As we begin a new decade it is a time for review, renewal and strategic planning at the College of Nursing. Not simply because our current plan is concluding or because we need to prepare for our accreditation visit, but because it will serve as our guide for the future. Part of our mission is to be a dynamic and evolving organization: as internal and external forces impact our needs and opportunities, it is vital that we remain responsive, futuristic in our thinking and focused on enhancing our core strengths of education, research and practice.

The goals outlined in the college’s current strategic plan (which you can review in its entirety at www.nursing.utah.edu/about/strategic.html) are ambitious and impressive. What is even more impressive is the number that we have accomplished: a second degree accelerated option, the new Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, distance-based educational programs and specialty doctoral education. Research efforts have continued to expand with the leadership of now seven endowed chair holders and new interdisciplinary collaborations. Innovative practice partnerships continue to emerge and flourish to support our educational and research initiatives.

Planning for our future is a timely discussion for the spring excellence newsletter because it is the issue we send to our network of more than 7,000 alumni in an effort to update you on the College of Nursing community. As a vital member of this community, we also welcome you to take part in the conversation: what type of knowledge base and abilities do you believe the next generation of nurses will need to be successful practitioners and scholars? Our alumni, a few of which you will read about in this issue, are the embodiment of our vision to develop leaders in nursing and healthcare whose actions, discoveries and voices are strengthening and transforming the health of individuals and communities worldwide. Your insight can help ensure we continue along this trajectory.

I hope this newsletter reconnects you with the college, and perhaps even inspires you to lend your ideas, input and involvement in preparing the next generation of nurses to care for communities everywhere. I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

maureen.keefe@nurs.utah.edu
As students, faculty and staff await the completion of the College of Nursing building renovation, the term “new building” refers to the much-anticipated state-of-the-art learning facility that will put the college at the forefront of nursing education. But for Judith Jensen, who earned a master of science degree in nursing from the college in 1975, the words “new building” take her back to her own experience at the College of Nursing, when the building was first constructed four decades ago.

Building Community

“The new building was like landing on another planet,” recalls the chief of home health referral and community care coordination service at VA Loma Linda Health Care System in Loma Linda, Calif. “It was a new and exciting location, and it fit with the work we all wanted to do. The College of Nursing was a place where one could thrive clinically and culturally.”

The now iconic statue of Florence Nightingale was first placed in the college’s lobby during Jensen’s senior year. “It was inspirational to see the partially finished building coming up around that magnificent study,” says Jensen, whose father obtained a model of the piece and presented it to her upon her graduation. She still looks at the figure daily. It serves to remind her not only of her time in the college, but also of an individual whose impact on nursing lives on today.

Embracing Culture

As for her own entrée into nursing, Jensen says there was never really a question in her mind that she would become a nurse. Born during her father’s final year of medical school, she grew up “as happy in a hospital as almost anywhere else” and driven by a personal mission to help others. “I had confidence that I could and would do my best work for others.” At the College of Nursing, under the leadership of then Dean Madeleine Leininger, whom many consider to be the founder of transcultural nursing, Jensen says she found an environment in which students were encouraged to pursue graduate work supportive to nursing but explorative in the cultures they would encounter as they provided care.
“Utah, at that time was a series of small towns, but it was also surprisingly open in terms of cultural, social, and personal choice alternatives,” Jensen says. “I believe the state and the University of Utah retain that core center. I am so proud of my history and of my education from the U.”

**Cherishing Connections**

Another source of pride for Jensen is her ancestral lineage to nursing pioneer Ellis R. Shipp M.D., who at the age of 31 founded Utah’s first School of Nursing and Obstetrics in 1880. Dr. Shipp trained nurse midwives and delivered more than 6,000 babies before she retired at the age of 85. Her legacy of caring for women from all segments of our community continues on through Salt Lake County’s Ellis R. Shipp Public Health Center in West Valley City. Today, College of Nursing faculty and students continue the tradition of providing holistic prenatal, postpartum, family planning and well-woman gynecologic care to low-income and medically underserved women through the BirthCare HealthCare (BCHC) faculty practice located at the center. Says Jensen, “My father used to tell me ‘to make a difference you must be a difference.’ Ellis embodied that in all she did.” It’s a shared value that Jensen says keeps her connected to the College of Nursing, and to the needs of the people she and her staff serve. “To be a nurse is to be part of another person’s health and culture and to understand that person is to enter into a therapeutic relationship.”

*A Pregnancy Centering program and well-woman gynecologic care are among the services College of Nursing faculty and students provide at the Ellis R. Shipp Public Health Center (pictured above) located in West Valley City, Utah.*

*Ellis R. Shipp, M.D. Photo used with permission, Daughters of Utah Pioneers.*
The College of Nursing’s class of 1959 has always been a determined group. Two of its members, Ray Cameron and Richard Johnson became the college’s first male students in 1955. Class member Annette Laughlin-Burton recalls that some of the women in their class of 18 had been removed from other nursing programs because they were married and had found support at the College of Nursing to complete their degrees. With 2009 signifying 50 years since their graduation, Laughlin-Burton felt it was time to reunite the group. She organized and held a reunion for the class at her Salt Lake City home last spring. It was, she says, a “phenomenal success” with eight of the 18 class members in attendance, some traveling from Washington, Montana and California for the occasion. “A number of us had not seen one another since graduation,” she says. “It was a wonderful way to reconnect and exchange memories from our time at the College of Nursing.”

Laughlin-Burton says she was impressed with her classmates’ contributions to the field of nursing. Several, like Ann Ross, a retired captain with the United States Navy, attained prestigious leadership positions before retiring. Others, such as Evelyn Draper, MA, RN, BSN program director for Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, are still working today. The experience of reconnecting with fellow alumni also gave Laughlin-Burton a chance to reflect on her journey through nursing. Soon after entering the profession she had decided to dedicate more time to her family, and became a full-time mom. Looking back, she says she still continued to utilize nursing skills every single day: initially in raising her children and later as a member of the Sandwich Generation caring for her aging parents as well. Now on a 23-month missionary work assignment in Egypt, she is putting her nursing knowledge to work doing everything from delivering blankets to the homeless to assessing their nutritional needs.

When asked what advice she has for the Class of 2010, Laughlin-Burton says: “Remember that all that you have learned is not confined to nursing; seek opportunities to apply your education from the College of Nursing to all aspects of life.”

Welcome New Alumni Association Lifetime Members:
Margaret Batson (MS, 1982)
Susan Ohlson (BS, 1979)
Join the Alumni Association

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH COLLEGE OF NURSING!

Mail the completed form to:
Development Office, University of Utah College of Nursing, 10 South 2000 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 (see enclosed envelope)

Yes, I want to join the University of Utah College of Nursing Alumni Association:

Annual Membership
Joint Alumni Association Membership with U of U [  ] $50

Individual College of Nursing Alumni Association Membership [  ] $35

Lifetime Membership (Available only for the College of Nursing Alumni Association Membership)
[  ] Individual - $300 (one-time payment)
[  ] Individual - payment over three years (three payments of $100)
[  ] Recent Graduate (within 2 years) - $250 (one-time payment)

Name ___________________________ Degree ___________________________

Name while attending CoN (if different) __________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________________ Year of Graduation __________________________

City ___________________________ State ___________ Zip ____________________

Email ___________________________________________________ Phone ___________________________

[  ] Check here if this is a change of address [  ] I am interested in serving on the Alumni Advisory Board

Payment Options:
[  ] Check - payable to the University of Utah College of Nursing
[  ] Credit Card [  ] American Express [  ] Discover Card
[  ] Master Card [  ] Visa

Authorized Cardholder ____________________________________________

Card Number ____________________________ Exp Date

Signature ________________________________________________________

What have you been up to? We want to hear from you!

Current work/specialty ____________________________________________

Degrees earned or awards _________________________________________

Please list any additional information you’d like to share about yourself--publications, honors, community activities, etc. _______________________________________________________________
When Stephanie Marie began working as a clinical nursing assistant at Shriners Hospital for Children seven years ago, her eventual goal was to become a physician. Yet working alongside nurses she found their involvement at the patient-family level very appealing. “Nurses take a holistic approach to making a difference in patients’ lives,” she says. “And the opportunities in nursing are endless.”

Now a student in the traditional baccalaureate program, Marie says her education at the College of Nursing has only reinforced how expansive the opportunities within nursing are. “Every semester the college has presented new ways for students to go above and beyond in the community and take on different challenges. As a result I have been exposed to issues I would not otherwise know exist.” Working with refugees and participating in a service learning trip to Kenya deepened her awareness of underserved populations. However it is a fall 2009 visit to the Homeless Youth Resource Center in downtown Salt Lake City that brought out her inner philanthropist.

The Homeless Youth Resource Center delivers services to homeless street youth through an outreach program, daytime drop-in center and transition home. The organization provided services to 855 youth last year alone. While visiting the drop-in center with faculty and fellow students, Marie was moved when a young man asked if the group had brought movies for the teens to watch. “There is a misperception that, as teenagers, street youth must have done something unruly to be removed from their homes,” she says. The reality, according to spokesperson Michelle Templin-Polasek, is that many are avoiding abuse or have been turned away by family because of their sexual orientation. “They are just kids,” Marie stresses, “Dealing with the same wants and needs, self-image issues and societal pressures all teens experience.”

The center was still top of mind for Marie when her good friend and local businessman Robert Yorgason, who hosts a holiday fundraiser for a different charity each year, approached her looking for a worthy cause to spotlight with his 2009 event. Marie introduced him to the organization's leaders and arranged for Yorgason to tour the facility that had left such an indelible imprint on her. Upon experiencing the center himself and learning that demand for its services has increased 110% over the past two years, Yorgason knew he had found the beneficiary of his 2009 event. “The Homeless Youth Resource Center is the only shelter in our community specifically for teens,” he says. “I felt it was critical to spotlight this local resource and encourage friends and family to support its mission.”

The December 3 fundraising dinner and silent auction raised $8,000 for the center. “A big goal of Robert’s fundraiser was to generate money, since that is the center’s immediate need,” Marie says. “But to truly help this population, we need to engage the entire community in understanding the day-to-day struggles of street youth.”

Marie will graduate from the College of Nursing in May, and is now considering joining the International Council of Nurses to continue her outreach work. “While at the College of Nursing I have seized every opportunity to learn through community service,” she says. “I will be a better nurse for it.”
Development News

’09 Ends Extra Fine, Thanks to ‘Designed to the Nines’ Appeal

It may be enclosed in construction fencing right now, but when it reopens this fall, the College of Nursing building will be ‘designed to the nines.’ While reflecting on this, Development Board member Michael Dunn, president of Dunn Communications, formulated an idea to generate excitement surrounding the progress of the renovation while ensuring the college is ‘equipped to the nines.’

Dunn’s concept? A year-end appeal seeking gifts of $9.99 in ’09. While major gifts play a critical role in the success of the college’s capital campaign, Dunn knows well that gifts of every size help sustain nursing education. He worked closely with the development office and fellow board member Alicia Bremer, owner of Bremer Public Relations, to make the idea a reality.

“‘Designed to the Nines’ is a great example of the level of expertise brought to the College of Nursing by its development board members,” says Maureen R. Keefe, RN, PhD, FAAN, dean and Louis H. Peery Presidential Endowed Chair. “We continue to benefit from their ideas, vision and passion for our mission.”

In addition to board members, Keefe says many donors, alumni, staff and faculty contributed to the appeal’s success by making gifts. The HSCBC and the ACC Divisions even decided to wage a friendly competition to see which Division could attain the highest participation. The HSCBC Division won with 36 gifts. As of press time the appeal has generated more than $13,000 for the college.

Save the Date! 16th Annual Honors for Nursing

May 11, 2010
6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Little America Hotel

Say ‘thank you’ to a nurse who has dared to care while helping to raise funds for nursing student scholarships. Honors for Nursing brings together nurses from throughout the region for a celebration of nursing. Nurse recognitions are $25 and include an invitation for the individual to attend the recognition dinner.

To learn more visit www.honorsfornursing.org
Patricia Berry Inducted into American Academy of Nursing

Patricia Berry, PhD, APRN, FAAN, associate professor and associate director of education and practice for the Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, was formally inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in November as one of the 2009 new Fellows. Berry was nominated for this honor by two current Academy Fellows and was selected by the Academy’s 15-member Fellow Selection Committee for her outstanding achievements in the nursing profession. The induction of Berry and 97 other nurse leaders took place during the Academy’s Annual Awards Ceremony in Atlanta, GA.

With 32 years of experience in hospice and palliative care, Berry, a gerontological nurse practitioner and an advanced practice palliative care nurse, has contributed to critical policy, educational, and scientific initiatives to improve the management of pain and symptoms, especially for individuals with life-limiting illness and their families. She is a member of the national faculty for the Geriatric End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) and serves on the research committees of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the American Board of Nursing Specialties.

“By sustaining her commitment to pain and symptom management, especially for older adults at the end of life, Dr. Berry will join other members of the Academy as an important force in disseminating nursing knowledge nationally and internationally,” says Regina Fink, RN, PhD, FAAN, AOCN, a research nurse scientist with University of Colorado Hospital and one of Berry’s nominators. Adds Ginette Pepper, PhD, RN, FAAN, professor, Helen Lowe Bamberger Colby Endowed Chair in Gerontological Nursing, who joined Fink in nominating Berry, “One of the most expensive and agonizing aspects of our health care system is inappropriate care at the end of life. Dr. Berry’s voice and expertise will help to further the mission of the Academy and assure the promotion of humane and effective health care.”

Acting Globally: Shahnaz Moezzi Advises World Health Organization

Assistant Professor (Clinical) Shahnaz Moezzi, PhD, RN was recently invited by the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Eastern Mediterranean Region to consult with nursing leaders representing four Iranian provinces: Azarbaijan, Gilan, Khorasan, Fars and Kordestan. An Iranian native who has been a member of the College of Nursing faculty since 1989, Dr. Moezzi was asked to review analyzed data from the regions and identify opportunities to improve patient care. Her presentation to the group “Situational Analysis of the Existing Data and Presenting Strategies for Quality Care Improvement for Iran” provided recommendations such as involving staff in decision-making related to their workload and competencies and increasing nursing capacity and evidence-based practice. Says Dr. Moezzi, who earned her Bachelor of Science (BSN) degree in Nursing at the U in 1969 before initiating a BSN program in Iran, “I began my career as a nurse leader as a fellow of WHO; it was an honor to be called upon by the organization to help where needed.” In the future she will reconvene with the team of leaders to evaluate their implementation efforts.
Each year the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), an international association serving educational institutions and their advancement professionals, recognizes best practices in fundraising, special events, alumni relations and communications. Its prestigious CASE Awards of Excellence are coveted by advancement professionals as acknowledgment of their institution’s contributions to the profession. In 2009, the College of Nursing development office was the proud recipient of a Silver Award of Excellence in the Fundraising Publications Package category for The Caring Continuum Campaign case statement and DVD.

The winning pieces were developed to communicate the priorities of Phase II of the College of Nursing capital campaign, and were the result of more than a year of intensive story development and planning by a Communications Task Force comprised of College of Nursing staff Dinny Trabert and Katie Schrier and several Development Board members. The DVD was produced by Dunn Communications (and made possible through the generous support of Mrs. David K. Watkiss) while the case statement was designed by Jesse Colby, graphic design manager with University of Utah Health Care. The college’s work was selected from a pool of entries from universities and independent institutions throughout CASE district VII, which represents the western region of the United States, including Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.
Recent Publications


Presentations


Grants

Clark, L., (PI), & Pett, M., Chambless, C., & Johnson, S. (May, 2009) “Yes we can!” Overweight Reduction and Healthy Lifestyle Improvement Program for Young Adults with Intellectual Disabilities. University of Utah Funding Incentive Seed Grant Program, $22,400.


Awards and Recognitions

Morgan, K., received the 2009 "Excellence in Teaching" award from the Utah Nurse Practitioners during National Nurse Practitioner Week. October 6, 2009.

Morse, J.M., Visiting scholar, University of Cincinnati, College of Nursing, October 26-27, 2009.

Richardson, S., was appointed Associate Dean for General Education and University Requirements in Undergraduate Studies. She began the new position in January.

Staggers, N., American Nurses Foundation Western Institute of Nursing 2009 Scholar.
Calendar Highlights

Monday, 2/8/2010 - College Council
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., HSEB Alumni Hall

Monday, 2/15/2010 - Presidents Day Holiday
No Classes

Thursday, 2/18/2010 - Career Day
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., HSEB Atrium

Noon to 2:00 p.m., Rice Eccles Stadium Tower
RSVP Required

Friday, 3/12/2010 - College Council
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., HSEB Alumni Hall

Friday, 3/12/2010 - Appointments Advisory Meeting 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., HSEB Alumni Hall

Wednesday, 2/24/2010 - Caring Connections Presents the 17th Annual Hospice Foundation of America Living With Grief Teleconference, “Cancer and End-of-Life Care.” 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., HSEB, 5100C RSVP Required

Friday, 4/9/2010 - College Council
1:00 - 3:00 p.m., HSEB Alumni Hall

www.nursing.utah.edu