As we begin the new academic year there is a misperception that the nursing shortage is over. However, this perception is due to some temporary conditions. More nurses are temporarily delaying retirement or returning to the workforce to meet financial needs due to reduced family income, loss in retirement savings or job loss of a spouse. At the same time, some patients are postponing care and hospitals are seeing a decrease in their business.

However, economic, demographic and industry trends indicate the nursing shortage is far from over. First, the health care industry continues to grow, despite the economic downturn in other market segments. And once the economy recovers, there will be pent-up demand for health care services. As we look to the future, the role of nurses is expanding and workforce projections show that nursing jobs will increase. As health care reform unfolds it is clear the changes will expand coverage, increasing the need for nurses.

Here in Utah and across the country, an aging and growing population will increase the demand for nurses as well. In 2000, nearly 35 million Americans were 65 or older. By 2030, this number is expected to double to 75 million—a situation that could seriously strain the health care system.

So what does this mean for nursing education in general and the University of Utah College of Nursing specifically? While the need for nurses will grow significantly in the coming decade, it is projected that the number of nurses entering the workforce will not keep pace with the increased need. By 2025 the nursing shortage could reach nearly ½ million with a 40% RN vacancy rate. Nurses will be needed in a variety of specialties including primary care, and the need for faculty will double as many retire.

As we review and revise our curriculums and develop our new strategic plan, we renew our commitment to preparing the next generation of nurses and health care leaders. However it is not just about the numbers—it is about the expertise and attributes of our graduates. Our goal is to prepare nurses who:

- Are experts in health and healing
- Understand symptom and chronic disease management
- Know how to design and deliver community-based primary care
- Can help transform health systems into patient-centered, consumer-oriented environments
- Have expertise in quality improvement and patient safety
- Develop new knowledge in the pursuit of evidence-based care
- Know how to lead and interact effectively on interprofessional teams

As we work together to plan for the future we know many more capable and qualified nurses will be needed. Our challenge will be to balance our efforts to respond to the demand for our baccalaureate graduates as well as masters and doctoral graduates. Strategic investments will help us make the best use of our resources.
Alumni News

Notes on Nursing

Our alumni are leaders in health care delivery, research and education, and the College of Nursing wishes to share the activities and achievements of our graduates with the entire College of Nursing community.

Penny Brooke (BS, 1969 and MS, 1974). Brooke has been elected to the chair position for the American Hospital Association (AHA) Committee on Governance.

Annie Holt (BS, 1976). Holt has been named president and chief executive of Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage, AK, effective October 13, 2009.

Lauri Linder, PhD (PhD, 2009). Linder, a member of the College of Nursing faculty, officially completed her PhD in Nursing in August 2009. She was also recently elected to the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation Board of Directors. Linder has been a Certified Pediatric Oncology Nurse (CPON®) since 1995.

Susan M. Ohlson, MSA (BSN, 1978). Ohlson is currently the director of the office of continuing studies, Institute for Health Care Innovation at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing. She spent the summer working on data collection in the hope of graduating from UIC with her PhD in May 2010.

Thad Wilson, PhD, FNO-BC (MS, 1981). Wilson has been elected to serve as the 2009-2010 president of the American College of Nurse Practitioners (ACNP). He has been a certified family nurse practitioner since 1985 and has served on faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City since 1995. Currently he is an associate professor and associate dean.

College of Nursing alumni, please take a moment to submit a note of your own!

1) Email to Katie Schrier (katie.schrier@nurs.utah.edu)

2) Leave a message on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com, keyword University of Utah College of Nursing.

3) Visit www.nursing.utah.edu/alumni and click on “Share Your Achievements.”

Join the Alumni Association!

The College of Nursing Alumni Association is open to all graduates of the college. Benefits of membership include: one nurse recognition for Honors for Nursing ($25 value), one subscription to the excellence newsletter, one subscription to the College of Nursing’s annual magazine and invitations to special college events.

Annual Membership - $35

Dual Membership - $50 (Joint membership with the University of Utah Alumni Association)

Lifetime Membership - $300 (For the College of Nursing Alumni Association only)

Visit: www.nurs.utah.edu/alumni
In an effort to thank the many individuals who volunteer their time throughout the year to further the mission of the College of Nursing by serving on the Development and Alumni Advisory Boards, the development office hosted summer socials for the respective groups. Development Board members gathered at Dean Keefe’s home August 19 for an island-themed party while Alumni Advisory Board members convened August 29 to enjoy a barbecue—and the cool mountain air—at Dinny Trabert’s cabin. Both boards take a summer hiatus from their monthly meetings, so the August socials provided an opportunity for members to reconnect and usher in the new academic year.

As the 2009-10 academic year begins, the Development Board is focused on cultivating donor support for the College of Nursing Capital Campaign. The Alumni Board begins the new year by welcoming four additional members: Joyce Gamble, RN, MS, a clinical staff educator with University Hospital; Christy Larson, RN, a nurse manager with University Health Care; recent graduate Don Sorenson, RN and Dianne Stewart, RN, MS, COHN-S, owner of SWC HealthWorks, an occupational health resources firm. Planning the 2010 Honors for Nursing, as well as a very special Fall 2010 Decades of Caring Reunion in the newly renovated College of Nursing building, are key projects for this board in the coming year.

New Scholarships Increase Access to Nursing Education

Increasing access to student education through nursing student scholarships has long been a key initiative of the College of Nursing development office. With state budget cuts resulting in higher tuition costs for nursing students, this effort has become even more critical. The development office is thrilled to announce the following recent gifts, which will go a long way toward helping reduce students’ financial burdens:

**Ivory Homes:** $4,000 to award two $2,000 Scholarships

**The JAX Foundation:** $24,000 for student scholarships

**Frederick Q. Lawson:** $250,000 for graduate student fellowships

**Joanne and Richard McGillis:** $150,000 for the Richard L. and Joanne S. McGillis Endowed Scholarship Fund

**Susan Wintrobe Walker:** $26,000 for the Susan Wintrobe Walker and Becky Z. Wintrobe Endowed Scholarship Fund

**Wells Fargo:** One $5,000 Scholarship (one-time gift)

These gifts will allow students to concentrate on their studies so they may exit the College of Nursing ready to provide the best care possible.
Janelle Bassett’s path to earning her PhD in nursing hasn’t been without its forks in the road, but she now believes every detour led her to the right place—at precisely the right time. Bassett hopes to graduate from the College of Nursing in 2010, but already she has much to celebrate: In September she wed fellow PhD student Chris Macintosh.

The two first met at an August 2007 orientation for new on-campus graduate students. Bassett was there to offer perspective to incoming students like Macintosh regarding what to expect as a graduate student at the college. She acknowledges taking a liking to the incoming PhD student, “but I quickly reminded myself I was not here to date—I was here to learn and graduate!” Nonetheless a friendship ensued, even as Bassett returned home to Denver in 2008 to prepare for data collection. During Bassett’s occasional visits to campus to work at University Hospital and reconnect with people from the college, the two students always made a point of getting together. In March 2009 Bassett was preparing to begin her proposed data collection in Washington State when unforeseen circumstances prevented her from proceeding with that study. The new facility she found instead placed her in Utah. Still, she managed to keep thoughts of a romantic relationship with Macintosh at bay: “The little voice in my head kept reminding me of my primary purpose: to graduate.”

That all changed in April 2009 when, during the Western Institute of Nursing Conference, Bassett realized how disappointed she was when Macintosh had to withdraw from a planned group activity. She recalls telling him “that’s too bad; I was really looking forward to spending some time with you.” Macintosh left only long enough to find someone else to cover his conflicting commitment.

From there it was merely a matter of weeks before Bassett realized her “perpetually curious and potentially glib” classmate—who over the years had constantly challenged her to think—was actually the person she was meant to “be with forever.” In Macintosh she says she has found a life partner who also speaks the language of nursing. “I am a Newborn Intensive Care Unit nurse who is focused on qualitative research while Chris is an operating room nurse who is focused on informatics,” she says. “We are in different fields of nursing but we complement and learn from each other every day.”

With Bassett hoping to graduate in 2010 and McIntosh expecting to follow a year or two later, the couple look forward to pursuing the myriad of professional opportunities awaiting them. Both plan to stay in academia, Bassett with a focus on teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and McIntosh with a focus on informatics. “The exciting part is to have so many choices,” he says. I’m leaning toward staying in an educational setting and doing research, though practicing nursing informatics in a clinical setting has a strong draw, too.”
Student Donates Grandmother’s Nursing Textbooks to College of Nursing

Thumb through her late grandmother Lucille Harman Olpin’s nursing textbooks, accelerated BSN student Carrie Hartman says the books are a connection to a part of her grandmother she never knew. The books and journals, which were published in the 1920s, trace her grandmother as a nursing student then registered nurse, whose professional accomplishments included a position as nursing supervisor at LDS Hospital in the 1930s. Hartman was just 12 years old when her grandmother died and she inherited the textbooks. Over the years the materials have provided Hartman with a sentimental link to her family history. As her own career pursuits turned to nursing and she became a student in the college, she felt the books could have a greater impact—and reach many nursing students—if they could be displayed in the College of Nursing instead of on her bookshelf at home. In September, on behalf of her family, Hartman donated the 13 historic textbooks and one clinical journal to the College. The items will become part of the heritage center in the newly renovated College of Nursing building.

Born into a family of educators (her father is the late Robert Spencer Olpin, a professor at the University of Utah for more than 38 years, and her mother was an elementary school teacher) Hartman says it was only natural that she became an educator herself, teaching anatomy and physiology at Murray High School for eight years. In fact, it wasn’t until she witnessed how much her husband, Brady Hartman (BSN, 2004), enjoyed his work as a nurse at Primary Children’s Medical Center that she began to consider parlaying her foundation in human sciences into a career in nursing.

Seated at a table in the Spencer F. and Cleone P. Eccles Health Sciences Education Building, Hartman lifts the clinical journal from the stack of books and says, “This one is my favorite, because it has my grandmother’s handwriting.” She opens the journal to a page of lecture notes dated February 1, 1920 and scrawled entirely in cursive. It is a far cry from Hartman’s own experience as a nursing student, where students can connect to class from across state lines using distance education platforms and notes are often typed on laptop computers. “I can’t imagine what it was like to be a nursing student at the time my grandmother was in school,” she admits. “They had to retain so much more practical information whereas technology allows me to look up a procedure right before I do it.” Hartman says she hopes the books serve as a reminder for students of how far the nursing profession has come in the last 90 years—while inspiring in them the ideas that will become the advancements of the next 90 years.
Faculty and Staff News

The College of Nursing lost a dedicated employee but gained a promising student when Danette Lyman (left) resigned from her position as administrative assistant, faculty affairs in August in order to begin the nursing program. Faculty and staff wished Lyman well in her new endeavor with a farewell party and gifts to help her begin her journey as a nursing student, including a stethoscope and a College of Nursing sweatshirt. Cami Palo has assumed the faculty affairs position with the dean’s office.

Renee Mixco (right) has stepped forward to lead the college’s diversity outreach initiative. Her first project has been to establish a diversity coalition comprised of College of Nursing staff; the group is now working to consolidate and optimize the college’s diversity outreach efforts in the areas of student recruitment and retention.

The College of Nursing had 11 presentations at the 10th International Congress on Nursing Informatics in Helsinki, Finland in June. Nancy Staggers and Mollie Poynton (left) attended with students and staff. Read more about their presentations on page 10.

Working with the Downtown Farmers Market, College of Nursing professor Mike Caserta, PhD, FGSA and project administrator Jan Abramson, MS put Health & Optimal Aging into practice and developed a program for Catholic Community Services’ "The Dining Room," which provides hot, nutritious meals or sack lunches daily to low-income and homeless individuals and families. Vendors at the Tuesday and Saturday markets are now donating "leftover" produce, meat, bread and other perishable items for use in The Dining Room, which serves 500 - 1000 meals a day. As of late September, enough produce has been collected that a portion is being frozen for use during the winter months.
New Faces

Michelle (Elle) Oldfield came to the College of Nursing in July 2008 seeking temporary work during her summer hiatus from being a kindergarten teacher’s aide. The next thing she knew she was managing one of the college’s most daunting tasks to date: the relocation of more than 200 faculty and staff for the much-anticipated building renovation.

Eight months after the move Oldfield jokes that she still finds herself looking after furniture. What she doesn’t mention is that she also continues to look after the college’s plants, which she brought back to health after they spent a frigid December night in the back of a moving van. When she is not making Royal Wood the next best thing to home for the college, Oldfield enjoys listening to old time radio classics, macabre, horror stories and the like while cleaning her house, tending to her own house plants and gardening. In addition to traveling the United States, Canada and sometimes, the world, Oldfield says camping and hiking excursions are “forced upon [her] regularly” by her husband.

Maija Reblin joined the College of Nursing staff in August as a research program manager. The Wisconsin native stayed true to her home state by attending college at St. Norbert College, a liberal arts school located in De Pere, Wisconsin. She later made the move out west to Salt Lake City to attend the University of Utah for her graduate studies with a focus on social relationships, stress, and health. Reblin graduated from the U in 2008 with a PhD in Social and Health Psychology.

Prior to joining the College of Nursing staff Reblin had the opportunity to be involved with Lee Ellington’s Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and traumatic brain injury research at the Salt Lake City VA hospital. Reblin says the experience of working with Ellington, in addition to her desire to move back to a more "social" direction with her research, led her to view the College of Nursing as a good fit. She says her favorite part of working at the college has been getting to know new people and doing research in a fun atmosphere. In her free time Reblin enjoys running and knitting.

Seth Latimer became a senior research analyst with the College of Nursing in June, however his involvement with the college dates back to March 2008, when he began providing support as a Research Analyst/Statistician. Latimer holds bachelors degrees in economics and math (with emphasis in statistics) as well as a masters of statistics in econometrics, all from the University of Utah. His academic interests primarily focus around computational statistics and Bayesian analysis.

Outside of his academic pursuits Latimer enjoys photography and cooking, something with which he is quite familiar—before returning to school to study statistics he spent six years working as a professional chef for Utah restaurants.
Sabbatical Proves Restful, Reflective for Susan Beck

Petting a green anaconda deep within the Ecuadorian Rainforest may not be everyone’s idea of rejuvenation, but Professor Susan Beck, PhD, APRN, FAAN says her eight-month sabbatical from the College of Nursing allowed her to focus on professional goals while giving her “new energy to do new things.” Beck returned to the college in August, ready to begin a new set of pursuits, including the Robert S. and Beth M. Carter Endowed Chair, which she was appointed to in 2008, and her new position as Director of the PhD in Nursing program.

One of Beck’s primary goals in applying for a sabbatical was to have the opportunity to increase her fluency in Spanish in order to extend her cancer patient symptom management research to Latino/a patients, a population with known health disparities that is rapidly growing in the Intermountain West. To initiate this, she immersed herself in the language, spending the first four months of her sabbatical in South America. Technological advances enabled her to work from virtually anywhere, which allowed her to undertake a second goal of her hiatus: completing analysis and disseminating findings from funded research. While navigating Spanish-speaking countries including Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay, Beck says she was able to conclude research which had been “almost done forever.” Of the five publications she was first author on, four are accepted and published or in press. One is under review. Beck also continued her collaborations with doctoral students who are seeking publication.

A visit to the Ecuadorian Rainforest, where, according to Beck, “monkeys, snakes, spiders, bats, and lots of ants rule the world,” provided a chance for reflection on future endeavors. “The noise of technology was replaced by the incredible sounds of the rainforest: from songs of birds to the howls of monkeys,” she says. Removed from modern conveniences and communication methods, Beck was able to develop an action plan for potential grant submissions and aims to submit at least three grants in 2009-2010.

Strengthened by her time spent immersed in and studying the Spanish language, Beck has been busy since returning to Utah. She has developed a relationship with Alliance Community Services, a non-profit community-based organization that offers cancer screening and support services to Hispanic women with breast cancer, and has attended Triunfadoras, their monthly support group for breast cancer survivors. She also continues to work on her Spanish, noting fluency in a second language is “a lifelong journey.”
Recent Publications


Presentations


Cloyes, K., Wong, B. and Latimer, S. "Recidivism and mental health services for people with serious mental illness: Looking for longer time out". Plenary presentation at the International Forensic Nurses "Custody and Caring" conference in Saskatoon, SK, CAN. (September 2009.)


Murphy, P., Peer Review. American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting; Seattle WA, May 2009.


Zsohar, H., “Test design.” Presentation at 2009 Annual TA Teaching Symposium, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, August 2009.

Zsohar, H., “Teaching: Creating new methods from the madness.” Presentation to School of Nursing Faculty, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT, September 2009.

**Awards and Recognitions**

**Jensen, P.K.,** Elected and accepted as a member of the National Gerontology Academic Honor & Professional Society of Sigma Phi Omega, May 2009.


**Latendresse, G.,** Fellow, Summer Genetics Institute, National Institute of Nursing Research/National Institutes of Health, June-July 2009.

**Linder, L.,** received the Association of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Nurses Writing Award for "Experiences of Pediatric Nurses: The First Year of Hire." APHON annual conference, Orlando, FL, September 2009.

**Linder, L.,** selected as a Pediatric Clinical and Translational (PCAT) Research Scholar for 2009-11. This program is offered through the Department of Pediatrics in the University of Utah School of Medicine to support early career development in clinical and translational research. Linder is the first nurse to be selected for this program.

**Pianka, T.,** was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Society of Research Administrators International Western Section and will serve on International’s Development and Finance Committee. The two-year term began in June 2009.


**Grants**

**Clark, L.,** PI, Nurse Faculty Loan Program, Health Services Research Administration. $105,000. 2009-2010.

**Dyer, J.,** Health Resources and Services Administration, Division of Nursing. Funds will be used to prepare advanced practice nurses to become Certified Nurse Midwives and/or Women’s Health Nurse Practitioners at the Doctor of Nursing Practice level, with emphasis on recruiting from underserved rural and minority populations. $962,694, 2009-2012.
Calendar Highlights

Friday, 11/06: Seminar Series
8-9 a.m., HSEB, Room 2938

Monday, 11/16: College Council
1-3 p.m., HSEB, Alumni Hall

Friday, 11/20: Seminar Series
8-9 a.m., HSEB, Room 2938

Thursday, 11/26 - Friday, 11/27: Thanksgiving Holiday, No Classes

Friday, 12/04: Seminar Series
8-9 a.m., HSEB, Room 2938

Friday, 12/11: Faculty Networking Luncheon
12-1 p.m., HSEB Atrium

Friday, 12/11: College Council
1-3 p.m., HSEB, Alumni Hall

Monday, 12/14 - Friday, 12/18: Final Exams

Saturday, 12/19 - Sunday, 1/10: Winter Break

Monday, 1/11: Spring Semester Begins