Letter from the Dean

In this issue of Vital Signs, we celebrate the exceptional reach – both local and worldwide – of our alumni, faculty, and students.

When I travel throughout the state, I am continually amazed by the camaraderie among you as our alumni, the influence of your leadership in so many fields, and your continued enthusiasm and generosity to give your time, energy, wisdom, and resources to the College of Nursing community. As I have said so many times and will say so many more – thank you.

As you read the pages of this issue of Vital Signs, I have no doubt you will be amazed, too, by the breadth of positive work occurring under the leadership of various UIC Nursing College community members. Our theme for this issue – think globally, act locally – so accurately fits the work being done by our alumni, students, and faculty: from Urbana faculty and student work to sustain a multicultural health clinic at Orchard Downs to a recent service learning project in Haiti, where students and faculty from Chicago and Rockford served over 1,000 Haitians with much-needed healthcare attention; from Dr. Barbara Dancy’s recent findings that HIV risks are reduced when mothers teach daughters about the disease to new collaborations with the Asian American Suicide Prevention Initiative; from strengthened partnerships with Thresholds and mental health patients to new partnerships in Chile and India….

Immerse yourself in these stories of vibrant, extraordinary UIC Nursing leadership. May they inspire you to continue to or to initiate support for the College in multiple ways, be they through the gifts of energy, time, or money. As citizens of the College, we have much to celebrate related to advancing nursing leadership for health in Illinois and beyond and, fortunately, we see much more to do that will maintain or accelerate our momentum!

Warmest regards,

Joan L. Shaver, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor & Dean
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**Vital Signs** is published annually for the alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing. It is dedicated to continuing a strong relationship between the College of Nursing, the UIC Nursing Alumni Association and its constituents, and friends and other supporters of the UIC College of Nursing.
Feature – Think Globally, Act Locally

From local programs serving young students to global programs celebrating scholarship, the reach of the Global Health Leadership Office is at work at home and abroad.
Stop by the 11th floor of the College of Nursing – home to the Global Health Leadership Office (GHLO)– any time – even late on a Friday afternoon before the end of year holiday break – and the halls are filled with open doors, clicking keyboards, and the sounds of people interacting.

“It is all about highlighting linkages, networks, and collaboration these days,” explained Dr. Beverly McElmurry, Associate Dean for Global Health Leadership, “and we can’t do linkages behind closed doors.”

Take a walk with Dr. McElmurry around the 11th floor, and she will tell you what each individual does – from the recent trips to Malawi and Taiwan, to the research with violence in Thailand and HIV/AIDS in China, to interviews with low-income Chicago-area grandparents who are raising their grandchildren (often because the parents are incarcerated). Be ready for interruptions – people constantly approach her with questions and updates, which she receives warmly, instantly changing from one topic to the next; she has a rare ability to keep several ideas going in her mind at once, and pick up at one topic where she left off from the last.

She knows how to solve the most basic problems. “You fixed this?” asked the graduate student who thanked her graciously for fixing a printer.

Under Dr. McElmurry’s direction, the GHLO fosters multidisciplinary collaboration relevant to Primary Healthcare and international health within the U.S. and abroad. There are currently three areas of focus – the World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating center, the Center for Primary Healthcare (the domestic-base), and the mentoring of both international and domestic scholars.
many who are UIC graduate students. Within the GHLO Center for Primary Healthcare, the Chicago Health Corps (CHC) is partnered with eight different community sites around Chicago to increase access to care, awareness, and health education for community residents. The CHC is one of four sites in the AmeriCorps national Health Corps program established in 1994 (the other sites include Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and north Florida). Funded locally by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, Polk Bros. Foundation, and the Col. Stanley R. McNeil Foundation, CHC accepts applications from volunteers who commit to a year of service at a site, working towards health education, program development, access and outreach. The UIC program currently has 15 members, many of whom are recent college graduates who are considering a healthcare career, often as physicians.

Marisela Mirelez, CHC project manager, described, “So many members come into the program focused on pursuing medicine, but they leave with the experience of being involved in the community, and now they are interested in pursuing social work, nursing, a nurse practitioner’s degree, a master’s degree in public health – they realize there are many avenues to meaningful work as a health professional.” Mirelez has a strong base in the CHC, having been a member herself for two years, working at the Juan Diego Community Center in southeast Chicago where she grew up. She feels passionately about the influence of the CHC and university community organizing to promote access to care. “Half of the partnering organizations we have today were here in the beginning,” she said. “They have continued on because they have seen the impact of an AmeriCorps health member at their sites.”

Under Dr. McElmurry’s leadership and through the “Minority International Research Training” program (MIRT), young, bright students from around the country and from groups underrepresented in healthcare are recruited and placed internationally for research training experiences in nursing science. The MIRT program is funded by the NIH Fogarty International Center and the Office for Minority Health.

Complementing the MIRT program, Dr. Mi Ja Kim, professor and dean emerita, oversees the “Bridges to Doctorate program,” which brings together a cadre of bright minority students from the University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, DePaul and Purdue Universities. “They promise to be our future star scholars and we are very proud of them,” said Dr. Kim. Supporting these students only through to doctoral study, Dr. Kim wishes that the program (funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH) paid for tuition during the PhD program as well. Raising scholarship monies to help students such as these to complete their studies is a paramount initiative for the College.

In concert with the College emphasis on Advancing Nursing Leadership, Dr. Kim’s work also fosters the “Korean Scholars program.” Since its establishment within the GHLO in 2001, the Academy of International Leadership Development has trained more than 20 postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars, and 18 home care nurses from Korea. “I thank the UIC faculty who mentored them and helped them develop programs of research,” Dr. Kim expressed. “Most of them are back in Korea in faculty and director/dean leadership positions.”

Centered in the GHLO, the Robert Wood Johnson foundation currently funds two programs – “Active Living by Design,” and “Healthy Eating by Design.” Dr. Linda McCready (BSN ’73, MS ’93, PhD 2000), research assistant professor, and others from the GHLO work with a host of other agencies (the Garden Group and the Logan Square Consortium among them) to blend these initiatives. One
target is to ensure that every student in Chicago public elementary schools is served one piece of fresh fruit or vegetable each day.

“We want sustainability past this special project,” Dr. McElmurry said, “We’re asking what makes it worthwhile for everyone to continue the goals – what is it over time that is going to keep the fresh fruit going to those students.”

The linkages that bind these projects include participatory research, working at the grass roots level, and community/university partnerships to solve current and future problems – and it’s about dedicated people. **Linda Ungerleider**, currently finishing her dissertation, interviewed local grandparents who are raising their grandchildren to determine their life and health-related challenges. Down the hall, **Robert Ungerleider**, a retired attorney from the AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Program, is working to help get sustainable housing for these grandparents and others. Health economist **Chang Park** advises many students on the best ways to analyze and present data, and he has done crucial analyses on pertinent global issues such as nurse migration patterns and the international nursing workforce. **Gwen Pinager, Todd Hissong, and Elsa Almaguer** are what Dr. McElmurry described as, “the backbone of the place.”

**Dr. Karen Solheim**, postdoctoral fellow in primary healthcare, conducted interviews with faculty doing community health in clinics, across disciplines, and then interviewed collaborating healthcare workers to characterize multi-
“Nurses in the USA conduct research that is narrow but deep, and the research is then generalized and used to benefit the population,” said Nusara Prasertsri, a new Thai graduate student. “I am eager to learn more.”

Keke Lin, a graduate student from Mainland China, described the environment on the 11th floor. “We have a lot of support from the College because most of us come from different parts of the world, so we know we have the same feeling of isolation, and sometimes we just sit together and talk and help each other – we have a very friendly atmosphere.”

Added fellow student Annie Lee, from Taiwan, “Usually we have students from six or seven countries sitting at the same table.”

The legacy of the GHLO is that there are international alumni of the UIC College of Nursing around the world, including Naeema Al-Gasseer (PhD ’89), current WHO Country Director in Iraq; Sheila Dinotshe Tlou (PhD ’90), Minister of Health in Botswana; Chrissie Kaponda (PhD ’96), Director of the Research Center at the University of Malawi; and Fariba Al Darazi (PhD ’87), Regional Advisor for Nursing And Allied Health Personnel WHO /Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO).

Through the GHLO, two scholarship endowments are administered for international students in honor of Dr. Chieko Onoda and Dr. Virginia Ohlson. In 2004, a group of PhD students approached Gwen Pinager and Todd Hissong about establishing a scholarship in Dr. McElmurry’s honor, and meeting “in secret,” they raised enough money to endow a fund in Dr. McElmurry’s name for PhD students doing international research for their dissertations.

Scholarships are crucial because international students are often ineligible for financial aid in the U.S.

Describing the international graduates, Dr. McElmurry said, “They receive a good education, their eyes are opened about society and healthcare across cultures, and they have the experience of interacting with a global health community on the 11th floor – it is invaluable.”
In ongoing celebration of its 50th anniversary in 2005, the College of Nursing held the “Optimizing Global Health through Nursing Science” conference on October 28th and 29th, welcoming over 175 nurse scientists from four continents to meet and discuss broad-reaching healthcare issues. The conference included guest speakers, poster presentations, round table discussions, opportunities for networking, and an outstanding evening celebration of diversity and cross-cultural collaboration.

Said Dr. Mi Ja Kim, emerita professor and dean, “I was most pleased to see the level of participation of international scholars and the quality of their work. We have demonstrated our bests not only in intellectual power, but also in logistics for the conference. The international dinner and the ethnic entertainments by Korean, Thai, Philippine musicians and dancers, and of course authentic American chorus of “take me out to the ballgame” by Americans on the last night of the conference was a finishing touch that will be long remembered.”

“Global health is now a very hot issue because of the impact of health issues on every country, like SARS and the bird flu,” said Annie Lee, a PhD student from Taiwan.

Linda McCreary, (BSN ’73, MS ’93, PhD ’00) research assistant professor in the College of Nursing, enjoyed the rich round table discussions and possibilities for networking. “I was able to talk to people whose work I have read and who share common interests. It was a great opportunity to meet them in person.”

“I was very impressed by the people, and the effort they put forth to be with us,” said Olga Sorokin, project coordinator for the conference. “Even hurricanes Katrina and Rita did not stop researchers from the Tulane University and the University of Texas-Galveston from bringing their research to our forum.”

College of Nursing Alum Tina Escobar (BSN ’78, MS ’81), who currently works as the school nurse at Mather High School in Chicago, attended the conference with a high school senior from the Ivory Coast, whose attendance was sponsored by the UIC College of Nursing Alumni Board. “On the drive home,” Escobar related about her student, “she was talking about her inspiration to do research. I don’t think she would ever have even thought of that before the conference.”

The 8th Annual Power of Nursing Leadership Event was held October 28th at the Navy Pier Grand Ballroom. Over 600 nurse and healthcare leaders attended the day’s celebration of nursing leadership, with awards, an opening act by comedian Diana Jordan, and a keynote address by Yolanda King.

Take your daughter to work day - 8th grade girls from Gregory School in Chicago spent the day at the College of Nursing, organized by the senior class’s community clinical service and faculty member Phyllis Pelt (BSN ’67, MS ’95).
Cee Barnes-Boyd and her staff accept funding from the McKesson Foundation for expanding health services at the National Teachers’ Academy in Chicago.
Cynthia “Cee” Barnes-Boyd (BSN ’75, MS ’79, PhD ’90), assistant dean of community health initiatives at the UIC College of Nursing, was awarded the 2005 Illinois Outstanding Nurse Leader Award at the 8th Annual Power of Nursing Leadership Event. Barnes-Boyd, who also is director of the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative in the Great Cities Institute, was selected for her dedication and commitment to reducing healthcare disparities among the most underserved populations in the Chicago area.

Barnes-Boyd describes herself as an imaginative kid whose early experiences cultivated her natural leadership abilities. Her father played a large role. “He had a very practical kind of wisdom that rings in my head almost daily. He would tell me things like, ‘As a black child you can accomplish anything you want to do, it’s just that some things are going to take you longer than others.’ He could also figure out how to do anything eventually, and I have that attitude. You can tell me no, but it doesn’t mean the same thing to me as it might mean to some people. It just means that I have to go back and eliminate that option and think of a different way to get to where I want to be, but I’m going to get there.”

In high school she became aware of gifts that she should use, particularly in the Future Nurses Club. “I realized I wasn’t afraid to speak up. There were other people who had more important things to say than I did, but they were afraid to say it. So I developed this role where I would be the spokesperson for them – and I recognized that was a talent.”

She is generous in sharing the glories of accomplishments. She continues to demonstrate lifelong learning and achievement.

Barnes-Boyd does not think of herself only as a “nurse leader.” “I don’t necessarily do things because I’m a nurse; most of the things that gain my full commitment are things I do because I think they’re the right things to do. I’m committed mainly to the outcomes.” She also values the work she does and the people with whom she works. “I recognize my limitations and try to find someone who fills the gap. I don’t think I have it altogether with all these spinning plates – but what I do have is very capable people spinning them – and I stay out of their business. My goal is to make sure they feel good as people, and then they spin the plates well.”

This commitment to a “we” approach was evident at the Power of Nursing Leadership Event, when Barnes-Boyd accepted her award and asked colleagues who had worked with her throughout her career to stand. It seemed there was someone standing at nearly every table, and sometimes the whole table of people standing.

Said Barnes-Boyd in her acceptance speech, “I think sometimes I have only one talent, and that’s bringing together people who are talented.” What a leadership gift!
Since the late 1970s, care plans have been an accreditation requirement of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) to help keep nurses and the entire healthcare team working toward common patient goals. But after more than thirty years, organizations have had little success making care plans a valuable tool in day-to-day practice. There is wide-variation in how care plans are completed and utilized, creating fertile ground for miscommunication – and for creative solutions.

UIC College of Nursing researchers are working on those creative solutions.

Breaking new ground, with the potential to make an enormous impact on care planning and management, is the Hands-on Automated Nursing Data System (HANDS), an innovative web-based software application that integrates standardized nursing terminologies into individual patient plans of care that are updated at every change of shift as the current nurse “hands-off” to the next nurse.

“Nurses are used to telling individual patient stories,” said Dr. Gail Keenan, originator and principal investigator for the HANDS, “but across time, it is hard to maintain a quick look at what it all means together. The challenge is creating plans of care for constantly-changing patients and using them as a means of communicating.”

To fully-describe care so that a nurse knows what the last nurse has
the user, rather than the user adapting to
the program.” Dr. Wilkie and her research teams
have created innovative informatics tools
for improved care, research, and nursing
and patient education. “As budgets are
getting leaner and meaner, and research
studies are getting more complex,
informatics offers techniques and
strategies for more efficient processes, and
greater integrity for collecting and
processing research data.” Dr. Wilkie and
her colleagues Dr. Kay Judge and Dr.
Shiping “Sam” Zong recently received
the 2005 Clinical Nursing Applications
Information Technology Award from Sigma
Theta Tau for their PAIN/ReportIt®
program, the first comprehensive,
computerized pain assessment program
completed by the patient.

This is not Dr. Wilkie’s only foray into
health informatics. Funded by the Robert
Wood Johnson Foundation, “TNEEL”
Toolkit for Nurturing Excellence at End of
Life Transition) is a suite of programs that
she and her teams designed to provide
palliative care education in six electronic
modules: comfort, connections, ethics,
grief, well-being, and impact. Giving them
ready access to end-of-life
teaching/learning resources, the TNEEL
was distributed free of charge via CD-ROM
to nurse educators at all baccalaureate
and associate nursing degree programs
and to more than 8,000 clinical settings in
the U.S. The TNEEL is available to all
other health care organizations for the cost
of shipping and handling; please see the
Web site for more information
http://www.tneel.uic.edu/tneel.asp. The
UIC College of Nursing Institute for
Healthcare Innovation offers a web-based
version of TNEEL for self-study by
practicing health professionals interested in
becoming more proficient in end-of-life
care (http://www.uic.edu/nursing/ihi/).

Dr. Keenan’s vision is that the
“HANDS becomes the standard
across the country by which nurses
communicate care, especially when
handing off to the next nurse. Overall,
it’s about nurses communicating in a
common language, better
understanding patients and working to
meet their needs.”

How UIC Nursing
Leadership is
Changing the Face
of Healthcare
Through
Information
Systems

In 2004, the program was
awarded $1.5 million from the Agency
for Healthcare Research and Quality to
conduct a three-year multi-site study
done – including diagnosis,
interventions, and outcomes – the
HANDS includes search modes,
information screens, and templates
that allow users to quickly locate and
select terms to depict a patient’s plan
of care, nursing interventions, and
progress towards outcomes.

Dr. Keenan’s work involves
advocating nationally and securing
investment and funding for putting the
HANDS in a national infrastructure.
She is using what she described as
“the diffusion theory” – get the product
working well, have it in schools for
student learning, gradually infuse it
into practice settings for nursing
practice, and ultimately link to vendors
for broad-based adoption.

“Nurses are asking for it. What we
need now are consumers – nurses –
to bring visibility to the project.”
After testing an application for tracking the clinical experiences of students as they learn nursing, Drs. Barbara Simmons, Pat Lewis, and Peggy Cassey now are consulting with the Typhon Group to develop a more robust and versatile clinical tracking tool, accessible both on the web and on a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). This tracking tool promises to be a first in the nation for student documentation of clinical experiences, competencies, and numerous other components. This tool will be beta tested with the incoming 2006 Graduate Entry students. Said Dr. Simmons, “It is my goal to make the Graduate Entry Program a premier program by using both leading-edge learning technology and pedagogy to prepare our next generation of nursing clinicians.”
This spring, the College transitioned to a new information system that integrates all the data that is used in the College for its business, including teaching/learning, research and practice/service. It was created from the user’s perspective by the CON Services Management Team, a team of staff associates, in collaboration with the CON Programming Team.

CORE – the College Organized Resources Enterprise – is a relational web-based database, to which faculty and staff have access no matter where they are.

According to Denise Sobotka, chair of the services management team, “We wanted to make a system that was efficient and easy to maneuver, and that accurately reflected and facilitated the work being done in the College.”

“The goal is for everything to be at the fingertips of every College employee, so you don’t have to call everybody for a bit of information or wait for an e-mail response. You can access it directly, wherever you are,” said team member Gail Cook. “This is the beginning of a design that is going to evolve into something larger.”

Sue Littau, assistant to the associate dean for research, explained, “CORE is based on the UIC business practices. We tried to simplify the system so it is easy to understand, easy to use, and intuitive.”

Dr. Shiping “Sam” Zong, head of the College programming team, agreed. “Everything is an open book, on the table. Someone can sit down and start using it – extensive training is not necessary.”

“This was definitely a team effort,” added Sobotka. “We were the users, the programmers were the wish-makers.”

Working alongside Dr. Zong are Han Yan and Dr. Zhongsheng Zhao, who comprise a technically strong team with specialties in measurement, statistics, research design, computer control, and engineering. On many projects throughout the College, this team works with faculty and staff to design systems for research, teaching, and clinical care that are “user-friendly” and logical.

“Faculty should think as wildly as they can,” Dr. Zong emphasized. “If they can think it, we will do it.”
Dear Colleagues,

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Warmest Wishes,
Judy Storfjell, PhD, RN
Associate Dean, Academic Nursing Practice
Executive Director, IHI

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“Admission to UIC is very competitive and students know that graduating from a UIC nursing program means something out in the field,” explained Dawn Carter, Urban Health Program (UHP) coordinator. “I make sure that students who want to come to UIC are armed with the information they need early in their educational career to be a competitive applicant to the program. Some students don’t think they could ever get into UIC, but the purpose of the UHP is to help students attain their goals.”

More specifically, the purpose of the UIC UHP is to improve the quality of healthcare services for medically underserved urban populations by expanding health profession education opportunities for underrepresented groups (African American, Hispanic and Native American) and others interested in serving in health professions shortage areas of Illinois. In 2005, the CON UHP provided assistance to over 140 self-identified African-American, Hispanic, and Native-American undergraduate and graduate nursing students. The program offers a mixture of leadership and networking activities, as well as workshops that support students in topics ranging from time management and test-taking skills to cultural awareness and resume writing. In the mentoring component, new and continuing UHP students are linked to form a student-to-student support network. During the 2004-2005 academic year, the recruitment efforts of UHP Team members reached thousands of minority students through visits to schools, colleges, career fairs and professional conferences.

These support services and recruitment efforts were in addition to annual cultural workshops, at which students, faculty, and staff associates participated to promote cultural competence training and awareness.

The College of Nursing UHP team members are: Coordinator, Dawn Carter; Director, Dr. Connie Dallas (PhD ’95); faculty liaisons: Drs. Barbara Berger and Carrie Klima, and Ms. Phyllis Peit (BSN ’67, MS ’95). Kelly Pennington is the graduate assistant and student liaisons are Glenda Burnett, PhD candidate, and Sheon MacNeill, undergraduate student.

UHP personnel are excited about opportunities to increase the success and accomplishments of UHP students. Since joining the CON in the fall of 2004, Carter has increased the number of organized activities, streamlined communication to link current students with resources, and heightened awareness among high school and junior college minority students about the program and the nursing field.

“High School students should know we are here to meet with them,” Carter explained, “to talk about their interests, introduce them to faculty in the college, and give them tips about what they should do while they are still in high school to prepare for a nursing education. When students know what they need to do up front, it is a lot easier to get to where they want to be.”

“As professional nurses and the largest group of health providers,” said Dr. Dallas, “we should be unwilling to allow the U.S. to settle for less than the complete elimination of health disparities. There is growing evidence that health providers who share the same race/ethnicity as their patients are more adept at providing culturally competent healthcare and increasing patients’ overall satisfaction with their healthcare in comparison with providers who do not.”
Quad Cities Regional Program Celebrates 25th Anniversary

More than one hundred faculty, alumni, students, staff, and community supporters joined together on September 28th to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Quad Cities regional nursing program at the MARK of the Quad Cities.

The party was a huge celebration, with Kay Allen, the very first faculty hired in 1977, in attendance, along with former program director Dr. Kathleen Hanson and Lynn Kustes, the Quad-Cities Alumni Chapter’s “Illini Queen.”

Dr. Pamela Hill, director of the program, read aloud letters from former students, UIC Chancellor Sylvia Manning, and former dean Dr. Mitzi Duxbury, who wrote, “You were far ahead of the curve in responding to student and societal needs – you have done well.”

In attendance were former Moline mayor Stan Leach, who was a strong supporter of the program during his service, current mayor Donald Welvaert, Senator Mike Jacobs, Representative Mike Boland and Representative Pat Verschoore, as well as a UIC Board of Trustee Robert Vickrey and his wife Barbara, and the Moline Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees sung birthday greetings to Dean Joan Shaver and Dr. Mary Ann Anderson, Quad-Cities co-director, who share their birthday on the same date, September 28th.

In her congratulatory speech, Dean Shaver spoke of first coming to the QC campus when she became dean ten years ago. “I remember being so incredibly impressed with the community spirit and the community support for our program.”

The Quad Cities program was created in 1980 to address the shortage of baccalaureate-prepared nurses in that area of the state. The program has now graduated 395 RN-BSN and MS students, many of who come from an 80-100 mile radius; most work full- or part-time outside the home.

The RN-BSN degree program is designed for working nurses. Starting in Fall 2006, an all-online four semester part-time or two semester full-time program will be available. MS students can complete advanced practice specialties including Family NP, Advanced Community Health Nurse, Administrative Nursing Leader, Acute Care NP, Women’s Health NP, and Nurse Midwife, using a combination of classroom, videoconference and online technologies.

According to Dr. Hill, “Our students are our best recruiters.”

Wendy Escontrias (BSN ’99, MS ’01) and Rhonda Kistler (BSN ’91, MS ’02) managed the fundraising efforts at the party, including a successful silent auction and t-shirt sale. Escontrias also serves as the liaison between the Nursing Alumni Association and the Birdies for Charity event sponsored by John Deere. She said about her work, “I love that I can empower other women to go out and do things, even when they have families.”

2006 graduate Julia Hull, a nurse for 20 years who returned for her BSN, finds the program especially well suited for students with careers and families. “The classroom structure allows the opportunity to communicate clearly with the faculty – they are very aware of life situations that could affect your schoolwork and offer opportunities to succeed.”

Many students agree that a major key in keeping them connected is administrative staff associate, Beverly Mangravite. “B’v’s the best – she really helps keep everyone involved and together.” The faculty concur with the students!
Dr. David Carley Named Director of the Center for Narcolepsy, Sleep and Health Research

Dr. David Carley joined the College of Nursing in November as the director for the newly expanded Center for Narcolepsy, Sleep, and Health Research.

The Center, established in 1986 by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Piscopo, builds on the intent of its founders with an expanded vision for using a multidisciplinary approach to embrace sleep physiology and sleep pathology. The agenda of the Center is predicated on pursuing three interrelated aims: research (both animal and human), education (of scientists, clinicians, patients, and community), and the transfer of developed technologies and knowledge to treat and prevent sleep-related disorders and promote sleep health.

“There is general appreciation for the link between good sleep and good general health,” said Dr. Carley, “though this link is not well-understood. Here’s a key knowledge gap.”

Eight faculty members maintain affiliations in the Center, collaborating among three UIC Colleges: Nursing, Medicine, and Engineering, including Dean Joan Shaver and Drs. Janet Larson and Stephen Lloyd from the College of Nursing.

“We have the multidisciplinary research,” described Dr. Carley, “now we have the administrative infrastructure to support the collaboration.”

This multidisciplinary approach is at the forefront of national priorities and a new emphasis on clinical/translational science, meant to accelerate and smooth the gaps of development from basic observation and invention through to human and clinical applications to dissemination of the information – making an impact on healthcare on a broad level.

According to Dr. Carley, “UIC is in a great position to take a leadership role in this clinical and translational science of sleep.”

Dr. Carley joined UIC in 1986 in pulmonary medicine. Since 1997 he has had a partial appointment in bio-engineering, his original training ground. In assuming the director’s role, he now maintains a two-thirds appointment in CON and a one-third appointment in the College of Medicine.

His unique dual appointment came about through a series of conversations about re-envisioning and broadening the scope of the existing center to include sleep physiology and various sleep pathologies. “There’s an incredibly rich combination of resources at UIC,” he described, “and better and brighter opportunities come with a more inclusive vision. Everyone agreed that the tricky part about this joint initiative is keeping the right balance. The director should be in a position and have activities that immediately demonstrate that this can work.”

Dr. Carley’s personal research priority is the interface between sleep regulation and cardiorespiratory functioning, including implications for such disorders as sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and sleep apnea syndrome, which affects 5% of the population.

“There is a huge medical need in this area,” he explained. “It’s common, we have insufficient ways to treat it, and if you don’t treat it well, it kills you.” There are currently no drug interventions for sleep apnea.

An important thrust of the work involves developing effective animal models for this research, and also working between human and animal studies.

With all these spinning plates, how much sleep does Dr. Carley get each night? “Less than I should, or would like – about an average of six hours. The key is getting enough and getting it in a regular pattern – we call it sleep hygiene.”
The Lillian Runnerstrom Institute Expands Its Support for Students

Strong faculty leadership and outstanding support from alumni have increased the scholarships available through the Lillian Runnerstrom Institute from two to seven in the past year.

The Department of Maternal Child Health founded the Lillian Runnerstrom Institute of Excellence in the Study of Women, Children, and Family Health in 2003 to honor Dr. Runnerstrom, professor and head of the Department of Maternal Child Nursing at UIC from 1969 through 1980, and founder of the Nurse Midwifery program at UIC in 1972, the first of its kind in Illinois.

Dr. Runnerstrom is remembered for her pioneering spirit and broad influence.

“She benefited from mentors picking her out to pursue education in maternal child health, then she did the same,” explained Janet Engstrom (MS ‘81, PhD ‘85), one of the founders of the Institute who also endowed one of the institute’s first scholarships. “So many people have said, ‘Lillian Runnerstrom was really the person who encouraged me to continue my education.’ She believed nurses had to achieve the same level of education as any other academician.”

Sixteen students have received funding through the Institute’s scholarships.

“We dreamed of an Institute without walls,” said Dr. Rosemary White-Traut, Head of Maternal Child Nursing. “We seek to support scholarship at all levels, with seven endowed scholarships right now and plans to raise funds for professorships, an endowed chair, and a research center on women’s health, infants, children and family.”

According to Joyce Roberts (PhD ’79), current professor and director of the Nurse-Midwifery Track at the University of Michigan, “She was the role model for a Department Head that caused me to believe that students are our primary ‘product’ (my word, not hers) who merit consideration and assistance with what they are trying to do as graduate students.”

Dr. Runnerstrom was also an avid reader of science fiction and fantasy, which gave her the idea for using PLATO – a computerized case study system for students to use in addition to their regular curriculum. “She had the idea that this would be a way of learning that would be different,” Dr. Engstrom described. “She was all about innovative teaching and she made sure we all had equipment.”

Sabina Dambrauskas (BSN ’68, MSN ’76), was in the first class under Dr. Runnerstrom’s leadership and has worked at UIC ever since as a clinical instructor and practitioner. In 2005, she endowed a midwifery scholarship in the Institute.

“I was one of the first students to do research at Cook County Hospital and it took two years to get through the right channels to receive permission to collect data through patient interviews,” said Dambrauskas. “I wanted to give up many times, but Lillian would be encouraging and cajoling and say, no, we are going to see this through and off we would go to another meeting. And in the long run, it worked due to Lillian’s persistence. She never saw issues as obstacles, but as challenges that could be overcome.”

Dr. Engstrom continued, “She built bridges, even with people who were hostile to midwifery. Now, UIC has one of the best practices in the country.”

Lillian Runnerstrom Institute of Excellence in the Study of Women, Children, and Family Health

To help build the future of maternal child nursing, the Institute is accepting donations for the following scholarships:

Janet Engstrom Midwifery and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Scholarship

Sabina’s Nurse Midwifery Endowed Scholarship Fund

Mitzi Duxbury Scholarship Fund

Mitzi L. Duxbury Graduate Student Award in Memory of Dr. Alexander Schmidt Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Fund

The Gold Scholarship

Joyce Roberts Midwifery Scholarship Fund
Sweating during physical activity or in hot weather is healthy. But when individuals begin perspiring while experiencing discomfort in their chest, arm, neck or jaw – with little or no exertion – it could be the onset of a heart attack, according to a new study by Dr. Catherine Ryan, research assistant professor in the department of medical surgical nursing.

“We can stop a heart attack during the process, but you have to get to the hospital first,” Dr. Ryan explained. “The real push for improved survival is to get people there early.”

Dr. Ryan presented her findings at the American Heart Association’s annual meeting in Dallas this fall. Her findings were also featured in the New York Times and WebMD and a number of TV stations.

Time is of the essence during a heart attack, and healthcare providers have urged people who experience common symptoms – shortness of breath, cold sweats, nausea, lightheadedness, or discomfort in the chest, arm, neck or jaw – to get to a hospital as quickly as possible. Delay in seeking treatment is common, and worsens the outcome after a heart attack, Dr. Ryan said.

Dr. Ryan sought to determine whether delay was related to the symptom cluster individuals experienced during a heart attack. Earlier studies about the delay, she said, focused on only one symptom, not clusters, or on demographic characteristics of the patients.

She asked the authors of 10 such studies to send her their data, and eight groups of authors in the United States and Great Britain complied. The data had been collected in interviews with 1,073 patients who had had heart attacks.

Dr. Ryan studied 12 common symptoms: chest discomfort; shoulder, arm, or hand discomfort; neck or jaw discomfort; back discomfort; abdominal discomfort; indigestion; nausea and vomiting; shortness of breath; sweating; dizziness and light-headedness; weakness; and fatigue.

Her analysis showed that individuals with the shortest delays (a mean of 9.78 hours) had a greater probability of experiencing the largest number of symptoms. Individuals with the longest delays (a mean of 22.77 hours) had moderate probability of experiencing chest pain and shortness of breath.

Sweating was a key variable in the symptom cluster prompting individuals to seek treatment, Dr. Ryan said. But the research could not determine whether sweating is an indication of a more serious heart attack.

The National Institutes of Health and the College of Nursing Center for Reducing Risks in Vulnerable Populations funded the study.
**Centering Pregnancy Receives Third Year of Funding from the March of Dimes**

**Dr. Carrie Klima**, clinical assistant professor, and her research team received a third year of funding from the March of Dimes for their research entitled, “Centering Pregnancy in Englewood: Integrating Centering Pregnancy into Clinical Practice.”

Centering Pregnancy takes the basic format of prenatal care and moves it into a group setting, providing education not just about labor and delivery, but the entire process of pregnancy, including nutrition, discomforts, relaxation, contraception, and examining what it means to be a new parent.

According to Dr. Klima, “These groups create an automatic support network. They’re also a ready-made support group for parents after the birth.” This is especially important for minority and urban women, who are less likely to attend childbirth preparation classes, and whose family members often live far away. Women who live in the inner city may also suffer isolation because of the violence and poverty of the communities in which they live.

Centering Pregnancy groups follow the standard prenatal schedule; initially, they meet every month up to 28 weeks of pregnancy, then every other week up to labor. Groups are usually 8-10 women, recruited in Chicago at the Mile Square Health Center and the Englewood Neighborhood Health Center.

Training for facilitators happens in weekend workshops around the country, taught by Sharon Schindler Rising, who first started the groups in 1993. Dr. Klima has been involved with training since the beginning. “At first, we mostly saw nursing midwives, but now we are seeing researchers, physicians (obstetrics and family practice), and students who are interested in the model. Some students have the ability to co-facilitate groups with trained faculty members. This often makes them very attractive to future employers who are interested in Centering Pregnancy.”

The model is also expanding into Centering Parenting groups for the first year of life and Centering Menopause groups. In March, the Centering Pregnancy and Parenting Association (CPPA) held its first national conference on group healthcare in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

According to Dr. Klima, one of the main challenges to using the Centering Pregnancy model is that the entire system for prenatal care is based on the paradigm of an individual appointment – which means appointment rooms are small and group space is scarce. “I am fortunate at Mile Square Health Center because the executive director gave dedicated space to the Centering Pregnancy delivery model.”

While the basic prenatal care is the same, there is solid research showing that the Centering Pregnancy model decreases pre-maturity and low birth rate, and increases breastfeeding, especially among teen mothers. “We are working on developing instruments to measure what it is that makes a difference,” said Dr. Klima. “I think it has to do with social support and education. People in the groups get involved with their self-care – they are empowered to take care of themselves and they realize they are an important element to their health. This mitigates a lot of other factors like socio-economic status and nutrition.”

For more information on Center Pregnancy, and the Centering Pregnancy and Parenting Association (CPPA), visit www.centeringpregnancy.com

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**Sigma Theta Tau**

The Alpha Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing awarded the 2005 Nursing Recognition Award to **Dr. Usha Menon** and **Dr. Carol Humphreys** and the 2005 Mary Kelly Mullane Award to **Carol Einhorn** and **Terry Studer**. The awards were presented at the annual induction ceremony, November 20th.
Barbara McFarlin Bridges Clinical Practice and Research to Detect and Prevent Premature Labor

As a master’s student in the midwifery program in the 1980s, Barbara McFarlin (BSN ’74, MS ’84, PhD ’05) spent a year in independent study with a UIC maternal fetal medicine physician who taught her ultrasound. As a clinician, she incorporated ultrasound into her midwifery practice, and gradually the idea began to develop that ultrasound could be used to examine the ripening of the cervix during pregnancy and detect when it will actually begin to dilate – leading to the prevention of premature labor.

“This research is based upon a systems model approach,” explained McFarlin. “The uterus (mainly smooth muscle and contractile) and the cervix (mainly collagen and non-contractile) are two histological and functional different structures. Interventions to delay preterm birth have focused on the final phase of extensive uterine contractions, have generally been unsuccessful, and have not addressed the phasic nature of labor. The phasic nature of labor involves a long period of cervical ripening (an inflammatory process resulting in disorganization of collagen fibers), preparing the cervix for the final phase of extensive uterine contractions. Without a ripe cervix, uterine contractions alone cannot accomplish the work of labor and birth. Efforts to modify cervical ripening have been hampered by the lack of a reliable, valid, non-invasive method to measure cervical ripening.”

With ultrasound, McFarlin intends to find a way to objectively monitor and determine the ripening of the cervix early enough to intervene and prevent premature birth. Initial studies using rats to predict the age of ripening was very highly statistically significant, and the next round of studies are improving on the statistical model and methods.

Her innovative research could have broad-ranging effects for a significant problem that’s getting worse. From 1990 – 2004, there was a 16% increase in pre-term birth. In Chicago, the percentage of per-term birth is statistically higher than the national rate, particularly among African-American women, where a fifth of all births in 2004 were preterm. An additional problem is that 20-25% of all the babies who survive preterm birth suffer severe neurological disability.

Illinois Congresswoman Judy Biggert (R – 13th District) visited the Chicago campus in January.
JoEllen Wilbur
Named 2005 UIC University Scholar

JoEllen Wilbur (MS ’86, PhD ’95), Associate Dean for Research, was named a 2005 UIC University Scholar. She has an extensive research background working with the Center for Reducing Risks in Vulnerable Populations, and her own studies of health promotion through walking as exercise in midlife women living in poor neighborhoods have been funded by the National Institutes of Health for over 15 years. She was among the first to use quota sampling to obtain a representative sample of both African-American and Caucasian women that examines similarities and differences in physical activity. Dr. Wilbur also mentors many other faculty in the college – and UIC CON is currently ranked 3rd among nursing schools for research funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Research Gallery

The new gallery in the entry of the Center for Research Facilitation provides just a sampling of the diversity of research done by our nursing faculty. Said Dr. JoEllen Wilbur, associate dean for research, “The collage of action photos related to each investigator’s work captures attention as the elevator opens. I frequently see students, faculty and visitors to the floor taking time to view the gallery.”
Dr. Kathleen Hanson Brings Untold Nursing Stories to Light

Former director of the Quad Cities regional campus, Dr. Kathleen Hanson has published *Turn Backward, O Time: The Civil War Diary of Amanda Shelton*.

“This diary is about a young woman,” Dr. Hanson described, “so it has some adventure, it has some disappointments, it has a little bit of romance, a lot of scandal, and then — hard-earned maturity.”

In the process of bringing Amanda’s personal diary into book form, Dr. Hanson developed great appreciation for the “ordinary” people of our past. “Amanda Shelton is just one of many — she didn’t make decisions that affected the lives of hundreds of thousands. It’s the fabric of ordinary people that gets woven together that makes a society — they’re the ones who really, one by one, affect the change, or affect their neighbor’s life, or a child’s life, and in Amanda’s case, affected the lives of soldiers she may never have seen again.”

Amanda’s work in Special Diet Kitchens provides new insight into the core concept of the individualization of care. “This is a very meaningful legacy, and nicely documented. You have no doubt that this was the purpose of this activity.”

Dr. Hanson faced some serious challenges in bringing the diary to a larger audience, including the diary’s handwriting, often written under hurried conditions with many abbreviations, and tracking down all the people Amanda mentioned. “We did a lot of background detective work. This was also part of the joy — we met a lot of wonderful volunteers at historical societies.”

Dr. Hanson is currently Associate Professor at the University of Iowa. *Turn Backward, O Time* can be ordered at www.edinborough.com.

More Congratulations...

**Dr. F. Patrick Robinson**, recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indiana University School of Nursing Alumni Association.

**Teresa Savage** (BSN ’84, MS ’86, PhD ’95) for the publication of her new book with Marcia Bosek, *Ethical Component of Nursing Education: Integrating Ethics Into Clinical Experience*.

**Dr. Catherine (Kate) Vincent**, recipient of a two-year R03 from National Institute of Nursing Research entitled *Pediatric Nurses’ Cognitive Representative of Children’s Pain*.

**Dr. Sandi Burke**, Clinical Instructor In Urbana, who will be leaving the College after nine years. She is taking the Bromenn Endowed Clinical Assistant Professor position at Illinois State University.

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WOW

Dr. Patricia Lewis, associate dean of nursing clinical practice studies, received a University WOW award. In her nomination letter, senior student Rosina Unzueta wrote “Dr. Lewis treated me with a sense of integrity, pride, and most of all with the outmost respect.”

Carol Florek is joined by her colleagues to celebrate her WOW award, nominated by her supervisor, Dr. Janet Larson.
Midwest Nursing Research Society Awards
Outstanding CON Faculty

Congratulations go to Carol Ferrans (MS ’82, PhD ’85), winner of the Distinguished Contribution to Research in the Midwest Award for her groundbreaking and long-standing work in “quality of life,” and to Eileen Hacker (PhD ’01), winner of the Harriet H. Werley New Investigator Award. Both were awarded at the 2006 Midwest Nursing Research Society scientific meeting.

Sue Littau receives University Award of Merit

Sue Littau, assistant to the associate dean for research, received the UIC Award of Merit, a highly-competitive campus-wide honor recognizing staff who have demonstrated excellence in service, commitment, and education.

“It is rare to find someone with Ms. Littau’s selfless commitment to excellence,” said Dr. JoEllen Wilbur in her nomination letter. “Faculty and students alike are indebted to her services.”

Sue was pleased to get congratulatory emails from people with whom she works with all over campus, including emails from the Office for the Vice-Chancellor for Research. She has been in the College since 1993 when she came in as a project director, and in her current role as assistant to the associate dean for research since April 2001.

What keeps her motivated?

“Seeing things through to the end. That is one bonus about this position. While I have 20 projects, they are on my list for a couple of months, and then they are gone. I’m not working on the same thing day in and day out. I see results from my work.”

In past years, CON staff associates Carol Florek and Denise Sobotka have also received this prestigious award.
Letter from the Alumni Board President

Dear Fellow Alumni Members,

At the College of Nursing Commencement on May 4, I was surprised and shocked to receive the UIAA Loyalty Award. I am honored and privileged to have served you as the Alumni Board president for the last three years.

It more than loyalty that compels me to continue to serve on your Alumni Board. It is appreciation and the desire to give back. I am a bargain hunter (ask anyone about my shopping deals) and, without knowing it at the time, I – we – received a valuable education at a great bargain when we attended the College of Nursing. That value has stood the test of time and continues to increase in value worldwide.

This year, the Board has increased its efforts and activities to allow alumni different opportunities to remain involved with the College. This spring we co-hosted a career night for soon-to-be graduates to hear from recent graduates and exchanges ideas. We also had a Board Building Brunch, which featured delicious food prepared by Dean Shaver and Dr. Mark Foreman, associate dean for nursing science studies. The accomplishments shared by your alumni who were able to join us were so inspiring, and is evident of our flourishing alumni in so many different fields.

This year the Alumni Board is hoping to inspire our alumni to make one trip to downtown Chicago for two wonderful events. The 51st reunion will be held on the morning of Friday, October 27, just before the Power of Nursing Leadership Event (PNLE). We are hoping this combined day of events allows you the opportunity to catch up with your “old” classmates and attend an annual event that gets better and bigger every year.

This year, the Class of 1956 will celebrate its 50th year since graduating and the Class of 1981 will celebrate its 25th. All alumni classes are welcome to attend this reunion and the PNLE. Maybe after meeting up with your favorite “old” friends, you may decide to make an entire day and night of it and plan to get together at one of the many great places in Chicago after the PNLE meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the reunion this fall!

Sincerely,
Mary E. Doherty (’80)
Alumni Board President
As the senior officer responsible for all aspects of collaborative activities of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Iraq, Naeema Al Gasseer (MS ’87, PhD ’89) maintains close contact with the highest levels of the national health administration and related agencies. Her many responsibilities involve overseeing planning, implementation, and management of health policy and national health programs of all WHO collaborative activities in Iraq.

It is quite a statement that a PhD in Nursing is named WHO representative in Iraq. How did this come to be? Everyone asks that! We have nurse midwives who are representatives all over the world. I believe it is the time for nursing to be involved in policy and promoting health programs, and also to engage other disciplines. We succeeded in creating the Maternal Child and Reproductive Health Strategy for Iraq by bringing different sectors to the table. It was a community-based initiative and brought 15 institutions together. We came up with a very clear plan of action. It’s a beautiful plan and everybody came on board – all areas of health, education, and environment – and now we’re implementing it.

What do you feel are the greatest accomplishments so far in Iraq? Iraqis are thinking more of health systems and prevention of disease. We are achieving health gains and investing in health, so not just building, but sustaining how we keep people healthy. We are taking a systematic/programmatic approach through a combination of interventions and a surveillance system on the ground for communicable diseases; Iraqis are working house-to-house, district to district, for an immunization campaign, using the right techniques for disease prevention. In 2005, Iraq was cholera-free. The incidences of malaria and cholera have been reduced, and we are moving from control to elimination. The WHO supports the Ministry of Health programs and implementation. We have supported the rehabilitation of many health clinics, hospitals, and public health labs, and facilitated training for more than a thousand Iraqi health workers.

What are the greatest challenges you face? The ability to really move. Because of security measures, we cannot continuously be on the ground. It’s different if someone’s on the ground working everyday. The challenge has forced us to think creatively, and we’ve been able to implement many things, despite them.

What brings you joy in your work? The happiness of the Iraqi people. Wanting to have good news for them challenges me to continue working.

What experiences at UIC CON especially prepared you for this role? UIC prepared us to look at much broader health issues in totality, including society, culture, and all the factors that affect health. The program was very flexible - I could combine women’s health, nurse midwifery, theory and practicum. I was able to take public health courses and health education proficiency courses. My education focused on health and development, and that is what I have always believed: in order to have countries develop, you need to have a healthy population and look at issues like environment, life span, mental health, violence, etc.

What do you think Americans should be aware of regarding the war in Iraq? From the United States, there will be no new investment in health – this is sad because this is a critical period. In the media, there is no balance to what is being reported. There is violence everyday and life is difficult – but we can report improvements in health and education. For instance, no one reported that Iraq was cholera-free. People want to see the visible things; politicians want to see buildings and roads. But health achievements aren’t always so visible, especially in the control of communicable disease. Today we know that moving from curative to primary healthcare is a major achievement; just to have a strategy in that direction and development partners is a big success.

Toshiko Abe Elected to Lower House of Japanese Parliament

Toshiko Abe (PhD ’99) was elected in September to the lower house of the Japanese Parliament in her first run. Vice-president of the Japanese Nursing Association, Abe ran in the Okayama No. 3 constituency for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Until last March, she was an assistant professor at the
graduate school of the Tokyo Medical and Dental University.

This run came earlier than people expected. What made you decide to run for office? I have always wanted to be a legislator in order to change Japanese social welfare as well as healthcare system as a nurse.

What are the biggest challenges you face in your current role? Making laws about organ transplantation and living wills.

How does your training as a nurse affect your views as a politician? As a nurse, what do you bring to government? My UIC nursing education gave me a political sense such as policy evaluation. As a bedside nurse, I know what patients need from the healthcare system. We nurses are the best profession to have knowledge of what is best for patients.

What do you feel was most beneficial about your UIC education? The power of keeping hope - learned from getting the PhD!

Young Cheon-Klessing receives Visiting Nurse Association Foundation Award

Young Cheon-Klessing (MS ’86) received the 2005 Super Star runner up award and $5,000 from the Visiting Nurse Association Foundation of Chicago. Cheon-Klessing is currently a family nurse practitioner with the Uptown Neighborhood Health Center, Chicago Department of Health. Her tireless community outreach to raise awareness of preventative healthcare measures and public health services has significantly impacted the lives of thousands of patients and their families by providing affordable and culturally competent healthcare for many Asian Americans in Chicago. Her efforts have made it possible for the Uptown Neighborhood Health Center to provide education and treatment to Asians related to a variety of different cancers, hepatitis B, and depression.

Sally West Brooks inducted as Chair of National American Cancer Society

Sally West Brooks (BSN ’63) was inducted into the role of Chair of the National American Cancer Society (ACS) in the Fall of 2005, beginning a one-year term of national leadership for the largest private not-for-profit cancer funding organization in the country.

“Our goals for 2015 are the reduction of mortality by 50%, the reduction of the number of people who get cancer by 25%, and measurably improving the quality of life for people with cancer – something that has not been measured.”

Her work with the ACS began more than three decades ago, inspired by her mother’s illness during Sally’s adolescence. “You do what you do at the local level,” she explained, “and then you’re asked to do something at another level, and it keeps going. Thirty-three years ago I started volunteering locally – and I still do.”

It is a lifetime of work that uniquely qualifies her to lead a national organization of three million volunteers.

“This is what I feel strongly about,” Sally described. “I have spent my life in volunteer work. I didn’t earn a salary for terribly long,” – she worked for five years while her husband, Dr. Marvin Brooks (UIC College of Medicine alumnus) completed his specialized medical training – “but I put in a full career. I feel it is important to give back. The education we received at UIC was an excellent one. I don’t believe I could do what I’m doing without the background I received at UIC.

“Being a nurse is a vocation. It’s in your heart and soul. And if you have this special and unique and wonderful education, there has to be some component of it that you can give back in some way. We have an obligation to our fellow man.”

As an undergraduate student, Sally spent her first year at Urbana, and then transferred to the Chicago campus. “It was sort of a shock to give up the campus life and the football games and go up to Chicago. But I had a vocation and I couldn’t get there fast enough.”

She recently returned to Urbana for an ACS “Relay for Life” event, where a group of students approached her and announced that they were nursing students – and that they had a team for the relay. “I loved it,” Sally said proudly, “I just loved it.” She also added, “The nursing team was first in the Relay for Life.”

Sally West Brooks was awarded the prestigious UIC Alumni Humanitarian Award in 2005.
Karlene Kerfoot noted for outstanding work in Indianapolis

Karlene Kerfoot (PhD ’83) was featured in Indianapolis Woman last summer, “One Foot in Front of the Other,” for her outstanding work as senior vice president for nursing and patient care services and chief nurse executive in the Clarian Health Partners system. According to the article, in the past five years, she helped increase the hiring of nurses eight times over, cut vacancy rates by two-thirds, and reduced turnover from 15 percent to 1.8 percent. She also led efforts to become one of only nine health systems nationwide to receive the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet status, and implemented programs to better patient safety and quality of care and improve the quality of work life for nurses.

Sabina Dambrauskas named Distinguished Nursing Alumna

Sabina Dambrauskas (BSN ’68, MSN ’76) was named 2006 Distinguished Nursing Alumna by the College of Nursing Alumni Board. Dambrauskas has a long history of learning, teaching, and giving to the UIC College of Nursing. She graduated from the first nurse midwifery class at UIC CON in 1976.

She has shared her passion for caring for women by teaching prospective nurse midwives for the last 30 years. In 2005 she endowed a nurse midwifery student scholarship under the auspices of the Lillian Runnerstrom Institute. Dividing her time between clinical practice and classroom teaching, Dambrauskas has had a major influence on the practice of midwifery in Illinois and the United States. She is the only Lithuanian midwife in Chicago, and single-handedly created her own Lithuanian clinic at UIC. Her commitment to the care of women and her positive teaching style have made a major contribution to the nurse midwifery and to the lives of students, practicing midwives, patients, and their families.

Mary Doherty receives UIAA Loyalty Award

Mary Doherty (BSN ’80) received the University of Illinois Alumni Association Loyalty Award at the 2006 commencement this spring. After completing her nursing degree, Mary went on to attain her law degree from Loyola University and has worked as a lawyer, using her nursing skills, since 1986. In her present role, she is Practice, Regulation and Education Associate for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. As a loyal alum, Mary has served on the Nursing Alumni Board for six years. To her current role as Board president, she brings a wide breadth of knowledge about the current influence of nursing leadership, as well as deep dedication to the education of nurses at all levels and the mission of the College to advance nursing leadership.

How a Nursing Education Prepared Me for a Life Outside Nursing

Kathy Simonik Bevier, BSN 1970 Guest Alumni Columnist

The exciting lives of nurses on the Ben Casey and Dr. Kildare TV shows influenced my decision to become a nurse, as well as my dislike of the teaching or secretarial professions. A college degree was an essential requirement and prerequisite to attaining my main goal – that of finding a nice husband and having five kids.

I never enjoyed nursing, and dreaded each day of struggling to remember how to make the machines work correctly and planning and organizing my workday. It wasn’t until I married an engineer that I realized that the aptitudes necessary to become an engineer were the same as those need to be a successful RN, and I definitely did not have the apti-
tude to be an engineer. After three of our five kids were diagnosed with ADHD, I realized I probably had the quiet, smart girl’s version of ADHD, which sure made it difficult to be an organized and efficient nurse. This also explained why I had to read textbook pages two or three or more times and forgot much of the information right after the test. I always thought I had gotten the wrong degree in college. After we bought our first house I developed a serious interest in horticulture. Sometimes my patients in the employee health service at Cook County Hospital would bring their sick plants to me, and I would diagnose strep throat as well as spider mites, scale, mealybugs, etc. I soon started a home-based perennial plant business, which helped put five kids through college. Every customer gets a quick lecture on horticulture health and safety, including the need for a tetanus shot every 10 years. I was horrified as one customer bragged to me how he nursed his little pet goat through a tetanus illness.

Recently, I realized that there was no “wrong” degree. Everything I learned in nursing school had some major or minor influence on the path my life took, or was a prerequisite for dealing with the chain of events, both positive and negative, in my life since graduation.

The research skills learned from numerous term papers, basic medical knowledge, and people I met gave both confidence and networking abilities I never anticipated needing in the future. How could I have known that a nursing administrator classmate, whom I met freshman year, could help me convince our high school administration that they were required to follow Section 504 of the Civil Rights Law, in situations concerning accommodations for our ADHD child? Or that interviewing and research skills learned in obtaining patient histories would help me do my own investigation when our house buyers accused us of stealing over 4000 perennial plants in the middle of a Chicago winter, which eventually led to the discovery of a massive fraud scheme involving a local politician?

There are two nursing accomplishments of which I am particularly proud. In 1971 I led the revolt to eliminate the requirement for nurses to wear caps in Cook County Hospital’s ER. Now you know why the nurses on the ER TV show do not wear caps. I was almost sent home, as I let my cap dangle by one bobby pin that day. The other accomplishment was teaching patients at County to learn to be assertive with doctors and to expect respect and complete information to self-manage their illnesses. It was gratifying to me, and irritating to the doctors, to tell patients that participation in drug studies was voluntary and they had the right to refuse.

I also tried to teach my parents and in-laws to be assertive with their own doctors. Sometimes my mother-in-law and I would role-play while she rehearsed a speech she was preparing for her doctor. Her new-found assertiveness led to the discovery of a late stage lymphoma, missed for over two years by her doctor, because he did not listen to her. Chemotherapy cured her and she lived four more years.

Even if some of our career choices may seem wrong, those learning experiences are transferable and necessary for future life situations. Sometimes the benefit may not show up until we pass on both the negative and positive life experiences to our kids. Recognizing the value of past “mistakes” is what makes a person a “success.”

The University of Illinois Alumni Association honored Dr. Virginia Ohlson with a Legacy of Learning Award for her enduring impact on UIC and its alumni. Virginia was one of only five retired and emeritus professors chosen for this prestigious honor; many alumni, faculty - including Gloria Henderson - and past recipients of the Virginia Ohlson scholarship attended the luncheon in the fall to celebrate this honor.
Betty Stuebe Paps (BSN) obtained her MSN and PhD as well. She served as director of Kennedy King College’s Nursing Program and retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Colonel having served in Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War. Currently she is retired and enjoys world travel, having traveled to all seven continents.

Kathryn (Kay) Moeller Krause (BSN) began her working career at University Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she gained experience in both general medicine and cardiovascular intensive care. She and her husband are licensed pilots who own an airplane. They use their skills not only for pleasure but for volunteer work, including flying blood and blood products throughout Arizona as members of Flights For Life, Inc., delivering clothing and useable items at Christmas to the Navajo Reservation, and transporting Airedales for the Southwest Airedale Rescue Team. Kay is a member of Ninety-Nines, Inc., an international organization of women pilots; last summer she flew commercial to New Zealand to join over 200 women pilots at the international convention.

Joan Arteberry Zavitz (MSN) writes a column for the local weekly newspaper, serves on a municipal commission and spends time as the regional president of the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association, fundraising for scholarships and attending Badger games. Her nursing career culminated with the founding and directing as dean of the collegiate nursing program at Aurora University. She served a term as academic vice president and took a hand in two major projects, the transition of the college to a university and the merger with the George Williams College, and the reinstatement of intercollegiate football. Later, she made direct use of her doctoral studies in communication by teaching in Aurora’s program in communication and directing the honors program.

Sally Brosz Hardin (BSN, MSN) moved to San Diego three years ago when she assumed the deanship at the Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science at the University of San Diego. She is married with two adult children. Her husband, Tom, is director of curriculum and instruction at Marian Catholic High School in San Diego, her daughter is a teacher and actress in L.A., and her son is assistant editor for Scholastic Press in New York City.

Ellen Winer (BSN) lives in Los Angeles, California, and works at Jewish Family Service, a Medi-Cal funded care management program to help frail, elderly people remain safely in the community and to prevent institutionalization. As a sideline “vocation/avocation,” she buys and sells antiques and collectibles. In 2005 she took a fabulous vacation to Israel and Barcelona.

Sharon Ligon Hildeman (MSN) lives in Phoenix, Arizona, with her daughter Katrina and another daughter not far away. In 1997 she took a position as a Mental Health Care Manager (a clinical role) for Merit Behavioral Care (an agency that subcontracted to TriWest) and still works at Jewish Family Service, a Medi-Cal funded care management program to help frail, elderly people remain safely in the community and to prevent institutionalization. As a sideline “vocation/avocation,” she buys and sells antiques and collectibles. In 2005 she took a fabulous vacation to Israel and Barcelona.

Pamela Chally (BSN) is dean of the College of Health at the University of North Florida, which includes the School of Nursing. The School of Nursing was recently designated as the first flagship program at the University of North Florida. Pam recently completed tenure on the Florida Board of Nursing, serving as chair for two years. She and her husband Rod have lived in Jacksonville, Florida for 13 years. She enjoys walking, reading, and her two granddaughters.

Denise Oleske (BSN) later went on to receive her PhD and is currently dean and professor of the School of Health Professions at Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Carolyn (Cathey) Castelli (MSN) has worked in a variety of settings, including Jerusalem’s Hadassah Hospital in the 1970s in the Open Heart Recovery Room. She was invited to volunteer with the Hadassah Women’s Zionist Organization of which she recently became a lifetime member. She also volunteered for several months on a kibbutz in the Galilee region of Israel. Returning to the USA, she joined the staff of New York Hospital in White Plains, New York and has worked as a behavioral health nurse there ever since. Her nursing roles have included staff nurse, nurse educator, clinical nurse specialist in the Partial Hospital, nurse recruiter, and currently nurse retention specialist. She and her husband Jay have two daughters. Cathey also volunteers as an area coordinator for an international prayer ministry known as Moms In Touch International, and leads a women’s bible study at her church.

Michelle Witt Kaplan (BSN, MS) worked from 1975-1990 as a clinical nurse specialist and also as a community college instructor in Ohio, Oregon and Washington. In 1988 she
Barbara Tosa Schaefer (BSN) is working in New Zealand and is now eligible for a New Zealand nursing license, a credential which secures for her a tenured teaching position in a nursing school that serves an ethnically diverse community. “I will have the opportunity to make a difference by helping shape the future of nursing care for some very needy persons. I consider this a high compliment and an opportunity to share with another country the best of America – well-educated professionals.”

Maria Paulenas-Vaiciunas (BSN) has worked in nursing for almost 30 years. In 1979 she and her husband moved to Ontario, Canada, and she discovered her passion in public health. She is currently employed by the City of Hamilton (Ontario) Public Health Department. She is very active in the Lithuanian community and now lives on a small hobby farm with her husband, daughter, son, two iguanas and a cockatiel.

Sandra Aardsma (BSN) is currently working at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois, where she has been in Radiation Oncology for the past six years. She became the first Nurse Clinician IV at Advocate Christ Medical Center in 2004. She was awarded the “Joyce Woytek Nurse of the Year” at ACMC in 2004 and was one of several national Roberta Scofield Memorial Certification Award recipients through the Oncology Nursing Society that year. She also received the Oncology Nursing Society Foundation’s Pearle Moore Career Development Award at the annual ONS Congress meeting held this past year in Orlando, Florida.

Mary Doherty (BSN) has taken a new position as Practice, Regulation and Education Associate for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). She received the UIAA Loyalty award at the 2006 UIC College of Nursing graduation.

Cheri Moran (MS, PhD) was elected a Fellow of American College of Nurse-Midwives, June 2005.

Captain Mary R. Ingram (MS) is a member of the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Readiness Force and was deployed to the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Her missions varied from setting up a 500-bed hospital/shelter at the Meridian Air National Guard base, to staffing makeshift clinics in coastal towns, to working in the emergency room at the ultra-modern mobile hospital, Nevada-1, in Gulfport. Currently, Ingram holds the rank of captain with the USPHS and works as a family nurse practitioner at Sioux San Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota. She has received 22 USPHS awards. Among her 44 non-PHS awards are the 2004 Mabel May Wagner Award, South Dakota Nurses’ Association Pioneer in Nursing Award, and the Alverno College Professional Achievement Award. She has 33 published articles in professional journals, newsletters and international online journals, and has made 20 presentations at local and national meetings.

Donna Boyd (MS) is currently employed full-time at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Illinois, as manager, Adult Day Center, Clinical Nurse Specialist for a Geriatric Assessment Program and teaches clinical to Loyola Nursing students. She is certified as a Clinical Nurse Specialist specializing in Gerontological Nursing.

Cynthia Roy Epplin (BSN) went on to Washington University for graduate school in Nurse Anesthesiology and also completed a Master’s Degree in Nurse Anesthesiology at the University of Kansas. She has been on the faculty of Northwestern University, working as a staff anesthetist in the general OR, on the OB team, and the Liver Transplant team. Her next project is
working on a post-graduate certificate in Forensic Nursing.

Mary A. Nies (PhD) was recently appointed assistant vice president of health sciences for research in community health at Stony Brook University. She received an Outstanding Service Award for her service to the American Academy of Health Behavior, its members and fellows, as a member of the American Academy of Health Behavior Board of Directors from 2003-2006 at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Carmel, California.

Lynn Unruh (BSN) later received her PhD in economics from the University of Notre Dame. She is currently an Associate Professor in Health Services Administration at the University of Central Florida.

Wendy Nehring (PhD) is a faculty member directing the graduate program at Rutgers College of Nursing in New Jersey. This year, she received the Illinois Wesleyan University School of Nursing Distinguished Alumna Award for Excellence in Nursing Practice, Education and Research.

Lisa Watson (MS) is currently working five half-days in the office and loves being a Nurse Practitioner. She is working with the same physician – William Hough, DO – who sold their practice over ten years ago; at that time, Lisa became the first nurse practitioner ever employed by OSF Healthcare. She is also adjunct faculty at the U of I and has five children with her husband, Dr. Doug Watson, an optometrist who owns Watson Vision Center in Pontiac, Illinois. Lisa is active with music, drama, and children’s ministries at Pontiac Bible Church.

Kathleen (Shea) Kalata (MS) completed her MBA and MS and became an early innovator and adopter of technology in nursing. She developed an integrated computer lab with a pediatric nursing course and created www.thebestnurse.com, one of the first web sites used to integrate pharmacology and nursing through the use of the Web. Her work since then has continued on the cutting edge of technology. She continues to participate in volunteer activities and in 2000 received the Community Award by the Junior League of Evanston-North Shore. She is currently a PhD candidate at Western Michigan University, and writing a new book about building web applications. She and her husband John and two youngest children now live in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Rhonda Johnson Paulson (BSN) works in informatics at the VA Medical Center in North Chicago, Illinois, and in the ICU at Victory Memorial Hospital in Waukegan. She has two daughters, Madelynn and Emma.

Mary Maryland (PhD) attended the “Preventive and Management of Chronic Conditions - International Perspectives” conference in Bangkok, Thailand this January. She presented a paper entitled, “Implementations of the advanced practice registered nurse’s role in the emergency room department of a community hospital: impact for chronically ill patients.” The conference was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization of the Southeast Asia Region. Mary has also taken the position as president of the UIC Campus Alumni Advisory Board for 2006-07. She is currently a nurse manager at Jackson Park Hospital, a position she has held since 2002.

Marco Antonio Alanis (BSN) lives in Dallas, Texas, and was accepted into the Family NP program at The University of Texas of Arlington, which he began in spring 2006. He works for Baylor University Hospital. “I would like to send a big HELLO to my classmates of 1995 and wishing that all are doing well. I often think of y’all and reminisce of all the good times we experienced at UIC CON.”

Nancy (Torres) Filoramo (BSN) works as a staff nurse at the University of Illinois Medical Center on the 8th floor stepdown unit.

Harlene Pearman (MS) took a new position in October 2005 as nurse advisor and certified diabetes educator with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. She works with policy holders with chronic diseases in order to provide education and guidance.

Judy Walloch (MS) completed her doctorate (Ed.D) from the College of Education at Illinois State University this May.

Daisy (Castanares) Sherry (BSN, MSN-ACNP) can be reached at the University of Chicago, 5758 S. Maryland Av, MC 9024, Chicago, Illinois 60637, (773) 834-0805.

Karen Cummins (MSN) lives in Blue Grass, Iowa and adopted three small children since graduation, making four official Cummins children. She and her husband are foster parents, providing respite for other foster parents in need. She has taught for several local community colleges and universities.
and is currently a full time faculty for Kaplan University online. She is also per diem at the local medical center to maintain her license and competence.

’98 Erin (Silady) Wilcox (BSN) married Chris Wilcox in 2002; they have a two year-old daughter, Meara Grace. She is currently employed at Baptist Hospital East in Louisville, Kentucky, working in Labor and Delivery. She also teaches fetal monitoring classes and voice lessons and sings in her free time.

’98 Amanda Price Hopkins (BSN) is currently in her fourth year of the BSN to PhD program at UIC. Her research interests include chronic illnesses in children, school reentry programs, cultural perspectives on health management and mixed methods research. She plans to do prelims in the fall and then look for a faculty position at a teaching institution. She is currently employed as a pediatric clinical instructor at the Urbana regional site and at Lakeview College of Nursing.

’99 Cristy Willett (MS), a clinical instructor at the Peoria Regional Campus, is starting a winery with her husband in Illinois.

’00 & ’05 Sherry Fritts (BSN, MSN) is currently a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She received the Robbie Simpson Fellowship Scholarship from St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital in Memphis, one of the largest premier clinical research and treatment centers. This fellowship is a post-graduate opportunity for PNPs who want advanced knowledge and training in oncology.

’03 & ’05 Mary A. Petersen (BSN, MS) is now the Magnet Project Coordinator for Trinity Medical Center of the Iowa Health Systems.

’04 Kelly Cole (BSN) is employed as Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner for Dr. Tracy Bochantin in Peoria, Illinois.

’05 Monica Lynch (MSN) is a nurse practitioner for Hartsough Dermatology in Loves Park, Illinois. Last summer, her oldest son married his sweetheart. Monica and her husband vacationed in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and saw Grand Teton National Park.

’05 Jannice Costes (BSN) accepted a staff RN position at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital on their tele/renal unit. Since she had the experience of studying abroad while at UIC, she was named a representative to the newly-formed Cultural Competency Practice Advisory Team.

’05 Johanna (Delgado) Stubblefield (BSN) traveled to New Zealand after graduation and then came back to Chicago to start a new job in the MICCU at Illinois Masonic, a major trauma center. She was married April 29, 2006.

’05 Jane Hansen (MS) is currently the director of the Northwest Community Hospital in Outpatient Specialty Services.

’05 Gregory Vayl (BSN) works as a staff nurse in MICU at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago.

On a recent service learning trip to Haiti, students from the Chicago and Rockford campuses served over a thousand people - many of them children - with much-needed treatments.

“We are seeing over 200 patients daily. People are coming from several mountains away, traveling for two days to see us. They are waiting outside the clinic for hours in the morning (maybe staying overnight) and form lines before we get there. They do not even complain one bit, waiting from early morning until 4 or 5 pm. ...We have to stop at sunset because we have no electricity in the clinic.”

–Susan Walsh, Clinical Instructor and trip leader
Important nurses had been in all sorts of nursing. “In that course we encouraged our students to think about how they thought about their own lives,” Dr. Flaskerud recalled. “She made us quite proud that we were in this new, cutting-edge program, and we were like those nurses.”

In 1978 – within days of her son’s 8th grade graduation – Dr. Flaskerud became the first person to receive a PhD from the UIC College of Nursing.

After graduation, she took a teaching position at California State University in Los Angeles; while back at UIC, her former professors, Helen Grace and Barbara Stevens encouraged her to take a position at a research university, and in 1980 she took a position at UCLA, where she remained throughout her career.

While nursing faculty made up the majority of female faculty on the UCLA campus, they were often looked down upon by female faculty in other disciplines. “Like we were handmaids to doctors,” Dr. Flaskerud described. “We started a women’s research forum and that started to change things. It took person-to-person relationships and presenting our research, and also helping them with their research.”

While a PhD student, Dr. Flaskerud took the three course series in nursing theory at UIC, taught by Barbara Stevens. “We enjoyed the classes but didn’t realize why we were taking them,” she said. “After I was done and teaching I realized these should be the theories guiding our research. When UCLA got a PhD in nursing, I taught in that program and made certain students knew there is no separation between theory and research.”

Dr. Flaskerud’s lifelong commitment to social movements – civil rights, women, and anti-war during Vietnam – influenced her own theory of research. In the late 1990s she published a conceptual model for research and practice involving vulnerable populations, stating that resources (i.e., income, housing, health insurance) are the best predictors of health status, and that the poor, marginalized, and minorities are at the greatest risk for health problems – an idea which later gained national attention when the National Institute for Nursing Research publicized the concept of health disparities.

When UCLA started a Center for Vulnerable Populations Research, Dr. Flaskerud was at the forefront, pushing for a participatory research approach, which involves participants from the very beginning of the research process – identifying topics, questions, methods, and involving them in data collection and analysis – which means approaching a community to find out the health problem they would like addressed, and then finding experts to facilitate the research process.

Using this approach, her work has involved multiple ethnically-diverse populations, from HIV/AIDS prevention in low income Latino, African American and Vietnamese women, to developing a lay health advisor research program focused on health promotion, nutrition and physical exercise in an impoverished Latino community, to teaming up UCLA researchers and community organizations wanting to combat diabetes and asthma in the working poor and homeless.

Dr. Flaskerud feels passionately that to reduce health disparities, the participant community must actively be involved with the research process.

“Most importantly, we have to get results back to them. The data are theirs, because it came from them. Research conducted with community participants should also leave them with additional knowledge, skills and power to influence their own lives.”
PhD Student Awarded NIH F-31 Training Grant

PhD Student Cynthia Fritschi has been awarded an F-31 grant fellowship from the National Institutes of Health.

The grant, intended as a training mechanism to support education, living expenses, and research, depends not only on the quality and promise of the student's work but her strong relationship with a mentor.

Said Cynthia of her mentor, Dr. Laurie Quinn, "Ever since I was a beginning nurse, she has given me many opportunities to get experience writing, guest speaking, lecturing, and teaching. She's been, in a true sense, a mentor."

"Cynthia has a tremendous professional and personal commitment to diabetes research and improving lives of those affected," said Dr. Quinn. "In the mentor/mentee relationship I have learned as much from Cynthia as she has from me. Her work promises to be a source of pride for the UIC College of Nursing."

Cynthia's research focuses on the untapped area of fatigue and diabetes, specifically concerning exercise. "I'm looking at it from a psychological standpoint," she explained. "Are people burned out, is it depression, or is there a physiologic component such as glucose levels?"

GEP student named Schweitzer Fellow

Shirley Stephenson, a first year student in the Graduate Entry Program (GEP), is the recipient of the Schweitzer Fellowship.

_named Schweitzer Fellowship.

Named in honor of Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the Schweitzer Fellowship encourages aspiring health professionals to "make their lives their argument" by serving the most vulnerable members of society. The Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellowship is a year-long, service learning program for health professional students committed to helping underserved communities. In partnership with a community health clinic, social service agency, school, or church, each Fellow designs and then directs a project to improve health and access to health care for populations that are often uninsured and marginalized. Now in its eleventh year, the program succeeded in attracting the largest number of applications in its history and selection was highly competitive.

"Receiving a Schweitzer Fellowship is a profound honor on so many levels," Shirley said about the award. "It's a chance to learn from other fellows working in public health, and to learn from the population served by Chicago's Community Health Clinic, where I will carry out my project. I count myself extremely fortunate to have this opportunity to apply my background in communications and international healthcare with my current focus on nursing in community settings."

This year, thirty-two exceptional students representing 17 different university health-related programs including medicine, nursing, dentistry, psychology, social work, education and acupuncture were selected for Schweitzer Fellowships.

Graduate student Susana Castro has been invited to serve on the National Advisory Council for Migrant Health. The Council, whose mission is to advise the Health Resources and Services Administration concerning the organization, operation, selection, and funding of migrant health centers, consists of 15 members selected by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Susana is currently a Board Member and Treasurer for the Board of Directors of Community Health Partnership of Illinois, a non-profit organization that provides healthcare for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families in Illinois. Her appointment to the National Advisory Council for Migrant Health lasts four years.
The College of Nursing Welcomes Senior Nursing Student Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

A senior nursing student at Dillard University in New Orleans, Regina Kirksey found herself scrambling to find a way to complete her senior year when Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the Dillard campus last fall.

Growing up in Mobile, Alabama, this is Regina’s first experience away from the south.

“I wanted to come up north to work after graduation anyway. It was a huge change. I came from a small, historically black university – my nursing class had 20 students – this was a huge adjustment coming to an international school. Since I’ve been here, I’ve had good exposure to the nursing profession, conferences, and it’s broadened my idea of graduate school. Right now I plan to go back to get my PhD.”

After several attempts to find schools in the south failed, Regina contacted her UIC MIRT advisor Dr. Beverly McElmurry, who rallied the support of instructors willing to work to accommodate Regina’s curriculum needs in her final year and help her graduate on time.

“When I came here, everything was at hand – I had room and board, and tuition wasn’t a problem because they waived the tuition for Katrina students. It was like I was a puzzle piece and I just fit in. It’s a huge blessing that everything was provided for me.

“I believe there’s always a way out of the hard situation and hard times. There’s always a rainbow after the storm – instead of focusing on the storm, focus on the good that can come out of it.”

Student News

Congratulations to the Class of 2006

Congratulations...Ulku Balog, Brianna Fox, and Keke Lin, 2006 Student Merit Awards from the Alpha Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

Stephanie Spacone, Keke Lin, and Sherr Ann Ebiore, winners of the Cardew-Mullane Award in Clinical Excellence and Leadership, UIC College of Nursing Alumni Board

Andrew Freeman, Dana Goldberg, Lora McClelland, and Laura Sweeney, winners of the Graduating Student Recognition Award, UIC College of Nursing Alumni Board
Student News

We are the Boat, We are the Sea. The College of Nursing held its second annual Arts Day this spring, where students, faculty, staff, and patients presented texts written by nursing students, professionals, and patients.

Over 100 UIC College of Nursing students from around the state gathered together in Springfield for Political Action Day this spring.

Every year since 1993, graduating seniors on the Chicago campus make the “pool jump” to recognize their entry into their new lives as nurses. This year, 55 students jumped together at the west side student union pool on May 1st.

Among many faculty and students presentations, Dr. Patrick Robinson presented his poster to a group of students at Research Day.
Based on a request and support from Mr. Minu and Dr. Mehroo Patel, activity to explore a collaboration with healthcare leaders, nurses and others, regarding nursing in India began in the Fall of 2004. Dr. Karen Solheim, Postdoctoral Trainee in Primary Health Care Research, and Dr. Beth Marks, Assistant Professor, UIC Department of Department of Disability and Human Development, traveled to Panchgani, Maharashtra State, India in December of 2004 to conduct a feasibility study to determine if Bel-Air, a healthcare facility focused primarily on HIV/AIDS, had the capacity to offer formal nursing education.

In response to the feasibility study, the Patels have recently established an endowment with the University of Illinois Foundation to support the advancement of nursing education in India through UIC nursing faculty and student exchanges. Dialogue to establish more formal ties to advance nursing and nursing education in India continue.

A generous grant from the McKesson Foundation will help improve school-based health services at the National Teachers Academy-Professional Development School in Chicago.

InteliStaf Healthcare, one of the largest healthcare staffing companies in the U.S., has chosen UIC to receive an InteliStaf Future Nurses of America Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a junior or senior to help defray tuition.

According to Michael S. Winstead, Chief Executive Officer of InteliStaf, “Nurses play a critical role throughout the healthcare system. As demand for their services increases and tuition costs rise, we want to do our part to help. We hope this scholarship can help pay the tuition of a talented person who might otherwise not be able to attend nursing school.”

Dean Joan Shaver said, “This scholarship from InteliStaf Healthcare will mean so much to bright students whose dream it is to be a nurse. In an age of rising tuition, it is gifts like this that ‘open doors’ for those highly qualified but in need. What a superb example of corporate generosity in helping us strengthen the nursing workforce.”

Each year, InteliStaf will select a newly founded nursing program and an established nursing school to receive the scholarships; UIC and Southern Utah University College of nursing are the first recipients of this scholarship program.

Retraction: “Connecting in Chicago, Statewide, and Worldwide” in the 2005 annual report stated that partner programs with federal funding were being presented for matching funds from the USDA. This statement is inaccurate; the editors regret the error.
Alumni & Friends of the College of Nursing are welcome to contribute to the following funds:

Office of the Dean
College of Nursing Annual Fund (332980)
Midwest Nursing History Resource Center (556509)
Minu K. and Mehroo Patel Nursing Advancement Endowment for India (771340)
Lisa Corsini Memorial Scholarship (773075)

Global Health Leadership Office
Beverly J. McElmurry Scholarship Fund (770174)
Virginia M. Ohlson International Studies Fund (773007)
Chieko Onoda Endowed Scholarship Fund (773073)

Department of Maternal Child Medicine
Lillian Runnerstrom Institute for Excellence Fund (334647)
Mitzi Duxbury Scholarship Fund (771069)
Mitzi L. Duxbury Graduate Student Award in Memory of Dr. Alexander Schmidt (771166)
Sabina’s Nurse Midwifery Endowed Scholarship Fund (771167)
Janet Engstrom Midwifery and Women’s Health Scholarship (771168)

Department of Medical Surgical Nursing
Lawrence Family Endowed Scholarship for Cancer Palliative Care and Cardiovascular Nursing (771148)
Ujima-Eva Smith Endowed Scholarship (771171)
Marguerite Dixon Award Fund (772209)
Department of Public Health, Mental Health, and Administrative Nursing
Gloria A. Henderson Scholarship (772189)

Please clip and mail this application with your check or credit card authorization to:
University of Illinois Alumni Association
UIC Student Center East
750 S. Halsted St., Suite 520
Chicago, IL 60607-7014

 Alumni & Friends of the College of Nursing are welcome to contribute to the following funds: