

WATTS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone and Happy Spring! Don't know about you, but I am ready for it. This will be my last note to you as President of our alumni, but I plan to be an active part of all the happenings as long as possible.

My goal as our president was to try to grow our active members numbers. I am so pleased that two very recent graduates have become not only active members, but are serving on our board. I leave as my challenge to all of you to look for that alumnus that you can add to our numbers. Please keep your dues of \$30 annually up to date. The money we receive from dues are what we use as our operating account.

If you haven't heard yet, we now have a website that you can use to catch up with all the news, renew your membership, and register for events. Your first opportunity to do that will be for the annual Spring Banquet. Check out the website at www.wattsschoolofnursing.org. In addition, if any of you are in to Facebook, make sure you put Watts School of Nursing in your profile and you can go to that group to find

others who are on Facebook. It's a great way to find classmates and friends.

All the info about the banquet can be found later in this newsletter. Please don't forget our next "big" celebration in 2010. That will be our 115th anniversary, so start thinking about getting your classmates together for a weekend of fun and festivities.

Goodbye for now. If I can ever be of any assistance to any of you, please let me know. It has been my pleasure to serve as your President.

Rosalin Olive Robinson
Class of 1972
Watts School of Nursing Alumni
Association
3643 North Roxboro Road
Durham, NC, 27704

SPRING BANQUET

Annual Spring Banquet

Date: May 20, 2009

Time: Registration/Punch 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:00 pm

Place: Croasdaile Country Club
3800 Farm Gate Avenue,
Durham, NC
(off of Cole Mill Road)

Cost: Alumni \$35
Goldenagers \$20
Non Alumni/Guests \$35
Spring '09 & Dec '08 Grads
No Cost

Bring a door prize to share

RSVP: Rosalin Robinson 471-9667 or
rrobinson1951@aol.com

Reba Beavers 470-4192 or
Reba.Beavers@duke.edu

or

www.wattsschoolofnursing.org

Deadline to register: May 14, 2009

**Alcoholic beverages available from the bar
(self pay / credit card only)

UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL

Dear Alumni and Friends:

During this period of leadership transition at Durham Regional Hospital, Dr. Peggy C. Baker continues to serve as Interim Chief Nursing Officer. As Interim Director of Nursing Education, I am pleased to report that the enrollment at Watts continues to increase along with the diversity of the student body. The school has a total of 153 students for the Spring Semester 2009 with 50 students entering into the freshman class in January.

Nineteen of the 20 graduates from the Fall Class of 2008 successfully completed

NCLEX and accepted employment within the Duke University Health System.

The Mary Newton Nursery Skills Center was dedicated on October 30, 2008. The nursery skills center is a unique addition to the school, providing simulated learning opportunities for students. The plaque on the door reads: Mary McLean Newton, a 1947 graduate, is known for her knowledge and expertise in the care of newborn infants. For over 37 years as Head Nurse of the Newborn Nursery at Watts Hospital and Durham Regional Hospital, she established high standards of care and devoted herself to teaching nursing and medical students the essentials of newborn care. The Mary Newton Nursery Skills Center honors her efficiency, adeptness, wit, and dedication to excellence by providing students with the key resources needed to develop proficiency in the care of newborns.

Watts is in the midst of a curriculum revision, which will be implemented with the freshman class in July 2009. Along with this change, we are also working on a new brochure that captures the many changes taking place at the school.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the Spring Banquet.

Most sincerely,

Dr. Terry D. Ward, MSN, RN
Interim Director of Nursing Education
Watts School of Nursing
2828 Croasdaile Drive-Suite 200
Durham, NC 27705
(919) 470-7344
919-383-4014 fax

HISTORY PROJECT UPDATE

We are currently researching the life of Lilly Cowan Mitchell who was a member of the second graduating class in June 1898. Lilly was bright, creative, and an independent thinker. She attended Peace Institute, a woman's college in Raleigh, before enrolling at Watts. Like many of her contemporaries, she was something of an enigma to her neighbors for choosing nursing.

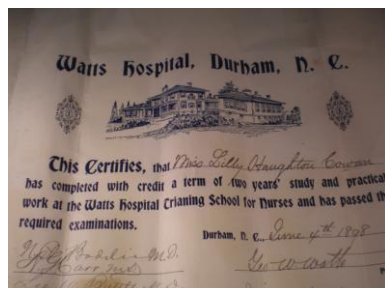
Nevertheless, she was not the least bit concerned when they raised shocked eyebrows at a "refined" young lady doing such work. When asked by a newspaper reporter in December 1941 about what her friends thought when she entered training, she simply stated, "I didn't ask them."

Lilly's life story is an interesting example of a determined pioneering woman, a characteristic shared by many other Watts graduates in the early years of nursing in Durham. Among her many accomplishments is a patent for an "Invalid Knee-Rest" dated September 4, 1906.

Lilly's great niece and nephews have memorabilia that she saved from her student days at Watts and as a practicing

nurse, including her Watts diploma, photographs, a scrapbook depicting an active social life, and a journal describing excerpts of her nursing career. It is our hope that Lilly's family will contribute these treasures to the school, which will enable us to learn more about this exceptional woman and to create a display portraying her life.

Betty Jean Faulkner - Class of 1965
Donna Rogers - Faculty



SCHOOL TRADITIONS...

The Watts School of Nursing student uniform has long been a unique symbol of a glorious tradition. From the bulky sky-blue poplin dresses over the yards of petticoats that flowed down to the ankles in the early 1900s, to the uniforms that denoted placement and rank in the 1940s. As the school progressed through the years, so have the traditional student uniforms. Look for the latest style of student and graduation uniforms at the Spring Banquet. You may be surprised.

IN MEMORIAM

Eva Corbett Thompson -1/31/08-Class 1947

Dorothy Campbell Thomas -3/19/08-Class 1951

Lois Bobbitt Rogers -4/26/08-Class 1955

Barbara Bobbitt Suitt -6/13/08-Class 1951

Rebekah Roberts Fields -6/16/08-Class 1952

Edith Johnson Poole -7/10/08-Class 1977

Nancy Powell Walters -8/5/08-Class 1938

Linda Dunn Tippett -9/18/08-Class 1969

Laverne Hackney Sublett -10/7/08-Class 1949

Sharon W Brooks -10/22/08-Class 1967

Emily Moore Stonbaker -10/31/08-Class 1949

Stephanie Tyler Scott Johnson 11/4/08 Class 1985

Pauline Ferrell May -11/4/08-Class 1942

Shirley Virginia Nichols Holloway - 11/30/08-Class 1938

IN MEMORIAM (cont.)

Muriel Jordan McDade -12/13/08 -Class 1953

Emily Tapp Chadwick -1/22/09- Class 1957

Frances Brasher Turner -2/25/09 -Class 1939

Greta Coulter Brooks -05/29/08 –Class 1963

Doris Parker Hill -2/7/07 –Class 1946

CURRENT OFFICERS

Rosalin Olive Robinson '72	President
Anne Curran Browning '05	Pres. Elect
Reba Holliday Beavers '68	Treasurer
Gina Mooneyhan Edwards '93	Secretary
Rebecca Atkins Dodson, '61	Database Mgr.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan West Avent '76	At Large
Linda Brewer Ellington '64	At Large
Sherry Ottoway '03	At Large
Hilda Cates Holloway '69	Past President

ALUMNI OFFERINGS

Request from School of Nursing: 470-7348

Watts Caps: \$11.50 if pick-up
\$13.50 if mailed

Transcripts: \$5.00

WATTS UP?????

Anna Cleo Mangum Cope '44- Retired in 2000 and lives in assisted living. She stays busy playing bridge, rummy, and cribbage. There are a lot of activities and entertainment. She is unable to drive due to poor vision and wished she could attend some of the banquets.

Roberta Fitts Marshall's '46 husband died October 2007.

Helene Karp Sugar '47 would love to hear from or about any classmates. (Send to the alumni and we will forward to her.)

Catherine LeGwin Blanchard '50 is retired. She will celebrate 57 years of marriage to her husband Bill in September 2008. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Jane Powell Rody '52 returned to nursing after her two children went to school. For 30 years she worked in Washington at NIH, American Univ. Dept of Commerce and Dept of Interior. She and her husband retired in 89 and they returned to Chapel Hill (which is where they met.) For 17 years she did volunteer work at UNC hospitals until a heart attack and poor vision slowed her down. She is a TARHEEL BORN AND A TARHEEL BRED. She plans to stay in Chapel Hill. She is very proud of the education she got at Watts and what the school continues to do.

Margaret Blalock Rimer '55 is retired and a widow with 4 children and 7 grandchildren. She earned a BSN at UNCC and was inducted in to the National Honor Society in 1981.

WATTS UP (cont.) ...

Sonya Knight Vestey '59 is retired. Her 14th grandchild was born in August 08. Her 8th great grandchild was born in the spring 09. She travels a lot with her husband, Syd.

Nancy Jackson Peek '60 retired from nursing in 1988 and has been a full time realtor since.

Betty McGhee Baxter '61 is still consulting for accreditation and CMS requirements. She is traveling far too much for business. She is living between her homes in Greensboro and Naples, Florida. She is a new widow since her husband died in May 2007.

Dianne Berry Lewis '61 would love to hear from her classmates from 58-61. E-mail address is dblewis4@suddenlink.net

Jerry Culpepper Smith's '61 husband died in April 08. She has three children and 4 grandchildren. She would love to hear from her classmates (1961)

Sondra Marsh Hinnant '61 recently retired after working 9 years at Watts and 38 years in Cardiac Diagnostic Unit at Duke.

Eleanor Dodson Carpenter '62 and Alice Margaret Collier Rowland '62 work PRN for 7 physicians. Eleanor has been with this practice since 1966 off and on and plans to retire in 2010 when her license expires. Her husband is already retired. They have 3 grandchildren and have been to Poland the last 3 years on Missions. She is the team nurse. She loves the flexibility nursing has given her life.

Martha Johnson Lanning '62 retired from Pardee Hospital in 1992 and started teaching CNAs. She got her BSN from WCU in 1992. She has 2 sons and has

been widowed since 2004. She has 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. She currently lives on a farm and there are 19 horses on the farm, only one of which belongs to her.

Lt Colonel (Ret) Billie Rimmer Anderson '63 is still working in Labor and Delivery and loving it. She is a clinical coordinator on a 218-bed L&D unit that delivers about 280 babies a month. In addition, she continues to be a national sales leader with The Longaberger Company. She manages 179 consultants across the US. Let her know if you are looking for a job. Please check out her website: www.Longaberger.com/Billieanderson.com

Martha Lewis Matthews '63 is loving retirement, grandkids, beach and travel.

Linda Roach Campbell '63 retired from Presbyterian in 2007 after 38 years in the anesthesia department. She is enjoying spending time with her two grandchildren and traveling.

Barbara McLelland Clark '65 took a medical mission trip to Africa and this was a life changing experience.

Patricia O'Neal Colyer '63 walks 150 minutes a week as her hobby. She works with her grandchildren. Her son has a website –Dr. Andrew Colyer (Google). Her daughter Kimberly is a Women's Health APN and their son-in-law is a CRNA. There are 2 grandchildren and she is busy in a new home. HER WATTS EDUCATION IS USED DAILY.

Carolyn Carver Wright '65 states she and her husband continue to have fun. Life is good. They have 4 children and the two daughters are BSN nurses and love the profession. There are 7 grandchildren with #8 on the way.

WATTS UP (cont.) ...

Betty O'Neal Eggleston '65 works prn in primary care and family medicine. She usually does not work more than 2 days a week so she will have time for the grandchildren. She comes to Durham, NC weekly to visit her mother.

Jane Weisner Harrison '65 has been with the VA for 30 years

Betty Boswell Sloat '65 is a grandmother and her 1 ½ year old Drew will be a big brother in October (08). She and her husband, Gordon, have enjoyed two wonderful visits to Hawaii to visit their son-in-law (stationed at Hickam AFB). Last summer they welcomed a new daughter –in-law to the family. She stays busy serving in her church, gardening, exercising at the gym and attending a book group.

Sandra Maurice Ouellette '66 is serving as president International Federation of Nurse Anesthetist. She is married to Richard Ouellette and they have 8 grandsons.

Nilsa C Ocasio '72 is living in Florida doing caretaking for her parents.

Toni Elder Alexeff '73 has a new job. She is a call center nurse consultant with Health-Direct, which is a nurse triage line giving health care advice. They service many MD practices and hospital EDs. This is very challenging and she has really had to brush up on Peds and OB.

Vickie Rivenbark Hudson '73 is looking forward to becoming a grandmother in July 08.

Goldie Dunn '77 is still retired in 2008.

Robin Godwin-Livingstone '77 still loves her job as immunization nurse, rabies control nurse and communicable disease nurse.

She sees plenty of babies, her favorite of course. She finally feels like she is making a difference in others lives and it's wonderful.

Gena Galyean Near '77 is still working at WFUBMC in a new position of Standards Compliance Consultant in the Department of Nursing Quality and Compliance and she loves this job. She and Bart have been married for 29 years and have 3 huge cats. She and Bart did not have any children so they dote on their nieces and nephews. A nephew has joined the Navy and wants to be a medic. She writes," I think of several of my classmates....my graduation year and others..often and wish you all the best. Hope to be able to get together with some of you soon. Please feel free to e-mail me at gnear@wfubmc.edu.

Debbie Gupton Chino '78 has celebrated 25 years with Eric. Her son Jon graduated from high school with honors and is now attending University of Southern California with a presidential scholarship. Her daughter, Kristin, graduated from Arizona State University with honors and plans to attend dental school in fall 09.

Susan Barnes Gregg '78 is married to Jeff Gregg (chemical engineer graduate of Tufts University.) He is employed at Reich Hold Chemicals. They have 2 children: Jay- 20 yrs - will be a senior at UNC-CH working towards being a psychologists and a daughter- Katie - 18 yrs – who will be a sophomore at East Carolina University with a goal of being a Physical Therapists.

Nancy Wicker Floyd '83 just completed her BSN (2007) and earned her PCCN in April 2008.

WATTS UP (cont.) ...

Carolyn Overby Scott '85 was recognized as a Great 100 Nurse of NC in 2008. She also received an award for Professional Caregiver of the year from the Durham County Relay for Life. She "thanks" Watts for her education and dedication.

Susan Matzake Hall '87 works at Wake Med in Raleigh. She graduated with a BSN and works with Sarah Caviness '76.

Debbie O'Diear-Tisdale Singer '80 is not working. She is excited that her daughter in law starts Watts in June 2008.

Stephanie Ellington Harward '83 has 3 grandchildren (Kaden 4years, Crawford 2 Years and Mason 1 year.) She is working part time and baby-sitting the other time.

Heather Allred Jeffreys '97(Dec) is expecting a new baby in April 09.

Mary Coleman Justesen ('72) recently changed to part time infection control nurse at Durham Regional Hospital after 36 1/2 years of bedside nursing> Her daughter, Ellen Justesen Carr ('08) works nights on the rehab unit (7-3) at DRH. They are to be in ads for nurses' appreciation week featuring related pairs of nurses in the Duke University Health System (DUHS)

Also of interest, Audrey Neal '81 & her daughter Heather Swain '03 are also to be in the DUHS ads. This is especially special as all 4 of the DRH nurses in these ads are Watts graduates. They are on the duke.edu e-mail list to contact them

**SPECIAL NOTE
CONCERNING DUES**

Dues for 2008-2009 are now due. Dues are \$30 and the dues year is from December 1 to November 30. Complete the form on the back and send your dues to:

Reba Beavers
3643 North Roxboro Road
Durham, NC 27704-2763

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association
3643 North Roxboro Road
Durham, North Carolina 27704-2763

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Durham NC
Permit 520

Complete this form and send in with your dues.

Last Name: _____ **First:** _____ **Maiden:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email: _____

Year Graduated: _____ **Telephone:** (____)- (____ - ____)

Place of Employment: _____

NEW News to Share: _____

Mail to: Reba Beavers
3643 N. Roxboro Road
Durham, N.C. 27704-2763