



Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association



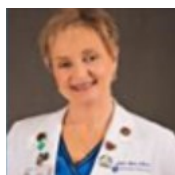
President's Message

Watts has always been known Tradition of Excellence and produces some of the best prepared and professional graduates into the field of nursing. COVID 19 has really thrown a curveball for all of us. The alumni continues to be creative in the ways we are serving students, since most of their learning is currently remote. We have had to change the way we are serving at the school, but the alumni is committed to continuing to support the school through scholarships, student and school of nursing support, and our school of nursing history project. With all that being said, we need your help with funding. If you haven't already, it is time to pay your dues! We are looking at ways for you to pay dues electronically in the future, as we realize that times are changing and that you all may need a different way to pay. We welcome your participation as we move forward. Please contact me for any questions or ideas that you may have.

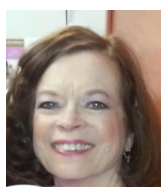
Melissa Murray, BSN, RN, CNML

President, Class of 2000
melissa.murray@duke.edu

Current Board Members



Audrey Neal, BSN, RN, NE-BC, LNC
President Elect., Class of 1981
audreytneal@gmail.com
Duke Regional Hospital, Retired



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



Susan Avent, MSN, MBA, MHA, RN, NEA-BC
Interim Treasurer, Class of 1976
fsavent@centurylink.net
Duke University Hospital, Retired



Breanne Payne, MSN, RN, CNML
At-Large, Class of 2003
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DUHS Clinical Education & Professional
Development



Chester Farley, BSN, RNC-MNN
Secretary, Class of 2012
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Duke Primary Care



Jasetta Perkins, RN
At-Large, Class of 2018
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Gina M Edwards, MSN, RN, CAPA
Database Manager, Class of 1993
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Duke Regional Hospital Periop



Elizabeth Cantor, MSN, MSM, RN, CNOR
School Liaison, Class of 2008
elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu
Nursing Instructor, Watts

Connecting with other Alumni

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

Update from the School



Dear Alumni,

What a journey the past 40 years has been. I came to Watts in 1980 and became the director in 1994. I served a stint as interim CNO at DRH in 2008-2009. DRH received MAGNET status that year with the great work of Audrey Neal and others. I then served for four years as an ACNO. Watts was always part of my responsibilities during these five years, so I never really left the School. I have served too many committees to count, with the highlight being elected to the NC Board of Nursing, three times – thank you for your support!

This and so much more has been my life's work, called to serve through nursing education and leadership. This part of the journey is now complete. I will retire June 30, 2021 after 40 years, 10 months and 22 days. The days are easy to count but the blessings, friendships, and memories are countless and abound in the reflection of unpredictable times, hard work, and the positioning of Watts for the greatness that is yet to come.

I am humbled to have had the opportunity. The calling was more than I could have ever imagined and I never dreamed I would be married to the wonderful son of a Watts graduate – just like his mom. Thank you for the privilege to share these thoughts. I would be remiss if I did not recognize Jennifer Hawkins who retired in February 2021 for her support and work at Watts. For over 20 years, Jennifer brought students to Watts that are now graduates. Her work, support, and loyalty sustained the program and administration. Your School, now the College is ready with full classes of 50 and the first class in the BSN program set to graduate in December 2021.

It takes a team and the faculty and staff have met the challenges and continue to work to serve the purpose and maintain the reputation of the finest program of nursing in North Carolina and beyond. Even in a pandemic! Watts made the transition in two weeks to go totally on line in March 2020 and returned students to in-person clinical experiences in fall 2020.

The Watts Way, steeped in the rigors of the program, is the expectation of excellence. It is the core of who we are in an ever changing health care environment. May this continue long after we are gone to carry on the rich history and legacy. I close with a heart full of gratitude for all the Alumni Association has done for the program and our students. You are the very best, and I will always cherish your friendship.

With much love and appreciation,

Peggy Walters, EdD, MSN, MEd, NEA-BC, President, Watts College of Nursing

Watts History Project Update



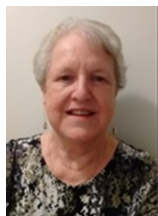
Donna Rogers (c.1981)

The Photographic Collection of the Watts History Project encompasses photographs taken throughout the history of the school from 1897 to present-day. During the past year, many rewarding hours were spent sorting and better organizing the collection. It is now stored in 12 boxes, 25 3-ring binders and includes 45 CDs with varying totals of photographs. The photographs come from a variety of sources and unfortunately in many cases came undated with subjects unidentified. They document various aspects of the school's operations along with those of the hospital and are especially rich in images of ceremonies, transformation in uniform and other aspects of student life. Covering a wide range of activities, the photographs also comprise a visual record of the vast changes that took place in the nursing profession.

Much effort was made to identify the time period and subjects in each photograph when not previously documented. As I worked with the photographs, I also recalled fond memories of my time at the school and the many students, faculty, staff and alumni I had the pleasure of knowing. I also wondered about what brought them into nursing and their individual experiences of caring for others along with those who came before and after them. I realized even more the importance in recording their stories and the far-reaching aspects of the school. It is my hope that this aspect of the history project will continue, and that the rich collection of photographs will one day be digitalized.

Donna Rogers, Retired Faculty

Remembering Reba Beavers



It is with heavy hearts that we publish this newsletter, the first since the passing of Reba Beavers in November 2020. Reba graduated from Watts Nursing School in 1968. Many of you knew her as the one 'taking the money' at the Annual Spring Banquet, but she is also known for her service to the alumni over many, many years. She served in every office at some point and volunteered to participate in projects for the school for many years.

She worked at Watts Hospital, Durham County General, Duke Regional Hospital (aka: Durham Regional Hospital) for 43 years, with 30 of those years in nursing leadership. She had a number of roles throughout her nursing career. Staff / Head Nurse on Ward R at Watts Hospital, Staff/Nurse Manager on 4-1 Telemetry at Durham County General Hospital, Nursing Informatics Specialist/Technology Educator for Durham Regional Hospital, and Operations Administrator for Duke Regional Hospital.

Reba was an early adopter of technology and was instrumental in leading our conversion from paper to electronic medical records. She was still working part-time at Duke Regional as an Operations Administrator PRN just prior to her brief illness. She is remembered for her caring approach, love of patients, Watts students, and Watts alumni. She was well known for her thoroughness, organizational skills and mentorship.

Reba was a member of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham. She and her husband, Joe went on a lot of trips with the Duke Blue Devils Basketball and Football teams. We have lost a special colleague, leader, mentor and friend. If you would like to give a donation in her memory please send to the Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association, Attn: Treasurer at 2828 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 200 Durham, NC 27705-2505.



Financial Update from the Treasurer's Desk

As you can see, dues and donations for 2020 are down significantly. We tend to get an influx of dues and donations at the spring banquet. Since we did not have the banquet, this opportunity was lost. Our main expense continues to be the production of and mailing of the newsletters/updates. We encourage you to share your email address so we can send via email and offset costs. If you have any questions about the financial status for the alumni please send inquiries to Susan Avent, Interim Treasurer, fsavent@centurylink.net

Financial Update: Data Trends		
	Total Dues	Total Donations
2016	\$2,530	\$8,940
2017	\$1,140	\$2,385
2018	\$1,410	\$6,195.26
2019	\$1,710	\$3,545
2020	\$1,480	\$1,895

Awards & Scholarships

Ethel Clay Price Scholarships

Up to four scholarships are awarded two times a year with \$4,000 being divided between the recipients.

February 2021: Melissa Murray and LaKeicha Decker.

December 2020 Graduation Awards

Beulah Owens Award: Franklin "Lee" Hollowell

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: Jennifer "Jenna" Frye

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.

In Memoriam

Frances Foushee Timberlake Class of 1942 July 15 2018 (new notification)

Mary Emma Farmer Jones Class of 1943 June 19 2013 (new notification)

Sylvia Glenn Greene Hanley Class of 1943 February 24 2019 (new notification)

Mildred Carenal Dunn Class of 1945 April 30 2019 (new notification)

Dorothy Lynn Smith Felt Class of 1945 January 5 2017 (new notification)

Louise Sanford Beasley Class of 1953 August 15 2020

Christine Justus Tickle Class of 1953 April 1 2020

Betty Jo Pickard Rigsbee Class of 1954 August 9 2020

Carolyn Malpass Canady Class of 1954 April 1 2020

Marie O Casey Class of 1956 March 28 2021

Joyce Bivins Lassiter Class of 1957 March 3 2020

Emma L. (VanHook) O'Neal Class of 1957 May 14 2020

Joan Murray Thompson Class of 1960 March 15 2020

Agnes Bennett Hughes Class of 1960 August 14 2020

Patricia Sorrells Knott Class of 1961 September 14 2014

Reba H Beavers Class of 1968 November 29 2020

Pamela A Eakes Class of 1970 March 14 2021

Carolyn Jean Hardin Class of 1971 January 16 2020 (new notification)

Betty Farrell Allen Class of 1974 December 17 2020

Debra Jean Moran Class of 1981 November 30 2020

Gregory P. Cassidy Class of 1994 June 1 2017 (new notification)

Mary Suzanne Hilbert Class of 2018 December 20 2020

Marie Jansen Class Unknown February 17 2020 (new notification)

Mary Elizabeth Harris Overman Class Unknown February 21 2021

***Please email notifications, missing class graduation date and/or obituaries about deaths of your classmates to wattaslumniassociation@gmail.com or you may call Susan Avent at 919-732-3210**



Watts Happening...

- Class of 1950 -Catherine L Blanchard – As one of the few members from the Class of 1950 still living. I am very proud of the School of Nursing's (and now College of Nursing) growth. Keep up the good work!
- Class of 1954 -Alyce Morse Walton – Oct 4, 1977 FNP Nationally Certified. I worked 31 years at Caldwell County Health Department. I retired in 2003.
- Class of 1966 – Angela Carey Pendergrass – So proud that Watts School of Nursing is now Watts College of Nursing. Thank you for all the hard, time consuming work of the faculty and this achievement.
- Class of 1971 – Peggy Bowman Shoffner – Husband Larry and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary November 21, 2020. We have 2 adult sons, 2 daughters-in law, 6 grandchildren. What a joy and many blessings. So happy our Watts Class of 1971 has reconnected and have enjoyed annual fall beach trips for the past several years. Not much communication while working and through our nursing careers but during retirement we share so much. Starting at the same point with our training but so varied in our career paths. It is amazing how much we have in common. Our friendship and bonds established at Watts shines through. We will be celebrating 50 years since graduating from Watts in 2021!
- Class of 1974 – Martha Kornegay – Still alive and doing well at the moment!. Went to Art School at ECU at the age of 49 after 20 years of nursing. Still proud to be a Watts Nurse.
- Class of 1974 – Stephen Kornegay – After graduating I went to Duke School of Anesthesia, came back to Goldsboro, and practiced at our local hospital for 38 years (and no anesthesia deaths). Now retired. Enjoying retirement and trying to stay away from COVID. We just had our 47th wedding anniversary as the first couple of Watts nurses to marry.
- Class of 1977 - Cynthia (Dianne) McLeod Hudson- Retired in 2018 from Nursing Education. Enjoying three beautiful grandchildren and cruising prior to the pandemic.
- Class of 1979 – Lorraine Jessee Sinnigen – I still have mini-Watts nursing caps for sale. They are \$15 each with the proceeds going to the Alumni Association. There are some available for local pick up in the Raleigh-Durham area and I can mail some. Contact me at lojsrn@gmail.com or through the Alumni Facebook page.
- Class of 1980 -Jane Cox Wrenn, BSN UNC-CH 1995, Brenau University MSN FNP 1998, Retired 2020. There is no other profession than nursing and medicine that truly sees the human condition. If I could, I would do it all again. I thank God for all His blessings. 3 children, 7 grandchildren and #8 coming in March 2021. So grateful to be an active loving Nana.
- Class of 1981 – Elizabeth “Liz” Frei - Retired February 26, 2021. After 36 years at Duke Regional Hospital. Beginning my career in the ICU for the first decade before transferring the Ambulatory Care Unit supporting pre-operative and postoperative care units. I will be splitting my time between Durham and Myrtle Beach. So Myrtle Beach “Here I Come!”
- Class of 1985 -Carolyn O Scott – Enjoying retirement since August 2019.
- Class of 1985 – Tracey Spoon Woodruff – Got married in September 2020. Whoppie!
- Class of 1993 -Jenny Hagler Knight – I received my master's in nursing education from Western Carolina University in May 2019. I was inducted into the Eta Psi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau in Fall 2017 while pursuing my degree.
- Class of 2012 -Mary Liesman Clement – Retired from Duke 4/24/20. I have been truly grateful to everyone I have worked with during my second career.

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

Golden Agers - Class of 1971



Class of 1971—Capping 1970, Annual Beach Trip, Graduation 1971

Alumni Association Voting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the current state of events, unfortunately we are still not able to gather for large events in North Carolina indoors. Therefore we will **NOT** be able to have our Annual Spring Banquet in May again this year.

However, we still need to take care of Alumni Business. We **need** your participation. It is time for the appointment and election of officers for our alumni association this year. Additionally, the board members have proposed some bylaw changes to incorporate growth of our school. Please review the details included below. We **need** you to vote either by mail or by an electronic ballot (See details on pg. 7).

Please complete your ballot and **submit no later than May 15, 2021.**

2021 Watts School of Nursing Alumni Bylaw Suggested Changes

#	Topic	Old language	New language	Reason
1	Name Change	Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association	Watts Nursing Alumni Association	Broaden to include College of Nursing
2	Meetings	6D. Notice of all such meetings shall be in writing given or mailed to each member not less than five (5) days or more than ten (10) days before the date set for any such meeting.	Remove bolded underlined text	To broaden to allow use of email notification
3	Seal	The seal of the association shall be circular and show around its circumference the words "Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association, Inc.," and at its center the words and figures: Corporate Seal, 1978, in accordance with the impression made at the margin of this page.	Delete.	We do not have a new seal. This is something that could be done in the future.

Slate	Term 2021-2023 Candidates	Current Elected Board Member (2021-2023)	Liaison: Non-voting
President Elect:	Breanne Payne**	President: Audrey Neal**	School: Elizabeth 'Liz' Cantor
Treasurer:	Heather Mitchell*		Golden Agers: Becky Dodson**
Secretary:	Melissa Murray**		
Database Manager	Gina Edwards		
At Large:	Susan Avent		
	Chester Farley**		
	Brittany Grant*		
	Mary Justensen*		

* New Board Member / ** New Role

Watts Alumni Association 2021-2023 New Board Members

Profiles

Mary Justensen, RN, CIC



Class of 1972
Duke Regional Hospital, Retired

Heather Mitchell, MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC



Class of 2003
Duke Regional Hospital
Manager of Patient Placement
& Interpreter Services

Brittany Grant, RN, CN II, BA



Class of 2018
Lincoln Community
Health Center
Nurse Manager

For Mail-In Ballots, please tear/cut off ballot below and mail to 2828 Croasdaile Drive #200, Durham, NC 27705-2505

♦ Ballot due date: May 15, 2021

First and Last Name:
Class Year:
Mailing Address / Email Address:
Bylaw Change #1: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove Bylaw Change #2: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove Bylaw Change #3: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove If Disapprove, Please add reason:
Slate of New Board Members: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove If Disapprove, Please add reason:
Please share any suggestions for increasing Active Membership:

To send your ballot electronically go to the following link: https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0ep9gOIt0HuDrZc

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)

Please Send Membership Card By: Mail Email

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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