

NEWSLETTER

Watts Nursing Alumni Association

President's Message

Hello Alumni and Happy Spring!

I'm delighted to update you on the latest developments at the Watts College of Nursing (WCON).

WCON has successfully passed three re-accreditation surveys: ACEN, ABHES, and NCBON. I want to thank our dedicated faculty and staff for their efforts! We're also pleased to announce that a new clinical instructor will be joining the WCON in March 2026.

Additionally, WCON is currently reviewing over 100 student applications for Fall 2026. We invite you to attend the Watts Alumni Association Spring Banquet in May—we'd love to see you there!

If you have any ideas or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Betty Harmon, MSN, RN, CAPA, NE-BC
(elizabeth.harmon@duke.edu)



The Watts College of Nursing is now located in the Duke Health's Interprofessional Education and Care Center. The address to the school is 311 Trent Drive, 3rd Floor Durham, NC 27710

Mark Your Calendar: Important School Dates

- WCON Ceremonies are listed below and will be held at the [Page Auditorium](#) on Duke University Campus on May 15th, 2026
 - Black Banding-10am (32 students)
 - Graduation- 1pm (38 students)



May 2026 Watts Nursing Alumni Spring Banquet

Date- 5/13/2026

Time- 5:00pm

Location- Croasdaile Country Club: 3800 Farmgate Avenue Durham, NC 27705

Price- Graduating Students (December 2025 and May 2026)-Free, Alumni-\$45, Golden Agers-\$35 Guests-\$45

RSVP*- Valid once payment is received by Check or Zelle.

DEADLINE- 5/1/2026

All checks should be mailed to:

Duke Regional Hospital:
Attention Watts Nursing Alumni Association-Box #17
3643 North Roxboro Road
Durham, NC 27704

For General Questions you may contact Susan Avent at (fsavent@centurylink.net) or 919-632-2011

*A cash bar will be made available * **NO late payments** will be accepted



ALUMNI BOARD NEWS AT A GLANCE

Alumni Board Members

Current Officers

President- Betty Harmon 03'
 Secretary- Breanne Payne 03'
 Database Manager-Gina Edwards 93'
 Treasurer- Jason Miles 08'

Board of Directors

President Elect-Paula Cates 84'
 Director- Audrey Neal 81'
 Director- Karen Hicks 13'
 Director- Breean Rogers 07'
 Director- Anne Browning 05'

Liasion

History Project- Susan Avent 76"
 Golden Agers- Becky Dodson 61'
 School- Elizabeth Cantor 08"

AWARDS and RECOGNITION

Beulah Owens	December 2025	Joshua Dishman
Burke Matthews	December 2025	Kenyscha Jones
Reba Beavers	December 2025	Savannah Greene
Ethel Clay Price	February 2026	Kelsey Lawrence
Ethel Clay Price	February 2026	Megan Lane
Ethel Clay Price	February 2026	Sharice Potts

TREASURERS REPORT

Ethel Clay Price Fund- \$227,053.79

Savings- \$26.75

Checking- \$9,577.38

Reba Beavers Scholarship- \$6379.85

*A motion to increase the Reba Beavers scholarship to \$250 per semester was approved by the board.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 ALUMNI CONTRIBUTORS

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Wendi Austin | Cynthia Hudson |
| Monica Belgado | Janice Izlar |
| Catherine Blanchard | Patricia Jarrell |
| Dr. Ruth Cole Boone | Catherine Jernigan |
| Patsy Brady | Tracy Johnson |
| Karen Bradford | Mary Justesen |
| Elizabeth Cantor | Heather Mackey |
| Sandra Carlino | Kathy Lancaster |
| Leona Caviness | Shari Laforce |
| Sarah Caviness | Vickie McKee |
| Betty Compton | Jason Miles |
| Ruth Cox | Heather Mitchell |
| Barbara Crutchfield | Audrey Neal |
| Vickie Davis | Patricia Odell |
| Sue Davidson | Martha Parrish |
| Rebecca Dodson | Barbara Pierce |
| Deanne Edwards | Donna Priest |
| Gina Edwards | Van Rhew |
| Linda Ellington | Barbara Rigsbee |
| Juanita Fisher | Rosalin Robinson |
| Spencer Foscue | Rhonda Sheagley |
| Marilyn Goldstein | Peggy Shoffner |
| Shelley Harmon | Frances Shore |
| Alecia Harrison | Gail Shue |
| Stephanie Harward | Linda Skinner |
| Jennifer Hawkins | Betty Sloat |
| Cheryl Hicks | Jane Watkins |
| Norkie Hines | Elizabeth Woody Russell |
| Doris Hodges | Bobbie Wheeler |
| Doris Hollowell | Sherry Young |

Dues are DUE!

\$35 are due each November! Please send checks to:

Duke Regional Hospital
 Attention: Watts Nursing Alumni Association Box #17
 3643 North Roxboro Road
 Durham, NC 27704

Include **year of and name at graduation, current name, address, phone number and email** so that we can maintain accurate records!

Zelle Pay is also an option!

Watts Nursing Alumni Association

@Heather.Daniel@Duke.edu

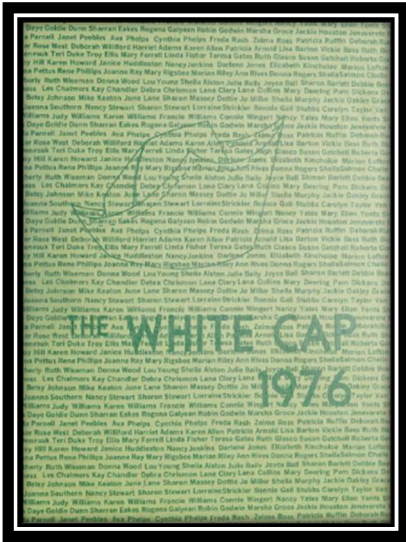


GOLDEN AGERS-CLASS OF 1976

STUDENT COUNCIL



Edin Jehson, Judy Williams, Patricia Harris, Jewel Harrell, Rose West, Pam Dickens, Peggy West, Sheila Salmon, Sherry Anderson, Janet Chamelin, Sherry Walker, Sharon Stewart, Mary Deering, Cheryl Andrews, Mrs. Panny Holloway, Advisor

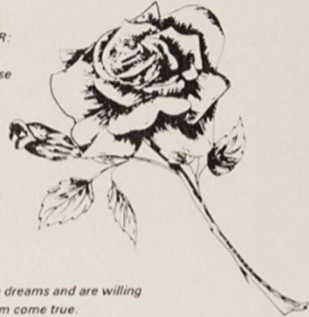


CLASS OF 1976

- Shelia Ann Alston
- Julie Ann Bailey
- Joyce Faye Ball
- Sharon Marie Doorley Bartlett
- Deborah Rose Jones Beavers
- Leona Jane Brady
- Virginia Louise Brewer
- Bronda Faith Parker Burton
- Clara Dixon Butler
- Sarah Louise Caviness
- Lester Vermont Chalmers III
- Celene Kay Chandler
- Debra Ann Chrismon
- Lana Joyce Strother Collins
- Mary Maud Deering
- Pamela Jan Dickens
- Marilyn Lynn Godwin Eubanks
- Glenda Gertrude Marks George
- Marsha Ruth Goodwin
- Debra Ann Harris
- Patricia Irene Harris
- Donna Gail Humble
- Kathy Dawn Ingle
- Betsy Jo Johnson
- Michael David Keaton
- June Rae Lane
- Sharon Lynne Massey
- Dorothy Jo Miller
- Sheila Ellen Murphy
- Jackie Leigh Oakley
- Grace Ann Poole O'Briant
- Sarah Elizabeth O'Connor
- Kay Frances Porterfield Parker
- Faye Lynn Olive Parker
- Donna Sue Harrison Presnell
- Cynthia Dawn Rainey
- Sybil Denise Balltzglier Sink
- Debra Jo Bowling Smith
- Joanna Lynn Southern
- Nancy Sue Stewart
- Sharon Elizabeth Stewart
- Lorraine Marie Pope Strickler
- Bonnie Gail Stubbs
- Carolyn Evon Taylor
- Servan Leigh Umstead
- Linda Carol Underwood
- Nina Sue Vincent
- Judy Dianne Thompson Wagoner
- LaRae Weckerling
- Peggy Louise West
- Susan Gayle West
- Pamela Elaine Whitlow
- Cathye Jo Grady Williams
- Judy Lynn Williams
- Karen Jo Williams
- Stella Frances Williamson
- Constance Helen Wingert
- Nancy Carolyn Lloyd Yates
- Mary Ellen Yonts

Seniors

CLASS FLOWER:
Red Rose



CLASS MOTTO:
Happy are those who dream dreams and are willing to pay the price to make them come true.

Three Years. Some Good. Some Bad. Deep inside you miss it and sometimes it even hurts.

CLASS OF 1976



Anyone remember any of these folks? This is the freshmen class picture taken in 1973 upon entry. There were 59 grads and I have only been able to get contact info on 20. Please **contact Susan Avent** if you do!

Watts Alumni – Golden Agers!

Attention ALL graduates. This year we are celebrating the class of **1976!** **Members of this class will become a Golden Ager after the 2026 Banquet.** This means you have been a graduate of Watts Nursing 50 years. Hard to believe! Your class will be showcased at the banquet.

Being a Golden Ager means you no longer need to pay dues unless you want to give as a donation to the Watts Nursing Alumni Association. After 2026, you get a discount on the cost of the yearly banquet. We ask that you keep the Association informed of address, phone number (mobile and land line,) and email address changes by contacting Gina Edwards at gina.edwards@duke.edu or wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com

We love hearing from each one of you. Questions: **Contact Becky Dodson at 919-219-2244.**

~ Becky Dodson, Class of 1961

WATTS HISTORY PROJECT (WHP)

A COLLECTION OF HISTORICAL ITEMS DEPICTING THE HISTORY OF THE WATTS SCHOOL OF NURSING 1895-PRESENT

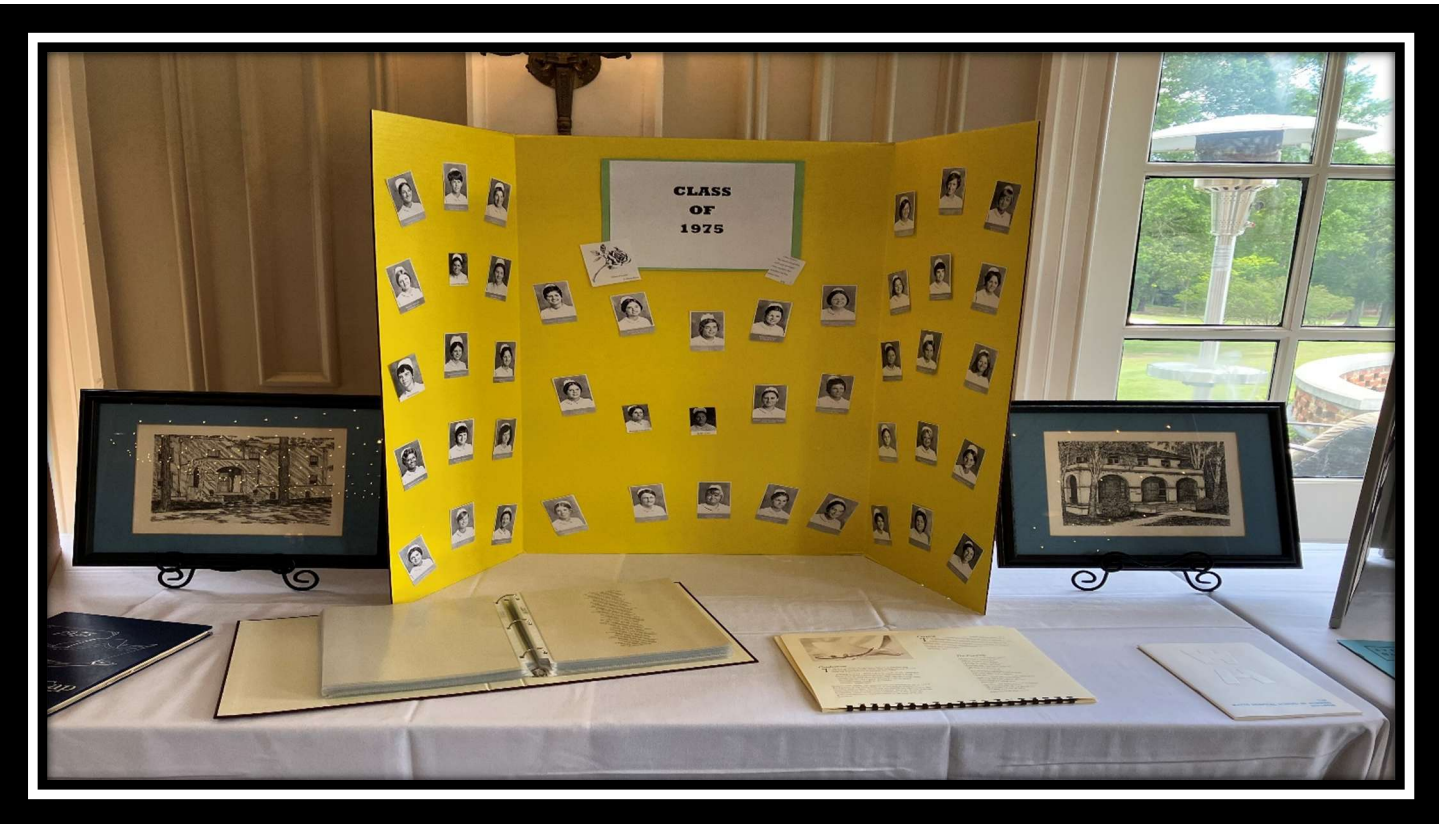
The WHP has experienced much change in the last year. Prior to the move of the school to the Duke University campus last summer, the collection was housed at the School on Croasdaile Drive. Items were stored in 3 rooms and in multiple glass showcases throughout the school. We were notified by the school that there was no available storage space at the Duke Campus location. There was a search for storage facilities that were climate controlled given the nature of the items i.e., paper items, newspaper articles (some from later 1890s already yellowing and crumbling), slides, CDs, and DVDs to name a few. Needless to say, storage is expensive. We chose Public Storage that was convenient to add items and appeared to be secure. The move was made by the same company that moved the school. Many items were already stored in archival boxes/wrapping that preserve materials. Remaining items were boxed and all boxes were carefully relabeled. Thanks to Audrey Neal for her help! The move to a 10 X 15-foot space was in early October. It is packed. The monthly cost is \$120, part of which the school is covering and alumni will cover the balance. The collection includes items starting in 1895.

Paper items include Graduation, Black Banding, and Capping programs (some have not been procured or donated); handbooks, diplomas, yearbooks, hundreds of books that I have put in excel spreadsheet (some first editions from late 1800s), alumni incorporation papers, scrapbooks, MANY pictures, a collection of Cherry Ames Nurse books (20+), just to name a few. There are over 40 boxes of materials. Non-paper items include a collection of slides, CDs, DVDs, metal bedpans, metal urinals, glass syringes, BP cuff, pins, caps, silver collection (part of which used to be displayed in glass showcase in school), framed pen and ink pictures and many other pictures, Dolls (large and small, ~ 20+), memorabilia with the pin and/or cap, capes, uniforms over the years. AND MUCH MORE!!!!

Items are used for display for the annual banquet. There is a large display for the class becoming Golden Agers. Last year that was the class of 1975. The pictures that follow are of the items exhibited. I shared a few in the Fall newsletter but I wanted you to see all that was displayed and larger since we have plenty of space now.



WATTS HISTORY PROJECT



WATTS HISTORY PROJECT



Anybody remember this?

Looks like a 70s uniform (left).

This wheelchair (right) was given to the NC Museum of History March 3. It was taking up so much space in storage so we needed to find a home.



FUTURE PLANS FOR THE WATTS HISTORY PROJECT

1. Digitization of holdings. Over 700 slides are at UNC for digitization now. These will be placed on web site where the yearbooks were placed after being digitized. The web address is: <https://lib.digitalnc.org/>. Check it out. This is a free service but they cannot do much at a time. We need to investigate other services that digitize (i.e. Legacy); however, they are very expensive. We will have to depend on donations to use this option. We have CDs and slides that we do not have the equipment to even view; therefore, they are on list to be done. The list also includes MANY scrapbooks and newspaper articles.
2. Find home for framed pictures of pen and ink drawings of Watts campus, hospital, and dorms. Also pictures of George Watts. The NC Museum of history is interested.
3. **CELEBRATE** the class of 1976 at the May 2026 banquet.

For Watts History Project inquiries please contact Susan West Avent '76 Watts History Project Liaison fsavent@centurylink.net 919-632-2011



IN MEMORIAM



Corrine Soloman Logan-Class of 1947

Joyce Westmoreland Bumpass- Class of 1952

Greta Jean Powell- Class of 1960

Barbara Terrell Olddham- Class of 1960

Phyllis Jacqueline Bagley Norton-Class of 1960

Diane Steed Long- Class of 1961

Patricia Ann Humphrey-Kloes- Class of 1963

Helen Marlene Warren Thacker-Class of 1963

Joyce Elizabeth Gill Hazlewood-Class of 1964

Alice Jane Wilson Hayes-Class of 1968

Jean Haswell Calderone- Class of 1972

Geneva Fuller Fearington-Class of 1972

Rita George Clarke- Class of 1975

Nancy Sue Stewart- Class of 1976

Lana Joyce Strother- Class of 1976

Pamela Elaine Whitlow Bailey- Class of 1976

Audrey Ann Greene-Class of 1979

*This list reflects notifications received since our 2025 Spring Newsletter.
To share additional names, contact us at wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com

We remember and honor the following individuals who passed away.

Their contributions, dedication, and impact on our community will not be forgotten.

