

Vital Signs

SPRING 2009 | VOLUME 26 | NUMBER ONE

UIC COLLEGE OF
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO NURSING

LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN

DEAN JOAN SHAVER'S
LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

The Intellectual Edge: Nurse Entrepreneurs

Endless Horizons: Leaders in Healthcare

Message from the Dean



I write this letter as dean of the UIC College of Nursing, poignantly knowing it is my last in this position. For 13 years, I have had the privilege and honor of serving as dean, and it is with very mixed emotions that I share with you a personal decision to return to the West, from where I originally came. I have accepted a position as the dean of the University of Arizona College of Nursing in Tucson and will be transitioning around July 1.

As I write this letter, UIC Provost R. Michael Tanner is in the process of selecting an interim dean, whose name will be announced on our website and in future communications from the College. He also is convening a search committee to begin a national search for my successor. Rest assured, many impressive nurse leaders will be interested in this position and the next dean is sure to accelerate the pursuit of continued excellence.

Leadership and excellence are the hallmarks of the UIC College of Nursing. In this issue of *Vital Signs*, you will read about leaders throughout our College community—entrepreneurs who are integrating their clinical nursing backgrounds with strategic business models, healthcare innovators who are guiding system-wide change, and donor advocates who are leading the way in creating generous opportunities for students to study nursing.

These leaders are finding unique avenues to influence and affect positive change in both people and systems. As always, I encourage us all to engage in leadership, no matter our position. Play your part in shaping positive change—in yourself, your colleagues, your patients, your communities, and in healthcare policy. Strive to think innovatively, engage in career-long learning, and love your profession. Please think about how you can support the College across your lifetime—as ambassador, volunteer, donor, or mentor.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have served as your 'Lucky Number Seven Dean.' I will remain committed in perpetuity to the College as external advocate and donor, and I look forward to seeing the College prosper even more than when I 'lived' within its walls!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Shaver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joan L. Shaver, PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor and Dean

College Administration

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nancy Herman

MANAGING EDITOR

Nicole Sallee

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Mark Hagland

WRITER

Felicia Schneiderhan

COPY EDITOR

Neal Lorenzi

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mark Mershon

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Kristin Tomsits Dunn
New Yardstick Strategic Design

University of Illinois at Chicago

College of Nursing

845 South Damen Avenue, (MC 802)
Chicago, IL 60612

Phone 312.996.1736

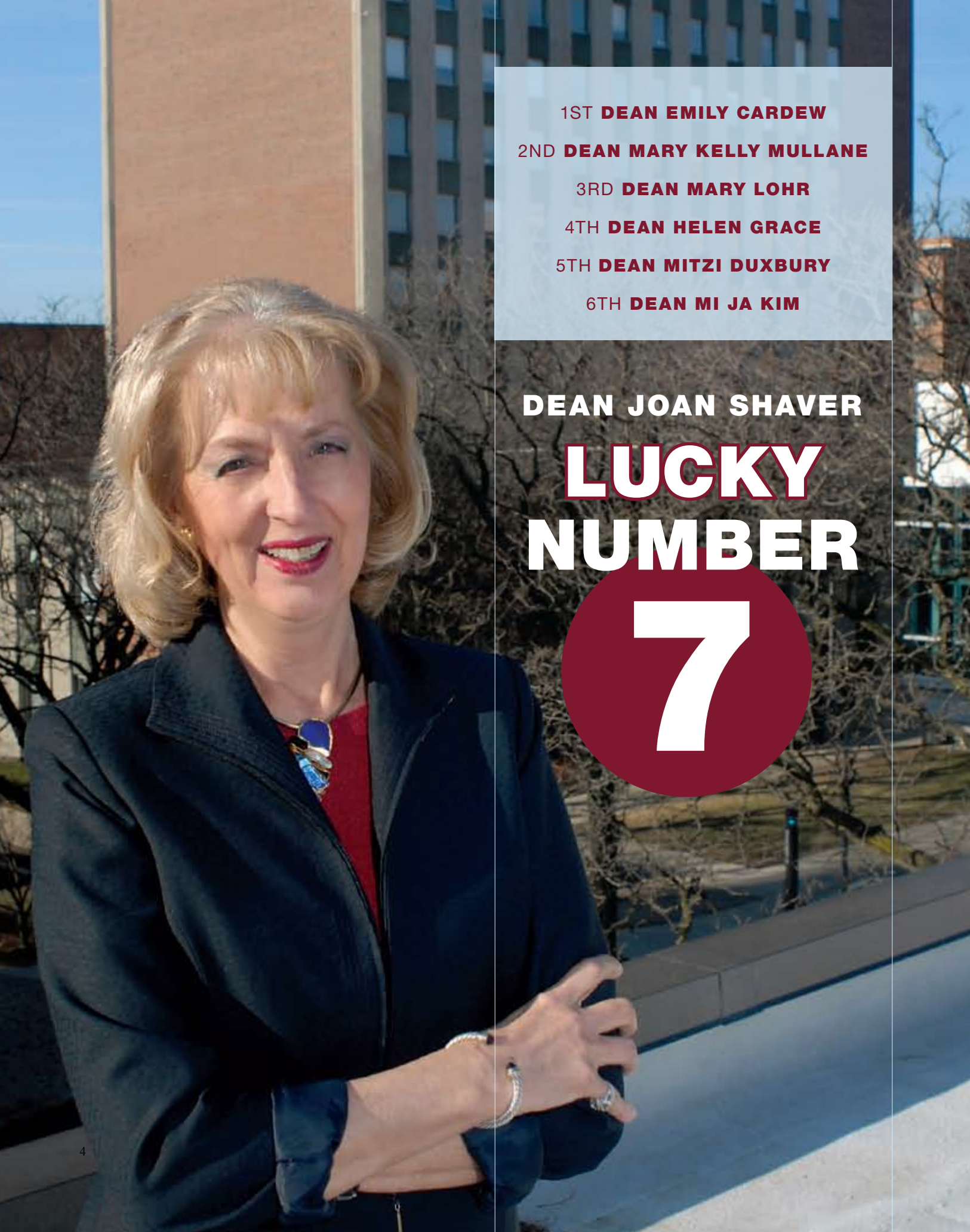
Fax 312.996.8066

Email conalum@uic.edu

www.uic.edu/nursing

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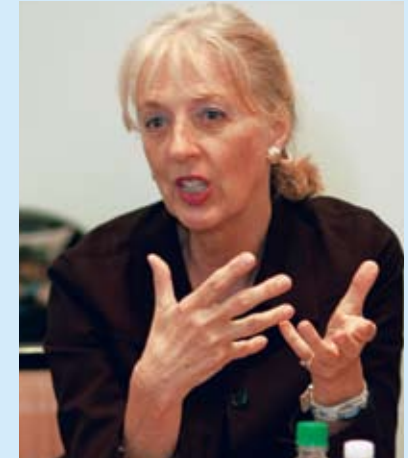
DEAN JOAN SHAVER

LUCKY
NUMBER

7

BY FELICIA SCHNEIDERHAN

AFTER 13 YEARS OF LEADING THE UIC COLLEGE OF NURSING IN ITS MISSION TO ADVANCE NURSING LEADERSHIP THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS, THE NATION, AND THE WORLD, “LUCKY NUMBER SEVEN” DEAN JOAN SHAVER LEAVES A LEGACY OF HANDS-ON LEADERSHIP AT ALL LEVELS.



At the UIC College of Nursing holiday party, faculty members gather in the third floor lounge, sipping punch and munching crudités. These people are highly qualified nursing researchers, clinicians, and educators at a nationally ranked college of nursing. Even at a party, they are working.

Dean Joan Shaver takes the microphone for her annual report to the College. The crowd quiets down; this is a serious affair. Shaver pulls out a piece of paper folded in her pocket—it’s clear from the way she stands tall and looks down at her notes that she has put a lot of time and effort into this very important document.

“Twas the Night Before Christmas...” the dean begins, reciting her annual year-in-review as a parody of the classic poem, off-rhymes and all. This is bad poetry at its finest. The faculty and staff associates love it.

Joan Shaver is no ordinary College of Nursing dean.

“One of her best characteristics is a wonderful sense of humor,” says Dr. Nancy Woods, former dean of the University of Washington (UW) School of Nursing in Seattle and a friend of Shaver since the two met while graduate students at UW in 1968. “She’s willing to laugh at herself. This has helped a lot of people over the years—including me—see the humor in the things we take so dreadfully seriously.”

After serving as UIC College of Nursing dean for 13 years, Shaver will become dean of the University of Arizona (UA) College of Nursing in Tucson in July 2009. In a way, the move brings her full circle; Shaver began her academic career as a faculty member at the UA College of Nursing in 1976.

“I cannot even express how hard this decision is,” says Shaver. “This represents a personal decision to transition back to the West with the bonus of having access to novel challenges—certainly not because I am any less challenged than ever in being at UIC.”

Says UIC Provost R. Michael Tanner, “Joan has done a superb job as dean throughout her tenure. She has been a tireless advocate for UIC and has helped raise the visibility of the College and the profession of nursing. Joan has been a leader among leaders, and she will be greatly missed by all of her friends and colleagues at UIC.”

Shaver was born in Canada, became a U.S. citizen and considers herself a Canadian-American; she has a U.S.-born son, Warren. She holds a doctorate in physiology and biophysics, a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Washington, and a baccalaureate degree from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Before joining UIC, Shaver was with the UW from 1985-96, serving as co-director of the Center for Women’s Health Research and chair and professor of the department of physiological nursing. She is an internationally noted research scientist, and nationally recognized for her work in women’s health, sleep science, and fibromyalgia syndrome.

Upon accepting the role of UIC nursing dean in 1996, Shaver reflects, “My challenge in wanting to be a transformational dean was to avoid becoming overly enmeshed in day-to-day activities. I tried to focus long-range in order to generate resources—people, time, space, and money—to keep the College, not just contemporary, but a leader in shaping positive and novel change. This often meant meeting with campus colleagues, writing proposals, assessing and

UNDER DEAN SHAVER’S LEADERSHIP...

222%
The increase of applications for baccalaureate programs

133%
The increase of applications for graduate studies

x 2
Nursing research funding from the National Institutes of Health more than doubled

> \$21 million
The number of private grants and gifts secured

x 4
The size of the endowment quadrupled

evolving organizational systems, and showcasing the College for our clinical practice partners, alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff. Capacity and capability-building within teaching/learning, research/discovery, and practice/service were paramount.

“My biggest surprise was how rapidly the faculty and staff associates embraced change so that we could grow our College to be recognized as one of the most robust, high-quality ones in the country,” says Shaver. “They were able to surge toward a broader scope of productivity in ways that went beyond what I could have imagined.”

“Joan has been a quintessential leader,” says **Dr. Rosemary White-Traut**, head of the department of women, children and family health science. “The College has prospered in many ways under her leadership.”

Lucy Marion (PhD '90), who served as associate dean for academic nursing practice at the College of Nursing before taking a position as dean at the School of Nursing, Medical College of Georgia, recalls that Shaver “would do almost anything to help get a grant out, conceptualize a new education program, or nominate faculty for awards. I can remember calling her more than once late into the evening in hopes that she would still be in her office. Sure enough, she would run up all nine flights of stairs to help me with a grant.”

Shaver always emphasizes the team approach in any endeavor. “She’s very generous in attributing good ideas broadly,” says Nancy Woods, “extending herself to give people credit for what they were doing in very generous ways. If you ever gave her credit for something in a meeting, she could immediately list three other people who had contributed to it.”

Woods adds, “She has really invested in helping faculty develop in ways that they use their best gifts. She can work equally effectively with faculty who want to develop research or clinical practice.”

Perhaps one of Shaver’s most important and consistent messages has been the power of nursing leadership at all levels of healthcare.

Shaver herself has held many positions of leadership, including serving on the board of directors of Advocate Health Care, the largest fully integrated, not-for-profit healthcare delivery system in the metropolitan Chicago area, as a board liaison to the Governing Council for Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and on the Health Advisory Committee for the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing as well as past-president (2003-05). In addition, she served a four-year term on the National Advisory Council for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) at the National Institutes of

Health, and on the Nursing Science Review Committee for national Research Service Award pre-and post-doctoral training grants. “Joan is one of those very rare leaders who has it all—charisma, vision, diplomacy, and energy,” says **Carol Ferrans (PhD '85, MS '82)**, professor and associate dean for research. “We are so fortunate to have had her at the helm for 13 years and only wish it could be longer.”

To celebrate and promote leadership, Shaver founded the Power of Nursing Leadership Event in 1998 and established the Illinois Nurse Leader Award. Today, the annual event draws more than 600 nursing and healthcare leaders in Illinois from various healthcare sectors.

Shaver’s leadership also guided the establishment of the Institute for Healthcare Innovation (IHCI)—the entrepreneurial arm of the College. “Joan is one of the most visionary people I’ve met,” says IHCI Executive Director **Dr. Judy Storjell**. “She envisioned the integration of research, teaching, and practice, each area complementing the other. She also envisioned a broad faculty practice—clinical, consulting, and continuing studies—and obtained the legislation and resources to allow this to happen. She recognized the opportunity we have to test new models of care and not only develop evidence-based practice but also practice-based evidence.”

In 2001, on the front edge of media and policy attention related to the nursing and healthcare workforce shortages, Shaver and faculty colleagues initiated, under the auspices of the IHCI, a national policy analysis panel with then Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin as chair; also involved were representatives from business, health, professional and labor associations, foundations, and policy institutes. The panel foresaw the problem of having too few healthcare nursing providers for an aging population and produced *Who Will Care For Each of Us? America’s Coming Health Care Labor Crisis*, a report that examines the future of the healthcare labor force in a ‘graying society.’

Throughout her distinguished career and during her deanship, Shaver has continued to lead as a nationally recognized expert on women’s health and sleep, and to conduct funded research in these areas. Her recent interests have centered on stress and sleep-related issues in midlife women, particularly within a set of mysterious debilitating conditions disproportionately affecting women, including fibromyalgia. Her research has been published in sleep, medical, and nursing journals.

Shaver is the 2004 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Research, Midwest Nursing Research Society. She also received the 2007 North American Menopause Society/Duramed Pharma-

UIC COLLEGE OF NURSING HIGHLIGHTS 1996–2009



'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09
Shaver appointed dean of the UIC College of Nursing	J. A. Piscopo Center for Narcolepsy Research is endowed (later re-named Center for Narcolepsy, Sleep and Health Research)	First Power of Nursing Leadership Event held	Center for Women’s Health and Chronic Illness is funded by the Falk Foundation UIC Nursing Institute established (later re-named the Institute for Health Care Innovation)	Irving Harris Faculty Scholar Initiative is funded by Irving B. Harris Foundation	Center for Research on Cardiovascular and Respiratory Health is funded by NIH	Midwifery program celebrates 30th anniversary	Bridges to the Doctorate for Minority Nursing Students is funded by NIH	Shaver becomes president of the American Academy of Nursing Center for Reducing Risk in Vulnerable Populations is funded by NIH Graduate Entry Program (GEP) admits first students	College of Nursing celebrates 50th anniversary	Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program admits first students	Center for End of Life Transition Research is funded by NIH	Integrated Health Care celebrates 10th anniversary	Shaver steps down as dean of College of Nursing and into a new role as donor and external advocate

“Leadership is not about power or position, but the power of influence that comes from behaviors enacted, regardless of position,” Dean Joan Shaver told the *Canadian Journal of Nursing Leadership* in 2005.

ceuticals Inc. Menopause and Sleep Research Award, presented through The North American Menopause Society.

Shaver considers mentoring another important part of leadership. **Dr. Patrick Robinson**, assistant professor and assistant executive dean, came to UIC as a post-doctoral research fellow with Shaver as his advisor. “I was intrigued by her vision for healthcare and the role nursing should play in realizing this vision.” He adds, “She has been a wonderful teacher when it comes to the nuts and bolts of academic leadership, but many could have taught me this. What I take away from my time with her are several key tenets of leadership: Honor individual perspectives, as they are the only reality. Tolerate and work with others’ abilities related to change. Don’t ever say it can’t be done. Know your biases and assumptions going in. It is okay to be more than one standard deviation away from the mean. And finally, leaders are not above others, they are just a functioning part of the team.”

Shaver presents opportunities for growth and leadership to everyone who comes into contact with her—faculty, students, and staff associates.

Denise Sobotka, who served as Shaver’s assistant and later as director of academic affairs, says, “Joan provided me with opportunities I would not have had otherwise. She looked at my experience, even though I didn’t have all of the letters behind my name.”

Shaver has never been above doing a job that needed to be done. Twelve years ago, on a Saturday morning when the College was virtually empty, **Mark Mershon**, media specialist, came in to do some work and found the new dean in the lobby with an oil can, oiling a squeaky door to the administrative offices.

“It just shows she’s a hands-on person,” Mershon says. “Joan doesn’t have the ‘It’s not my job’ attitude. She doesn’t think she’s too good to do certain jobs. Sometimes, to get things done, you just have to do it.”

Shaver is grateful for being “Lucky Number Seven” dean of the College of Nursing. “It has been an honor and a privilege to build upon the solid foundation that the six deans before me have created in the 54 years of history of the College,” she says.

Shaver smiles and adds, “Being dean has given me the courage to try new things and hone my abilities to be—or at least appear to be—a ‘fearless’ leader. Personally, I am very humbled and enriched by all of my experiences at UIC and excited to see what the future holds for the College of Nursing.”



My Investment in the College

Blessed to be given status as an honorary alumna of the UIC College of Nursing at the 2009 Commencement and as I step into my new role as donor and external advocate for the College, I understand even more the value and importance of investing in College initiatives.

To convey my continued commitment to the future of UIC nursing leadership and to support the Brilliant Futures Campaign, I have endowed the Dean Joan L. Shaver Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance for nursing PhD students in perpetuity.

Please consider a gift of support to the College – whether to the Annual Fund, the Dean Joan L. Shaver Scholarship Fund, or another fund of your choosing listed on the inside back cover.

As always, thank you!

Joan

Barbara McFarlin Receives CCTS Award to Study Preterm Birth



Barbara McFarlin and patient

Research Assistant Professor **Barbara McFarlin (PhD '05, MS '84, BSN '74)** is the 2008 recipient of the UIC Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) Scholar Award. By translating basic science knowledge into clinical practice, McFarlin’s goal is to delay preterm labor and birth.

McFarlin says, “Preterm birth is a serious healthcare concern for mothers and their infants; it is the second leading cause of infant mortality in the U.S. and the leading cause of infant mortality for African-American infants.” She adds, “Unfortunately, the incidence of preterm birth has not been reduced in the last 40 years in spite of interventions to stop contractions of preterm labor.”

McFarlin is working with a team of engineers, maternal fetal medicine physicians and veterinarians, and a physicist to develop a noninvasive

ultrasound technique to detect changes in the cervix, called “cervical ripening,” which occur in pregnant women days or weeks prior to contractions. Few treatments to delay preterm birth have been focused on cervical ripening, but early recognition of these changes is an essential step toward identifying, testing, and implementing new strategies to prevent preterm birth.

As a CCTS Scholar, McFarlin is able to devote the majority of her time to translating the team’s preliminary animal research for use in human pregnancy.

McFarlin’s research is the culmination of 25 years of nursing experience as a certified nurse midwife and obstetric and gynecologic sonographer. She reflects, “I attribute this achievement to a strong educational foundation, a clinical background, and to many mentors who have encouraged me throughout my career.”

New Advanced Practice Program Focuses on Cardiometabolic Diseases

The College of Nursing has received a \$863,000 three-year federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to develop a new advanced practice nursing program to aid underserved individuals suffering from diseases and conditions such as type 2 diabetes, obesity, stroke, and heart disease.

“Our current adult/geriatric program has successfully produced advanced practice nurses who skillfully address healthcare needs in diverse populations,” says **Jean Berry (PhD '92)**, clinical associate professor and project director of the grant. But, she adds, “We identified a need for a specialty curriculum to address the chronic diseases that account for approximately 60 percent of deaths worldwide.

“UIC is dedicated to meeting the needs of underserved populations, and the incidence of cardiometabolic disorders is significantly higher in these populations,” Berry explains. “Out of 102 Illinois counties, 84 are considered rural by the Center for Rural Health of the Illinois Department of Public Health; 25 are medically underserved areas; 25 are Health Professional Shortage Areas; and five are a combination of the two.

“We need to identify and reduce the risk factors in people’s lives that lead to negative cardiometabolic outcomes.” And, Berry adds, the experience of leading the program has been excellent. “Students are enthusiastic and are learning the role and value of early and aggressive prevention screenings and interventions, especially among populations of need.”

The new cardiometabolic advanced practice nursing specialty courses began this spring. Upon completion of the graduate level certificate program, nurses will be prepared to take several specialty advanced practice nurse examinations.

— Mark Hagland

Leading by Example: Gloria Henderson's Bold Career and Generous Choice

Gloria Henderson (MS '70) has never been one to sit back and watch life pass her by. As Henderson likes to say, "I tried to retire in 1994, and then I flunked 'Retirement 101'!"

Henderson has been an energy dynamo across a nursing career that has spanned several decades as a teacher, mentor, and college administrator.

Henderson's innate optimism and focus came amazingly early: in high school. "My first love was that I would teach nursing," she explains. "Back then, women were nurses or teachers or secretaries. When people said I should become a teacher, I responded that I would teach nursing."

So, that's what she did, first receiving a bachelor's degree in nursing, and then working in clinical practice. After taking a break to raise three

children, Henderson was ready to go back into nursing. She obtained her master's degree from the UIC College of Nursing in 1970, then immediately joined the faculty upon graduation.

Henderson spent 24 years at the College until her first "retirement" in 1994; but she continues as emerita faculty, teaching a holistic health course for graduate and senior-level undergraduate students. "I'm just not one to sit down for long," she explains. Over the years, she has taught every level of coursework and remains as excited as she was nearly four decades ago about teaching nursing students. She is especially thrilled by the diversity of backgrounds that the profession now attracts.

Indeed, she emphasizes, nursing has given her enormous opportunities not only professionally, but also personally. She still remembers the two months she spent in Iran in the late 1970s, working with College of Nursing colleagues to help Iranian nursing educators establish a bachelor's-level nursing program in Tabriz. "It was a life-changing experience," recalls Henderson, who adds, "I had never traveled in a foreign country before that." It gave her a desire for international travel that has taken her and her husband of 56 years, Dale, all over the world since then, from Europe to China, to Turkey, to Mexico, and Peru, among other places.



Gloria Henderson

Not surprisingly, for Henderson, investing in the future of the College is the natural consequence of a near-lifetime spent in nursing and nursing education. "There are fabulous opportunities in nursing and in the healthcare professions," she emphasizes. "I would like others to have those opportunities."

To help nursing students in the College—now and forever—Henderson and her husband have included a bequest to the College in their will. In addition, she has funded an endowed scholarship that is given annually to an undergraduate nursing student. In that way, she explains, she gets the pleasure of "seeing her gifts in action."

"The Gloria A. Henderson Scholarship really allows students to focus on their educational work rather than financial issues," she explains. "And anything we can do in that regard is a very positive thing."

— Mark Hagland

For more information about creating an endowed scholarship fund or including a bequest to the College in your will, please contact Nancy Herman, director of advancement at 312.996.1736 or nherman@uic.edu.

New External Grants

July 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008

Faculty

Dr. Agatha Gallo CHOICES: Tailored Education for Informed Reproductive Decisions by People with Sickle Cell Disease and Sickle Cell Trait (National Heart Lung and Blood Institute)

Dr. Carmen Giurgescu Race Related Stressor and Preterm Birth in African American Women (National Institute of Nursing Research)

Dr. Patricia Hershberger (PhD '05) Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis: Couples' Decision Making at the Genetic and Reproductive Interface (National Institute of Nursing Research)

Dr. Patricia Lewis (PhD '93) New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Dr. Cynthia Barnes-Boyd (PhD '90, MS '79, BSN '75) Student Therapeutic Activities and Resources Services (STARS) (Illinois Health Education Consortium)

Dr. Cheryl Schraeder Money Follows the Person (Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services)

Dr. Kamal Eldeirawi Antioxidant Levels of Mothers and their Children (Midwest Nursing Research Society, New Investigator Seed Grant)

Dr. Beverly McElmurry Chicago Health Corps Outreach Initiative (Polk Brothers Foundation)

Dr. Beverly McElmurry Sustainability of Active Living by Design/Healthy Eating by Design Initiatives (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Dr. Carrol Smith (PhD '06) Violence Prevention Methods Suggested by Women Who Formerly Abused Their Female Partners (Gay and Lesbian Medical Association)

Dr. Shannon Zenk Impact of a New WIC Food Package Fruit/Vegetable Cash-Voucher on WIC Vendor Participation, Accessibility, and Fruit/Vegetable Supply Characteristics (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

Dr. Susan Vonderheide Evaluation of the March of Dimes Centering Pregnancy Initiative (March of Dimes Illinois Chapter)

Students

Anne Fink (MS '08) Fatigue and Cytokines with Heart Failure (Midwest Nursing Research Society)

Christenson Honors Mom's Memory by Helping BSN Students

Robert Christenson traveled to Chicago from his Atlanta home last fall to meet with BSN students **Heather DeGroot** and **Jesse Realubit**, 2008 recipients of the Jean Christenson Memorial Scholarship. Robert established the scholarship in 2006 in memory of his mother, Jean, a native Chicagoan who was a nurse and who wanted to support the growth of the nursing profession.

Each year, Christenson visits the College to meet the scholarship recipients and to see, in person, how his contributions are making a difference in the lives of BSN students.



Robert Christenson recently met with scholarship recipients Heather DeGroot (left) and Jesse Realubit (right).

A Special Thank You

Lazzara Family Foundation

Two graduating BSN students received scholarships this spring through the generosity of the Lazzara Family Foundation.

After graduation, Chicago student **Jessica Day** will continue her education with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice in midwifery at UIC.

Urbana student **Renee Landa** plans to pursue a career in oncology or critical care nursing after she graduates this spring.



Jessica Day (left); Renee Landa (right)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The College of Nursing was among the first institutions in the United States to receive an \$80,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) through its *New Careers in Nursing Scholarship Program*, which is designed to help alleviate the nursing shortage and increase the diversity of nursing professionals. Scholarships were awarded to eight students enrolled in the Graduate Entry Program, a master's level, accelerated entry-into-practice curriculum for individuals who have already completed a bachelor's degree in another field.



RWJF scholarship recipients (from left) Front row: Darice Linares, Jennifer Verploegh. Back row: Yvette Johnson, Carmen Taylor-Mason, Leslie Moore, Maryam Mustafaa Not pictured: Luis Bustamante and Christina Lopez

Nurse entrepreneurs credit nursing education and out-of-the box thinking as foundations for career growth.

The Intellectual Edge



By Mark Hagland

Judy Hicks (MS '75) says she never imagined the path that her nursing career would take when she graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from St. Xavier University in Chicago in 1969. Like many BSN graduates at that time, Hicks imagined a conventional nursing career for herself as a staff nurse, with perhaps some management responsibilities down the road.

However, says Hicks, "The UIC College of Nursing helped me clarify and build on the career I'd already started. I'd had experience as a staff nurse and head nurse, and interviewed for the master's program with **Dr. [Mary Kelly] Mullane** (dean of the College from 1962-71). And she said to me, 'You know, if you add some management experience and some publishing, you'll be well-positioned.' She helped me broaden my vision of my career."

This advice has served Hicks well. After a number of years in nursing clinical management up through the vice-presidential level, Hicks accepted an offer in 1996 from Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago to help establish a self-owned supplemental nursing pool. The goal was to optimize the availability of pediatric nurses to the hospital. The resounding success of that first venture led Children's Memorial leaders to call on Hicks to create an entire for-profit subsidiary, within which she established a comprehensive home-care service for pediatric and adult patients.

That service evolved into a telehealth business, and expanded into chronic care management services catering to self-insured employers. The successful subsidiary was ultimately divested to a private-equity firm in 2006. Currently, Hicks is a full-time consultant and CEO of her own company, Beechwood Health Solutions LLC. In that role, she works with healthcare and educational institutions to help identify services and products that could be developed as subsidiary businesses.

"The healthcare arena is rife with opportunities for those in it who have experience and are knowledgeable," Hicks says. "Nurses are well positioned to have a good lay of the land; if they've worked in hospitals or home healthcare, they understand how those entities work from a business standpoint as well. And what I've learned is that the business folks don't have that level of clinical experience, and they're hungry for the kinds of knowledge that derive from clinical experience." What's more, she adds, "Despite some economic problems, healthcare is still very vibrant right now. So for nurses with entrepreneurial spirit, you can do whatever you want."

A World of Opportunities

Judy Hicks' career path, while perhaps not typical, is certainly no longer rare. As healthcare evolves, a growing number of nurses are moving into entrepreneurial careers. At the same time, a thorough understanding of patient care processes and clinical issues, in combination with good business skills and knowledge, has become more prized in the marketplace.

This is to be expected, according to UIC College of Nursing **Dean Joan Shaver**. "As in most fields," Shaver says, "education is the key to flexibility and opportunities. And what we've tried to do in our educational programs is to focus on health systems, and how you can work within systems to continue to shape them. In other words, nurses learn how to be assets to healthcare systems. And once you understand systems, you acquire an understanding of how to create systems of your own and how to create opportunities for yourself to be a senior executive."

Mary Jo Snyder (MS '91) is a nursing professional who has done what Dean Shaver speaks of. Now president and CEO of Echo Management and Consulting Group in Kankakee, IL, Snyder obtained her master's degree in nursing in 1991 and master's degree in business administration in 1994, both from UIC. Based on experience as a trauma nurse and hospital patient-care executive, Snyder moved into the entrepreneurial side of healthcare,



Judy Hicks



Mary Jo Snyder

first working with the College of Nursing on entrepreneurial projects; then, in 2000, she created her consulting firm. Indeed, the larger portion of her business, which focuses on emergency department trauma center operational process redesign, has flowed naturally out of her prior clinical experience.

Through her consulting business, Snyder offers an operational simulation model in which clients can replicate their emergency department operating environment and, under Snyder's advisement, can model potential operational changes. Her firm also offers healthcare practice management for clinics and other patient-care organizations.

For Snyder, being involved in such consulting work is a logical extension of her mission as a nursing professional. "Emergency departments can never close, so I'm giving nurses the tools to make independent decisions so they don't get burned out," she explains. Knowing that she is improving both healthcare delivery in patient-care organizations, and the work-lives of nurses, is highly satisfying for her.

Perfecting the Skill of Problem-Solving

Joan Syer-Bailar, a member of the College of Nursing Leadership Advisory Cabinet, feels the same way. "Nursing is a wonderful foundation for management because all the skills you need in management you really learn in nursing," says Syer-Bailar, who has both a nursing professional background and a master's degree in business administration. She has done everything from patient-care, to hospital management and business entrepreneurship, to business education.

She explains: "Whether a nursing professional or businessperson, you really have to be a good listener; you have to know

how to delegate; you have to know how to work with others." In nursing, she points out, "You learn to think and problem-solve very quickly, on your feet, or you won't be a good nurse. And those are skills you need as a manager."

Syer-Bailar, who considers herself a real risk-taker, decided a couple of years ago to test her problem-solving where the rubber really meets the road—at a three-day racing experience. "I had always wanted to drive a race-car," she reflects, "and my husband gave me the racing experience as a gift. And you know," she says with a hint of a smile in her voice, "you learn to make decisions at very high speeds when driving a race-car. Once you know where you're going, you have to then start thinking about and looking ahead to that next situation. And that's no different from business, or from clinical nursing."

Of course, she concedes, most people—perhaps most nursing professionals—may not want to test such theories on a racetrack—but then again, Syer-Bailar has never been shy about blazing her own trail.

Syer-Bailar began as a registered nurse in oncology, medical-surgical, and emergency nursing. Through many years of dedication, an advancing skill set, and taking calculated risks, she developed into a healthcare executive at her two consulting companies, Syer and Nottingham, and SNI Management Associates, which she and a partner founded. Both companies



Joan Syer-Bailar



Testing her skills, Joan Syer-Bailar (white car) drives to the finish at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, CA.



Building upon her clinical background, Sandie Mulcrone created a business to supply a variety of maternity products to pregnant women.



developed and operationalized independent physicians associations and physician-hospital organizations. They provided the services required for providers to be competitive and financially strong in a demanding managed-care market.

Syer-Bailar went on to become vice president and chief operating officer of Advocate Health Centers, a large, urban multi-specialty physician group with multiple sites in the Chicago area. Since semi-retiring in 2003, she has been active in the business world, working with nonprofit groups and teaching as a member of the faculty at Lake Forest Graduate School of Management.

From Clinician to Entrepreneur

For **Sandie Mulcrone (MS '97)**, the transition to healthcare entrepreneur evolved directly out of her clinical work. For the past several years, Mulcrone, a certified nurse midwife, has supported breastfeeding women during her role as a full-scope clinician. As she worked with new mothers in that program, she learned that there were often shortages of electric breast pumps available for uninsured mothers. Ultimately, seeing the service delivery problem, Mulcrone became licensed as a durable medical equipment/home medical equipment provider for the federal Special Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program in Illinois. Since then, she has been supplying breast pumps, support belts, and other products to mothers covered by Illinois

Medicaid. In addition to serving as executive director of Perinatal Home Medical Supply Inc., she continues to provide lactation support to breastfeeding mothers and direct patient-care.

"When I went into my master's degree program, (I envisioned working) in a clinical setting, an administrative setting, or a teaching setting," she explains. "I knew that an advanced degree could open up any number of opportunities. Fortunately, my experience as a clinician is what prompted me to start asking questions, such as—how can I help improve access to supplies and services for these mothers? Through my earlier administrative experience as supervisor of nurse-midwifery services at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, I gained knowledge of the business side of healthcare."

For her, Mulcrone says, "The most important thing is helping these mothers. That's the reason I got into this. It's very satisfying for me to help mothers have the opportunity to express milk, especially those with newborns that have congenital anomalies, or premature babies, or babies who are jaundiced and in the nursery for an extended period of time."

The Intellectual Edge

In the end, says Judy Hicks, the horizons are nearly limitless for those with the interest and ambition to pursue their own unique path. "Healthcare is an incredibly exciting field; it doesn't stand still," she says. "So if you want to be a part of it, you need to jump on the wagon and learn some of the business; if you do, you can go in so many different directions."

Calling all nurse entrepreneurs!

Tell us about your success stories and we will include them in the Class Notes section in the next edition of *Vital Signs*.

Please email conalum@uic.edu.

Class of 1962 Reunion

During a beautiful fall weekend in early November 2008, members of the Class of 1962 gathered at a suburban Chicago resort to celebrate 46 years since graduation.

“Planning for the reunion weekend was definitely a nursing process!” says **Barbara Rostholder Saltzman (MS '67, BSN '62)**. “All of my classmates came together and contributed to the weekend—whether it was by responding to questionnaires in planning the reunion or bringing old photos and nursing memorabilia to share.”

Allowing for plenty of time to socialize and catch up on the latest news, an entire weekend of activities was planned. The reunion schedule included a Friday night dinner, a Saturday reunion luncheon, a play at the Lincolnshire Marriott Theatre, and a Saturday night dinner planned by **Inez Weinberg Porges**.



The Class of 1962 celebrated its 46th Reunion.

Luncheon highlights included an art exhibit by **Felice Koloms Sachs**, featuring her healthcare-themed fiber art, a table with memorabilia and photos from school days supplied by all in attendance, and a nursing uniform belonging to Sachs that decorated the wall. Representing the College of Nursing Alumni Association, **Harlene Pearlman (MS '95)** joined the group to share news and updates from the College.

In addition to Saltzman coordinating correspondence and arranging for the meals and theatre tickets, classmates **Bonnie Brauer DevleschHoward** and **Myrna Adams Rowe** recommended the location and produced biographical class booklets. Other Class of 1962 alumna in attendance included **Barbara McLaurin Davis, Marilyn Peterson Groen, Helia Zimmeroff Schramm**

Kagan, Marcie Richmond, Clara Manta Karones, and her daughter **Rita Karones-Yang (BSN '95)**. **Sylvia Hurwich Meyers** and family were scheduled to attend but a knee injury changed their plans.

Several classmates not able to attend but who were represented in the class booklets included **Heloise Coles Crowell, Rita Hord Goodman, Janice Overbey Kelley, Nancy Walton Nagel**, and **Isabelle Rasplia Hollis**. **Joanne Ostema Sharp** was recalled with fond memories.

The weekend of warmth, fun, and laughter further strengthened relationships dating back nearly five decades. The reunion provided an opportunity for classmates and friends to share their experiences in nursing and other venues and prove, as Saltzman says, “that we still know how to party!”

Are you interested in reconnecting with your nursing classmates and friends?

The College of Nursing and College of Nursing Alumni Association can help you make your reunion a memorable success.

For more information, please visit www.uic.edu/nursing/alumni or contact Nicole Sallee, assistant director of advancement at 312.996.7881 or nbsallee@uic.edu.

Regional Update



Retired Peoria faculty member Robah Kellogg (center) joins 2008 scholarship recipients James Davis and Jill Schindler. Not pictured: Lynette Davis, recipient of the Norma R. Kelly Peoria Nursing Scholarship.

Peoria Nursing Community Celebrates Scholarship Recipients

The 2008 recipients of the Kellogg Family Peoria Nursing Scholarship and the Norma R. Kelly Peoria Nursing Scholarship were congratulated at the Peoria Honors Dinner on September 18, 2008. Nearly 100 College of Nursing alumni, faculty, staff and students attended the annual event.

Rockford Student Awarded Business Women INC Scholarship

Ruth McGaha, a master’s student in the Rockford Regional Program, received a generous scholarship from Business Women INC (BWI) in Fall 2008. A professional development group formed by employees at Baxter International and Cardinal Health, BWI raised money from networking and

fundraising events to provide program support and scholarships in Northern Illinois. **Donna Proske** from Cardinal Health said, “We are proud to support Ruth McGaha’s goal to complete the nurse practitioner curriculum and are particularly pleased that she already shares her nursing skills with the residents of Lake County, IL.”

Urbana Clinical Instructors Honored as Excellent

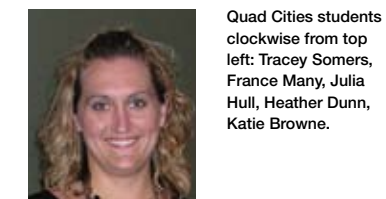
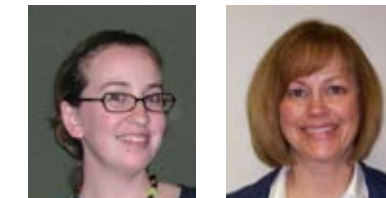
Urbana Clinical instructors **Nancy Endress, Linda Irle (BSN '92)**, and **Krista Jones (MS '07)** were listed as “Excellent” by their Fall 2008 students, according to results from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) Instructor and Course Evaluation System (ICES).

“It’s all about the students and helping them grow into nursing leaders,” says Endress. “I teach Concepts and Processes, along with Linda Irle. This course helps them remember why they’re in nursing when they run into those really hard days. We have such wonderful students. It’s really a joint effort; we’re all in this together.”

ICES was developed at UIUC in 1976 to provide feedback to instructors and information for students. The *List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students* is a way to recognize instructors whom students find particularly organized, helpful, and clear in bringing across key ideas and concepts in a course.

Quad Cities Students Receive Scholarships from the Day Foundation Grant

Thanks to a generous grant from the Doris & Victor Day Foundation, five nursing students from the Quad Cities Regional Program received scholarships in 2008.



Quad Cities students clockwise from top left: Tracey Somers, France Many, Julia Hull, Heather Dunn, Katie Browne.

Nursing Alumna Torch Bearer

Johanna Stubblefield (BSN '05), president of the UIC College of Nursing Alumni Association, carried the torch and lit the cauldron before a UIC Flames men’s basketball game this season.



Endless Horizons: Nurse Leaders Changing Healthcare

By Mark Hagland

When **Dr. Mary Ellen Simpson (MS '93)** was pursuing her master's degree at the UIC College of Nursing in the early 1990s, she never dreamed that she would end up in unfamiliar places such as Ghana, participating in an effort to eliminate the scourge of Guinea worm in the west African bush, or helping to establish a community health program in Tikrit, Iraq, the hometown of Saddam Hussein. Yet Simpson, who is now director of the Program in Population and Community Health at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and the Master's in Public Health Program (also in Peoria), has pursued what is, in fact, a logical—if at times uncommon—career path that stemmed directly from the kinds of learning and discovery she experienced at the College of Nursing 15 years ago.

Some of Simpson's experiences read like chapters out of an adventure novel, but all of them reflect her intense and career-long interest in population health. So how did she end up in the deep bush in western Africa? Simpson participated in the Epidemic Intelligence Service, an elite unit within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for two years. As part of her first assignment, she joined a team of healthcare professionals who studied the causes of anemia among children and adults in the teeming refugee camps within the Gaza Strip.

Then, in 2000, she was selected to travel into the bush of Ghana. "Ghana has had the greatest and most long-standing problem with Guinea worm of any country," says Simpson. So, armed with nothing more than a couple

of explanatory posters and some protective netting, she journeyed to Ghana for a two-week visit. While there, Simpson ventured deep into the back bush, into areas so remote that she was the first Caucasian person the residents had ever seen.

Simpson was able to accomplish two important things in Ghana. First, she figured out the complex web of problems that keep the incurable (yet easily prevented) disease of Guinea worm alive, including lack of access to clean water, dire poverty, and cultural superstition. She also created a low-tech, highly effective infestation reporting system across a wide swath of upland Ghana.

All these adventures may sound exotic to some, but for Simpson, they link directly to aspirations that intensified during her time as a student. "My master's degree at the UIC College of Nursing was centered around public health and nursing," she notes. "The first class I had was epidemiology." Simpson recalls her epidemiology instructor as "dynamic and exciting" and a source of inspiration. "I was so honored to be a small part of the Epidemic Intelligence Service.... I never would have gotten there had I not pursued my degree at UIC."

Many Paths to Healthcare Leadership

Simpson's experience is not entirely unique. Graduates of the College of Nursing are using their education and experiences to help lead change in healthcare in the United States and abroad. They are leading hospital and healthcare



On a trip to Ghana, Mary Ellen Simpson (right) identified the lack of access to clean water as a contributing factor to the problem of Guinea worm.



organizations, engaging in transformative research, and blazing new trails in terms of leading public health-oriented and acute-care organizations. For example:

At the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago, **Janet Spunt (MS '83, BSN '74)**, chief nursing officer and director of patient-care services, is helping to institute a variety of best practices-based, patient-care initiatives that are bringing greater expertise to the bedside, and inspiring nurses at the 500-bed academic medical center to participate in ongoing efforts to optimize patient-care. Among these initiatives is the creation of rapid-response teams for cardiovascular emergent situations on the med/surg floors of the hospital.

At the 346-bed Resurrection Saint Joseph Hospital, also in Chicago, **Janet Stifter (BSN '81)** is leading change as vice president of patient services. Stifter has spearheaded two initiatives that have led to improved patient-care outcomes. Not only did she champion the creation of a critical care intensivist position for the community hospital; she also helped lead an initiative that ultimately resulted in the creation of a system-wide electronic ICU (eICU) for the eight-hospital Resurrection Health system.

Sandi Burke (PhD '04), associate director of the Central Illinois Regional Program for the UIC College of Nursing and based in Urbana, IL, is focused on chronic disease management and interested in health policy issues. She is currently in the final year of a three-year term on the American Association of Diabetes Educators board of

directors and is vice chair of the Older Adult Working Group of the National Diabetes Education Program, a CDC/NIH collaborative initiative.

UIC College of Nursing Alumni Board Member **Mary Maryland (PhD '94)** last year became the first nurse, the second woman, and the first non-physician to be named president of the Illinois Division of the American Cancer Society (ACS). Maryland's presidency of the Illinois division was no accident; she has spent nearly two decades volunteering with the organization, and advocating for cancer awareness, education, and funding. During her professional career, Maryland also has worked in a broad range of settings as a staff nurse, board certified nurse practitioner, funded researcher, educator, and consultant.

One Common Bond: Nursing Education is the Foundation for Leadership

The range of experiences of these nursing professionals is impressive. As healthcare leaders, each has chosen a path unique to her own aspirations and background. Yet, one commonality is clear: all say that the nursing education they received—whether at the bachelor's, master's, or doctoral level—provided them with a rock-solid foundation on which they could sculpt their careers.

"I had an excellent experience in both of my degree programs," says Janet Stifter, reflecting on her bachelor's-level study at the UIC College of Nursing and on her master's-



From left: Janet Spunt, Janet Stifter, Sandi Burke, Mary Maryland

degree study in Wisconsin. “I’ve never for one minute regretted going into nursing; it’s been the absolutely right field for me.” What’s more, says Stifter, “I got the definite message at UIC that I could make a difference, whether at the bedside or in an administrative role.”

“As a profession, there are so many things you can do, so many paths you can take,” notes Janet Spunt. In fact, Spunt confesses, “I never thought about nursing administration as an undergrad, or that I could end up as a chief nursing officer.”

Huge Potential: Nurses Driving Healthcare System Change

At a time when healthcare costs are exploding, stakeholder groups are demanding greater accountability as well as improved patient safety and patient-care quality. And while the potential for healthcare reform is emerging at the national policy level, some nursing leaders say the nursing perspective is needed more than ever in the context of healthcare system change. “The healthcare system in the United States is broken,” says **Dr. Judy Storfjell**, executive director of the College of Nursing Institute for Health Care Innovation and associate dean for academic practice. “It’s not a system, and we all know that. But no one seems to know how to fix it. And care fragmentation is an issue.” In that context, Storfjell says, “I see nursing as taking on a navigator role. I think our education, our background, our philosophy, which involves looking at the whole person, is needed to help create innovative change.”

The horizons are nearly limitless for nurses who aspire to lead change on any number of fronts in healthcare. As Sandi Burke explains, “My focal area has been diabetes for 20 years. And what I took away from my doctoral studies at the UIC College of Nursing was the confidence that I needed to move forward; and that’s huge. What’s more,” she says, “the work I do in diabetes is interdisciplinary. Although I was involved in diabetes volunteer work for a long time, I didn’t really see the potential for involvement at a higher level until 10 years ago, when I was working on my Ph.D. That’s when I began to look at nursing as a very powerful influence, not just on other nurses, but on other disciplines as well.”

Indeed, some of the potential leadership opportunities that any nursing professional encounters are only revealed gradually and over time, according to Mary Maryland. “Nursing education allows you to continue to evolve and develop your role,” Maryland notes. “In my initial education as a clinician, I was qualified and capable of being a staff nurse. Over time, I’ve been a manager and an educator... developing leadership skills through a variety of activities.”

Wherever one’s career takes a nursing professional, the opportunities to lead, and to improve the health of communities—from the bedside level to the global level—are clearly there. Just ask Mary Ellen Simpson. “I’m just a person who’s been very blessed, and who wants to give a little something back,” she concludes, “and who wants to help our students eventually be able to do so as well.”

Celebrating

Former Dean Honored as “Living Legend”



Dr. Helen Grace (MS '65), dean of the UIC College of Nursing from 1977–82, was honored on November 6, 2008 as a “Living Legend” by the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) during its annual meeting in Scottsdale, AZ.

The title of “Living Legend” is the highest honor given annually by the AAN in recognition of individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary and sustained contributions to nursing and healthcare during their careers, in the United States and throughout the world.

“Helen Grace is a true trailblazer,” says **Dean Joan Shaver**. “She established a solid tradition of quality and innovation during her tenure as

dean and has a passion for embracing diversity and shaping systems to advance nursing knowledge and scholarship.”

In the course of her career, Grace achieved or facilitated a number of “firsts.” In 1963, she entered the UIC College of Nursing as one of five students in the first graduate degree program at the College. In 1967, she was the first nurse to be admitted to the doctoral program in sociology at Northwestern University. After completing her PhD in 1969, Grace joined the faculty of the College of Nursing and in 1973 was appointed associate dean for graduate studies. By the time she assumed the deanship of the College in 1977, she had launched the graduate program in psychiatric nursing, the PhD program, a set of regional programs around the state, and the first graduate midwifery program in the country.

Grace’s recruitment of international students and scholars during her tenure laid the foundation for what has become the College of Nursing Office of Global

Health Leadership. Also during that time, she urged Dr. Virginia Ohlson (now professor emerita) to apply for establishment of a U.S. Collaborating Centre for Nursing. In 1986, this culminated in the College being awarded WHO Nursing Collaborating Centre for Nursing and Midwifery status, the first in the United States.

Grace joined the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 1982 where she coordinated all U.S. health programming and developed initial programs in South Africa in the areas of health, education, and leadership. She also developed a special initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen nursing education and practice.

Now retired, Grace has returned to her home state of South Dakota, but she continues to shape the nursing future through her philanthropic support of innovative programs, with an emphasis on accelerating diversification of the nursing workforce.



Happy 94th Birthday

Dr. Virginia Ohlson, professor emerita and founder of the Office for International Studies (now the Office of Global Health Leadership), celebrated her 94th birthday in October 2008.

Barbara Dancy discusses the use of condoms as a way to develop HIV risk reduction behaviors among African-American women.



Barbara Dancy Named Associate Dean for Nursing Science Studies

Dr. Barbara Dancy (MS '72) has been named associate dean for nursing science studies, building upon the foundation established by former colleague **Mark Foreman (PhD '87)**.

In addition to mentoring many novice and mid-career investigators, doctoral students and fellows, Dancy is a formidable researcher with substantial experience working with minority communities that have disproportion-

ately high health disparities, in developing and conducting qualitative and quantitative research studies, and in tailoring prevention programs.

Her research is focused on developing and testing culturally sensitive interventions for vulnerable, underserved populations in the area of HIV-prevention, mammography screening, and health promotion.



Dean Joan Shaver (left) recognizes Gail Cook's generous and lively spirit during Cook's retirement party.

Gail Cook Retires

After 31 years of service to UIC, **Gail Cook** said good-bye to the College of Nursing and the Office of Academic Programs. When students, faculty, or staff had a question about programs, requirements, records, or schedules, Cook was the one who knew the answer or how to find it. Admired by faculty and students alike, she celebrated with friends, family, and colleagues at a retirement reception in December 2008.

Integrated Health Care Celebrates 10th Anniversary

A celebration on October 23, 2008 marked the 10th anniversary of Integrated Health Care, a groundbreaking collaboration between the College of Nursing Institute for Health Care Innovation and Thresholds Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centers, the largest and oldest provider of psychiatric rehabilitation and recovery services in Illinois.

For more than a decade, this innovative partnership has provided primary healthcare to people with serious mental illness who have or are at risk for chronic disease.

The event brought together many of the program's key innovators, including **Lucy Marion (PhD '90)**, **Nancy Burke**, **Susan Braun McErlean (MS '99)**, **Judith McDevitt (PhD '97, MS '90, BSN '88)**, and **Diane Pineda (MS '94)**.

Chicago author **Sara Paretsky**, whose novel *Ghost Country* explores themes of homelessness and mental illness, was the keynote speaker.



Sara Paretsky (left), Chicago author and keynote speaker, shares memories with Susan Braun McErlean and Nancy Burke (right) at the Integrated Health Care 10th Anniversary celebration.

Congratulations

Faculty

Dr. Agatha Gallo, 2008 president, International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG).

Dr. Geraldine Gorman, 2009 Nurse Hero Award, American Red Cross of Greater Chicago.

Dr. Valerie Gruss, 2008 Best Career in Long-Term Care Award, Best Care Practices in the Geriatric Continuum 2008 Conference.

Dr. Tonda Hughes (PhD '89), Honorary Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Arlene Miller (MS '75, BSN '71), 2009 Ethnicity and Health Research Section Established Scientist Award, Midwest Nursing Research Society.

Dr. F. Patrick Robinson, 2009 Teaching Recognition Program Award, UIC Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning; 2009 Nurse Education Fellowship, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Students

Brooke Bachelor, **Svenya Elackatt**, **Michael Pitts**, and **Daniel Prutz**, University of Illinois Alumni Association 2009 Student Leadership Award.

Nancy Anderson and Angela Lepkowski, 2009 Cardew-Mullane Award in Clinical Excellence and Leadership.

Hayedeh Sohrabi and Zareena Yasmeen, 2009 Graduating Student Recognition Award.

Srisuda Ngamkham, Third Place, Midwest Nursing Research Society Doctoral Student Poster Competition.

Ornwanya Poomsrikaew, Honorable Mention, Midwest Nursing Research Society Doctoral Student Poster Competition.

Correction

The Fall 2008 issue incorrectly identified **Kathleen Kobler (MS '08)** as the recipient of the McKesson Scholarship. The correct recipient is BSN student **Hayedeh Sohrabi**. The editors regret the error.

Envision—Empower—Enact!

More than 600 nursing and healthcare professionals came together on October 24, 2008 to celebrate nursing leadership at the 11th Annual Power of Nursing Leadership Event (PNLE).

Sheila A. Haas (PhD '86), professor and former dean of the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing at Loyola University Chicago, accepted the 2008 Illinois Nurse Leader Award, in recognition of her commitment to influencing quality healthcare throughout Illinois. In addition, 21 "extraordinary nurse leaders" were chosen by their colleagues to receive Pinnacle Nurse Leader Awards.

Ray McCaskey, CEO, and Patricia Hemingway-Hall, president and then chief COO, Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), were honorary co-chairs for the event. Hemingway-Hall, the first woman to run Chicago-based HCSC, which includes Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, began her career as an intensive-care unit nurse. In remarks to the audience, she credited her nursing experience with giving her a unique perspective on healthcare. Hemingway-Hall became CEO of HCSC at the end of 2008.

John Edward Hasse, Smithsonian Curator of American Music, National Museum of American History, was the



Top photo: Dean Joan Shaver (left) congratulates honorary co-chair, Patricia Hemingway-Hall, president and COO of HCSC.

Bottom photo: Dr. Sheila Haas (left) received the 2008 Illinois Nurse Leader Award. Dr. Marjorie Beyers (center), the 2007 Illinois Nurse Leader, joined Dean Joan Shaver in presenting the award.

Mary Kelly Mullane Symposium speaker. His presentation, "Lessons from the Jazz Masters," highlighted the role of leadership, as demonstrated by American jazz greats.



Staff Member Honored for Excellence

Congratulations to the 2008 Alvie Bailey Award recipient, **Tracy Bartholomew**, assistant to the associate deans for academic programs.



From left:
Denny Webster (PhD '81, MS '78), Peggy Gerard (MS '82)



From left:
Linda Johanson (MS '82), Mary Nies (PhD '88), Victoria Folsie (MS '89), Wendy Nehring (PhD '89)

'60s

'60 Carole Dohm Huber (BSN) lives in Scottsdale, AZ with her husband, Roderic. She has fond memories of many trips to Krasnodar, Russia where she and her family provided medical care and supplies throughout the 1990s.

'70s

'73 Margaret Skubis (BSN) retired after 35 years as a mother/baby post-partum hospital nurse and has been serving as a pediatric home nurse since 1995. She lives in Lisle, IL, with her husband of 51 years, Richard. Skubis became a triathlete at the age of 68 and is currently training for her next event.

'75 Marilyn Israel (BSN) is executive director of the Moldaw Family Residences, a retirement community in Palo Alto, CA.

'78, '76 Ingrid Forsberg (MS, BSN) received the Super Star in Community Nursing Award from the Visiting Nurse Association Foundation of Chicago. The award acknowledges service that public health/community health nurses provide and recognizes the value of nursing in the community. She is currently a nurse practitioner and health educator at the Mercy-Dunbar Health Center at Dunbar High School in Chicago, IL.

'78 Linda B. Roberts (BSN) is manager of the Illinois Center for Nursing. She is a past member of the Illinois Board of Nursing and was president of the Illinois Nurses Association from 1997 to 1999, when advanced practice nurses first became licensed in Illinois. A resident of Chicago, IL, Roberts regularly gathers with fellow BSN classmates **Cathy Cavanaugh (BSN '78), Barbara (Bobbi) Ganios (BSN '78), and Mary Martin (BSN '78).**

'80s

'81, '78 Denny (Benton) Webster (PhD, MS) is professor emerita at University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. For nearly 30 years, Webster was active in teaching, practice, and research in psychiatric nursing, with a focus on women and mental health. She was inducted into the University of Colorado President's Teaching Scholars Program in 1996 and is now enjoying retirement with her husband, Tim, in Peachtree City, GA.

'82 Catharine Cadigan (BSN) received the 2008 Laureate Award from the Maine Chapter of the American College of Physicians. She is a physician with Mid Coast Medical Group-Adult Care and on medical staff at Mid Coast Hospital. Since 2003, she has been director of the Maine Practice Network affiliated with the Maine Medical Center, where she is the Outpatient Internal Medicine Clerkship director, and on the teaching faculty. Cadigan is a clinical instructor at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Tufts University School of Medicine.

'82 Peggy S. Gerard (MS) received the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists Brenda Lyon Leadership Award in March 2009. The award honors an individual who has attained national recognition as a clinical nurse specialist leader, has helped improve

healthcare delivery, and has helped mentor others to become successful leaders. Gerard has served as dean of the Purdue University Calumet School of Nursing since 2002.

'82 Linda Johanson (MS) earned her doctorate from Northern Illinois University in 1987 and is now an associate professor of nursing at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC. She is recipient of the 2008 Raymond M. Bost Distinguished Professor Award. Johanson and her husband of 28 years, William, have two children, Erica and Tyler. She enjoys long distance running and has traveled to Mexico, Haiti, Myanmar, the Philippines, Honduras, and Russia on medical mission trips.

'85 Caroline Kelly (BSN) is a nurse manager for the medical intensive care unit at Loyola University Hospital in Maywood, IL.

'87, '79 Bonnie Cox (PhD, MS) is happily retired and serving as president of the Illinois Gourd Society, a group of gourd artists and growers. She teaches gourd art at workshops around the country and will be showing her work at the Chicago Botanic Garden in September 2009.



Bonnie Cox (PhD '87, MS '79)

'87 Peggy (Hunziker) Haerr (BSN) is currently working in the Blessing Hospital Wound and Hyperbaric Center in Quincy, IL.

'88 Mary Nies (PhD) is the Carol Grotes Belk Endowed Chair in Nursing and professor at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She also is an adjunct professor of public health sciences in the College of Health and Human Services.

'88 Deborah (Perlis) Woolley (PhD) is a certified nurse midwife at Partners in Women's Health, Kalamazoo, MI.

'89 Victoria Folsie (MS) was awarded a 2009 Nurse Education Fellowship from the Illinois Board of Higher Education and honored as a 2008 Leadership for Academic Nursing Program Fellow by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. She is an associate professor of nursing at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL.

'89 Wendy Nehring (PhD) is the dean of nursing at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. Nehring's research focus includes Down syndrome, the experiences of children with HIV/AIDS, neural tube defects, mental retardation, and the use of simulations in nursing education.

We want to hear from you!

Share your news—professional, family, community service—anything you want to tell your classmates in the next issue of *Vital Signs*. High-resolution photos and address changes are welcome.

Email information and photos to nbsallee@uic.edu.



From left: Connie Yarbro (MS '96), Linda DeLunas (PhD '97), Thelma Warner (MS '01, BSN '84)



Pamela Pletsch (PhD '84)

'90s

'90 Ellen A. (Hilmo) Heisner (BSN) was married in August 2008 and currently lives in Davenport, IA.

'92, '78 Kathleen Baldwin (PhD, MS) received the Lillian Wald Award for Public Health Service from the Public Health Nursing section of the American Public Health Association in October 2008. She and Dr. Michele Issel, adjunct professor in the College of Nursing, were recognized for their work related to advancing the education of public health nurses in Illinois.



Kathleen Baldwin (PhD '92, MS '78) (left) with Dr. Michele Issel

'93, '91 Rebecca R. West (MS, BSN) is one of three recipients of the 2009 Midwest Nursing Research Society (MNRS) Graduate Research Scholars Award. West presented her research on the relationships among chronic psychological stress, contemplative practices, mindfulness meditation, and health outcomes at the MNRS annual conference in March. In addition to being a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, School of Nursing, West is a board-certified family nurse practitioner and maintains a clinical practice in primary care at the Morrison Family Health Clinic, Morrison, IL.

'96 Gladys Eugenia Canaval (PhD) is a professor at Universidad del Valle College of Nursing in Cali, Colombia. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International: Upsilon Nu.

'96 Connie Henke Yarbro (MS) received the 2008 Distinguished Merit Award from the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care (ISNCC) at its 15th International Conference on Cancer Nursing in Singapore. Yarbro was acknowledged for her outstanding contributions to the international advancement of the science and art of cancer nursing.

'97 Linda DeLunas (PhD) has been appointed an adjunct associate professor of medicine, IU School of Medicine-Northwest, and associate dean, College of Health and Human Services, IU Northwest in Gary, IN.

'00s

'00 Michelle (Chu) Lardner (BSN) lives in Rockville, MD with her husband.

'01, '84 Thelma Warner (MS, BSN) received a 2009 Nurse Education Fellowship from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. She is an assistant professor of nursing at Rockford College in Rockford, IL, where she teaches adult health nursing courses. Warner's clinical practice is in community health, focusing on adults with both acute and chronic conditions.

'04 Phanida (Pikkasame) Juntasopeepun (PhD) is on the nursing faculty at Chiang Mai University in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

'05 Michael J. Patterson (MS) is campus administrator for the Trinity Regional Health System West Campus hospital facility in Rock Island, IL. He is responsible for day-to-day operations at the 338-bed facility.

'07 Amy Carol Cory (PhD) is an assistant professor at Valparaiso University College of Nursing. She is an active member of Sigma Theta Tau, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, American School Health Association, and American Public Health Association.

in memory

'53 Melba A. (Fink) Cassel (BSN) passed away on January 29, 2009 at the age of 81 in San Diego, CA. She was on the UIC College of Nursing faculty in the 1960s before moving to Southern California to practice public health nursing.

'59 Barrie K. Larson (BSN) of Oregon, IL, died July 23, 2008 at the age of 70. In addition to serving as a nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Milwaukee, WI, she served as clinical director of medical services at Waukesha Hospital. She is survived by two daughters, five stepchildren, and other family and friends.

'68 Barbara (Fletcher) Lindstrom (BSN) passed away on Nov. 4, 2008 in Pasadena, CA at the age of 74. She passionately pursued her nursing career for more than 40 years, retiring from Carle Hospital in Urbana, IL, where she last worked as a patient advisory nurse. She is survived by two children, three sisters, and a large extended family.

'84 Pamela Pletsch (PhD), age 59, of Middleton, WI, formerly of McNabb, IL, passed away on March 29, 2009 after a courageous three-year fight with breast cancer. She is survived by her husband Rick Lovell, two daughters Erin and Bridget, and her mother, step-father, and many friends and family. Pletsch was a faculty member

at University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing and a national leader in nursing research, most recently focused on addressing problems of smoking and smoking cessation among pregnant women.

'96 Kristine (Yandura) Joseph (BSN) passed away at the age of 43 in Tucson, AZ on July 25, 2008. She is survived by her husband Douglas, four daughters, and many family and friends. Prior to her marriage, she was a traveling nurse for many years.

Arlene Burroughs Lord passed away on August 19, 2008 at the age of 86, in Des Plaines, IL, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a member of the College of Nursing Maternal-Child faculty, serving as acting department head in the 1980s. Lord also was author of *Maternity Nursing: An Introductory Text*. She is survived by her husband Jack, children, grandchildren and other family.

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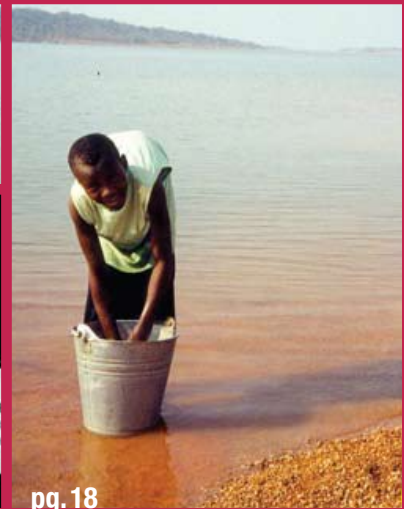
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