

# Vital Signs

FALL 2009 | VOLUME 26 | NUMBER TWO

**UIC** COLLEGE OF  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT CHICAGO NURSING

**Connecting  
Across the Globe:**

**Community Health  
Nursing in China**

红埠街社区

在户人民利

## IN THIS ISSUE

Faculty Visit China

College of Nursing Families

UIC College Prep

# Connecting the Dots of Healthcare



12TH ANNUAL EVENT

Friday, October 23, 2009

Hilton Chicago

HONORARY CHAIR

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Tray Dunaway

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On the cover: UIC College of Nursing is collaborating with Xi'an Jiaotong University, in Xi'an, China, to develop a community health nursing education program. Story on page 4.

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# Message from the Interim Dean



In July of this year, I had the great honor of being appointed interim dean of the UIC College of Nursing for this academic year. How the world has evolved since the first time I served as dean of the College, from 1988 to 1995! Yet, our mission to promote and support research, teaching, service, and innovation remains as strong and vibrant as ever.

In the months ahead, I look forward to working with our world-class faculty, students, and staff associates as we build on the momentum established most recently by Dr. Joan Shaver and by our previous deans Drs. Helen Grace and Mitzi Duxbury. Working alongside me are four members of the faculty who have accepted interim appointments for this year of transition: Drs. Julie Zerwic, Tonda Hughes, Mariann Piano, and Constance Dallas. Continuing to serve on the administrative team are: Drs. Barbara Dancy, Patricia Lewis, Carol Ferrans, Beverly McElmurry, Judy Storfjell, Rosemary White-Traut, and Diana Wilkie.

The theme of the 2009 Power of Nursing Leadership Event, taking place on Friday, October 23, 2009, is “Connecting the Dots of Healthcare”—in other words, understanding relationships and connections.

Connections also is the theme of this issue of *Vital Signs* and an important element of all that we do at the College. You will read about five faculty members and a doctoral student who spent part of the summer in China, building connections with a school of nursing in Xi’an, to develop the country’s first master’s level community health nursing program.

You also will learn about a unique partnership with a local high school to help prepare students for successful careers in the health sciences, including nursing, and how family connections bring nursing students to UIC.

The College of Nursing family is made up of nearly 10,000 alumni, who live throughout the state, the country, and around the world. Unfortunately, I cannot personally meet each of you this year, but I look forward to getting to know many alumni and advocates of the College during my tenure as interim dean.

Finally, it is my privilege to present our 120 scholarship recipients on page 32. Thank you to those who support the College and our students. And, thank you for your continued pride in the College of Nursing!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mi Ja Kim', written in a cursive style.

Mi Ja Kim, PhD, RN, FRCN, FAAN  
Professor and Interim Dean

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## 20 College of Nursing Families Share a Special Connection

### Vital Signs

Vital Signs is published bi-annually for the alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing. It is dedicated to promoting strong relationships among the College of Nursing, the UIC Nursing Alumni Association and its constituents, friends, and other supporters of the UIC College of Nursing.

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Below left: The World Famous Terra Cotta Warriors of Xi'an.

Below right: The Bell Tower of Xi'an is a symbol of the city.



# Connecting Across the Globe:

## UIC College of Nursing Faculty Partners with China to Develop Community Health Nursing Education

By Felicia Schneiderhan

**Carrol Smith (PhD '06)**, UIC College of Nursing clinical assistant professor, is known for her spontaneity in the classroom, even halfway across the world.

This past summer, Smith found herself standing before a Chinese university classroom packed with eager Chinese nursing students, professors, and clinicians. She was jetlagged, in unfamiliar territory, and speaking through a translator. Her job was to teach a two-week introductory course in graduate-level community health nursing.

Smith did what comes naturally.

"I started having something fun to do at the beginning of the day just to loosen people up, and by the third day I thought, I should teach them a song." She taught them 'Good morning to you, good morning to you, we're all in our places with smiles on our faces...' "Then I taught them the version we used to sing as kids, 'with egg on our faces.' They thought that was so funny."

Smith continued to teach songs at the beginning of each day's session. On the course evaluations, many students commented that the songs had made them feel comfortable. "I would do that again in a heartbeat—it's a great technique when doing cross-cultural work," Smith says with a smile.

The UIC College of Nursing is once again building connections around the world to improve global healthcare—this time by partnering with a Chinese university to start the first master’s level community health nursing program in China.

Over a six-week period this summer, five members of the College of Nursing faculty and one doctoral student traveled to Xi’an, China, home of the world-famous Terra Cotta Warriors, to teach three two-week sessions at Xi’an Jiaotong University.

More than 100 Chinese graduate students, faculty, and clinicians attended the course, part of a new initiative funded by the China Medical Board. The course was a prototype for faculty in Chinese universities to adapt for their own communities’ needs and settings.

**Dr. Beverly McElmurry**, professor and associate dean of the UIC College of Nursing Global Health Leadership Office, explains, “This illustrates the investment in global health by the College, in terms of influence, leadership, and contributions.” The College was designated as a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for International Nursing Development in Primary Health Care in 1986.

### On the Other Side of Public Health

Interestingly enough, the summer of 2009 presented its own set of learning opportunities for the community health nursing experts traveling to China.

With the global presence of the H1N1 virus, all international flights landing in Shanghai were boarded by quarantine officers in full Hazmat

boy fell ill and was taken to the hospital; the four rows of passengers surrounding him were quarantined in a hotel, where they waited 24 hours before being retested and released.

“When I was taken to quarantine, I got to see an area of China that foreign visitors don’t usually come across,” Baldwin notes. “There were rice paddies right next to huge new apartment buildings.” A fellow traveler who grew up in China explained to Baldwin that the region through which they were traveling once was rural, but was now experiencing extremely rapid growth and development.

According to Baldwin, this helped to enhance her comprehension of public health in China. She used this knowledge and personal experience to great advantage as she went on to teach the two-week session on the administration of public health. Baldwin and her class even observed public health professionals in the field at six community centers throughout Xi’an.

### Bringing Mental Health to Light

In addition to providing experiences from both sides of public health, the College is bringing vast expertise in mental health to its Chinese colleagues.

**Dr. Colleen Corte**, assistant professor, and **Linda McCreary (PhD ’00, MS ’93, BSN ’73)**, research assistant professor, co-taught a two-week session on community mental health nursing.

Corte and McCreary noticed the students’ rapt attention from the start. “They were very surprised to hear that there could be a



suits and helmets who checked every passenger’s temperature. Most of the passengers were allowed to continue onto their ultimate destinations; however, one member of the College of Nursing team encountered a different side of public health in China.

“The quarantine episode was unique and something that, as a public health nurse, I’m glad I was able to experience,” says **Kathleen Baldwin (PhD ’92, MS ’78)**, clinical associate professor and director of the Central Illinois Regional Program. On Baldwin’s flight, a young

Above middle: Drs. Linda McCreary (back row, fourth from left) and Colleen Corte (back row, fifth from right) join members of the community health nursing class.

Above left and right: Participants in the community health nursing program at Xi’an Jiaotong University.

biological basis for mental illness,” Corte says. “They asked questions like, ‘People with depression can work? People with depression live at home?’ They had very little knowledge about mental illness and believed that people suffering from mental illness were always institutionalized.”

Corte recalls how one day during a lecture, a student rose as if to ask a question. Instead, she turned to her fellow students and said, “We cannot pretend that we do not have mental illness here.”

McCreary notes that during class, when she asked students whether they knew people who suffered from depression or bipolar disorder, there would be no response, or the students would deny knowing anyone who has such a condition. But after class, individual students would approach her to discuss a family member or client who was emotionally troubled and unable to function following a traumatic event, such as a horrific accident or the earthquake of May 2008. “The students were astonished to learn that treatments are available that can relieve many of the symptoms of mental disorders,” McCreary says.

“It made me realize that there is even greater stigma related to mental illness than I had anticipated,” she explains. “The concept that mental disorders are illnesses, many with biochemical and genetic factors related to their development, is relatively new. Up until this time, nurses in China have not been educated to identify or intervene therapeutically with clients who have these conditions.”

## Cross-Cultural Teaching

One of the biggest challenges the faculty experienced was condensing a semester-long graduate course to just two weeks, and then presenting it to a Mandarin-speaking audience that had varying levels of English proficiency.

Developing the curriculum under a tight deadline “was worse than birthing a baby, I think,” says Carrol Smith, who worked with doctoral student **Gabe Culbert (BSN '04)** to teach the first session as an introduction to basic public health. “Each day our plans went awry,” she explains. “We had to re-plan every night and re-negotiate what we were going to do the next day. Looking back, we really did cover most of the material we planned to, but maybe not in quite the same order.”

## Expanding Community Health Nursing Across the Globe

China’s effort to develop community health nursing education stems from its rapid economic and technological advancements, and the fact that the majority of its 1.3 billion population lives in rural areas,



Above left: Dr. Carrol Smith (third from left) visits a neighborhood clinic with Chinese colleagues and students.

Above middle: The Giant Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an.

Above right: Xuanzang, a famous Chinese monk and scholar from the 7th century.

where access to healthcare services is minimal. The need for equal access to care makes community health a key issue of reform, and spurred the new initiative from the China Medical Board to fund development of a graduate-level curriculum in public health for nurses.

The relationship between the College of Nursing and Xi'an Jiaotong University began seven years ago as an effort to educate and train nurses throughout China on the delivery of care to HIV/AIDS patients. That initiative was pioneered by **Reverend Scott T. Harris**, a physician and director of the Maryknoll China Service Project based in Hong Kong, and College of Nursing Research Assistant Professor **Carol Christiansen (PhD '95, MS '76, BSN '73)**.

“We started with seminars about care for people who were HIV positive and, just as importantly, prevention and nurses’ roles with regard to the role community medicine can play in prevention,” Harris explains. Those week-long seminars were held for nurses at four Chinese colleges of nursing, including Xi’an Jiaotong University, which became the major partner in the initiative and assisted the teams as they traveled throughout Chinese provinces to train nurses.

Once the China Medical Board was ready to fund the community health project, leaders at Xi’an Jiaotong University recognized that they would need to partner with a more experienced nursing faculty to develop the curriculum. **Li Xiaomei**, dean of Xi’an Jiaotong University

Faculty of Nursing, called Christiansen to ask for assistance; the College of Nursing was poised to meet the need.

According to McElmurry, this current project is the “culmination of five to seven years of communication and collaboration that has grown into a strong relationship. It takes a long time to win trust and develop good working relationships and that’s what we have now.”

“Many organizations could have partnered with Xi’an Jiaotong University,” Christiansen says, “but as it turned out, we were the ones who had developed the affiliation. We also have a history with international work and developing curricula for other areas that can be adapted to meet urgent needs.”

In August, the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office supported a meeting in Hong Kong to advance community health nursing in China. High-level Chinese nursing administrators, deans, and representatives from the Ministry of Health and the nation’s chief nurse attended the meeting, as did Dean Li Xiaomei and Carol Christiansen. Following the model developed for HIV/AIDS nursing education seven years ago, Christiansen explains, “We hope to develop a working curriculum that can be used in a pilot test before the end of the year.”

College of Nursing **Interim Dean Mi Ja Kim** explains, “With our integrated research initiatives and network of faculty members who have special expertise in global health issues, we at the College bring added value when we participate in and join global partnerships. It is an honor for us to have the opportunity to develop curricula that will have a positive impact on public health issues in China.”



Above left: College of Nursing doctoral student Gabe Culbert in Xi’an.



Above right: Dr. Carrol Smith (middle) tours Xi’an with Chinese colleagues.

## 2009 Compendium of Primary Care Case Studies

In the *2009 Compendium of Primary Care Case Studies*, The World Health Organization (WHO) highlights exemplars of primary care models with particular emphasis on the contribution of nurses to the strengthening of health systems.

Four of the 38 case studies cited in the compendium are UIC College of Nursing programs.

**CENTERINGPREGNANCY®** aims to increase the psychosocial well-being and healthy behavior of disadvantaged women in Chicago as a strategy for reducing adverse maternal and infant outcomes and disparities among racial/ethnic groups.

**INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE (IHC)** is a nurse-managed center of the UIC College of Nursing that provides integrated primary physical and mental healthcare services for people who have serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depression and with (or at-risk) for co-morbid chronic physical disease.

**MZAKE NDI MZAKE (FRIEND TO FRIEND) PEER GROUP INTERVENTION FOR HIV PREVENTION: A PHC MODEL** enables the primary care system and volunteer health workers to collaborate on HIV prevention with adults and adolescents in rural areas of Malawi.

**ACTIVE LIVING BY DESIGN** and **HEALTHY EATING BY DESIGN** are two projects that aim to increase active living, physical activity, healthy eating, and improved nutrition among residents of the Logan Square neighborhood in Chicago.

According to the WHO, “the UIC College of Nursing has a distinguished record of support for primary care in resource-poor settings. It has demonstrated sustainable commitment to local and international partnerships; this has, in turn, enriched the experience of its own faculty and students.”

To learn more, please visit [www.uic.edu/nursing](http://www.uic.edu/nursing).

## Cancer Research: Honoring a Mother's Memory



Helen Biernat (far right), shown here as a young woman with her softball team, was a lifelong inspiration to her son, Donald.

When **Donald Biernat** walked into the UIC College of Nursing in 2006, it wasn't to study nursing or because he had an affiliation with the College. He had no reason to be there, except that his mother, **Helen Biernat**, had recently died after a long and painful battle with breast cancer, and he wanted to fund breast cancer research.

His first gift enabled two graduate students to continue their research into the early screening and detection of breast cancer in younger women. A paper based on their findings has just been published in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. Since 2006, Biernat has made additional gifts to

the College in memory of his mother, each time designating that the funds support nursing students involved in cancer research.

"Don Biernat gives from his heart," says **Nancy Herman**, director of advancement. "We at the College are so pleased that we can help him honor the life and memory of Helen Biernat."

Biernat knows what it means to overcome obstacles and never quit; he learned that lesson, and the importance of compassion, from his mother.

Helen Biernat, born and raised on the near southwest side of Chicago, was the daughter of Polish immigrants who struggled to make a living. Helen had wanted to become a nurse, but she was never able to realize that dream. After her husband's unexpected death at the age of 42, she worked whatever jobs she could find to support her four young children.

During her teen years, Helen played sports at Whittier Playground, including softball, which she played professionally for a time; she passed on her love for the Chicago playgrounds to her children. Donald built his career advancing sports in the Chicago Public School system, first at Emmet Playground and then at Pickard Elementary School, in the neighborhood where he grew up.

From the late 1970s through the 1980s, Biernat wrote to sports team owners and countless others to share his dream of opening the Inner City Sports Museum of Chicago, dedicated to role

models and heroes that would help keep inner city kids in school and out of gangs. Donations of bats, balls, helmets, and signed photographs became part of his "Don't Quit" program to celebrate the lives of people who overcame obstacles on their way to fame.

After a lengthy fight with cancer, Helen passed away on March 22, 2005, at the age of 89. "My mom gave me opportunity," says Biernat. "I want to continue that by giving opportunities to UIC College of Nursing students."

— Felicia Schneiderhan

### Honor a Loved One by Supporting the College of Nursing

Commemorative gifts are a thoughtful way to honor or memorialize a loved one while supporting a cause you believe in.

Your gift can establish an endowment, fund a scholarship, or help support other projects. There are several ways to establish a memorial gift, including:

- Making an outright gift at any time;
- Making a bequest in your will to provide funding after your lifetime;
- Setting up an endowment to fund a special program or project in perpetuity.

To learn more about making a commemorative gift, contact Nancy Herman, director of advancement, at 312.996.1736 or [nherman@uic.edu](mailto:nherman@uic.edu).

## Nursing Students Awarded Fellowships

Three UIC College of Nursing students have received community service fellowships from the U.S. Schweitzer Fellows Programs. **Michelle Ashley**, **Michael Bennett**, and **Shana Salik** are three of eight UIC students to receive fellowships this academic year. The awards are given annually to graduate students in health-related professional fields who are dedicated to addressing unmet health needs in their local areas. Each fellow will devote more than 200 hours of service to his or her project over the course of the year.

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship was founded in 1940 to support Dr. Schweitzer's medical work in Africa during World War II. Since Schweitzer's death in 1965, the Fellowship has continued to provide direct assistance to the Schweitzer Hospital in Lambaréné, Africa, and since 1991, to underserved communities within the United States.

Michelle Ashley is pursuing a joint master's degree in nursing and public health. She will develop an educational program on breast and cervical cancer prevention for patients at Community-Health, a clinic that provides free



From left: Michael Bennett, Michelle Ashley, Shana Salik.

healthcare to uninsured people living in Chicago and surrounding communities. Ashley says, "Using hands-on models, I will be making presentations in both English and Spanish, in the waiting room and in patient's rooms. I will explain why it is imperative for women to have annual mammograms and pap tests, as well as the importance of following up if the patients receive abnormal results."

Michael Bennett, a master's student in the Adult/Geriatric Nurse Practitioner program, is planning a series of weekly health education events for low-income seniors at Housing Opportunities and Maintenance for the Elderly in Chicago. "Each week, we will focus on a different health topic and offer health

screenings and goal-setting sessions," explains Bennett. "We also will provide a nutritious meal and a practical discussion of both traditional and alternative approaches to health promotion and disease prevention."

Shana Salik is a master's student in the Nurse-Midwifery program. She will partner with ACCESS Community Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital to implement her project, which includes group prenatal care, postpartum health support groups, and doula and breastfeeding support. Salik says, "I want to raise awareness in Chicago communities about racial and ethnic disparities in infant health outcomes such as infant mortality, low-birth weight, and premature babies."

## Scholarships and Awards Presented at Virginia M. Ohlson Scholars Lecture



Recipients of the international nursing scholarships join College of Nursing leaders. Front row: (second from the left) Drs. Mitzi Duxbury, Mi Ja Kim, and Joan Shaver. Back row: (fourth from the left) Dr. Beverly McElmurry.

**Dr. Jean Yan**, chief scientist for nursing and midwifery at the World Health Organization, was the keynote speaker for the Virginia M. Ohlson Scholars Lecture on April 8, 2009. In addition to Yan's lecture, *Primary Healthcare: A Global Perspective*, 11 scholarships and awards were presented to international nursing students.

Five students received Virginia M. Ohlson Endowment Awards and four students received Onoda Scholarships. In addition, two students received the Academy of International Leadership Development Awards.

## IRA Gift Opportunity Restored for 2009

Thanks to a deadline extension by Congress, donors age 70-1/2 or older again have the opportunity to make a charitable gift from a traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to the UIC College of Nursing—but only until the end of 2009.

To qualify for benefits under the extension:

- You must be 70-1/2 or older on the date of the gift;
- You must transfer your funds directly from your IRA account(s) to the charity;
- Your total IRA gift(s) cannot exceed \$100,000 per year;
- You must make an outright gift.

A charitable IRA rollover (also known as a qualified charitable deduction) is easy to accomplish and may offer income tax benefits. Your financial advisor will be able to tell you whether this would be advantageous for you.

For more information about this opportunity and how your gift can support the College of Nursing, please contact Nancy Herman, director of advancement, at 312.996.1736 or [nherman@uic.edu](mailto:nherman@uic.edu).

## New External Grants

January 1, 2009– June 30, 2009

### Faculty

**Dr. Tonda Hughes (PhD '89)**, Cumulative Stress and Hazardous Drinking in a Community Sample of Adult Lesbians (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism).

**Dr. Kathleen Norr**, Peer Groups for Healthy Pregnancy & HIV Prevention for Young Malawian Women (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development).

**Dr. Kathleen Sparbel (MS '96)**, Integration of Genetic Knowledge by Advanced Practice Nurses into Primary Health Care (International Society of Nurses in Genetics).

**Dr. Lorna Finnegan (PhD '03, MS '88, BSN '80)**, Symptom Cluster Subgroups in Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancers (National Cancer Institute).

**Dr. Cynthia Barnes-Boyd (PhD '90, MS '79, BSN '75)**, UIC Neighborhoods Initiative: UIC College Prep Community Health Center Partnership (Visiting Nurse Association Foundation).

**Dr. Colleen Corte**, Self-Identities and Risk Behaviors in LGBT Adolescents: A Feasibility Study (UIC Chancellor's Committee on Status of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues).

### Student

**Dr. Michelle Wu (MS '02)**, Exploring Coping Behaviors of Korean-American Women Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence (Alpha Lambda Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau).

## Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing Records Preserved

When Michael Reese Hospital, located on the south side of Chicago, closed its doors on June 30, 2009, one of the many problems it faced was the preservation of historical records, from the Hospital's School of Nursing, dating from 1892 to 1981.

**Christa Schroeder (BSN '75)**, a long-time nursing instructor at Michael Reese, found a solution by contacting the UIC Midwest Nursing History Resource Center (MNHRC). **Laurie Glass (PhD '83)**, professor emerita at the University of Wisconsin, Milwau-

kee, and MNHRC historian consultant, agreed that preserving information on Chicago's early nursing programs was important to understanding the development of nursing in the Midwest.

**Dr. Beverly McElmurry**, associate dean of the Global Health Leadership Office and interim director of the Center, was pleased to receive the historical material on behalf of the College. "The records are in good condition," she observes, "neatly filed, and arranged by year in their original drawers and file cabinets. We have been able to preserve

approximately 1,800 student records covering 89 years of nursing history."

Founded in 1881, Michael Reese Hospital initially served Chicago's immigrant population. It was the site of many medical innovations, including the first incubator station for premature babies. After nearly 120 years, it was shut down due to financial constraints.

The UIC Midwest Nursing History Resource Center was established in 1989 by several doctorally prepared nurses as a repository for significant artifacts relating to nursing history in the Midwest. Now housed on the fourth floor of the College of Nursing, it contains hundreds of artifacts and historical documents, including nine original letters written by and to Florence Nightingale.



To arrange for a private tour of the UIC Midwest Nursing History Resource Center, please call 312.996.0621 or email [ghlo@uic.edu](mailto:ghlo@uic.edu).

To make a tax-deductible donation to support the advancement of historical research and/or scholarly activities at the Center, please visit [www.uic.edu/nursing/giving](http://www.uic.edu/nursing/giving).



Top left: Dr. Beverly McElmurry (left) and Christa Schroeder (right) review records from Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing. Top right: Moving file cabinets from the hospital to the College of Nursing. Bottom: Christa Schroeder (middle) joins Center staff Nusara Prasertsri (left) and Gwen Pinager (right).

## National Search for New Dean

A national search for the permanent dean of the UIC College of Nursing is underway, with College of Nursing faculty, staff associates, and alumni well-represented on the search committee. According to **Dr. Paul Brandt-Rauf**, dean of the UIC School of Public Health and chair of the committee, the committee has begun reviewing nominations and continues to actively seek candidates.

“I’ve told the search committee that personally I’m looking for the next ‘Wayne Gretzky’ of nursing,” says Brandt-Rauf. “When asked why he was so great at hockey, Gretzky always said it was because everyone else skated to where the puck was, but he skated to where the puck was going to be. We want the next dean to have the vision of where nursing will be in five-to-ten years, and a plan to get the UIC College of Nursing there.

“It may sound like an unlikely analogy,” Brandt-Rauf explains, “but I like to think of nurses as gliding effortlessly and gracefully despite the chaos around them.”

The appointment is expected to take effect in August 2010.

Currently, **Dr. Mi Ja Kim** is serving as interim dean of the College of Nursing.

For more information about the dean search, the position announcement, and the search committee members, please visit [www.uic.edu/depts/oa/search/nurs-deansearch](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/search/nurs-deansearch).

### College of Nursing Dean Search Committee

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**Dr. Paul Brandt-Rauf, Chair**  
Dean and Professor, School of Public Health

**Dr. Agatha Gallo**  
Professor, College of Nursing

**Dr. Pamela Hill**  
Professor and Director, Regional Nursing Program—Quad Cities, College of Nursing

**Dr. Gail Keenan (MS '83)**  
Associate Professor, College of Nursing

**Dr. Mi Ja Kim**  
Interim Dean and Professor,  
College of Nursing

**Matthew Klara**  
Director, Office of Academic Programs,  
College of Nursing

**Mariza Marcili**  
Graduate Student & Mental Health and Adult  
Nurse Practitioner, College of Nursing

**Dr. Theodore Mazzone**  
Professor of Medicine and Chief, Department  
of Endocrinology Diabetes and Metabolism;  
Director, Center for Clinical and Translational  
Science, College of Medicine

**Dr. Judith McDevitt (PhD '97, MS '90,  
BSN '88)**

Clinical Associate Professor,  
College of Nursing

**Dr. Mariann Piano (PhD '88, MS '84)**  
Professor and Interim Department Head,  
Department of Biobehavioral Health Science,  
College of Nursing

**Dr. Eva Smith**  
Associate Professor, College of Nursing

**Janet Spunt (MS '83, BSN '74)**  
Chief Nursing Officer,  
UIC Hospital Nursing Services

**Dr. Diana Wilkie**  
Professor and Harriet Werley Endowed Chair  
for Nursing Research, College of Nursing

## Tonda Hughes Receives Grant to Continue Lesbian Health Research



**Tonda Hughes (PhD '89)**, UIC College of Nursing professor, has received a \$3 million federal grant to continue nearly a decade of research on risk factors for excessive drinking among lesbians.

The grant, funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (one of the National Institutes of Health), will support a five-year study to examine how stressful experiences—including childhood sexual abuse, adult sexual assault, and discrimination—are related to psychological harm and hazardous drinking in adult women.

The results will be used to understand how women cope with stress in their lives and ultimately may help to develop more effective alcohol-abuse prevention and intervention strategies.

“Lesbians are not at risk because of their sexual orientation,” says Hughes, “but because of society’s reaction to that orientation. It is the environmental context that increases the risk.”

Stereotypes of lesbians as alcoholics and heavy drinkers, she observes, can be traced in part to studies conducted in the 1970s that recruited the majority of participants from gay bars, where alcohol use was prevalent.

In addition, Hughes points out, researchers in earlier studies “almost exclusively studied middle-class, white, well-educated women.” Therefore, one of her goals is to collect data from a more diverse group. The newly funded study will include a third round of interviews with more than 400 adult lesbians in the Chicago area, previously interviewed by Hughes and her research team in 2000 and 2004. Although more than 50 percent of those interviewed were minority women who ranged in age from 18 to 83, another 250 women new to the study—African-Americans or Hispanics, 18 to 25 years old—also will be interviewed.

Hughes, interim department head of Health Systems Science at the UIC College of Nursing, has researched lesbian health issues for more than 20 years. She also is director of research for the UIC National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health, a visiting senior scientist at The Fenway Institute of Fenway Community Health in Boston, MA, and an honorary professorial fellow at the University

of Melbourne in the Department of General Practice, Melbourne, Australia.

Since the beginning of her research career, says Hughes, “I’ve taken on topics that other people didn’t want to study and have received great encouragement from the University and the College of Nursing.”

She was one of the first researchers to receive federal funding to study lesbian issues and the first to study lesbian use of alcohol. “One of the challenges,” Hughes explains, “has been that funding is difficult to get for areas that are stigmatized and not well-understood.” The primary differences in lesbian health, according to Hughes, are not so much biological as they are related to marginalization, stigmatization, harassment, and violence, which create stress and aggravate mental health issues.

These issues easily can be missed by healthcare providers who are unaware of how standard questions—such as inquiries about marriage status and the use of birth control—can unintentionally leave out women who identify themselves as gay or lesbian.

Hughes advocates that nurses and other healthcare providers should educate themselves as to why lesbian health issues can be different and learn to ask appropriate questions. “Not all women will feel comfortable disclosing their sexual orientation the first time, but it will open the door for more honest reporting of health behaviors and, ultimately, better healthcare.”

— Felicia Schneiderhan

## Nursing PhD Dissertations Completed in the 2008–09 Academic Year



### Nursing Research Day

UIC College of Nursing faculty and students attended Nursing Research Day on March 6, 2009. Nine faculty members presented research outcomes and evidence-based practice solutions.

**Dr. Connie Delaney**, professor and dean at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, gave the keynote address.

**Catherine Ryan (PhD '03)**, president of the Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha Lambda Chapter, presented the 2009 Research Poster Awards to 12 nursing students.

The 2009 Research Poster Award recipients join Drs. Catherine Ryan (front row, far left) and Joan Shaver (back row, far right).

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**Dr. Jochebed Bosede Ade-Oshifogun (PhD '08)**, Functional Performance in Obese, Elderly People with COPD, Advisor **Dr. Margaret Covey (PhD '96, MS '82, BSN '81)**.

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**Dr. Jeffery Albaugh (PhD '09)**, Quality of Life with Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction after Prostatectomy, Advisor **Dr. Carol Ferrans (PhD '85, MS '82)**.

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**Dr. Aleeca Bell (PhD '09, MS '98)**, Neonatal Neurobehavioral Organization after Exposure to Maternal Epidural Analgesia in Labor, Advisor **Dr. Rosemary White-Traut**.

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**Dr. Donna Calvin (PhD '09)**, African-Americans' Perception of Risk for Diabetes Complications, Advisor **Dr. Lauretta Quinn (PhD '96)**.

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**Dr. Susan Corbridge (PhD '09)**, Nicotine Reward in Adolescent Rats, Advisor **Dr. Mariann Piano (PhD '88, MS '84)**.

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**Dr. Cynthia Fritschi (PhD '08)**, Fatigue in Women with Type 2 Diabetes, Advisor **Dr. Lauretta Quinn (PhD '96)**.

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**Dr. Poolsuk Janepanish (PhD '09)**, Consistent Condom Use Among Thai Young Adult Males: An Application of Theory of Planned Behavior, Advisor **Dr. Barbara Dancy (MS '72)**.

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**Dr. Sarah Katula (PhD '09)**, Intimate Partner Violence Among Employed Women: Workplace Experiences and Perceptions of Safety, Advisor **Dr. Tonda Hughes (PhD '89)**.

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**Dr. Rieko Kishi (PhD '09)**, Japanese Translation and Cultural Adaptation of the U.S. "Listening to Mothers-II" Questionnaire, Advisor **Dr. Beverly McElmurry**.

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**Dr. Brenda S. Lessen (PhD '08, MS '95)**, Effect of Oral Stimulation on Feeding Progression in Pre-Term Infants, Advisor **Dr. Pamela Hill**.

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**Dr. Nancy Lee Novotny (PhD '08, MS '90)**, Clinical Prediction Model of Medical Inpatients at Risk of Early Re-admission: Development and Validation, Advisor **Dr. Mary Ann Anderson**.

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**Dr. Kanokwan Wetasin (PhD '08)**, Financial Performance of Primary Care Home Health Registered Nurse Visits at a General Hospital, Thailand, Advisor **Dr. Judith Storfjell**.

# START NOW

## COLLEGE OF NURSING PARTNERS TO PREPARE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

BY FELICIA SCHNEIDERHAN AND MARK HAGLAND

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Nursing is taking a lead role in a novel partnership between UIC and a new college preparatory charter school with an uncommon mission: use the health sciences to expose low-income and underserved Chicago Public School students to the health sciences, give them actual experiences in the field, and prepare them to succeed in college and, possibly, in the healthcare professions, including nursing.

UIC College Prep, a collaborative effort between UIC and the Noble Network of Charter Schools, opened its doors to its first freshman class in the fall of 2008. The student body is approximately 65 percent Latino and 30 percent African-American.

The core of the curriculum emphasizes the health sciences, with UIC providing leadership, curriculum, faculty, students, and facilities to help Chicago Public School students succeed in high school, college, and beyond.

Students receive instruction in all the standard high school subjects, but with an added emphasis on the health and life sciences, and with multiple opportunities for learning about the health science professions.

**Martin Gartzman**, assistant vice-chancellor for high school development at UIC and the key liaison between the health science colleges and UIC College Prep says, "Once we agreed to start the school, we approached all the deans and their senior staffs regarding their interest. All the colleges were really excited about this. However, the College of Nursing, in particular, was pivotal in helping to frame a philosophy and a viewpoint about the nature of this curriculum. It's a patient-centered view of healthcare that reflects the kind of work that's done in the College of Nursing."

"The Noble Network Charter Schools foster a culture of excellence," explains **Interim Dean Mi Ja Kim**, "that will help students overcome the obstacles they face and prepare for productive and satisfying careers. This is a unique opportunity for us to connect with these highly motivated students and open their eyes to nursing and other healthcare professions."



UIC College Prep students learn first-hand about nursing in the College of Nursing skills lab.



Tracy MacSwain (far right) in the skills lab with UIC College Prep students.



UIC College Prep student practices taking BSN student Chaim Leiberman's (right) blood pressure.

"I just think it's a wonderful way to introduce students to the College of Nursing," says **Sue Boyer**, a clinical instructor who worked with the UIC College Prep students and serves on the College of Nursing admissions committee. "We receive applications from many students who have not had the best or most appropriate high school preparation to succeed in a leading college of nursing like ours. This is a win-win situation to help these students develop early-on, at the same time that they are thinking about their interests and potential careers."

"Students get a solid survey background of what goes on in the health sciences," says Gartzman. They take double-science courses in addition to the regular high school required courses, such as English and math. For example, freshmen take biology as well as health science, alternating their science classes every other day.

"The students are very eager to learn," remarks UIC College Prep Health Science Instructor **Lauryn Bell**. "Most of them have never had to utilize the critical thinking skills necessary for the problem-solving involved in our curriculum. In addition, not all of them have a strong science background." In elementary schools, she explains, science sometimes takes a back seat to teaching basic reading and math skills. "We are asking them to do many advanced level activities for 14- and 15-year olds."

In the health science course, each collaborating UIC college is assigned a ten-week block during which faculty members work with the students and the health science teacher to explore a real-life case. The College of Nursing faculty presented a teen pregnancy scenario, which required background research, ongoing investigative study, and final presentation of findings. Speakers from the College visited the class on Fridays to discuss how their area of expertise fit with the case, and to answer questions from the students.

UIC College Prep's location at the former Gladstone Elementary School on Damen, just a few blocks from the College of Nursing, makes it possible to involve the high school students in on-campus activities such as shadowing nurses and doctors, volunteering at hospitals, or participating in research.

Perhaps the biggest thrill for the students was touring the College of Nursing skills lab and working side-by-side with nursing students and faculty. With the help of life-size mannequins that simulate real patients, they learned and practiced the Heimlich maneuver, basic CPR, and how to use an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED).

According to **Tracy MacSwain**, a College of Nursing clinical instructor who devoted time to teaching students in the skills lab, "It's important that we do this. I've been a nurse for 40 years, and most of my career has been in nursing education. The return for me is knowing that young people will continue to think about nursing as a profession."

**Katy Wehrmann**, a nursing student in the Graduate Entry Program (GEP) who is studying midwifery, took part in the skills lab session and was happy to answer students' questions about why people pursue nursing.

"I, myself, didn't expect to go into nursing," Wehrmann says. She had been working as a prenatal educator and doula at a community health center in Chicago and "had a very different picture of what nursing entailed. I thought it was just taking orders from doctors and very task-oriented. When I learned what nursing was really about, I couldn't believe more people weren't going into it.

"The College Prep students see how nurses are portrayed on television," continues Wehrmann, "but that's not a complete picture. It was rewarding to share with them the many roles that nurses play in our healthcare system."



High school students in the classroom and skills lab (above and right).

Adds Wehrmann, “Even if I’m just planting a little seed that nursing is a great option, my time has been well-spent.”

**Audrey Borling**, one of the College Prep health science instructors, was impressed by “how much the students enjoyed the campus experience at UIC and the opportunity to interact with nurses, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals.”

Reflecting on the first year, Gartzman notes, “One thing that struck me is what an amazing experience this was for the students—the connections they had with the health science colleges at UIC and with the health science professionals was phenomenal. The opportunities they had to see first-hand and talk directly with professionals was unparalleled.”

**Dr. Patrick Robinson**, former executive assistant dean who took part in the early planning stages of the project, recounts, “The students are literally part of the UIC campus, and they are exposed to things that they just wouldn’t encounter in a traditional high school. College is not going to be a culture shock to them. These are students who are really being prepared for success.”

Interest in the school was greater than administrators expected—more than 1,000 applications poured in from Chicago students for the inaugural 2008–09 academic year. Students accepted into the program were selected by lottery. While the majority of students reside in the zip codes bordering UIC—those neighborhoods heavily recruited as part of UIC’s commitment to serve those communities—students come from more than 120 elementary schools in every corner of the city.



Sue Boyer (left) demonstrates proper technique for the Heimlich maneuver.

## Mi Ja Kim: Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing



From left: RCN President Maura Buchanan, Interim Dean Mi Ja Kim, RCN Council Chair Sandra James, and RCN Chief Executive & General Secretary Peter Carter.

On May 10, 2009, **Dr. Mi Ja Kim**, professor and dean emerita of the UIC College of Nursing, was inducted as an Honorary Fellow into the Royal College of Nursing at a ceremony in Harrogate, England. Kim is one of only 36 Honorary Fellows in the world and 12 in the United States.

In describing Kim as a “nurse leader of exceptional ability,” the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) cited the unique role Kim has played in the evolution of nursing science globally and her efforts to “raise the profile of the bioscience connection with nursing practice.”

“It is an honor and privilege to become an RCN Honorary Fellow,” Kim remarks. “I hope that my work inspires and supports nurses—from around the world—to become exceptional researchers and leaders.”

RCN, the largest professional organization for nurses and nursing in the United Kingdom, promotes excellence in nursing practice and shapes health policies. RCN Honorary Fellowships are awarded to nurses of international repute and distinction

who are registered outside the United Kingdom, or to other individuals who have had a significant impact on nursing and healthcare.

Kim, a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a highly regarded nurse scientist, is a long-time member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Council for Nursing Research. She is the only nurse to have been appointed a member, and subsequent chair, of the NIH Scientific and Technical Review Board for Biomedical and Behavioral Research Facilities. Her book, *Pocket Guide to Nursing Diagnosis*, is in its seventh edition and has been translated into six languages.

Kim is director of the Academy of International Leadership Development at the College of Nursing, a consultant on nursing doctoral education for the China Medical Board, and founder of the Global Korean Nursing Foundation. In addition, Kim has mentored more than 30 post-doctoral fellows who have received awards to study in U.S. nursing schools.



### What a Difference a Scholarship Makes

I am a proud UIC College of Nursing alumna. I graduated with a BSN in May 2005 and am now a school nurse in the Chicago Public Schools. Like so many other overwhelmed nursing students, I juggled classes, clinicals, studying—while working to put myself through a top-ranked nursing school.

When I received a scholarship, it was a welcome relief and allowed me to focus on developing my nursing skills.

Now an alumna, I am fortunate to be in a position to help current and future nursing students. Especially at this time, students are struggling more than ever to fund their education. You, too, can be the difference they need.

Please consider donating to the College of Nursing Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship, a new scholarship fund created by nursing alumni for nursing students. I know personally that gifts—of any size—make a meaningful difference for our students.

**Johanna Stubblefield (BSN '05)**  
President, College of Nursing Alumni Association

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*P.S. If you received a scholarship as a nursing student and it made a difference in your personal and professional life, please share your story with us. Email [conalum@uic.edu](mailto:conalum@uic.edu).*

## Celebrations in the Quad Cities

Nearly 150 people from the Quad Cities nursing community—students, alumni, preceptors, faculty, and families—attended the 2009 Quad Cities Spring Graduation Dinner on April 30, 2009, to celebrate the many accomplishments of the 2008–09 academic year.

In addition to the 20 graduating nursing students who were honored, current students **Rhonda Beneke**, **Lucero Cornelius**, **Meredith Hodgson**, **Sarah Jauron (BSN '07)**, and **Tricia Michna** received scholarships through a grant from the Doris & Victor Day Foundation. **Mary Petersen (MS '05, BSN '03)** received the 20th Quad Cities Distinguished Alumni Award.

Also, the Quad Cities Nursing Alumni Association hosted a silent auction to raise support for the Jeanne A. Gittings Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in memory of Gittings, in recognition of



2009 graduating students from the 2009 Quad Cities (from left): Tracey Somers, Kim Hurley, Katie Browne, Anne-Lise Ellis, and Alicia Perez.

her years of outstanding commitment and dedicated librarian services for Quad Cities students and faculty.

## Rockford Annual Dinner

Students, alumni, and faculty members from the Rockford Regional Program gathered on June 24, 2009, for the Rockford Annual Dinner. **Patricia Lewis (PhD '93)**, associate dean for nursing clinical practice studies and director of the Rockford Regional Program, congratulated eight nursing graduates and presented **Dr. Joan Shaver**, then dean, with the 2009 Nightingale Award in recognition of her leadership and mentorship.

**Donna Kunz (MS '09)**, **Linda Vollinger (MS '08, BSN '88)**, and **Vicki Naretta (MS '08)**, 2008–09 graduates of the School/Advanced Community Health Specialist Program, jointly gave a presentation on *School Nurses: Public Health Practitioners in the World of Education*.

## Looking for the Fountain of Youth in Peoria

Last March, UIC College of Nursing Clinical Instructor **Anita Coon (MS '05)**, along with Peoria graduate nursing students **Mary Knox (MS '09)**, **Kim Shay (MS '09)**, and **Marlene Robertson (MS '09)**, participated in the Living Healthy series of public seminars hosted by the University of Illinois Regional Health Science site in Peoria.

Coon, along with **Dr. John J. Coon**,

clinical professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, presented *Looking for the Fountain of Youth? Secrets to Healthy Aging*, a lecture drawn from evidence-based data about modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors.

In December 2008, as part of the Living Health series, **Kathleen Baldwin (PhD '92, MS '78)**, director of the Central Illinois Regional Program, presented *Is Your House Killing You?*, a discussion about how to eliminate everyday safety risks in the home.

## Urbana Program Joins VA Academy

The Urbana campus of the Central Illinois Regional Program has been selected by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be part of a pilot program called the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academy (VANA). The program was created to address the nursing shortage, recruit and retain nurses in the VA health systems, and improve the care of veterans.

The College of Nursing partner in the program is the VA Illiana Health Care System, located in Danville, IL.

“Through this program,” says **Sandra Burke (PhD '04)**, associate director of the Central Illinois Regional Program, “we will be able to expand enrollment in the BSN program in Urbana and increase our students’ clinical learning opportunities. They will receive invaluable experience and we will help veterans in the area.”

# Across Generations and Across Miles:

By Felicia Schneiderhan

Mothers, daughters, sisters, brothers, cousins, aunts, nieces, nephews...family relationships are not unique in the UIC College of Nursing community, where sisters find themselves sitting side-by-side in class, and daughters stride down the same hallways their mothers once walked.

But what is it really like when your sister says she's decided to follow in your nursing footsteps and your aunt is teaching in the next classroom?

These six families reveal the good, the better, and the best of their shared paths at the College of Nursing.

## It's in the Genes

**Bonita Thibault (MS '09)** was in the inaugural class of the Graduate Entry Program (GEP) and received her master's degree from the Family Nurse Practitioner program last spring. This September, Boni, as she is known by family and friends, accepted a position in one of the only nurse practitioner residency programs in the country, located at Community Health Centers Inc., CT.

Her younger sister, **Melissa Thibault**, now a GEP student, entered the Family Nurse Practitioner program this fall.

The Graduate Entry Program (GEP) is designed for individuals who hold a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing. It is a highly competitive program that attracts the adult learner who has a variety of backgrounds. Both Boni and Melissa earned bachelor's degrees in

biology. Before deciding to return to school for a degree in nursing, Boni worked at a microbiology lab in southern California, while Melissa taught overseas through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program.

It was through a family connection at UIC that Boni learned about the College of Nursing. When Boni and Melissa were children, their family lived in Belize. Their parents volunteered as family nurse practitioners and met **Dr. Carrie Klima (MS '86)**, clinical associate professor at the College, who spent time in Belize and became a close friend of the family.

Says Melissa, "I have been surrounded by nurses all my life. When I was younger, I remember yearning to understand the nursing language that the adults around me were speaking. Now, when we get together

# Families Share a Special College of Nursing Connection

with our family and friends, I can be a part of the conversation; we have an even deeper connection.”

When Melissa joined Boni on the UIC campus, “It was nice to have some family in Chicago after living here by myself for so many years,” recalls Boni. “It was great to have someone else in my family to share my experiences. I can tell her what to expect and what mistakes to avoid.”

Melissa received her bachelor’s degree from a small private university and was nervous about UIC’s sprawling urban location. “Boni helped me learn my way around campus and calmed my fears about the classes I was going to take. The UIC campus wasn’t so overwhelming when I started my classes because I had already been hanging out there with my sister.”

When Boni and Melissa were sharing an apartment in Chicago, they sometimes did not see each other for weeks because of their demanding class and work schedules. According to Melissa, “The rare occasions when we just happened to run into each other at the gym or computer lab were a blessing because we could catch up a little bit before continuing with our busy days!”

## Running Track Together

**Kerry Brennan (BSN '08)** is starting the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner program this fall, just as her younger sister, **Mary Brennan**, is entering her senior year as a BSN student.

Their mother, a nurse, instilled the importance of nursing in her daughters. “Although my mother did not attend UIC, she has always remarked that the nursing program at UIC is very highly regarded,” Mary says. “It is a privilege to be part of the tradition.”

“I try to let my younger sister know how well the College of Nursing prepared me to begin working as a nurse,” Kerry notes. “I know that when she graduates she will be well prepared to enter the profession. It’s exciting to think that we will share this common bond and the sense of pride that comes along with receiving a degree from the UIC College of Nursing.”

While undergraduate nursing students, both Kerry and Mary ran cross-country for the UIC track and field team. “The quality of the athletic program encouraged us both to attend here as student-athletes,” Kerry recalls.



Melissa Thibault (left); Bonita Thibault (right)



Mary Brennan (left); Kerry Brennan (right)



Left (from left): Deb Grieco, Nathan Romersberger, Christine Ginzel, and Denise Romersberger

Below: Deb Myers (left); Angie Myers (right)



“UIC’s nursing program is demanding yet very accommodating,” Mary adds. “As student-athletes, my sister and I appreciate the program’s flexibility. We have been able to be part of our teams while still earning a very valuable, respected degree.”

## The Extended Family

“I do think our common experience at the UIC College of Nursing draws us more tightly together,” says **Deb Grieco (BSN '79)**, whose sister, niece, and nephew followed her lead to the College. “We have always been a close family but now the four of us have an even more special bond.”

Deb was a student in the BSN nursing program in Chicago in the late 1970s when her sister, **Denise Romersberger (BSN '82)**, joined her. “My sister lived nearby and was able to support and encourage me, and even empathize with me when classes were tough,” says Denise. “She also worked at the University of Illinois Hospital and I worked on her floor as a student assistant; so that was nice.”

Nearly 30 years later, their niece, **Christine Ginzel (BSN '01)**, decided to apply to the nursing program in Urbana. “Having two aunts who graduated from the Chicago program did give me confidence to apply, as did my college roommates who were recent graduates of the program. I felt more comfortable knowing that they had received a good education.”

Christine was so pleased with her experience at Urbana that she recommended it to her brother, **Nathan Romersberger (BSN '09)**, when he was considering leaving his first career in advertising. “We were all excited about his decision to apply to nursing school and enthusiastically supported him in it,” says Deb of her nephew’s career move. “We all love nursing and the many opportunities it affords and the flexibility in lifestyles it allows.”

Deb currently owns a business that focuses on preventing disease and optimizing health through nutritional and lifestyle changes. “Even as a student, I had a keen interest in how health is tied to nutrition and the environment in which we live. This has been a natural progression for

me, and I enjoy seeing the positive impact I make on the quality of my clients’ health and lives.”

Denise has been employed at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL, for 28 years, and has worked in urology/nephrology, medical ICU, home health, hospice, and as the manager of hospice. She currently works in the pre- and post-op areas of surgery.

Christine works for St. Elizabeth Regional Health in Lafayette, IN. Nathan just started his new career at OSF St. Joseph’s Hospital in Bloomington, IL.

Christine reflects, “I think this has definitely deepened our relationship as he (Nathan) has gone through admissions, acceptance, all the coursework, and finally, graduation. I genuinely loved the program; with my brother graduating this past May, I could really feel a special connection with my experience seven years ago.”

## Like Mother, Like Daughter

**Angela “Angie” Myers (MS '07)** was three years old when she told her mother, **Deb Myers (MS '99, BSN '92)**, that she wanted to be a nurse. Angie also kept a tiny nursing uniform to play dress up. One afternoon for kindergarten show-and-tell, rather than parade her toys like the other kids, she chose to define ventricular fibrillation for the class.

Angie had been spending a lot of time watching her mom earn her nursing degree.

“She always loved her job,” says Angie. “Why would I *not* do something that she liked so much?”

Having a daughter in nursing school proved to be a challenge to Deb in some unexpected ways. “She would ask her instructors a question they didn’t know the answer to, and they would tell her to go and research it,” Deb notes. “So I would get a late night phone call from her, and her question challenged me to think, *why do we do this?* It made us close—I could share my experience—but it also challenged me to think more deeply about why we do certain things.”

Today, both work in Peoria—Deb for a cardiologist and Angie for a

Right: Natalie Barber (left);  
Natasha Barber (right)

Below: Jorgia Connor (left); Emma Nemivant (right)



cardiovascular surgeon. “We can bounce ideas off each other all the time,” says Angie.

It’s not unusual for them to take care of the same patient. “It’s kind of cool for the patients,” Deb points out, on referring patients between offices. “It’s a comforting thing for them because they know they’re being kept in the family.”

Deb’s son is a paramedic, and sometimes he’s the one who brings a patient to one of the doctors. “There have been times when we’ve all been involved with the same patient,” adds Deb. “The patients say it makes it easier to remember everyone’s name!”

## Let’s Keep It Secret

When cousins **Jorgia Connor (BSN ’87)** and **Carla Gonzales (BSN ’96)** attended the College of Nursing, they kept a secret—their aunt, **Emma Nemivant**, was a faculty member.

Emma is the second of ten children who came to the United States from the Philippines in the 1960s. She retired from teaching in 2001 after 25 years of service to UIC.

When her nieces attended the College, Emma maintained a low profile around them. “I was very careful because people might think I paid special attention to them because they are blood relatives. They also tried to avoid me,” she remembers.

“Our family has always been close,” says Carla. “However, I didn’t want people to know that I had an aunt there. I didn’t want them to think that she was influencing me or my grades.”

Even though Carla rarely saw her aunt in the hallways, “I think it helped my mom to know that my aunt was there, and that she could keep an eye on me, and make sure I was heading in the right direction.”

According to Jorgia, she and her aunt both had an unspoken understanding about keeping their family ties a secret. “I never had her as an instructor, but I did attend a few of her lectures,” she notes.

Emma and Jorgia built a stronger UIC connection when Jorgia returned for her PhD in occupational health nursing, by which time Emma had retired. “She became a source of real support for me because she knew what people go through to get a doctoral degree.

She knew what kind of questions to ask; she obviously knew more about it than anyone else in the family,” says Jorgia.

Jorgia is working part-time as a teaching associate while completing her PhD at the College of Nursing. Carla currently works in the registry at Advocate South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest, IL. Jorgia reflects, “There’s a sense of pride among the three of us that comes from our involvement with the College.”

## Not the Only Nurse in the Family

“She wouldn’t even talk to me for the rest of the day when I told her I was going into nursing,” says **Natasha Barber (BSN ’09)** of the day she told her twin sister, Natalie, that she had decided to pursue the same career.

“She always wanted to be a nurse,” Natasha explains. “My parents were mad at her because they wanted us to be doctors. And, at first, I was thinking about going into medicine, but I realized that I was doing what my parents wanted me to do, instead of what I wanted to do.”

Natasha finally decided to become a nurse because of the flexibility the career offers for having a family, and the many roles a nurse can play. “If I want to work as a pediatric nurse, I can do that, and if I want to transition to being an OB nurse, I can do that, too. There is always room for growth.”

“Because she is my twin sister and we shared everything our entire lives, it was frustrating,” **Natalie Barber (BSN ’09)** admits. “I wanted to do it myself; I wanted to be the nurse in the family. In the end, it really helped. She was my number one support.”

Natasha and Natalie both attended the Urbana regional program their first two years of college, then came to Chicago for their junior year. In their senior year, the sisters were separated for the first time when Natasha completed her degree at the Chicago campus and Natalie returned to Urbana.

“Thank God I always had her there to call,” says Natasha.

Both Natasha and Natalie graduated Cum Laude in May. Natasha says with a smile, “It was nice at graduation to look over at our families enjoying the double celebration.”

## College of Nursing PhD Reunion

Nearly 50 doctoral alumni and mentors reconnected with one another and the UIC College of Nursing community on April 17, 2009, for the 2009 Nursing PhD Reunion. Old friends and colleagues reminisced about late nights in the College research labs, their favorite faculty members, and where their careers have taken them.

“My wonderful co-chairs, **Janice Phillips (PhD '93)** and **Sue Penckofer (PhD '93, MS '82, BSN '79)**, and I were delighted to have such an illustrious group of alumni and mentors all together again,” says Associate Dean for Research **Carol Ferrans (PhD '85, MS '82)**. “Everyone enjoyed being there, catching up, and having a great time. Our PhD alumni are extraordinary leaders, and we at the College are so proud of all they have accomplished.”

**Dr. Joan Shaver**, shortly before the end of her term as dean, brought the group up-to-date on faculty and student achievements in the years since many of the attendees had studied on campus. Ferrans also highlighted the scope of

current faculty research—from cancer and end-of-life care to reproductive health and nutrition/exercise.

**Dr. Barbara Dancy (MS '72)**, associate dean for nursing science studies, showcased the future of nursing research with the introduction of doctoral candidates **Sandi Tenfelde**, **Cynthia Fritschi (PhD '08)**, and **Aleeca Bell (PhD '09, MS '98)**, who gave presentations based on their dissertations.

The evening ended on a high note with participants sharing professional and personal updates during the awards dinner. Phillips, Penckofer, and Ferrans recognized the PhD mentors in attendance and presented several light-hearted awards, including the Most Advisees Award to **Joyce Roberts (PhD '79)** and the Most Grandchildren Award to **Doris Ballard-Ferguson (PhD '91)**.

A new fund to provide seed money for doctoral students' dissertation research was created in honor of the PhD Reunion. The Nursing Doctoral Student Research Fund will help underwrite the production of poster presentations, conference travel or registrations, purchases of small research equipment, and dissertation study materials.



From left: Drs. Kathleen Buckwalter, Alice Dan, and Joyce Roberts.



Top from left: Drs. Marguerite Dixon, Linda Olson, Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Lois Roelofs, and Mary Maryland.



Bottom from left: Drs. Marjorie Powers and Mitzi Duxbury.

“Awards from the fund will make a big difference, at a critical time, for PhD students working on their dissertations,” notes **Nancy Herman**, director of advancement. “The idea of having an immediate impact really resonated with everyone at the Reunion.”

View photos from the Nursing 2009 PhD Reunion at [www.uic.edu/nursing/alumni](http://www.uic.edu/nursing/alumni).

Gifts to the Nursing Doctoral Student Research Fund can be made by visiting [www.uic.edu/nursing](http://www.uic.edu/nursing).

## 2009 Distinguished Nurse Alumna: Karla Witt Nacion

**Karla Witt Nacion (PhD '88, MS '87)**, coordinator of the Midwifery Practice at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago (UIMC) and clinical associate professor at the UIC College of Nursing, was named the 2009 Distinguished Nurse Alumna at the College of Nursing Commencement in May.

Established in 1977, the Distinguished Nurse Alumna/us award recognizes graduates who have a record of distinguished achievement and service, who have been involved in creative work, and who have made important contributions to nursing or other endeavors. Awarded annually, it is the highest honor bestowed by the College of Nursing Alumni Association.

Nacion was instrumental in establishing the full-scope midwifery practice at UIMC in 1991. After



37 years of service to the U.S. Navy, she retired with the rank of Captain in January 2009. As an active member of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, Nacion was one of only a few officers selected to provide care for POWs returning from Vietnam. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, she held a variety of leadership positions in the Naval Reserve and was mobilized during Operation Desert Storm.

Nacion is a highly regarded researcher in the field of effective healthcare models and her work has been published in numerous professional journals.

**Sabina Dambrauskas (MS '76, BSN '68)**, who nominated Nacion, says, "Karla is a tireless proponent of midwifery and women's health nurse practitioners. She has a strong commitment to teaching and to the service of her country."

In accepting the award, Nacion encouraged new nursing graduates to "follow your passion, even if you are scared and unsure." Nacion explained



that she initially did not follow her passion to become a nurse midwife. Rather than be discouraged, she realized that "even if you are not doing your passion, you will learn skills and ideas that will serve you your whole life...If you cannot do your passion immediately, take advantage of the situation that you find yourself in to learn and grow. Keep your passion compass, and you will get there."

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Do you know an outstanding UIC College of Nursing alumna/us with a record of distinguished achievement and service? Nominations for the 2010 Distinguished Nurse Alumna/us Award are due by Jan. 15, 2010. For more information, visit [www.uic.edu/nursing/alumni](http://www.uic.edu/nursing/alumni).

## New Administrative Appointments

New appointments for the 2009–10 academic year include: **Dr. Julie Zerwic**, interim executive associate dean; **Tonda Hughes (PhD '89)**, interim department head of Health Systems Science; **Mariann Piano (PhD '88, MS '84)**, interim department head of Biobehavioral Health Science; and **Constance Dallas (PhD '95)**, interim director of the Urban Health Program.



Counter clockwise from top right: Drs. Tonda Hughes, Julie Zerwic, and Mariann Piano. Not pictured: Dr. Constance Dallas.



## Graduate Entry Program Class of 2009

The Graduate Entry Program (GEP), designed for individuals who hold a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing, graduated its fourth class this spring. Congratulations!

# Congratulations

## Faculty

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**Judy Davis (MS '80)**, 2009 Outstanding Electronic Poster Award, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

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**Dr. Lorna Finnegan (PhD '03, MS '88, BSN '80)**, 2009 Outstanding Researcher Award, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

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**Dr. Mi Ja Kim**, 2009 Honorary Fellow, Royal College of Nursing, United Kingdom.

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**Catherine Tredway (MS '97)**, 2009 Silver Circle Award for Teaching Excellence.

### Department of Biobehavioral Health

**Science**, Departmental Teaching Excellence Award, UIC Council for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

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**Dr. Carrol Smith (PhD '06)**, 2009 Council for Excellence in Teaching Curriculum and Improvement, University of Illinois at Chicago.

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**Dr. Geraldine Gorman**, 2009 Council for Excellence in Teaching Curriculum and Improvement, University of Illinois at Chicago.

## Staff

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**Tracy Bartholomew**, 2009 INSPIRE Award, University of Illinois at Chicago.

## Students

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**Dr. Rieko Kishi (PhD '09)**, Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

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**Cynthia LaFond**, 2009 AfterCollege/American Association of Colleges of Nursing Scholarship.

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**Yoko Shimpuku**, 2009–10 International Doctorate Fellowship, American Association of University Women.

# Commencement 2009

The UIC College of Nursing Commencement was held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at the UIC Pavilion. Eleven doctoral students were hooded, 156 master's students received their degrees, and 151 BSN students graduated. Congratulations to the newest College of Nursing Alumni/Alumnae!



IMAGE BY NORB HANSON



IMAGE BY NORB HANSON



IMAGE BY NORB HANSON



IMAGE BY NORB HANSON



# Class Notes



From left:  
Judith Austin (MS '77),  
Kathy Dunne (MS '81)

## '60s

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**'65 Elissa Brown (BSN)** is president of the American Nurses Association/California for the 2009–11 term and president of the California Association for Psych/Mental Health Nurses in Advanced Practice, an affiliate of ANA/California. Brown works for the VA system as a clinical nurse specialist in psychiatry/mental health. She and her husband, Cary, are enjoying being grandparents of a beautiful baby girl, Riley.

## '70s

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**'71, '69 Linda Gibbons (MS, BSN)** is director of the School Nurse Certification and Health Education programs at National-Louis University in Wheeling, IL. She recently received the National Association of School Nurses Legislative Advancement Award. Gibbons is the Illinois director for the Board of the National Association of School Nurses.

**'71 Luana Lamkin (BSN)** became president of the Association of Community Cancer Centers in March 2009. She is the administrator for St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute at St. Luke's Boise Medical Center in Boise, ID, which serves patients at 12 locations in southwest Idaho and eastern Oregon. Her awards include

the American Cancer Society Lane Adams Quality of Life Award and the Excellence in Nursing Administration Award from the Oncology Nursing Society.

**'72 Arthetta Reeder (BSN)** retired from Joliet Township High School after serving for 37 years as director of nursing for the Practical Nursing School and coordinator of health. Previously, Reeder was a public health nurse for the Will County Health Department in Illinois.

**'76, '68 Sabina Dambrauskas (MS, BSN)** participated with a public team on a volunteer health mission in Vietnam with Journey for Children in December 2008. She taught birth-related safety measures to 40 traditional birth attendants from various ethnic minority groups. She hopes to visit Burma next year on a similar mission.

**'77 Judith Austin (MS)** earned her MBA in 1984 from Northern Illinois University. Based upon her more than 20 years of experience as a senior level hospital executive, she established Austin Healthcare Strategies, LLC. Austin resides in Palm Desert, CA, with her husband, Mel. They recently returned from a trip to Thailand to visit their son, who is there teaching English as a second language.

**'78 Mary Jo Gilmer (MS)** is professor and director of clinical management at Vanderbilt University School of

Nursing (VUSN) and professor of pediatrics at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, where she was instrumental in developing a pediatric palliative care program. Gilmer received the Dean's Award for Scholarly Achievement and the Outstanding Faculty Award at Vanderbilt, and was selected as one of the Top 100 Nurses for the VUSN Centennial Celebration.

## '80s

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**'80 Irene Stasula (BSN)** is associate director of the Occupational Health Service Institute at the UIC School of Public Health Great Lakes Centers. She is responsible for coordinating medical surveillance outreach programs for major Chicago corporations, as well as travel medicine and student compliance with immunizations.

**'81 Kathy Dunne (MS)** is a member of the clinical faculty in the UIC College of Nursing, Department of Women, Children & Family Health Science. She also teaches undergraduate nursing students at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. In May 2009, Dunne spoke to high school students at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago about midwifery as a career. Many of the students, the first in their families to attend high school, were not aware that midwives provide mainstream healthcare in the United States.



**'82 Lisa LeFevre (BSN)** lives in Wilmette, IL, with her husband Greg, and their four children—Susan, Jennifer, Aimee, and Michael.

**'82 Marianne Mainhardt (BSN)** is a family nurse practitioner at Aurora Health Care in Marinette, WI, working mostly in pediatrics. She received her master's degree in the family nurse practitioner program at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Mainhardt and her husband, Tom, live in Peshtigo, WI.

**'87 Bill Stachnik (BSN)** has been a nurse manager at the Providence System in Portland, OR, for 10 years and continues to enjoy the important work his 40 staff members perform on a daily basis. He and his wife, Dr. Charmaine Hunt, a Pharm D graduate from UIC, live in Lake Oswego, OR.

**'88 Gay Landstrom (MS)** has been named senior vice president of patient-care services and chief nursing officer for Trinity Health in Novi, MI. Trinity Health is the fourth largest Catholic Health System in the United States.

**'89 Victoria Folse (MS)** has been named director of the Illinois Wesleyan School of Nursing. She succeeds UIC alumna, Donna Hartweg (MS '82), who will retire in December 2009.



## '90s

**'90 Patricia Ehlert-Abler (BSN)** lives in Redwood Forest, near the ocean, in northern California. She has developed lots of "grey hair" from the adventures of being a nurse manager at Mad River Community Hospital for the past six years and the mother of 17-year-old twins.

**'91, '82 Edith Matesic (MS, BSN)** recently was honored with the 2009 University of Illinois Moms Association Amelia Alpiner Stern Mom of the Year Award and the 2009 Carle Foundation Hospital Exemplary Nurse Leader Award. Matesic is completing the third year of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the University of Kentucky. She recently presented posters at the Illinois State University Sigma Theta Tau conference, Nursing Management Congress 2008, and Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders education program.

**'92, '84 Barbara Shelly (MS, BSN)** works as a staff nurse at NorthShore University HealthSystem. She lives with her husband, Glen, and their two children in Evanston, IL.

**'92 Danica (Jerkan) Uzelac (BSN)** is coordinator of the Rush University Medical Center Photopheresis Program. Uzelac lives in Chicago, IL, with her husband, Vlad, and children: Anne, age two, and Lily, age one.



**'95 Marco Alanis (BSN)** recently became house supervisor for the University Health System Level I Trauma Center in San Antonio, TX. He visited Shanghai and Beijing, China, in March 2009.

**'95, '73, '71 Marlene Fisher (PhD, MS, BSN)** was named the 2008 School Nurse of Year by the Chicago Public Schools.

**'95 Rhonda Hollis (PhD)** is a professor of nursing at Columbus State University in Columbus, GA. Her clinical experience and interests include HIV/AIDS, women's health, spiritual well-being, substance abuse, and public health.

**'95, '67 Phyllis (Powell) Pelt (MS, BSN)** was recognized as a Nurse Luminary by the Luminary Project for her work to improve the indoor air quality of a deteriorating urban elementary school building. The Luminary Project highlights nurses who perform exceptional work to improve environmental health. Pelt has been married to her husband, Thomas, for 41 years and is the proud, and praying, mother of three married adult daughters and five grandchildren.



From far left:  
Gay Landstrom (MS '88), Edith Matesic (MS '91, BSN '82), Marco Alanis (BSN '95), Phyllis Powell Pelt (MS '95, BSN '67)



Danica Uzelac ('92 BSN), husband Vlad, and daughters Anne and Lily.



**'95 Caryl Simpson (MS)** is a hospital nurse practitioner at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center in Cheyenne, WY. She provides medical management for inpatients in the Behavioral Health Services unit.

**'96 Beth Marks (PhD)** is associate director for research in the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities, and research assistant professor in the Department of Disability and Human Development, both at UIC. Marks recently received the 2009 University of Cincinnati College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award.

**'99 Regina Magsino (BSN)** recently co-authored a drug consumer guide, *99 Practical Ways to Save on Prescription Drugs*, with her husband, Noel. They and their two children live in Morton Grove, IL.

**'99, '93 Rebecca Merten (MS, BSN)** is an assistant professor in the RN to BSN program at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL, and a family nurse practitioner. She is pursuing a PhD in the Higher Education Leadership and Administration program at Indiana State University.

Rebecca Merten (MS '99) with husband Matthew at a Colts football game.



**'99 Leslie Wilkans (BSN)** is a pediatric trauma nurse at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, IL. She recently earned her certification in pediatric emergency care and coordinates the hospital's state designation as an Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics.

## '00s

**'03 Sonya Franklin (BSN)** is a nursing instructor at Cleveland State Community College Nursing Department in Cleveland, TN. A member of the Tennessee Public Health Association, she also serves as a Basic Life Support CPR Instructor for the American Heart Association. Franklin enjoys spending time with Kevin, her husband of 12 years, and their six children.

**'03 Elizabeth Stewart (BSN)** received a master's certificate in advanced graduate study in nurse anesthesia from Northeastern University in Boston, MA, in December 2008. She passed the boards and started working at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI, in February 2009.

**'05 Mahari Kelly (BSN)** currently works for the UIC Neighborhoods Initiative, which coordinates activities between the university and surrounding community.



From far left: Caryl Simpson (MS '95), Beth Marks (PhD '96) Rebecca Saunders (MS '06) with son Drake.

**'06 Rebecca Saunders (MS)** is an advanced practice nurse in the Division of Urology, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, IL. Saunders and her husband, Josh, live in Morton, IL, with their son, Drake, born in December 2008.

**'07 Erin Cushing (BSN)** is a registered nurse in the Cardiac Transplant Intensive Care Unit at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago, IL.

**'09 Beverly George (MS)** is a registered nurse in the Outpatient Infusion Center at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, IL. Now in her 33rd year of nursing, she continues to enjoy direct patient-care. George began her career in pediatric critical care before moving to pediatric and adult home care. In the future, she hopes to transition to nursing education.

## in memory

**'57 Ruth (Bonthon) Templin (BSN)** of Oak Park and River Forest, IL, passed away on March 18, 2009, at the age of 80. She was a longtime director of Community Nursing Services of Oak Park-River Forest until her retirement in the early 1990s. She is survived by two children, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and two brothers.

**'65 Sharon M. Sancken (BSN)** of Westchester, IL, died of cancer on April 8, 2009. She began her career as a staff nurse at the University of Illinois Hospital and worked in a variety of

leadership roles at Hines VA Hospital for more than 35 years. She is survived by her sister, brother, and other family members.

**'68 Mary Elizabeth Perry Wordell (MS)** died May 18, 2009, in Frankfort, KY, at the age of 84. She taught nursing at Spalding University and Kentucky State University. She is survived by her daughter, granddaughter, and sisters.

**'75 Linda A. Flesher (BSN)** of Champaign, IL, passed away on August 8, 2009, at the age of 72. Flesher worked in the Champaign-Urbana area as a nurse for more than 40 years and was a former president of the Illinois Homecare Council and former president of District 15 of the Illinois Nurses Association. She is survived by her son, L. Scott, one brother, and one sister.

**'76, '72 Carol Lambesis (MS, BSN)** of Oak Park, IL, passed away on June 5, 2009, at age 70. She is survived by three sons and two daughters, one sister, one brother, and many family and friends.

**'76 Helen Lyman Uhlenhuth (MS)** passed away on August 16, 2008, at Manzano del Sol, Albuquerque, NM, after a long illness. She was 78 years old. Uhlenhuth and her family moved to Albuquerque in 1985. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Dr. Eberhard H. Uhlenhuth, six sisters, three children, and eight grandchildren.

**'85 Louisa M. Lundgren (MS)** of Ft. Collins, CO, passed away on January 12, 2009, at the age of 57, after an

extended battle with cancer. Lundgren developed an interest in public health nursing during service in the Peace Corps. She later worked as a public health professional in Colorado and became a public health analyst for Northrop Grumman's Information Technology (IT) sector. In 2007, she was awarded the Chief Nurse Officer Award for outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and her work with public health partners to prevent vector-borne diseases. Lundgren is survived by her daughters, Carole and Teresa, and her mother and brother.

**'88 Linda M. Koehl (MS)** passed away at the age of 58 in Chicago, IL, in June 2009. She is survived by her husband, William, daughters Melissa and Colleen, and many siblings, family and friends.

**'93 Susan Given Moody (BSN)** passed away on December 17, 2008, a few days before her 56th birthday, after a long journey with melanoma. At the time of her diagnosis, she managed a community health center in the Denver, CO area and was a strong voice for women's healthcare issues. Moody is survived by her husband, Robert, their two children, Jon and Patrick, and siblings, parents, and other family and friends. A chronicle of her journey and decision to choose hospice and palliative care can be found at: [moodyfamilycancerjourney.blogspot.com](http://moodyfamilycancerjourney.blogspot.com).

**'95 Jennifer L. Cicinelli (BSN)** of Park Ridge, IL, passed away on April 1, 2009, at age 35. She had been a staff

nurse at Resurrection Medical Center. Cicinelli is survived by her parents, Nicholas and Sylvia, siblings Elizabeth and Nicholas, and other family and friends.

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](mailto:nbsallee@uic.edu).

# Scholarship Recipients

## Graduate Scholarship Recipients

### Academy of International Leadership Award

Su Kyung Ju  
Min Ju Kim

### Boothroyd Scholars Program

Joanna Bauer  
Anita Bor-Brown  
Vera Clinton  
Cindy Loy  
Carla Thomas-Russell

### Chieko Onoda Endowed Scholarship Fund

Kyung Hee Lee  
Seonah Lee  
Daravan Rongmuang  
Yoko Shimpuku

### College of Nursing Scholarship

Michael Bennett  
Christina Brakebill  
Kathleen Gnaster  
Veronica Hernandez  
Yi-Ching Li  
Jamie Luecke  
Jennifer Miller  
Alison Muntean  
Cherese Pullum  
Shirley Ruck  
Olivia Straw  
Angela Trudeau

### Craig and Sarah Allen in Memory of Hal Gold

Lastascia Granger  
Desiree Rodriguez  
(BSN '99)

### Elizabeth M. Roche Award

Jessica Murphy

### Helen K. Grace Diversity Award

Maria Palu  
Jen'nea Sumo

### Irving B. Harris Faculty Scholar Initiative

Lucero Cornelius  
Melissa Mercado  
Lydia Skiles  
Heather Vrugink  
Melba Williams

### Joyce Roberts Midwifery Scholarship Fund

Mary Kay Burke

### Kellogg Family Peoria Nursing Scholarship

Melinda Cooling (MS '03)  
Mary Tisdale (MS '09)

### Marguerite Dixon Award Fund

Gina Cruser

### Norma R. Kelly Peoria Nursing Scholarship

James Davis  
Carrie Roy

### Quad Cities Regional Program Award

Rhonda Beneke  
Lucero Cornelius  
Meredith Hodgson  
Sarah Jauron (BSN '07)  
Tricia Michna

### Regional Nursing Scholarship Fund

Ellen Berzack (BSN '08)  
Amanda Dalaska  
(BSN '08)

Patricia Eathington  
(MS '02, BSN '98)  
Meghan Murphy

### Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing Scholarship

Luis Bustamante  
Yvette Johnson  
Darice Linares  
Christina Lopez  
Leslie Moore  
Maryam Mustafaa  
Carmen Taylor-Mason  
Jennifer Verploegh

### Seth D. Rosen Memorial Research Award

Daravan Rongmuang

### Virginia M. Ohlson International Studies Fund

Theerarat Boonkuna  
Yi-Ching Li  
Hanjong Park  
Agung Waluyo  
Boontuan Wattanakul

## Undergraduate Scholarship Recipients

### Boothroyd Scholars Program

Oluwaponmile Ajuwon  
Quentin Cardenas  
Martha Contreras  
Oyebimpe Komolafe  
Mariela Munoz  
Olivia Trujillo  
Fernando Velasquez  
Whitney Woerner

### College of Nursing Scholarship

Ugochinyere Evulukwu  
Delilah Flexas  
Vanessa Garland  
John Kim

### Dorothy J. Dethloff Scholarship Fund

David Harvat  
Nina Keska-Smialek  
Jenny Mei  
Kristin Miller  
Nightingale Uchtmann

### Emily C. Cardew Dean's Fund

Susana Diaz  
Rachel Jamora

### Gertrude Hess Nursing Scholarship

Carla Wisen

### Gloria A. Henderson Scholarship

Songquan Jiang

### Jean Christensen Memorial Scholarship

Julie Hoang  
Grace Woo

### Kathryn Venolia Memorial Scholarship Fund

Anastasia Talarico  
Mary Walthers

### Lazzara Family Foundation Nursing Scholarship

Jessica Day (BSN '09)  
Renee Landa (BSN '09)

### Lisa Corsini Memorial Scholarship

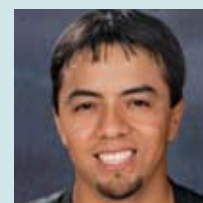
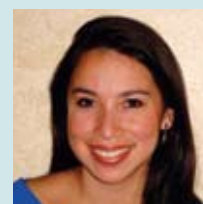
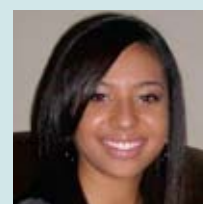
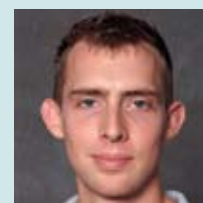
Katerina Starostin

### UIUC Scholarship

Teranika Campbell

### W. E. Van Doren Scholarship Fund

Cristina Alagaban  
Stacey Bailey  
Krystal Bielec  
Hillary Campbell  
Sabbina Chammachel  
Irene Cheung  
Haejin Cho  
Kim Cholewa  
Pauline Do  
Diana Fabian  
Rachel Gowler  
Sarah Hunsberger  
Larisa Inka  
Jennifer Kudirka  
Hannah Kloppmann  
Krystal Maher  
Mariane Manalo  
Deanna McWhorter  
Susan Mei  
Rebekah Miller  
Pia Kristina Moraga  
Erich Paras  
Carolyn Paulius  
Kimberlee Pulido  
Julie Stajszczak  
Allison Stein  
Annie Velarde  
Nijma Yusuf  
Marzena Zuber



From top to bottom: Scholarship recipients Melissa Mercado, David Harvat, Vanessa Garland, Cindy Loy, Fernando Velasquez and Jennifer Kudirka

# Giving to the College of Nursing

We are grateful for the support of alumni, friends, foundations, and corporations, whose contributions enable us to remain a leader in nursing education and innovation. To remain strong, it is essential to increase student scholarships and fellowships, as well as funding for endowed chairs, research, faculty and student initiatives, and technology upgrades. Annual giving truly supports the tradition of excellence in the College of Nursing.

Please support the College of Nursing by making a gift to the College of Nursing Annual Fund or one of the other funds on this list.

For more information about the funds, or to endow a scholarship in your own name, or in honor or memory of a friend or loved one, please contact Nancy Herman, director of advancement, at 312.996.1736 or [nherman@uic.edu](mailto:nherman@uic.edu).

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## OFFICE OF THE DEAN

**College of Nursing Annual Fund**  
**Nursing Dean's Scholarship Endowment Fund**  
**Midwest Nursing History Resource Center**  
**College of Nursing Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship**  
**Cardew-Mullane Award for Clinical Excellence and Leadership**  
**Dorothy J. Dethloff Scholarship Fund**  
**Elizabeth M. Roche Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
**Emily C. Cardew Dean's Fund**  
**Gertrude Hess Nursing Scholarship**  
**Gloria A. Henderson Scholarship**  
**Jean Christenson Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund**  
**Joan Syer-Bailar Scholarship Fund**  
**Kathryn Venolia Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
**Ujima-Eva Smith Endowed Scholarship**

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## REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Regional Nursing Scholarship Fund**  
**Lisa Corsini Memorial Scholarship**  
**UIUC College of Nursing Scholarship Fund**  
**Quad Cities Classic Nursing Scholarship Fund**  
**Jeanne A. Gittings Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
**Norma R. Kelly Peoria Nursing Scholarship Fund**  
**Kellogg Family Peoria Nursing Scholarship Fund**

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## RESEARCH FUNDS

**Center for Narcolepsy, Sleep and Health Research Fund**  
**Harriet H. Werley Endowed Chair in Nursing Research**  
**Seth Rosen Memorial Endowed Research Fund**

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## DOCTORAL STUDENT FUNDS

**College of Nursing Doctoral Student Research Fund**  
**Dean Joan L. Shaver Scholarship Fund**  
**Marguerite A. Dixon Award Fund**

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## GLOBAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP OFFICE

**Beverly J. McElmurry Scholarship Fund**  
**Chieko Onoda Endowed Scholarship Fund**  
**Minu K. and Mehroo Patel Nursing Advancement  
Endowment for India**  
**Virginia M. Ohlson International Studies Fund**

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## DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY HEALTH SCIENCE

**Lillian Runnerstrom Institute for Excellence Fund**  
**Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Scholarship**  
**Craig and Sarah Allen Fund in Memory of Hal Gold**  
**Janet Engstrom Scholarship in Maternal-Child Health Fund**  
**Joyce Roberts Midwifery Scholarship Fund**  
**Mitzi Duxbury Scholarship Fund**  
**Mitzi L. Duxbury Graduate Student Award in Memory of  
Dr. Alexander Schmidt**  
**Sabina's Nurse Midwifery Endowed Scholarship Fund**  
**Traut Family Scholarship**

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## DEPARTMENT OF BIOBEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCIENCE

**Wilkie-Lawrence Endowed Scholarship for Palliative Care  
and Cancer Nursing**

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE

**Psychiatric Nursing Scholarship and Assistance Fund**

[www.uic.edu/nursing](http://www.uic.edu/nursing)

