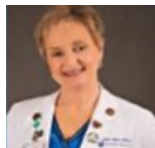




Watts Nursing Alumni Association



President's Message

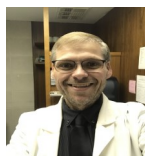
Hello everyone. I hope 2022 finds you safe and well! The Alumni Board Members have been busy providing activities for the students and Alumni. December 15th, the annual Winter Gathering Meeting was held at Bennett Point Grill. I had the honor to represent the Watts Nursing Alumni Association at Dr. Yolanda Neal's Presidential Inauguration in December. In addition, the last Watts School of Nursing graduation, the first Watts College of Nursing graduation and Black banding occurred on the same day. Two Burke Matthews Awards and two Beulah Owens Awards were presented. Susan Avent presented the Reba Beavers' Award at Black banding. Earlier in the month, the Ethel Clay Price Scholarship was awarded to four students. In January, The Alumni Board provided a luncheon for the new freshman and provided calculators. May 18th, the Spring Banquet will be held at Croasdaile Country Club. I continue to urge you to stay current with your dues to allow us to continue to support the students and faculty. Please contact me for any questions or ideas you may have.

Audrey T. Neal, BSN, RN, NE-BC, LNC
President, Class of 1981
audreytneal@gmail.com

Current Board Members



Breanne Payne, MSN, RN, CNML
President Elect, Class of 2003
breanne.payne@duke.edu
Duke University Health System



Chester Farley, MSN, RNC-MNN
At-Large, Class of 2012
unclefonzi94@yahoo.com
Duke Health Arrington Surgery Center



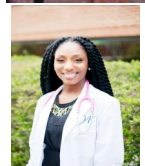
Melissa Murray, MSN, RN, CNML
Secretary, Class of 2000
melissa.murray@duke.edu
Duke Regional Hospital Mother-Baby



Mary Justesen, RN, CIC
At-Large, Class of 1972
mjustesen51@gmail.com
Duke Regional Hospital, Retired



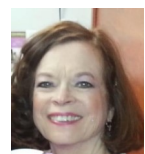
Heather Mitchell, MHA, BSN, RN, NE-BC
Treasurer, Class of 2003
heather.daniel@duke.edu
Duke Regional Patient Placement & Interpreter Services



Brittany Grant, RN, CN II, BA
At-Large, Class of 2018
bgrant869@gmail.com
Raleigh Neurology



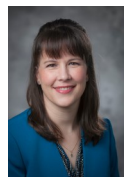
Gina M Edwards, MSN, RN, CAPA
Database Manager, Class of 1993
gmedwardsrn@juno.com
Duke Regional Hospital Periop



Rebecca Dodson, BSN, RN
Golden Agers Liaison, Class of 1961
becky.dodson704@outlook.com
McKesson Software, Retired



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



Elizabeth Cantor, MSN, MSM, RN
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

Greeting Watts Alumni!

That past few months have been filled with periods of change and transition. As we continue to deal with the impact of a global pandemic, we are learning how to develop a sense of normalcy in abnormal times. Watts College of Nursing is also now fully accredited, building on the tradition of excellence established by the rich nearly 127 year history of Watts School of Nursing.

In the Fall 2021 semester our students transitioned from virtual learning to in-person learning. In December 2021 we conducted two graduation ceremonies as the final cohort of the Watts School of Nursing and the inaugural cohort of the Watts College of Nursing participated in commencement ceremonies. Most of the graduates for the Fall 2021 semester have accepted job offers in the Duke University Health System.

“When shifts and transitions shake you to the core, see that as a sign of greatness that’s about to occur.” - Anonymous.

Watts School of Nursing is known to produce clinically competent nurses who are highly sought out within the Duke University Health System as well as the healthcare community broadly. While the closing of Watts School of Nursing marks the end of an era and a period of transition, it also signifies a time of limitless possibilities. While the name changed, the commitment to producing great nurses will forever remain the same.

Kind regards,
Yolanda Neal, DNP, RN, NEA-BC



Watts History Project Update



Donna Rogers (c.1981)

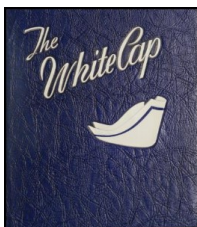
Over the years, various alumni have entrusted the WHP with their yearbooks. The collection has been scanned by the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center and is now posted at <http://digitalnc.org/exhibits/college-yearbooks>. Special thanks go to Susan Avent for her assistance with this endeavor.

The North Carolina Preservation Consortium (NCPC) offers grants to promote the preservation of collections. The grants are awarded for several types of projects, including preservation assessments, conservation and environmental monitoring. Needs of the WHP are being assessed in order to explore submitting an application.

Learning about the lives of graduates, their experiences and remarkable achievements personalize the legacy of the school and augment the artifacts in the history project’s holdings. Oral history is one of the research methods used and a most enjoyable aspect of the project. Your assistance is needed in gathering the myriad of stories that have yet to be told and information on how to become involved will be forth coming.

A compilation of vignettes about graduates of the program is also in the works. Below is one that was recently completed

Watts Nursing History



Our Yearbooks are now digital...

[North Carolina Yearbooks - DigitalNC](#)

Remembering Mary Newton



Mary McLean Newton. Class of 1947

February 22, 1927 - October 26, 2021

She became a cadet nurse at Watts Hospital. She dedicated 43 years to nursing. She was the charge nurse/nurse manager in the newborn nursery the last 38 years of her career at Watts Hospital and at Durham County General Hospital (Now Duke Regional). She retired in 1990 leaving a lasting impression on all those who knew and worked with her.

Even after retirement Mary continued to support the Alumni Association, the school, and future nurses. She dedicated the first Newborn Nursery skills lab to the school which is still used currently today.

The Newton family continues to support the school and made a donation in February for the purchase of equipment for student skills lab.

Awards & Scholarships

Ethel Clay Price Scholarships Spring 2022

Up to four scholarships are awarded two times a year with \$4,000 being divided between the recipients. This Spring's recipients are Carly Redlawsk, Jerrie Bollinger, Candice Horrell and Breanne Payne.

December 2021 Graduation Awards

Beulah Owens Award: Shelby Decker (WCON) & Naomi Jaimes-Chavez (WSON)

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 selected by faculty 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: Tori Slusser (WCON) & Sonja Reynoso (WSON)

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.

December 2021 Black Banding Award

Reba Beavers Memorial Award: Olivia Debellis (WCON)

This award to a rising junior who has demonstrated leadership qualities in their clinical or school performance. This is given to the student who volunteers without hesitation and gets the job done. This student must exhibit compassion, patience, mentoring, and sacrifice. This student must show strength in leadership, communication, and advocacy as they continue to advance the profession Reba so passionately led and loved.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

Date: May 18, 2022

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 (1940-1971) \$30 / Non-Alumni/Guests \$45
Graduates from Classes of Dec 2019– May 2022 -- **No Cost**

RSVP Deadline: All checks must be received by **May 9, 2022**
No Reservation will be accepted after this date.

If you as an alumni member would like to support a December 2019-May 2022 graduate for the banquet, please indicate the amount of your donation with your check and RSVP response.

Please make checks payable to: Watts Nursing Alumni Association

Mailing Address: Watts Nursing Alumni Association

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

Email Registration for Graduates between December 2019- May 2022

RSVP via email by **April 29, 2022** to Elizabeth Cantor at elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu

For Questions you may contact:

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 2021-2022 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 20, 2022 at the NC School of Science and Math. Ceremony time not yet determined, please check WCON website for details (wattscollegeofnursing.edu)

Graduation: May 20, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the NC School of Science and Math

Annual Winter Gathering: We hope to see many of you **December 7, 2022 12p at Bennett Point Grill** Durham, NC. Mark your calendar now. Look for more details in the Fall News Update.



January 2022 Freshman Meet and Greet Luncheon



Dec 2021 Reba Beavers Memorial
Award recipient, Olivia Debellis
with Susan Avent and Joe Beavers

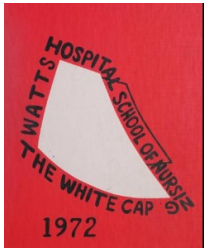
Watts Happening...

- Class of 1957-Charlottte Cotten Eason-I am a 1957 graduate of Watts Hospital School of Nursing. I have always been proud of the school and feel that I received excellent training there. I think it was a wise move to switch to a BSN program. This is needed in today's medical field. I am retired now, but have many happy memories of my time at Watts.
- Class of 1966-Sylvia Scarlette Tyndall-Although I have no outstanding awards or recognition, I wanted to share my success story. I entered Watts in the fall of 1963 because I had always wanted to be a nurse, had heard Watts was one of the best schools in the country, could afford tuition and it was close to my home in Raleigh. For the next three years I was immersed in hard work and total dedication to learning the life of a nurse. I made lifelong friends and through the Watts Glee Club met my future husband. Oh the stories I could tell. At Watts I became prepared to be a Hands-on nurse, but the more important lessons were in dedication, compassion, commitment and service. I will always believe nursing is a calling, not just a profession and my time at Watts supported that. After I graduated in 1966, I had non-traditional jobs: a short stint in the UNC-CH student Infirmary, supervisor of Murdoch Center Infirmary and then entry into the world of long term care (at a time when "you work in a nursing home if you can't find anywhere else"). From 1970 until my retirement in 2012 I worked in long term care. I could never have accomplished my life's work had it not been for Watts. I chose not to pursue a degree, so I am a diploma; I believe the Watts school has retained those qualities of education through the ensuing years and hopefully into the College. In my working years I was honored to serve countless elders and families, as well as meet peer professionals and mentor hundreds of nursing assistants and young nurses. My greatest reward is to continue to have a nurse tell me "I am nurse because of you". Thank you Watts for starting me on my way.
- Class of 1972-Mary Coleman Justesen-I will be having my first granddaughter this year-probably in March. Daughter Ellen Carr (WSN 2008) is mom to be. Retirement is great and I am busier than ever. Hope we will be able to have the banquet this year.
- Class of 1974-Cathy Austin Leathers-After 40 plus years of nursing as a diploma graduate, I completed my BSN degree September 1, 2020 from Chamberlain College of Nursing with honors. I retired during the pandemic and pursued my degree as a personal goal.
- Class of 1977-Gena Galyean Near-I have a total of 2 great nieces (both 4 years old) and 3 great nephews (two 3 years old and one 2 years old). My husband of 42 years (Bart) and I never had any children of our own, so they are like grandchildren to us. I just walked a 5K race (11/6/2021) "Miles for Meals".
- Class of 1987-Susan Matzke Hall-Just celebrated 30 years at Wake Med in Raleigh. Completed BSN in 2008. Certification ACM. Watts gave me an opportunity to have a great career. Thank you.
- Class of 1995-Heather Thompson Mackey- Completed a three year term as secretary for national ONS Board of Directors (May 2022). Enrolled in the DNP program at UNCG-expected graduation May 2022.
- Class of 2013-Karen Hicks- Graduated in December 2020 with MSN in Nurse Education from UNCW. Working on Clinical Nurse IV clinical ladder hopefully by November 2021.

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 1972



Class of 1972

Financial Update from the Treasurer's Desk

Dues collected do not meet current expenses. 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. Total donations include donations designated for the ECP Scholarship and the Reba Beavers Award. 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. Since we are a non-profit organization, all donations and dues paid are tax deductible. If you have any questions about the financial status for the alumni please send inquiries to heather.daniel@duke.edu.

Financial Update: Data Trends		
	Total Dues	Total Donations
2016	\$2,530	\$8,940
2017	\$1,140	\$2,385
2018	\$1,410	\$6,195
2019	\$1,710	\$3,545
2020	\$1,480	\$1,895
2021	\$1,620	\$8,430

Alumni Association Fall 2021 Gift to School





In Memoriam

Alumni Name	Year of Graduation	Date of Death	
Mildred Cross Biscardi	1944	Dec 19, 2021	
Margaret Cameron Tew	1945	Aug 29, 2021	
Lois Lee Bowen	1947	Oct 21, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Ruby Laws York	1947	Aug 3, 2016	<i>New Notification</i>
Louise Beam McKee	1947	Jan 23, 2022	
Mary McLean Newton	1947	Oct 26, 2021	
Geralean Blackmon McLamb	1948	April 29, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Joyce Odell McRae Gregory	1949	Dec 27, 2021	
Anna Jordan Whitefield	1951	April 1, 2017	<i>New Notification</i>
Pollyanna Williams Beale	1952	July 13, 2014	<i>New Notification</i>
Eunice Fisher Brown	1952	Dec 2, 2010	<i>New Notification</i>
Marie Smith Adams	1952	Jan 30, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Edna Crew Caruthers	1952	Jan 10, 2022	
Doris Latta Pillow	1955	Nov 3, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Thelma Browning Cheek	1956	April 30, 2021	
Nancy Murphy Mendenhall	1958	Feb 24, 2021	
Donna Jordan McLean	1959	Jan 30, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Dawana Faye Daniel	1959	May 24, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Janice Harper Smith	1959	Jan 21, 2022	
Joyce Royal Vick	1960	Aug 19, 2021	
Joyce Sutton Jones	1961	Feb 17, 2022	
Linda Roach Campbell	1963	Nov 29, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Carolyn Rae Swain	1963	Feb 17, 2017	<i>New Notification</i>
Rachel Walker Boone	1963	Feb 5, 2022	
Kyle Fonville Howard	1963	Mar 30, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Billie Privette Wilson	1964	Jul 18, 2021	
Lou McDonald Tower	1964	July 16, 2021	
Betty Jean O'Neal Eggleston	1965	Jan 23, 2022	
Gwendolyn Turner McAllister	1968	Dec 31, 2017	<i>New Notification</i>
Beth Turlington Sayre	1969	April 24, 2020	<i>New Notification</i>
Anne Woods Gilchrist	1972	Aug 4, 2019	<i>New Notification</i>
Patty Turner Poole	1980	Jan 24, 2022	
Gayl Talbert Perkins	1995	April 3, 2021	

Please notify us of any alumni deaths. Please reach out to either our Golden Ager Liaison, our group email (wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com) or call Susan Avent at 919-732-3210.

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

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