried to back away from the cigarette smoke, which was pumped into small chambers by a “puffer machine.” But by the end of the first week, the animals were racing into the chambers for their nicotine fix. This underscores the addictive potential of nicotine.

To simulate the “binge bender” routine of drinking Thursday through Sunday, the rats were fed the equivalent of the alcohol typically consumed during a night of binge drinking for four days in a row, with three days off in between, for a total of five weeks. Although the rats did not have enlarged hearts, the stress enzymes associated with heart enlargement did increase. Piano also found that blood pressure in these rats spiked during each bender and then fell during the days off, becoming progressively higher with every binge. Data continues to be analyzed in the rats that took part in both cigarette smoking and binge drinking.

“Many college students all across the country regularly participate in these weekend benders, yet the effects of this behavior on the heart and overall cardiovascular health are unknown,” says Piano. “We need a more complete understanding of how underage drinking affects all organ systems, including the heart”—a task Piano is ready to tackle. —Emily Stone
When Dr. Beverly J. McElmurry died on May 14, 2010, the UIC College of Nursing lost a beloved member of its family and faculty, as well as a pioneer and leader in improving healthcare in underserved communities around the world. For decades, McElmurry’s 11th-floor office was home to the College’s international students, and also to innovative research that focused on educating people—nursing professionals and community leaders alike—on how to deliver improved health outcomes in challenging circumstances around the world.

McElmurry came to the College in 1978, two decades into her nursing career but only five years after earning her doctorate. In 1987, she became founding director of the College’s World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for International Nursing Development in Primary Health Care. The post was both a recognition of McElmurry’s leadership (she was already focusing on participatory research and community leadership in the 1980s, well before those practices became widely adopted) and a platform from which she could expand the scope of her work.

Primary Health Care (PHC) was one of McElmurry’s areas of greatest focus. PHC is a practical approach to delivering quality healthcare that is accessible to all people worldwide by relying on extensive community participation. In addition to her many publications, she co-authored a textbook, Primary Health Care in Urban Communities.

McElmurry was devoted to women’s health, and her work in that field was similar, as she again stressed empowering community members to assist in educating their peers about health practices.

“Dr. McElmurry focused on creating a team, pairing a health worker with someone from the community who was a natural leader, and then providing that person with health training and having them work as a team,” says Dr. Kathleen Norr, a professor in the department of Women, Children and Family Health Science. “The health worker contributed health knowledge, and the community advocate contributed an understanding of the culture and context, and together they were able to tackle problems that neither could by themselves.”

McElmurry’s impact was both global and local. She worked extensively in countries including Malawi, Lithuania, and Thailand and directed a College of Nursing program that sent nursing students overseas for internships. She also
worked in Chicago, overseeing research in Chicago housing projects, and serving as director of two AmeriCorps programs, VISTA Chicago, and the Chicago Health Corps. In addition to developing a strong network of international nurse researchers, McElmurry was also a mentor to hundreds of international scholars, students, and junior faculty as associate dean of the Global Health Leadership Office (GHLO) at the College.

“She really allowed and encouraged students to find their own way, rather than dictating how they should proceed, in terms of making a particular career move or writing for publication,” says Tonda Hughes (PhD ‘89), one of McElmurry’s mentees and now professor and interim head of the department of Health Systems Science. “We appreciated that she gave us that flexibility, and she was a huge student advocate.”

Even though Dr. McElmurry “didn’t care about personal recognition, [but] only about the real work that helped people in the community,” as Professor, Dean Emerita, and now GHLO Executive Director Dr. Mi Ja Kim noted in a letter memorializing her longtime colleague, Dr. McElmurry’s efforts attracted plenty of notice. She received the Joan L. Shaver Illinois Outstanding Nurse Leader Award in 2009, was honored several times by the Midwest Nursing Research Society, and received the Faculty Excellence Award at the College of Nursing four times. She was also recognized in 2005 with the establishment of the Beverly J. McElmurry Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarship funds for nursing doctoral students focused on global health research.

Although the College lost an invaluable member of its team with McElmurry’s passing, everyone at the College and in the nursing profession will continue to benefit from her legacy of caring and commitment to training exceptional nurses and providing quality healthcare to underserved communities around the world.

Established in 2005, the Beverly J. McElmurry Scholarship honors Dr. McElmurry’s unflagging commitment to primary healthcare, both locally and globally. The scholarship supports nursing doctoral students who have exhibited nursing leadership and whose research focuses on global or primary healthcare. Donations in memory of Dr. McElmurry can be made online at www.uic.edu/nursing or by check payable to the University of Illinois Foundation and mailed to the UIC College of Nursing / Office of Advancement, 845 S. Damen (MC 802), Chicago, IL 60612.
Celebrating

The Power of Nursing Leadership

A buzz of excitement filled the grand ballroom of the Hilton Chicago as nearly 500 nurses and healthcare professionals gathered for the 13th annual Power of Nursing Leadership event on November 19, 2010.

Civil rights advocate and keynote speaker Ted Kennedy, Jr. spoke about a pivotal national issue: healthcare reform in the context of chronic illness. In sharing his struggle with childhood cancer and disability, Kennedy stressed the need for more advanced practice nurses, whose holistic approach to primary care is essential in managing chronic illness.

Dean Emerita Joan Shaver presented the top honor, the Joan L. Shaver Illinois Outstanding Nurse Leader Award, to Paula Hindle, vice president of Health Care Services and chief nurse executive of Loyola University Health System. Traditionally, the previous year’s award recipient presents the award; Shaver stepped in for the 2009 Illinois Outstanding Nurse Leader, Dr. Beverly McElmurry, who passed away in May 2010.

Drs. Maria Connolly and Ruth Kleinpell (PhD ’91, MS ’88, BSN ’86) each received Sage Awards in recognition of their roles as mentors and advisors to students, faculty, and colleagues at their respective institutions.

Dean Terri E. Weaver notes, “It’s important to recognize and celebrate the inspirational healthcare leaders who influence and shape the careers of the next generation of nurses.”

View event pictures at http://web.nursing.uic.edu/pnle.

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Left: Despite a temporary injury, Ted Kennedy, Jr. gave a stirring keynote address. Right: Dean Emerita Joan Shaver, Dean Terri E. Weaver, and Dean Emerita Mi Ja Kim take a brief break from greeting colleagues and guests.
Class of 1959: Together Again

It may have been 50 years since they last saw each other, but the College of Nursing Class of 1959, who reunited at the College on September 11, 2009, lost no time catching up and sharing memories. Nine graduates, along with their former advisor, journeyed to Chicago for a three-day weekend that included a visit to the College of Nursing building, where they toured the student skills lab, and the Midwest History Nursing Center, where they saw memorabilia from their class.

See photos from the 50th reunion at www.uic.edu/nursing/alumni.

Interested in reconnecting with your nursing class and friends? The College of Nursing and College of Nursing Alumni Association can help make your reunion a success. For more information, contact Nicole Sallee, assistant director of advancement, at 312.996.7881 or conalum@uic.edu.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Reception

Nearly 75 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) alumni, preceptors, and friends gathered for the very first UIC PNP Reception on April 16, 2010, in Chicago, IL. Linnea Mead, director of the PNP Program and assistant department head of Women, Children and Family Health Science, remarks, “It was wonderful to see the many familiar faces and literally see how the program has grown since 1994!” Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the group, the PNP Scholarship Fund was fully endowed this summer and the first student recipient, Jillian Peter-Truesdell, was selected for the 2010–11 academic year.

See additional photos from the PNP reception at www.uic.edu/nursing/alumni.
### Faculty and Student Impact

#### Faculty

**Dr. Sandra Burke (PhD ’04), 2011**  
president-elect, American Association of Diabetes Educators

**Dr. Donna Calvin (PhD ’09), 2010**  
Health-Seeking Behavior Dissertation Research Award, Midwest Nursing Research Society

**Dr. Eileen Collins**, inducted as a Fellow, American Academy of Nursing

**Dr. Susan Corbridge (PhD ’09), 2010**  
Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Educator Award, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
2010 Nurse Educator of Illinois Teaching Excellence Award, Nurse Educators of Illinois  
Inducted as a Fellow, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

**Dr. Geraldine Gorman, Tracy MacSwain,**  
and **Linnea Mead, 2010 DAISY Faculty Award**

**Dr. Valerie Gruss**, 2010 Faculty Practice Award, UIC

**Dr. Eileen Hacker (PhD ’01), 2010**  
Excellence in Research Award, Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha Omicron Chapter

**Wacharee Jamjun (MS ’01), 2010**  
Humanitarian Award, Asian American Advisory Council

**Dr. Mi Ja Kim, 2010**  
FoundAsian Award, Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council on Asian Affairs

**Maripat King**, 2010 Silver Circle Award for Teaching Excellence, UIC

**Dr. Judith McDevitt (PhD ’97, MS ’90, BSN ’88), 2009**  
Marie Lindsey Spirit of Advanced Practice Nursing Award, Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing

**Dr. Barbara McFarlin (PhD ’05, MS ’84, BSN ’74), 2010**  
inducted as a Fellow, American College of Nurse Midwives

**Dr. Mariann Piano (PhD ’88, MS ’84), 2010**  
Graduate Mentoring Award, UIC Graduate College

**Dr. Kathleen Sparbel (MS ’96), 2011**  
president, International Society of Nurses in Genetics

**Jennifer Tiffen (MS ’01), 2010–11**  
Nurse Educator of Illinois Scholarship, Nurse Educators of Illinois

**Susan Walsh (MS ’00, BSN ’80), 2010**  
*Nursing Spectrum* Nursing Excellence Award in Community Service

**Dr. Rosemary White-Traut**, 2009 Jonas M. Salk Health Leadership Award, March of Dimes Illinois Chapter  
2010–11 University Scholar

**Dr. Shannon Zenk (MS ’99), 2010–13**  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholar

#### Students

**Gabe Culbert (BSN ’04), 2010 First Place, Graduate-Level Poster Award, American Correctional Association**

**Janice Gries-Giffin, 2009 Best Non-College of Business Administration Business Plan and 2009 Social Venture Award, UIC Concept2Venture Business Plan Competition**

**Elaine Hardy, 2010 Center for Research on Women and Gender Dissertation Research Award**

**Joan Kittler (MS ’10) and Susan Voss (MS ’08), 2010 Lois Frels Research Award, Illinois Association of School Nurses**

**Shin-Young Lee (MS ’05), 2009**  
Small Grants Award, Sigma Theta Tau International

**Cherese Pullum, 2010–11 Albert Schweitzer Fellow.**

**Daravan Rongmuang, 2009 Honorable Mention, Alice J. Dan Dissertation Award, UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender**  
2010 Outstanding Student Paper Award, Midwest Nursing Research Society

**Dr. Yoko Shimpuku (PhD ’10), 2010**  
Student Research Award, UIC College of Medicine Global Health Day

**Naomi Twigg (MS ’08), 2010 Patient Safety Scholars Award, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and UIC Institute for Patient Safety Excellence**
Three hundred forty-six nursing students eagerly awaited the end of the commencement ceremony, when they would be pinned or hooded and officially receive their diplomas, on May 6, 2010. **Interim Dean Mi Ja Kim** (top photo right) encouraged the graduates (160 BSN, 161 MS, 9 DNP, and 16 PhD) to give a standing ovation of appreciation and gratitude to family and friends in the audience.

**Dr. Dorothy Pringle (PhD ’82)** (top photo left) dean and professor emerita, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto, was presented with the 2010 Distinguished Nurse Alumna Award. She was acknowledged for her long-standing leadership in nursing education, gerontology, and health policy worldwide and particularly in Canada.

**Congratulations to the newest class of UIC College of Nursing alumni!**
Robah Kellogg: Student Investor

Robah Kellogg uses the title “Student Investor” on her nametag at the annual Peoria Regional Nursing Program Honors Dinner. Others might use the words “Mentor,” “Inspiration,” “Community Learner,” or “Life-long Learner,” and they would all be accurate.

But Kellogg chooses to describe herself as a student investor because when she was on the UIC College of Nursing faculty, she supported her students academically, and in retirement, she supports them financially through the Kellogg Family Peoria Nursing Scholarship Fund.

“Robah built a community of healthcare resources for the students by bringing those resources into the classroom or sending the students out to them,” says Kathleen Baldwin (PhD ’92, MS ’78), a former student of Kellogg’s and now director of the UIC College of Nursing Peoria Regional Program. “She felt it was her professional duty to get involved in the community, and she instilled that sense of community in her students.”

Kellogg earned her bachelor of science in botany from the University of Illinois, with plans to do research related to farming. But “to collect a little financing” before going on to graduate school, she worked at Cook County Presbyterian Hospital. “And that’s where I decided to become a nurse instead of a botanist,” she said.

Kellogg received her RN from the Cook County School of Nursing and two years later, with a scholarship in her pocket, attended the University of Minnesota, where she received her master’s degree in public health nursing in 1951. She went on to work with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Iran (1953–56) and then South Korea (1957–60), where she helped establish public health programs where none had existed before.

In 1974, soon after UIC received a federal grant to develop regional nursing programs around the state, Kellogg was among the founding faculty members who were instrumental in the development of the Peoria Regional Nursing Program.

Although she retired in 1994, Kellogg continues to help nursing students reach their goals through the Kellogg Family Peoria Nursing Scholarship Fund. She endowed the fund in 1998 because “I could see how some students were struggling to finish their degrees,” and she appreciated the scholarships available to her when she was going through school. “I thought it was time I repay some of that debt.”

While it bears the Kellogg name, the fund is growing through contributions—large and small—from alumni who appreciate their educational experiences and who respect Robah Kellogg as a mentor and supporter.

—Evelyn Cottle Raedler

For more information about creating an endowed scholarship fund or including a bequest to the College in your will, please contact Nancy Herman, director of advancement, at 312.996.1736 or nherman@uic.edu.
New External Grants  
July 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010

Faculty

Dr. Kathryn Christiansen, Chicago Nurse Managed Health Clinic Capacity Building: Expanding Access and APN Training (Health Resources and Services Administration)

Drs. Carol Ferrans (PhD '85, MS '82) and Elizabeth Calhoun, Center of Excellence in Eliminating Disparities (National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities)

Dr. Cynthia Fritschi (PhD '08), Momentary Biobehavioral Effects on Physical Activity in Adults with T2 Diabetes (National Institute of Nursing Research)

Drs. Michele Issel and Kathleen Baldwin (PhD '92, MS '78), Keeping RNs to Improve and Strengthen Population Health (Health Resources and Services Administration)

Dr. Teresa Krassa, Nurse Educator Fellowship (Illinois Board of Higher Education)

Dr. Patricia Lewis (PhD '93), Advanced Education Training Traineeships Expansion (Health Resources and Services Administration)

Dr. Alicia Matthews, Development of a Culturally Targeted Patient Navigation Curriculum for LGBT Adults (National Cancer Institute)

Individually Tailored Smoking Cessation Study: LGBT Smokers (National Institute on Drug Abuse)

Dr. Barbara McFarlin (PhD '05, MS '84, BSN '74), Biochemical, Biomechanical and Morphological Properties of Quantitative Ultrasound (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Estimating Ultrasound Attenuation in Human Pregnant Cervix (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

Dr. Cecelia Roscigno, Understanding the Communication Needs of Parents Following Children’s Severe Traumatic Brain Injury When Receiving Prognostic Information from Health Providers (Society of Pediatric Nurses)

Dr. Carrol Smith (PhD '06), Nurse Educator Fellowship (Illinois Board of Higher Education)

Dr. Judith Storfjell, Expanding Aviva Women’s Health and Midwifery Care to Underserved and Disabled Women in Chicago (Health Resources and Services Administration)

Dr. Susan Vonderheid (PhD '00), Unpacking Group Prenatal Care: Impact & Change Mechanisms in Diverse Settings (Health Resources and Services Administration)

Dr. Shannon Zenk (MS '99), Stress-Environment Interactions and Weight-Related Behaviors in Urban African-American and Hispanic Women (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Students

Ann Eckhardt, Fatigue as a Symptom of Coronary Artery Disease (Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc. and Midwest Nursing Research Society)

Anne Fink (MS '08), Fatigue and Cytokines with Heart Failure (Sigma Theta Tau International, Inc.)

Elaine Hardy, Racial Identity and African American Acculturation as Predictors of Physical Activity in Midlife African American Women (American Nurses Foundation)

Dr. Srisuda Ngamkham (PhD '10), Predictors and Pain Patterns Change Over Time in Outpatients with Cancer (Alpha Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau)

Monique Reed, The Relationship between Ecologic Variables and Eating Behaviors in Early Adolescent African American Girls and Their Parents (Alpha Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau)
Supporting Minority PhD Nursing Students

The UIC College of Nursing Bridges to the Doctorate for Minority Nursing Students program is a collaborative training program designed to address the national shortage of doctorally prepared minority nursing scientists / faculty.

Thirty-eight UIC College of Nursing undergraduate students opened their e-mail accounts in March 2010 to learn that they each had received an award from the newly established Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship Fund for Baccalaureate Nursing Students. The awards were made on the basis of academic merit and financial need. Scholarships worth a total of $100,000 were awarded to Chicago and Urbana junior and senior nursing students, thanks to a generous gift from the Helene Fuld Health Trust HSBC Bank USA, N.A., Trustee in New York. But that’s not all.

The Fulld Trust has committed $600,000 over a three-year period—one-half for current use and one-half for endowment—to fund financial aid for College of Nursing students seeking a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The grants are intended to create a permanent endowment designed to grow over the years and continue to provide financial support for future undergraduate nursing students. Director of Advancement Nancy Herman notes, “It is a significant honor to receive a Helene Fuld Health Trust grant; proposals to the Fulld Trust are by invitation only, and this year, only ten colleges of nursing received these grants. We are thrilled that our BSN students will benefit from these awards.”

The program, funded by the National Institutes of Health since 2003, recruits five minority master’s students yearly from nursing programs at DePaul University and Purdue University Calumet. The students take approximately ten semester hours of UIC courses to help them prepare for admission to, and success in, the PhD program. Bridges faculty advisors serve as mentors and collaborators and are actively involved in the students’ careers early on, while interaction with other Bridges and doctoral students offers peer support and encouragement. To date, four students have graduated from the Bridges program. “As more minority PhD nurses become faculty,” explains Dr. Mi Ja Kim, professor and director of the Bridges program, “their research as nursing scientists will help to minimize health disparities among minority populations in the United States. This is an important initiative, both for our College and for the entire nursing higher education profession.”

The Helene Fuld Health Trust, with more than $130 million in assets, is the nation’s largest private funder devoted exclusively to nursing students and nursing education.

Sandra Burke (PhD ’04), associate director of the Urbana Regional Program, explains, “In-state tuition is over $8,000 each semester for our undergraduate students. The Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarships help lift a huge burden from our juniors and seniors, who are balancing the rigors of school, clinicals, and extracurricular activities, all while finding ways to finance their education through part-time work, loans, and thankfully scholarships.”
UIC Rockford Regional Campus Expands

The UIC Colleges of Nursing and Medicine on the Rockford campus were joined by a new College of Pharmacy in fall 2010. With the new facilities, nursing students have access to an enlarged and updated library, as well as a state-of-the-art clinical performance center.

Patricia Lewis (PhD ’93), associate dean for nursing clinical practice studies and director of the Rockford Regional Program, remarks, “We are happy to be augmenting health sciences education in the Rockford area. The College of Nursing has a rich history of education in the region—in fact, this year we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Rockford Regional Program.”

Quad Cities Honors Graduates

Nearly 150 people from the Quad Cities nursing community attended the 2010 Quad Cities Celebration Dinner on April 29, 2010. Dean Terri E. Weaver congratulated the 18 graduating master’s, post-master’s, and doctor of nursing practice students.

Polly Haskins (MS ’10), a graduating family nurse practitioner student, presented a humorous Quad Cities nursing student “top ten” list. Haskins had taken a year off from school for a tour of duty with the U.S. Naval Reserves, serving at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, which receives wounded military personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Quad Cities Alumni Chapter Chair Mary Watters (BSN ’90) presented Michael Patterson (MS ’05) with the Quad Cities Distinguished Alumni Award.

Urbana Program Expands Simulation Lab

The Urbana Regional Program received a $44,000 improvement grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to upgrade the nursing skills laboratory for the start of the fall 2010 semester.

Sandra Burke (PhD ’04), director of the Urbana Regional Program, explains, “We are very grateful for this opportunity to improve and strengthen the skills lab, since using technology is an important way to enhance the development of nursing skills. Funds from the grant were used to purchase the equipment needed to repurpose one room in the current lab into a simulation area.” In addition to hospital room furnishings and supplies, simulation scenario packages were purchased.

Celebrations at the Annual Peoria Honors Dinners

Recipients of the Kellogg Family and the Norma R. Kelly Peoria Nursing Scholarships received congratulations from family, friends, and faculty at the 2010 Peoria Honors Dinner. Dr. Norma Kelly, former director of the Peoria Regional Program, who passed away in July 2010, was remembered, and the contributions of retired professor Robah Kellogg were celebrated by attendees.

The 2010 Robah Kellogg Alumni Recognition Award was presented to Mary Ann Gureno (MS ’82), while Anita Coon (MS ’05), clinical instructor, received the 2010 Golden Lamp Award for excellence in teaching. During the 2009 dinner, Cheryl Herrmann (MS ’96) received the 2009 Robah Kellogg Alumni Recognition Award, and Clinical Assistant Professor Anne Padwojski was presented with the 2009 Golden Lamp Award.

Continuing education programs offered prior to both honors dinners (“Opportunity Knocks: The Role of Advanced Practice Nursing in Healthcare Reform” in 2010 and “Bugs ‘n’ Drugs” in 2009) were well attended.

Save the date for the 2011 Peoria Honors Dinner: September 15, 2011.
Pain is an invisible menace. It doesn’t show up in a blood test or make itself known through an MRI. Yet it can be debilitating for the patient, and frustrating for healthcare providers to treat.

Two UIC College of Nursing professors are working to address these problems. Through their research, they are examining how patients and caregivers can communicate about pain more effectively, and how to educate patients and caregivers about the best ways to manage pain. This is important because pain is the number one reason people seek advice from their healthcare providers.

Assistant Professor Dr. Catherine Vincent is studying pain management in children, looking specifically at how nurses and parents can be taught to better alleviate children’s pain. Research has shown that up to 70 percent of hospitalized children nationwide experience moderate to severe pain, yet they often receive less than the prescribed dose of painkillers. Vincent is finding that parents similarly undermedicate their children once they leave the hospital.

Dr. Diana J. Wilkie, professor and Harriet H. Werley Endowed Chair for Nursing Research, and an internationally known pain specialist, is one of Vincent’s mentors. Wilkie is currently focusing on the pain caused by sickle cell disease and cancer. Some patients with these conditions, particularly those with sickle cell disease, have described their pain as worse than the pain of childbirth.

Both researchers have seen promising results. Vincent and Wilkie are convinced that patients’ pain can be alleviated through better education and communication, not just through tweaked medication or improved surgical procedures.
I Say It Hurts: Relying on the Self-Report

“If you say you’re in pain, you’re in pain, whether you look like it or not,” Vincent states. Evidence shows that for both children and adults, the patient’s self-report is the best indicator of his or her pain level. Yet Vincent has found that nurses often downplay self-reports and undermedicate children.

Vincent’s research into children’s pain management began when she earned her PhD, after more than two decades as a staff nurse and nurse educator, where seeing children in pain was a terrible experience, she says.

Vincent’s initial study presented nurses with two treatment vignettes, each describing a child who is self-reporting an 8 on a 0–10 pain scale. Nurses were less likely to give a smiling child more painkillers than a grimacing child.

This information, in part, laid the foundation for the computerized intervention called Relieve Children’s Pain. Funded by a grant from the College of Nursing Annual Fund, the two-hour-long program presents nurses with information about the importance of the self-report, as well as facts about the possible side effects of opioids, such as respiratory depression. Importantly, users learn about the negative effects of pain, which can include decreased tolerance of the body’s pain pathways, so that pain feels more severe the next time the pain occurs.

“Nurses think the side effects of these opioids could be bad, but in fact the side effects of being in pain could be worse,” Vincent observes.

Twenty-four nurses participated in the pilot study and showed significant improvement when answering questions at the end of the lesson compared to their answers at the beginning. “This is huge,” Vincent states. “The fact that this two-hour program had such a positive impact on nurses’ beliefs and simulated practice about pain management is phenomenal.”

Vincent is also studying how parents administer painkillers once children come home from the hospital after surgery. Her preliminary data show that parents taper off the painkillers each day during the first three days the child is home, even if the child’s pain is not relieved. The same fear of side effects and the lack of knowledge about how painkillers work are at issue, Vincent says.

Dr. Rosemary White-Traut, professor and head of the department of Women, Children and Family Health Science, notes that Vincent’s findings are filtering into practice. “It’s critical that we improve the management of children’s pain,” White-Traut says.

Decoding the Language of Pain

Wilkie became interested in pain management research after working as an oncology nurse in rural Colorado early in her career. It was experiences with two patients who had significant pain at the end of their lives that made her say, “I need to know more about pain,” she recalls.

Now, armed with a PhD and more than two decades of pain research experience, she is an expert on the subject. For much of the past 12 years, Wilkie has spent considerable time creating and fine-tuning a computer-based pain management tool that helps patients describe their pain in detail. She first used it with cancer patients, and since coming to the College of Nursing in 2003, she has been working with patients at the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at the University of Illinois as well.

The program, called PAINRelievIt, uses a touch-screen interface to guide patients through a questionnaire to assess their pain. Patients...
draw where they are experiencing pain on the outline of a body. Then they select from a list of 78 words such as “flickering,” “flashing,” “lacerating,” and “gnawing,” the ones that best describe their pain. Next, they rate their current pain level on a scale of 0–10, the highest and lowest it has been in the last 24 hours, and what level of pain they are able to tolerate. Finally, patients are asked about barriers to their pain management, such as concerns about medication side effects or the belief that they should not complain about their symptoms.

The program generates a series of short videos and informational slide presentations based on each person’s individual concerns. PAINRelieveIt also creates a report for the healthcare provider that summarizes the data the patient entered, in addition to providing suggestions regarding pain medication. The doctor then uses his or her knowledge of the patient to determine the best options.

“People with pain get cut off,” Wilkie explains. “They want to tell you a story, and most healthcare providers do not have the time to listen to the entire story. This tool walks you through the story very quickly and helps patients to be heard.”

Wilkie’s sickle cell study, funded by the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute, is currently at the midway point. Preliminary results show that the level of pain that patients reported at the beginning of the study was an indicator of how many times they would visit an emergency room or hospital later in the study.

“If we could improve patients’ pain management,” Wilkie says, “we could dramatically reduce their healthcare costs.”

Wilkie has been struck by how empowering the program is for people in all her studies. “Completing the program gives patients the language to talk about their pain,” Wilkie says. “They love it.”
’60s

’66 Ellen Winer (BSN) recently retired from Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles after 28 years of service. She currently owns an antique business.

’68 Sandra (Mulee) Masterson (BSN) is proud to be the second of three generations of nurses in her family that include her 94-year-old mother, who recently passed away, her two daughters, and her daughter-in-law.

’69 Cindy (Wright) Bond, Sherra Clanney, Lois (Buse) Eichman, Vada (Peterson) Grant, Connie (Osbourne) Lierman, and Theresa (Watson) Nuzum (BSN) met in St. Louis over Labor Day 2010 for their annual reunion. The group continues to value the lasting friendships formed while nursing students and marvels at the wonderful improvements made to the campus since graduation.

’70s

’71 Gerald Brouder (BSN), below, is president of Columbia College in Missouri, which has consistently ranked among the nation’s best colleges in U.S. News & World Report and the Princeton Review. Dr. Brouder recently received the Columbia Business Times’ first Titan Award in Education.

’75 Linda (Best) Chalmers (BSN) is serving as an expert contributor to the Commission for Case Manager Certification’s Case Management Body of Knowledge–Workers Compensation product.

’77 Merry Kelly-Rehm (BSN) is a clinical assistant professor of nursing at the University of Tulsa. In addition to teaching a leadership and management class, she teaches a class on folk healing that deals with healing traditions from various cultures.

’75 Bonnie (Kammin) McElwee (BSN) was recently featured in an article in the News-Gazette titled “Energizer Bonnie,” which highlights her accomplishments as a marathon runner and mentor. In 2003, she placed third in her age group in the Boston Marathon.

’78 Kathleen (Hughes) McLaughlin (BSN) is an RN at a long-term care and hospice facility. She has three children and lives in Burr Ridge, IL.

’79 Joan Uebele (MS) retired from Rush-Copley Medical Center in 2005, where she was a clinical educator. Since retiring, she has taught nursing administration to BSN completion students at Kenya Methodist University in Meru, Kenya.

’80s

’82 Donna Hartweg (MS) recently retired as director of Illinois Wesleyan University School of Nursing after 18 years of service. She was honored with the 2009 Illinois Nurses Association Nurse Educator Award.

’83 Joan (Borsdorf) Ruppman (MS) is president of the Cancer Center for Healthy Living, a cancer support center in Peoria, IL. She is a clinical instructor at the UIC College of Nursing Peoria Regional Program.
'84, '79 Brenda Recchia Jeffers (MS, BSN) was named chancellor of St. John’s College in Springfield, IL, in January 2010. She previously served as interim associate dean and director of master’s / doctoral programs and research at Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University.

'84, '77 Sherri Garber Mendelson (MS, BSN) received the Best of Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, and Neonatal Nursing Writing Award from the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses. She is a nurse manager at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, in Mission Hills, CA, where she is chair of the Nursing Research Committee and co-chair of the Magnet Committee.

'87 Jorgia (Briones) Connor (BSN) is a PhD candidate and a part-time faculty member at the UIC College of Nursing. She was the first PhD nursing student at UIC to receive the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Fellowship and received the 2009 Nurse Excellence Award for Nurse Researcher of the Year from the Philippine Nurses Association of Illinois.

'89 Tonda Hughes (PhD) was honored as one of the University of Kentucky’s top 50 graduates.

'90

'90 Phylis Lawlor-Klean (MS) won the 2010 Nursing Spectrum Nursing Excellence Award in Mentoring.

'90 Jackie Medland (MS) is the chief nurse executive at Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, IL. Medland lives in Darien, IL, with her husband and two children.

'91 William Lecher (MS) is president-elect of the American Assembly for Men in Nursing. He is the senior clinical director at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

'91, '81 Lois (Hoitenga) Roelofs (PhD, MS), professor emerita of nursing, Trinity Christian College, has published Caring Lessons: A Nursing Professor’s Journey of Faith and Self. All proceeds from the book support nursing scholarships at Trinity.

'93, '91 Rebecca West (MS, BSN) received the 2009–10 Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation / Pfizer Community Innovations Award. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Nursing. West was selected to receive the 2010 Dissertation Research Award by the Midwest Nursing Research Society and the 2009–10 Research Scholarship Award by the Beta-Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

'93 Janice Phillips (PhD), above, was named a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow in May 2010. She was recognized for her breast cancer advocacy work by the governor of Illinois during his 2010 Illinois State of the State Address. Phillips was the first College of Nursing alumna to be featured on the cover of UIC Alumni Magazine in the January–February 2010 issue.

'94 Vicki Day (MS) was honored as the 2008 ATHENA Award recipient by the Pontiac Area Chamber of Commerce in Pontiac, IL. Day has been a nurse at OSF Saint James–John W. Albrecht Medical Center for nearly 30 years and is a former member of the board of directors of the UIC College of Nursing Alumni Association.

'94 David Barishman (BSN) received the 2009 Nursing Excellence Award from the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago (UIMC), and the 2010 UIC Award of Merit. He works as a nurse manager in Emergency Services at UIMC.

'96 Cheryl Herrmann (MS) was named the 2009 Alumna of the Year for the UIC College of Nursing Peoria.
Regional Program. She is a cardiac clinical nurse specialist at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria, IL. Herrmann received the 2005 Circle of Excellence Clinical Nurse Specialist Award from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and was named one of the 25 Women in Leadership in Central Illinois.

'96 Connie Henke Yarbro (MS), of Destin, FL, is the recipient of the 2010 Oncology Nursing Society Lifetime Achievement Award. Yarbro is editor of Seminars in Oncology Nursing and an adjunct clinical associate professor at the University of Missouri–Columbia Sinclair School of Nursing.

'98 Christine Carrington (MS) was inducted into the Cambridge Who’s Who in March 2010. She is president of Nurse Testing Creative Solutions.

'98 Michiko Tomura (MS) is an associate professor at the Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima College of Nursing in Hiroshima, Japan.

'99, '80 Sally (Mazzone) Hogan (MS, BSN) received the 2009 Nursing Excellence Award from the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago.

'00 Marilyn (Schooley) Prasun (PhD) was awarded tenure and promoted to the position of associate professor of nursing at Milliken University in Decatur, IL.

'02 Monica Lynch (MS) is clinic coordinator and nurse practitioner at Take Care Clinic in Roscoe, IL. She enjoys the freedom and responsibility of a retail clinic setting.

'05 Minal Patel (BSN) graduated from the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of Memphis on December 19, 2009.

'08 Kerry Brennan (BSN) was named Queen of the 2010 Chicago Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. She is currently a master’s student in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program.

'in memory

'53 Howard A. Jensen Sr. (BSN) of Beaverton, OR, died December 28, 2009, at the age of 87. After graduating from the University of Illinois, Cook County Hospital School of Nursing, and Barnes Hospital School of Anesthesia, he worked for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Portland, OR, for more than 20 years.

'54 Elizabeth W. “Betty” Dees (BSN) of Bloomington, IL, died at the age of 78, on December 6, 2009. Throughout her career, she worked at a nursing home, a hospital, the Illinois State University Infirmary, and Lincoln College.

'54 Joan (Greenlee) Stansfield (BSN) died on October 2, 2010, at the age of 81.

'62 Karen Jane (Forbes) Iafrate (BSN), of East Setauket, NY, passed away on July 24, 2009, at the age of 69. She earned a master’s degree from Stony Brook University, and worked at the Sagamore Children’s Psychiatric Center until her retirement.

'63 Frances J. McGuire (BSN) passed away on August 2, 2009, in Orlando, FL, at the age of 78. She worked as head nurse at the Veterans Administration Research Hospital and helped start a community health center on the west side of Chicago. In 1970, she joined the U.S. Public Health Service and served the agency for nearly 20 years.

We want to hear from you! Send your news—professional, family, community service—anything you want to share with your classmates in the next issue of Vital Signs. High-resolution photos and address changes are welcome. E-mail information and photos to nbsallee@uic.edu.
'65 Ruth (Thumberger) Bedwell (BSN) of Koloa, HI, passed away on August 17, 2007, at the age of 65. Bedwell worked at the California Department of Health Services.

'65 Sharon M. Sancken (BSN) of Westchester, IL, died April 8, 2009, at the age of 66, after a four-year battle with cancer. She worked as head nurse at the University of Illinois Hospital, and later at Hines Veterans Administration Hospital. She also organized Stand Down, a yearly event that provided more than 700 homeless veterans with medical, social, and legal help.

'66 Frances I. Liebentritt (MS) of Skokie, IL, died April 17, 2010, at the age of 74. She had been the associate director of nursing at Lake Forest Hospital and prior to that, worked at St. Francis Hospital.

'67 Kathleen Carroll (Saxman) Justice (BSN) died on May 5, 2010, at the age of 66, in Thornton, CO. A longtime member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses, she worked in Denver-area hospitals.

'68 Dr. Judith (Westphal) Pollmann (BSN), originally of Hillsboro, IL, died April 27, 2010, at the age of 63, in Nicholasville, KY. She was an associate professor at Eastern Kentucky University College of Health Sciences.

'69 Anita Mae (Taylor) Killion (BSN) of Matthews, NC, died on October 27, 2010, at the age of 80. In addition to teaching at Winthrop University, she did missionary work throughout her life, most recently as a nurse in Romania.

'70 Wendy K. Burgess (BSN) died December 3, 2009, at the age of 66. Throughout her career, Dr. Burgess taught courses in public health nursing at several Chicago-area nursing at several Chicago-area universities; she retired as director of the Graduate Program in Nursing at North Park University.

'71 Elizabeth Ann Zelenka (BSN) of St. Louis, MO, passed away on January 5, 2010, at the age of 51, after a short illness. At the time of her death, she was a fundraising consultant and the owner and operator of Zelenka and Associates.

'72 Frances I. Liebentritt (MS) of Skokie, IL, died April 17, 2010, at the age of 74. She had been the associate director of nursing at Lake Forest Hospital and prior to that, worked at St. Francis Hospital.

'72 Ruth Joan S. Oliver (BSN) of Hinsdale, IL, passed away on January 20, 2010. She was 79 years old and had worked at the DuPage County Health Department.

'72 Dr. Lois (Weimer) Witney (MS) passed away on May 23, 2010, at the age of 77, in Johnson City, TN. She was an advanced practice nurse and taught at Illinois Wesleyan University, and other universities.

'72 Diane Cronin-Stuibs (MS, BSN) of Traverse City, MI, died July 28, 2009, at the age of 63. She was a clinical nurse researcher and educator and held positions at the Rush Institute for Health Aging and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

'76, '74 Diane Cronin-Stubbs (MS, BSN) of Traverse City, MI, died July 28, 2009, at the age of 63. She was a clinical nurse researcher and educator and held positions at the Rush Institute for Health Aging and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

'76, '74 Diane Cronin-Stuibs (MS, BSN) of Traverse City, MI, died July 28, 2009, at the age of 63. She was a clinical nurse researcher and educator and held positions at the Rush Institute for Health Aging and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

'76 Karyn K. Chermeel (BSN), formerly of Oak Park, IL, died December 6, 2010, at the age of 64. Dr. Chermeel was a member of Doctors Without Borders, and while stationed in Bosnia during the war, her group won the Nobel Peace Prize. She served as an emergency room physician at several Chicago-area hospitals and was an instructor at the University of Illinois.

'76, '74 Diane Cronin-Stubbs (MS, BSN) of Traverse City, MI, died July 28, 2009, at the age of 63. She was a clinical nurse researcher and educator and held positions at the Rush Institute for Health Aging and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

'76, '74 Diane Cronin-Stubbs (MS, BSN) of Traverse City, MI, died July 28, 2009, at the age of 63. She was a clinical nurse researcher and educator and held positions at the Rush Institute for Health Aging and the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

'79 Dorothy Marie (Anderson) Schwartz (BSN) passed away on August 26, 2009, in Sauk City, WI, at the age of 76 years. Her nursing career spanned 53 years.

'81 Susan G. Costello (BSN) of Champaign, IL, passed away at the age of 58, on January 22, 2010, after sustaining injuries from being hit by a car.

'81 Cynthia Marie Kestler (BSN) of Addison, IL, died on June 30, 2010, at the age of 66.

'84 Rosie ”Nena” Tirado (BSN) of Deerfield, IL, died on August 12, 2009, at the age of 26, as a result of an automobile accident. She was a nurse at St. Mary’s Resurrection Hospital in Chicago.

'87 Colleen P. Erhardt (BSN) passed away on October 22, 2009, at the age of 26, in Elmhurst, IL. She was a nurse at Evanston North Shore Hospital.
Virginia M. Ohlson, PhD, RN (1914–2010)

The UIC College of Nursing community mourns the loss of Dr. Virginia M. Ohlson, longtime member of the faculty and an icon in public health and international nursing. Ohlson died on April 18, 2010, at the age of 95.

A native of Chicago, Ohlson devoted her life to providing professional nursing education and service around the world, most notably as a public health nurse in Japan following World War II.

Starting in 1947, she was a civilian nurse, serving in the Nursing Affairs Division of the Public Health and Welfare Section of the General Headquarters, Supreme Command for Allied Powers, under General Douglas MacArthur. Ohlson helped develop a reorganized system of education, registration, licensure, and practice for public health nurses in Japan, in addition to establishing a health service that included clinics and home visits.

She returned to Japan in 1951 at the invitation of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, to help determine the effects of radiation on the populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and later joined the Rockefeller Foundation as its nurse representative to Japan.

Ohlson joined the College of Nursing faculty in 1963 and, in 1970, became the first head of the department of Public Health Nursing. She later was named assistant dean and director of the Office for International Studies, now known as the Global Health Leadership Office.

In 1991, Ohlson was awarded the Butterfly, the Third Order of the Precious Crown, by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, for her outstanding contributions to shaping and developing nursing in Japan.

A memorial service was held at the College on May 5, 2010. Ohlson is survived by her sister, Dorothy Lundbom; nieces Virginia K. Larson and Christine Chidester; nephews Jack Lundbom and Karl Bandemer; and many friends and colleagues.

The Virginia M. Ohlson International Studies Fund Endowment was established in 1984 to advance the significant work in international studies begun by Dr. Virginia Ohlson at UIC. Since then, more than 50 international students have received scholarships and more than 20 leaders in international healthcare have visited the College for the annual lecture series. Donations in memory of Dr. Ohlson can be made online at www.uic.edu/nursing or by check payable to the University of Illinois Foundation and mailed to the UIC College of Nursing / Office of Advancement, 845 S. Damen (MC 802), Chicago, IL 60612.
Dr. Norma R. Kelly (MS ’78), former director of the UIC College of Nursing Peoria Regional Program from 1995 to 2007, passed away on July 7, 2010, at her home in Morton, IL. She was 71 years old.

Kelly joined the Peoria Regional Program faculty in 1993 and became director two years later. She received the Golden Lamp Teaching Award six times and is remembered as a dedicated student advocate and mentor.

She was on the board of the Center for Prevention of Abuse and a member of the Midwest Nursing Research Society, the American Nurses Association, Kappa Delta Pi, Sigma Theta Tau, and the American Heart Association. She was also a pilot and certified flight instructor for many years and was a member of the International Flying Nurses Association.

Kelly is survived by her husband, A.J. Gatzemeyer; and her children Kara, Kathleen, and Kevin; her brother Richard Spangler, along with many relatives and friends. Before retiring, Kelly established the Norma R. Kelly Scholarship Fund to support students enrolled in the Peoria Regional Program.

Donations in memory of Dr. Kelly can be made online at www.uic.edu/nursing or by check payable to the University of Illinois Foundation and mailed to the UIC College of Nursing / Office of Advancement, 845 S. Damen (MC 802), Chicago, IL 60612.
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John Kim, BSN student
Recipient of the College of Nursing Scholarship
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