

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association



President's Message

Hello!

Another year has passed, and Spring is right around the corner. 2019 was been a big year at the school. Watts School of Nursing has officially transitioned to the Watts College of Nursing. The first BSN class started January 2020 with fourteen students enrolled.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Banquet and the 125th Anniversary Tea on May 6th. It's a great time to reconnect and catch up with other alumni members. We would love to see many of you there.

If you have not already paid your dues for 2020, now is a good time to do so. Your dues help to fund many activities to support students throughout the school year. Some of those activities include scholarships, awards, and gifts given to the student body. The Watts Alumni Association is looking forward to a busy year and we welcome your participation.

Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to seeing you soon at upcoming events.

Melissa

Melissa Murray, BSN, RN, CNML
President, Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association
Class of 2000
Phone: 919-618-3150 Email: melissa.murray@duke.edu

Current Officers & Board of Directors



Members of Alumni Association Board at the Watts College of Nursing Inauguration Ceremony September 2019 (L-R: Chester Farley, Breanne Payne, Melissa Murray, Gina Edwards, Audrey Neal, Reba Beavers, Becky Dodson, Susan Avent Not Pictured: Jasetta Perkins, Elizabeth Cantor)

Melissa Murray, BSN, RN, CML
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Database Manager Class of 1993
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Jasetta Perkins
At-Large, Class of
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Elizabeth Cantor, MSN, RN, CNOR
Faculty Rep, Class of 2008
elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu



Peggy C. Walters (c. 2019)

Update from the School

Hello Watts Alumni!

July 2019 was historical as Watts received official notification from the University of North Carolina General Administration, Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools, and the North Carolina Board of Nursing for program approval for the BSN and the name change to Watts College of Nursing. After all, Watts is all about history we are 125 years young.

September 23, 2019 was also historical marking the official opening of Watts College and the inauguration of its first President. It was a glorious day with many of you joining us. The first class of the BSN program entered on January 13, 2020 and is off and running. We have had such an overwhelming response to the opening of the College, we are already preparing for the full Fall Class of an anticipated 50 students.

Our tried and true diploma students continue to do outstanding work and make us proud every day, as they have welcomed in the new students and continue to be the role models.

I have the opportunity to present at the Nursing Connect international nursing conference on February 24, 2020 in Lisbon Portugal. The

presentation is titled "125 Years -- What is Old is New Again." Watts is meeting the needs of the future, of nursing and patient care through the innovative approach of transitioning to the College. It is a great honor to make this presentation; I am extremely proud of, and thankful for the outstanding work our team has completed to make this happen. Program Outcomes continue to be very strong with job placement, student satisfaction, and NCLEX-RN results maintaining our high standards and holding steady.

Now for the highlight of 2020. May 6, 2020 will be the 125th anniversary of the Watts School of Nursing. This milestone will be celebrated with a "Spring Tea" at Watts. The Tea will begin at 2:00 pm with remarks slated for 2:30 pm. This is the Year of the Nurse, and the Tea will feature the past historical exhibits presented at the annual Alumni Banquets. Come and see yourself and fellow alumni in the exhibits! Best of all, we have a gift for you! Watts apparel and gift items will be given away at the Tea, come early to select your gift, one gift item per alumni.

Come Celebrate with Watts!!!
Peggy C. Walters, EdD, MSN, MEd, NEA-BC
Director of Nursing Education

Watts History Project Update



Donna Rogers (c.1984)

The Watts History Project Collection contains a remarkable variety of materials. For cataloging purposes, these materials are divided into two major components: paper holdings and non-paper holdings. During the past year, each file in the paper holdings was examined to ensure correct listing and placement of items. And while time consuming and tedious at times, the undertaking proved to be most worthwhile and surprisingly fruitful. Many of the more unassuming items in the collection took on new significance when once again connected with other artifacts. They tell an inspiring story of the school redefining nursing education throughout the years and the passion of its students and graduates for nursing excellence.

Several items were also sent to ECS Conservation in Browns Summit, North Carolina for restoration and preservation. They include an early class photograph and several diplomas that are truly a work of art and hand signed by the officials of the hospital and school.

Similarly, steady progress has been made on the school roster. Optimistically, a revised edition with full names and "lost" graduates will be ready for display at the upcoming Spring Tea and banquet.

Donna Rogers
Retired Faculty , Honorary Alumni Member



Betty Faulkner (c.1984)

Special Note: We would like to take the opportunity to thank Betty Faulkner, Class of 1965 and retired faculty to her dedication to the Watts History Project. Without her original suggestion and ideas for this project we would not have the collection we have today.

A Blast from the “Watts School of Nursing” Past

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



Class of 1970

Photo courtesy of the Watts History Project and Class Member Beckie Knight



Postcard of the new Watts Hospital in West Durham. Dedicated in 1902. Photo courtesy of the Watts History Project



Photo of George Watts acting as a surgeon. Estimating photo was taken at or close to the time of the first graduation in August 1897. The three young women in student uniforms were members of the Class of 1898. The nurse in a graduate uniform on the far right was Ethel Clay. The other two women were superintendents of the hospital (Elizabeth Buttles and Kathryn Featherall Troy). Photo courtesy of the Watts History Project.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND A TEA TO HONOR THE WATTS SCHOOL OF NURSING 125th ANNIVERSARY



WHEN: Wednesday May 6, 2020

TIME: 2 -4 PM

with remarks at 2:30pm

WHERE: The Watts School of Nursing
2828 Croasdaile Dr. 1st Floor, Durham, NC

RSVP: Not necessary, all are welcome to attend

Your Gift from Us: Watts Memorabilia

TOURS: If your graduating class would like a tour of the school the day of the Spring Tea or another day please contact the school to schedule. 919-470-7349.

Accomplishments



May 2019:
Sandra M. Ouellette, ScD (Hon), Med, CRNA, FAAN, Class of 1966, was

awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Wake Forest University Commencement May 2019 for dedicating five decades to the advancement and elevation of nurse anesthesia. In addition to spearheading international collaboration efforts among nurse anesthetists..



September 2019:
Watts College of Nursing inaugurates its first president, Peggy C. Walters, EdD, MSN, MEd, RN,

NEA-BC at the North Carolina School of Science and Math auditorium (formerly Watts Hospital).

**To view the Inauguration Ceremony video, go to wattsschoolofnursing.org/alumni/announcements

2019 -2020 Retirements

Carolyn Harder, Class of 1972
(Retired in April 2019)

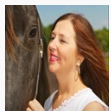


Shelley Harmon
Class of 1975
(Retired in October 2019)

Sherry B Strader, Class of 1979
(Retired in October 2019)



Teresa P. Williams,
Class of 1981
(Retired in February 2020)



Jonnie H. Blount
Class of 1988
(Retired in December 2019)

Deborah Horner, Class of 1992
(Retired in December 2019)

Announcements & Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

Date: May 6, 2020

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 (1940-1969) \$30 / Non-Alumni/Guests \$45
Graduates from Classes of Spring 2020 & Dec 2019 -- 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 2020 or December 2019 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 2019 & May 2020 Graduates RSVP via email by **April 30th** to Elizabeth Cantor at elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu

For Questions you may contact:

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

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

- ◆ **Watts School of Nursing memorabilia available** (limited selection)
- ◆ **We invite alumni members to either bring a "door prize" for the traditional door prize drawing event** (1 gift per person is appropriate)
- ◆ **Consider a monetary donation, which will support our current graduates, students, and/or scholarship fund.**

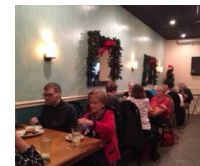
Dues for 2019-2020 are now past due. Dues are \$30, and the dues year is from December 1 to November 30. **Complete and mail-in the form included in this newsletter.**

Black Banding: May 8, 2020 at 10am at the First Pentecostal Church, Carver Street, Durham, NC

Graduation: May 8, 2020 at 2pm at the First Pentecostal Church, Carver Street, Durham, NC

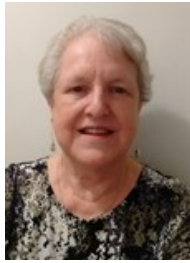
Freshman Meet & Greet: August 2020, more details coming soon

Annual Winter Gathering: We hope to see many of you **December 2, 2020 at 12pm** at Bennett Point Grill, Hillsborough Rd, Durham, NC. Mark your calendar now. Look for more details in the Fall News Update.



December 2019 Alumni Winter Gathering

Celebrating 106 years of the Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association



Financial Update from the Treasurer's Desk

Per Fiscal Year	2017	2018	2019
Dues Paying Members	38	47	57
Donations	\$ 2,385.00	\$ 6,195.00	\$ 3545.00

We are trying to develop a method to receive electronic payments from the alumni. The alumni board members are still researching available options. We appreciate the many contributions received at the 2019 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 if 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 2020

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 8068.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNT	\$ 26.28
ECPS ACCOUNT	\$ 211,286.00

In Memoriam

Eleanor F Cash, Class of 1943	January 17, 2020
Edith Monroe Smithey, Class of 1946	March 25, 2018 (recent notification)
Patty Wall Booth, Class of 1948	October 16, 2019
Nan Powell Gutierrez	May 19, 2015 (recent notification)
Betty McNeil Phillips, Class of 1948	October 19, 2019
Patricia Adams Beach, Class of 1953	December 3, 2019
Mary Stuckey Grantham, Class of 1953	December 2, 2019
Gene Bullock Jones, Class of 1953	May 30, 2019
Janie Rimmer Nix, Class of 1957	December 23, 2019
Judy Laughter King, Class of 1961	April 5, 2019
Billie Thomas Lassiter, Class of 1961	December 29, 2019
Sondra Marsh Hinnant, Class of 1961	January 30, 2020
Patricia (Patsy) Sorrell Knott, Class of 1961	September 14, 2014 (recent notification)
Carolyn Lassiter Bratcher, Class of 1964	July, 4, 2018 (recent notification)
Eloise Apple Colocho, Class of 1964	June 6, 2018 (recent notification)
Lou Siebert Leathers, Class of 1964	March 19, 2019 (recent notification)
Jonelle Thomas Mansfield, Class of 1967	February 24, 2019 (recent notification)
Mary Jane Pender Brown, Class of 1968	August 22, 2019
Louise Doherty, Class of 1969	November 16, 2019
Elinore P. Kimble Kalill, Class of 1983	April 25, 2017 (recent notification)
Margaret Riley Long, Class of 1985	January 14, 2019 (recent notification)
Sydna Dawn Martin Westbrook, Class of 1996	May 20, 2019
Marie Burns Robeson, Honorary Member	August 19, 2019
Linda H Bass, Class unknown	December 23, 2019
Anne Kennedy Riley, Class unknown	February 20, 2020



Connect with Alumni

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

Accomplishments

Terry Upchurch (Class of 2002). Co-authored a publication in November 2017 in the Supportive Care in Cancer journal. The group evaluated the effect of prophylactic naproxen or loratadine vs no prophylactic treatment on pegfilgrastim-associated bone pain. Link to article: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-017-3959-2>

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

Email us at : wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com

Volunteer Opportunity

We Need You

Duke Regional Hospital is actively recruiting volunteers and would love to have retired nurses on our team. We are in need of people to serve at the various information/welcome desks, patient experience volunteers on the nursing units and the Giftique.

Retired nurse Helen Lovern, who has served in the DRH Critical Care Unit for 12 years, shares, "Volunteering at Duke Regional all these years is something I love to do. It gives me that little nursing 'fix' that I need."

Please call Volunteer Services at 470-4150 for information or email at DRHVolunteerServices@dm.duke.edu.

Awards & Scholarships

Ethel Clay Price Scholarships

The alumni association provides \$4000 each semester, regardless if one applicant or four meet the criteria. Two scholarships will be awarded for Spring 2020 later in March.

December 2019 Graduation Awards

Beulah Owens Award:

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.

Recipient: Letesha Smith

Burke Matthews Award:

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.

Recipient: Callin Evensen



September 2019 Inauguration Ceremony at NCSSM



Watts Faculty with DRH Nursing Leadership September 2019



Candace Gentry, Class of 1991, Guest Speaker for December 2019 Graduation



Susan Avent, Class of 1976 and an Alumni Association Board Member. Presented awards at the December 2019 Graduation



Congrats to our December 2019 Graduates



Alumni Association Display at DRH February 2020

Watts Happening from Our Alumni...

Louise S Beasley (Class of 53) I am still ballroom dancing but have started to slow down some.

Ellen L Barker (Class of 58) Have been involved in many activities since graduation and is an expert in the care of individuals with neurological disorders, head injury, spinal injury, pain and all the related diseases. She has lectured nationally and internationally, published three textbooks and many articles in the nursing literature. She offers her best wished to classmates and to all those who will open the new doors to the watts College of Nursing.

L Guenn Shaw (Class of 67) After a career on Public Health nursing in Northern Virginia, I am back in Raleigh taking care of my mother who will soon celebrate her 105th birthday.

Linda Guill Clayton, (Class of 69) My husband Harvey passed away June 7, 2019. I am moving to Portland, OR to live with my daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons.

Rebecca (Beckie) Williams Knight (Class of 70) I was elected as Senior Director of Operations at AHEC-Chapel Hill in January 2019. The focus is on all statewide efforts with DHHS-Medicaid Transformation, Healthy Opportunities which is the DPH program for social determinants of health and the Opioid epidemic. "Aren't you supposed to do things you love as long as you love doing it" she asks? Well, she is still loving it.

Mary Sykes Faircloth (Class of 70) Retired in December 2016. We split our time between Colorado and Minnesota where our grandchildren live.

Kathy Benson Lancaster (Class of 71) I am loving retirement- traveling and spending time with children/grandchildren.

Mary Coleman Justesen (Class of 72) Retirement is great! I retired April 1 and my husband retired May 1, 2019. We took an extended trip in July to visit family and friends. I've enjoyed having more time for the grandsons and will say some days I think I need to go hold that baby. It was very special to be at the official opening of the Watts College of Nursing.

Susan Avent (Class of 76) Retired in May 2018. Hard to believe it has been almost 2 years. I am busier than ever and loving it!

Pamela Atkins Carden (Class of 77) After becoming certified in Maternal Newborn Nursing in 2017, she decided to retire in May 2018. She is so happy to spend time with family and friends. She has always been proud to say, "I am a Watts Nurse."

Vickie Watkins Davis (Class of 79) Seven members of the Class of 1979 had a fabulous time on a Disney Cruise recently. They plan to take more trips and will have a beach trip in September.

Audrey Daniel Neal (Class of 81) Retired from Duke Regional Hospital March 1, 2019. I have 5 wonderful grandchildren, Olivia age 7, Isabella age 4, Cameron age 5, Beau 6 months old, and Macy 13 months old.

Tracey Spoon Johnson (Class of 85) After the unexpected death of my husband in 2013, I returned to school in 2015. I graduated from the University of Mt Olive in December 2018 with my BSN. I met someone new and we plan to get married September 2020.

Terry Upchurch (Class of 2002) I moved back to NC this past year and maybe I can help at/attend one of the new student "Meet & Greet" one semester. I found that as a student, as a nurse, as a person trying to be healthy, as a person with many interests, that it is always helpful to associate with someone who has been where you are or where you are interested in going, who can offer encouraging words or tips or just allow you to see that your journey is yours but there are friends who have taken the same journey and we are waiting on them with open arms. Wishing everyone a continued great school year!

Emily Helgevoid (Class of Fall 2008) I completed my BSN from UNC-Wilmington in May 2019 and moved to Charlotte in June. I now work at Carolinas Medical Center on their Hepatobiliary surgery unit. I have been enjoying going on hikes in the mountains, meeting new people, and going to Panthers games!

Nicole Bland (Class of 2015) I completed my BSN from East Carolina University in December 2018.



Members from the Class of 1971, annual trip to Carolina Beach NC



Classmates from 1972: Sitting: Pat Pearce Pressley, Lynne Hockett Causey, Vickey Crutchfield Barnett; Standing: Claudia Chandler Chakides, Sheryl McGhee Watson



Class of 1979: In 2019 we took a Disney Cruise to celebrate our 40th anniversary of graduating from Watts. Vickie Davis, Barbara Rigsbee, Denise Clark, Lorraine (Jessee) Sinnigen, JoAnn (Duck) Dennis, Betsy Martin and Linda McMillan.

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
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Durham, North Carolina 27705-2505

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