

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association



President's Message

CHANGE. No, it is not a bad word; however, it does have negative connotations for some of us. Whether you like it or not, we live with change almost every single day. Change is on the way for the Watts School of Nursing and the Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association. As you will see from the school update from Dr. Walters, much activity is occurring around the coming Watts BSN program. A lot of work, from many individuals, has been put into making this happen. It is a very exciting time....BUT, also a time of anxiety. There are still many elements to be worked out and there are not answers to some questions.

For our alumni association, there will certainly be change. We do not know what that change will be. What we do know is that we need members to support their alumni association. How can you do this? Pay your annual dues—due in November annually. When did you last pay your dues? Attend the annual spring banquet and/or Winter Gathering. We are aware of some volunteer activities for the school i.e., manning the desk at the school, answering the phone and taking messages and assisting with the history project. More may arise as time goes on. Are you interested in any volunteer activities? If so, please let a board member know of your interest.

We currently have 1613 graduates in the alumni database that we have either an email address or postal address. There are 1020 graduates that we have no address—meaning newsletters have been returned as unable to forward. This means we only have contact information on 61.3% of graduates. We need all alumni to maintain current information. We will be looking at how we can increase this percentage. This might also be a volunteer opportunity.

So, you can see lots is happening. It is exciting. We need YOU! What can you do for YOUR alumni association, the school and future Watts graduates? I look forward to seeing you at the May 2019 banquet where there will be more updates and opportunity for discussion. Until then....

Susan

Susan Avent RN, MSN, MBA, MHA, NEA-BC
President, Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association
Class of 1976

Current Officers & Board of Directors

Susan Avent, MSN, MBA, MHA, RN, NEA-BC
President, Class of 1976
fsavent@centurylink.net

Melissa Murray, BSN, RN, CML
President Elect., Class of 2000
melissa.murray@duke.edu

Gina M. Edwards, MSN, RN, CAPA
Secretary, Class of 1993
gmedwardsrn@juno.com

Reba H. Beavers, BSN, MBA, MHA, RN
Treasurer & Database Manager, Class of 1968
rebabeavers@nc.rr.com

Past President / At-Large
Vacant

Rebecca Dodson, BSN, RN
At-Large, Class of 1961
becky.dodson704@outlook.com

Sherry Warren, BSN, RN
At-Large, Class of 2003
swarren1108@gmail.com

Elizabeth Cantor, MSN, RN, CNOR
At-Large, Class of 2008
elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu

Chester Farley, RNC, MMN
At-Large, Class of 2008
unclefonzi94@yahoo.com



Members of Alumni Association Board at the January 2019 Freshmen Meet & Greet (L-R: Becky Dodson, Chester Farley, Liz Cantor, Reba Beavers, Susan Avent, Melissa Murray. Not Pictured: Gina Edwards, Sherry Warren)



Peggy Baker Walters (c.1982)

Update from the School

Hello Watts Alumni!

What a year 2018-2019 has been and it's not even over yet! I am so excited to write this update for the School. Watts College of Nursing has been officially established as a private nonprofit college and has been approved by the University of North Carolina General Administration to offer the BSN. Watts has been on this journey for over five years; the patience and perseverance have paid off. We have a ton of work yet to do with a transition phase to be established. I will have more information to share at the Alumni Banquet in May. It is a bitter sweet time; the 124-year-old diploma program, an institution that has long cared for so many, transitioning to the bachelor of science in nursing, to continue the legacy of educating nurses with a new degree, is under way. Students are doing well. Fifty (50) new freshman started and there are 150 enrolled as of the Spring 2019 semester. Many thanks to the alumni for providing lunch in August and January to our new freshman. Lisa Benton, Class of Fall 2018 is currently president of the North Carolina Student Nurses Association. Watts is very proud of all her work and representation at the state and national level for student nurses.

A glance at our graduate data shows in 2016-2017, 97% of our graduates were working as RNs in NC and in 2017-2018, 91% of the graduates were working as RNs in NC. The School continues to serve the community and state with great Watts nurses.

Yolanda Neal, Associate Director was selected for the Duke University Health System Friends of Nursing award in the fall and she has been selected by the Triangle Business Journal as a Health Care Hero in January. Yolanda is an exceptional leader at the School. Seventy-three percent (73%) of the faculty either have a doctorate, are enrolled in doctoral study or plan to enroll by fall. They are outstanding in their work and we are delighted to have them as part of the team. Don't forget next year – the 125th anniversary of Watts will be celebrated with a Spring Tea in May 2020 along with the Spring Banquet. I can't wait for May to be here to share the latest updates on the BSN. It has truly been a labor of love.

See you in May!

Peggy C. Walters, EdD, MSN, MEd, NEA-BC
Director of Nursing Education

Watts History Project Update



Betty Faulkner (c.1981)

The holdings of the Watts History Project continue to grow. New arrivals include copies of materials obtained from the Vashti Bartlett Collection at the Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. The materials pertain to Miss Bartlett's tenure as the first superintendent of nurses at Watts Hospital from December 1913 to March 1915. A few of the notable items include the graduation program from the 1914 commencement ceremony, a report on the state of the hospital and school that Miss Bartlett presented as part of the commencement ceremony in 1914, a school song, various hospital and school forms, and the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of Watts Hospital in 1914.

Several remarkable photographs have also been donated. These include a group photograph of the Class of 1932 and individual photographs of Sallie Strowd ('27), Mary Mann ('30) and Ruby Strowd ('32) in student and graduate uniforms. A display of these photographs for the upcoming alumni banquet is now in the works.

In addition, much progress has been made on the school roster. Full names and correct spelling have been researched for the early graduates from 1895 thru 1939. In the process, much has been learned about their lives and nursing careers. While they would have considered themselves ordinary nurses, many of their accomplishments were quite extraordinary.

Betty Faulkner, Class of 1965
Donna Rogers, Retired Faculty



Donna Rogers (c.1981)

A Blast from the “Watts School of Nursing” Past



Class of 1919, Photo courtesy of the Watts History Project

Congrats to our Newest Golden Agers Celebrating 50 years as Professional Nurses



Class of 1969, Photo courtesy of the Watts History Project

Extra White Cap Annuals

Below are the years that are available and in good condition. The books are free. First come-first served, and will require \$5 for postage to be sent to the Alumni Association mailing address. Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association , 2828 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 200 Durham, NC 27705-2505

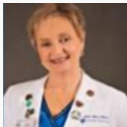
1937	1959	1971 (2)	1981 (6)
1938	1964	1972	1982 (4)
1946	1966	1976	1984 (11)
1958	1967	1980 (7)	1985 (3)

Retirement



Mary Justesen, Class of 1972, retires March 29, 2019 after 40 years of service at Duke Regional Hospital and Duke University Health System. Mary's career spans from inpatient floor nursing to an essential member of the Infection Prevention team. Mary has been a role model, patient advocate, leader, giver, problem solver and teacher at DRH. She led DRH's hand hygiene program and the Infection Prevention Action Team. Mary is also a 12-year breast cancer survivor and has shared her journey with others. We wish her the best with her future adventures.

Retirement



Audrey T. Neal, Class of 1981 Retired March 1st, after 32 years of service at Duke Regional Hospital and Duke University Health System. Audrey, originally started her Duke career as a staff nurse. Her career spanned from IV Team to Radiology to leadership roles in a variety of settings. She recently helped Duke Regional Hospital and Duke University Health System achieve Magnet re-designation as the hospital's magnet program director. She has served in this role since October of 2006. We wish her the best with her future adventures.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

Date: May 8, 2019

Time: Registration 5:15 pm Dinner 6:00 pm

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

Cost: Alumni \$40 / Golden Agers (1940-1968) \$30 / Non-Alumni/Guests \$45
Graduates from Classes of Spring '19 & Dec '18 – *No Cost*

RSVP Deadline: All checks must be received by **April 30th**

No Reservation will be accepted after this date.

If you as an alumni member would like to support a May 2019 or December 2018 graduate for the banquet, please indicate the amount of your donation with your check and RSVP response.

Please make checks payable to:

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association

Mailing Address:

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association

Attn: Treasurer 2828 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27705-2505

Email Registration for New Grads Only: December 2018 & May 2019 Graduates
Please RSVP via email by **April 30th** to Elizabeth Cantor at elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu

We invite alumni members to either bring a "door prize" for the traditional door prize drawing event (1 gift per person is appropriate) or consider a monetary donation, which will support our current graduates, students, and/or scholarship fund.

For Questions you may contact:

Reba Beavers 919-815-9510/rebabeavers@nc.rr.com or

Susan Avent 919-732-3210/fsavent@centurylink.net

Dues for 2018-2019 are now past due. Dues are \$30, and the dues year is from December 1 to November 30. **Complete and mail-in the form included in this news-letter.**

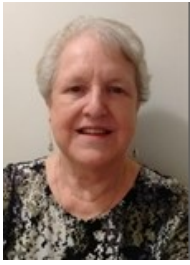
Black Banding: May 10th, 2019 at 10am at the First Pentecostal Church, Carver Street, Durham, NC

Graduation: May 10th, 2019 at 2pm at the First Pentecostal Church, Carver Street, Durham, NC

Freshman Meet & Greet: August 2019, more details coming soon

Annual Winter Gathering: Those present at the December 2018 Gathering discussed trying a lunch time due to decreased numbers. So the board voted to change the time for the next gathering. We hope to see many of you **Wednesday, December 10, 2019 at 12pm** at Bennett Point Grill, Hillsborough Rd, Durham, NC. Mark your calendar now. Look for more details in the Fall News Update.

Celebrating 105 years of the Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association



Financial Update from the Treasurer's Desk

Per Fiscal Year	2016	2017	2018
Dues Paying Members	84	38	47
Donations	\$ 8,940.00	\$ 2,385.00	\$ 6,195.00

We appreciate the many contributions received at the Annual Spring Banquet. The money was used to support the students either through a sponsorship at the banquet or through scholarships. Our scholarship funds are managed by Wells Fargo Advisors and the investments have done well this past year. We use the money mostly for scholarships and graduation awards. Our guidelines state we can provide such support as long as the account has more than \$50,000. If you have any questions about the financial status for the alumni please send inquiries to Reba Beavers, Treasurer, Class of 1968 (rebabeavers@nc.rr.com).

Current Finances as of 2/13/19

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 3,692.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 26.00
ECPS ACCOUNT	\$ 197,209.00

In Memoriam

Ruby Murphy Schwager, Class of 1946	December 3, 2003 (new notification)
Margaret Cross Brown, Class of 1947	April 2, 2018
Vera Burris Warren, Class of 1952	December 11, 2017 (new notification)
Lee Lynch Aldridge, Class of 1953	September 3, 2018
Joy Styart Guerry, Class of 1956	April 7, 2017 (new notification)
Jane Brown Cole, Class of 1957	July 22, 2018
Polly Day Puett, Class of 1957	May 28, 2018
Denise D Ellis, Class of 1959	July 30, 2018
Belinda Kellum Whitten, Class of 1960	August 31, 2004 (new notification)
Ellen Felton Ale, Class of 1963	January 3, 2019
Kathy Larue Barber, Class of 1971	June 24, 2018
Karen Newhouse Capps, Class of 1971	July 22, 1994 (new notification)
Helen Davis Collie, Class of 1973	November 7, 2015 (new notification)
Hazel Blalock Viola, Class of 1980	October 20, 2018
David Parker Lewis, Class of 2013	March 20, 2018
Beulah K Whitefield, Class Unknown	April 2, 1950 (new notification)



Connect with Alumni

1. At future Events
2. Alumni Website (wattsschoolofnursing.org/alumni)
3. [Watts School Of Nursing Facebook page](#)

Alumni Gatherings & Accomplishments

We should share class events and celebrate our accomplishments.

Has your class recently shared a milestone or other group events?

Have you recently finished an advanced degree? Published a paper or article? Completed your nursing certification? Received a local, state, or national award?

Please send us your group pictures and/or accomplishments so we can share them across our organization.

Email us at : wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com

New Officers

It is time for the appointment and election of officers for your alumni association this year. The following will be presented at the Spring Banquet as the slate of officers and board members for 2019-2021.

Melissa Murray (President), Audrey Neal (President-Elect), Chester Farley (Secretary), Gina Edwards (Database Manager), Reba Beavers (Treasurer), Susan Avent (Past-President/Board Member), Becky Dodson (At-Large/Board Member), Jasetta Perkins (At-Large/Board Member) Breanne Payne (At-Large/Board Member).

Awards & Scholarships

Ethel Clay Price Scholarships

Up to four scholarships are awarded two times a year at \$500 each. Two scholarships were awarded to the following students in **February 2019**: Anna Delaria and Molly Jarvis.

Note: The board recently voted to spend \$4000 each semester, regardless if one applicant or four meet the criteria. This change will be effective Fall 2019.

December 2018 Graduation Awards

Beulah Owens Award: James Troutman

This award was established on September 13, 1969 in honor of Miss Beulah Owens. Miss Owens graduated from the Watts Hospital School of Nursing in the Class of 1905. The recipient of the award shall be a student who has given distinguished service to his/her patients and gone beyond the call of duty as exemplified by Miss Owens during more than fifty years of service.

Burke Matthews Award: Tiera Dimitria Brown

This award shall be given at each graduation ceremony to a senior student who shall be selected by the faculty of the Watts School of Nursing. The recipient of the award shall be an outstanding student who displays a genuine dedication to nursing, in addition to devotion and loyalty to the school of nursing through his/her education performance and participation in student activities. The student displays a focus on the school, organization, and extracurricular activities.



Members from the Class of December 2012 and May 2013



Watts Graduation December 2018
Chester with new grad Nicole
Montero



December 2018 Alumni Winter Gathering



Watts December 2018 Senior Luncheon,
Chester with new grad Lisa Benton

Watts Happening...

Carolyn Perritt Tebow (1943) states she was a floor nurse, surgical nurse, director of nurses and an elementary school nurse. She enjoyed each time of employment especially the school nursing. She is currently living with her husband, Kenneth, and this year celebrating her 98th birthday and their 75th wedding anniversary. Of course, they are both retired. Projects include lots of reading, sewing, doing things for/with 10 grandchildren and 12 greats. Lucky her!

Sylvia Lynch Rowe (1957) has retired (since 2000). Her husband now has dementia. She really enjoys hearing from her classmates. She recently talked with Margaret Myers Van Buren. Her husband died recently, and she is now living in the Wilson area.

Shirley Calhoun Jarman (1960) started a humane society 25 years ago and opened a spay-neuter clinic. She loves people and animals. Shirley donated her cape to the history project.

Cora Bell McKnight (1967) states they had their home flooded in Florence with over 8 feet of nasty water in the house for 10 days.

Ruth Eubanks Freeman (1968) retired in 2007 from Caswell Central (State Employee) as Nurse Supervisor II. She is the mother of 2 boys, step mom to 4, grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of 3. She feels blessed by God.

Beckie Williams Knight (1970) has retired from Greensboro AHEC/Cone Health in 2012. She flunked retirement! Returned to AHEC in 2016 and transitioned to consultant work at UNC-CH in July 2016. She is focusing on community engagement on the Opioid epidemic and advocacy around Social Determinants of Health AND she is traveling to fun places with her family.

Peggy Bowman Shoffner (1971) has been married to Larry since 1970. She received her BSN in 1985, Certified in Gerontology since 1985 and is a member of the NC Directors of Nursing Administration Long Term Care Inc. She has two grown sons and six awesome grandchildren. She loves retirement, traveling, and spending more time with her family. She has reconnected with Watts Sisters Class of 1971 for the past several years.

Kathy Benson Lancaster (1971) is happily retired visiting with her daughters and grandchildren, traveling and reconnecting with the class of 1971.

Mary Justesen (1972) states that in addition to her big news of her retirement in March 2019, she has another grandson on the way. He is due in mid-April.

Vickie Watkins Davis (1979) writes that seven members of the Class of 1979 remain close and set sail March 4, 2019 on a Disney cruise.

Carolyn Overby Scott (1985) states she still loves being a Watts Nurse!

Heather Mackey Thompson (1995) states she has been elected to Oncology Nursing Society Board of Directors serving a 3-year term (2018-2021).

Tim Henkels (2002) states he received his NP/Masters at Duke in 2009 in adult primary care. He is opening his own Direct Primary Care practice in Tempe, AZ. He sends his best wishes to all his classmates.

Kristen Schutz (2009) completed her CNE certification in December 2017.

Chester C Farley (2012) was certified in Maternal Newborn in Nursing in 2017. He is currently working on his RN-BSN at WSSU.

Karen Baber Hicks (2013) graduated with her BSN from UNC Wilmington in May 2018. She also obtained her medical-surgical certification in the Fall of 2017.

Britton Lee Rust-Chester (2015) states she graduated with her BSN from UNCG in May 2017 and achieved her CCRN certification in September 2017. She works for Cone Health's Alamance Regional Medical Center and moved up the ladder to RN III but still works for DRH per diem. She facilitated much of her unit's education and is co-chair of the hospital wide shared governance. She was admitted into UNCC's Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program in April 2018. She has been married to her partner for 8 years as of November 2018.



*Alumni at January 2017
Freshman Meet & Greet*



*Chester and Kay assisting with L&D Sim Lab
for 2nd Semester Students, Feb 2019*

Please complete this form and mail to address below with your annual dues.

Last Name: _____ First: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____ Email: _____

Year Graduated: _____

NEW News to Share:

Amount Submitted for Dues: _____

(Note: Yearly dues are \$30.00 which covers December 1-November 30)

Donation: _____

Mail to: Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association, Attn: Treasurer
2828 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27705-2505

Note: Dues and donations are tax deductible as designated by law. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association
2828 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 200
Durham, North Carolina 27705-2505

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