

# WATTS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Everyone!

This year, Watts School of Nursing is 123 years old!

It is a new year, a new day, a new time. Reevaluate and think about what you can do for your alumni association.

WE NEED YOU!!!! Support **YOUR** alumni. Consider.....

Did you pay your annual dues by November 2017?

Have you donated funds towards supporting a student at banquet or through scholarships?

Have you volunteered to attend/bring goodies for a Freshman class MEET and GREET event held twice a year?

Have you attended the Annual Banquet or Winter Gathering in the last 2 years?

Have you talked with your classmates to get a group together to attend the Banquet or Winter Gathering?

This year's Spring Banquet will be held on May 9, 2018 at the Croasdaile Country Club. Come meet our newest Watts graduate nurses from the classes of December 2017 and May 2018.

Celebrate 50 years with the class of 1968. You may have your own milestone to celebrate, whether it be 25 years, 15 years, 10 years, or 5 years. Reconnect with your classmates!

Please contact any officer if you are interested in assisting in any way.

We are working hard to maintain alumni activities and support the school, especially with the transition to a baccalaureate program.

Thanks for your time,

*Susan Avent*

Class of 1976

Email: [wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com) or [fsavent@centurylink.net](mailto:fsavent@centurylink.net)

Alumni Website: <http://wattsschoolofnursing.org/alumni>

## CURRENT OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Avent, MSN, MBA, MHA, RN, NEA-BC  
*Class of '76 – President*

Melissa Murray, BSN, RN, CNML  
*Class of '00 – President Elect*

Gina M. Edwards, MSN, RN, CAPA,  
*Class of '93 – Secretary*

Reba H. Beavers, BSN, MBA, MHA  
*Class of '68 – Treasurer & Database Manager*

*Past President / At Large - Vacant*

Rebecca Dodson, BSN, RN  
*Class of '61 - At Large*

Sherry Warren BSN, RN  
*Class of '03 – At Large*

Elizabeth Cantor, MSN, RN, CNOR  
*Class of '08 – At Large*

Chester Farley, RNC-MMN  
*Class of '12 – At Large*

## ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

**Date:** May 9, 2018

**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 (1940-1967) \$30 Non-Alumni/Guests -- \$45  
Graduates from Classes of Spring '18 & Dec '17 -- No Cost

**RSVP Deadline:** All checks must be received by **May 1, 2018** to reserve your seat and meal.

- If you as an alumni member would like to support a May 2018 or December 2017 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 2017 & May 2018 Graduates, please RSVP via email by **May 1st** to Elizabeth Cantor at [elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu](mailto: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 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](mailto:rebabeavers@nc.rr.com) or Susan Avent 919-732-3210/[fsavent@centurylink.net](mailto:fsavent@centurylink.net)

## Celebrate Alumni Accomplishments!

- ❖ Dr. Ruth Cole Boone, CNM, DNP (1975) was inducted into the Fellowship of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, May 2017. The summary of all inductees was included in the Journal of Nurse-Midwifery. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jmwh.12672/full>
- ❖ Audrey Neal, BSN, RN, NE-BC, LNC (1981) received the North Carolina Great 100 Award October 2017. She was also inducted into Sigma Theta Tau as a Community Service Member.
- ❖ Margaret (Meg) Fenu (2013) states she completed her BSN from University of Mount Olive in May 2016 and obtained her SCRN certification (Stroke Certified Registered Nurse).

We need to celebrate our accomplishments. 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 accomplishments so we can share across our organization.

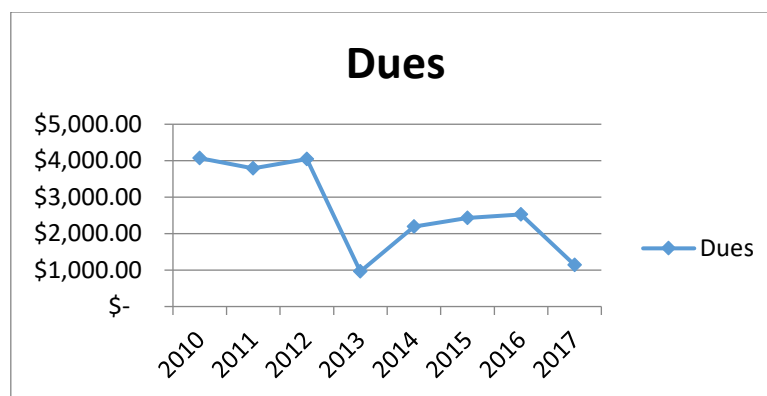
Email us at [wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Dues for 2017-2018 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**
- ❖ **SAVE THE DATE** for our **Annual Winter Gathering**: Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 5pm.
- ❖ **Board Member Vacancy:** We currently have a position open for 1 year. If you are interested in fulfilling this need or have questions, please contact Susan Avent, current president, or any of the board members.

## FINANCE UPDATE

During 2017 we saw a 55% decrease in dues compared to 2016. For the 2017 fiscal year, we received \$1140 in dues; however, we did receive \$2385 in contributions. Dues and contributions are used for yearly operations i.e., banquet, printing and mailing of newsletters, gifts for students, treats/goodies at exam time for the students, etc. A reduction of funds can impact yearly operations. Several members have asked about donations to the alumni, these are certainly welcome and will be used to pay for a graduating senior at the banquet or other expenses.



## Ethel Clay Price Scholarships

Up to four scholarships are awarded two times a year at \$500 each.

Three scholarships were awarded to the following students in **February 2018**: Amber Alexander, Brittany Grant, and Molly Jarvis.

## December 2017 Graduation Awards

- Beulah Owens Award: Morgan Mangum
- Burke Matthews Award: Chrisabel Bofill

## IN MEMORIAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Watts Class</u>	<u>Death</u>
Lucille Hill Brooks Becton	Class of 1940	May 2017
Pauline Stuckey Weaver	Class of 1940	March 2015
Marguerite McQuire Hilliard	Class of 1943	February 2012
Doris Strickland McClintock	Class of 1945	January 2018
Camilla Burcham Foushee	Class of 1946	November 2016
Frances Kathleen Rhodes Taylor	Class of 1949	October 2015
Violet Christine Lamm Dye	Class of 1951	February 2018
Betty Frances Nichols Enscoe	Class of 1955	August 2017
Linda Walker Wooten	Class of 1958	January 2017
Melinda Long Royall	Class of 1959	January 2017
Brenda Brown Campbell	Class of 1961	June 2017
Martie Kincer Byrum	Class of 1963	May 2017
Linda Dezern Layton Kessler	Class of 1979	April 2017
Ella Bradshaw Bryant	Class of 1984	December 2017
Gwendolyn M. Pickett Leary	Class of 1993	January 2017

### Other Alumni Deaths....

If any of the alumni have specific information on which class the following alumni were members of could you please contact Reba Beavers at [rebabeavers@nc.rr.com](mailto:rebabeavers@nc.rr.com) or bring the information to the Spring Banquet.

1. Rae Koshar Leff (age 91), date of death 2/2015
2. Anne Queen, date of death 9/25/2016
3. Emily Lee Maness, date of death 2/8/2017
4. Bette McRae Williams (age 86), date of death 5/25/2017
5. Mary Roberts Terry (age 87), date of death 9/2/2016
6. Mary Madren Melton (age 86), date of death 2/16/2016
7. Edna Harden Byrd (age 86), date of death 6/6/2017
8. Rose Kendrick (age 76), date of death 1/27/2018
9. Edna Perkins Elliott (age 80), date of death 1/4/2018
10. Frances Green Crabtree (age 95), date of death 1/29/2018
11. Lee Page Matthews (age 85), date of death 9/4/2016

## UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL

Hello Watts Alumni!

2017-2018 has proven to be another great year for Watts!

In October, Watts had its final site visit from the Accreditation Bureau for Health Education School (ABHES) and in February received word that Watts is accredited as an **institution**. Hurray! This is another step closer to becoming a BSN program.

The BSN work continues; it is often a slow process, but the work continues to move forward. The School is in the final stages of selecting a Student Information System for placing everything online: from recruitment, enrollment, transcripts and so much more. The plan is to have a new system in place by the fall to run parallel with the current system before going live in spring, 2019. Watts plans to keep our current Learning Management System – Sakai.

Students are doing well. We are here because they are here. The fall semester entered 37 freshmen and the spring semester entered 47, yes, we filled the class and more. For Spring, 2018, there are 157 students in the nursing classes. The Fall Class 2017 and Spring Class 2018 both had 96% pass on NCLEX and all graduates have jobs, most before graduation. Amy Gira, senior at Watts, is current President for the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students (NCANS), Watts is very proud of all her hard work.

Employers are 100% satisfied with Watts' graduates and our recent alumni are 94% satisfied with their education. The graduation rate is 81% up from 61% in 2014. The work faculty has done to make this happen is outstanding, while keeping the NCLEX scores high and assisting students with varying needs.

Faculty members Clair Bassett, MSN, and Marybeth Lenz, MSN have been selected by the Triangle Business Journal as Health Care Heroes for 2018. Congratulations to Claire and Marybeth.

The outcomes and success at Watts directly reflect the commitment of our faculty, staff, and support from DRH administration. The traditions of caring, making it happen, and success abound in the School.

In a few short weeks, we will again be at the Spring Banquet and I look forward to seeing each of you and sharing the latest update the School.

Best regards,  
Peggy C. Walters, EdD, MSN, MEd, NEA-BC  
Director of Nursing Education  
Associate Chief Nursing Officer

## Watts History Project Update

The Watts History Project continues to make new discoveries that enhance our understanding of the school's past. Current research is focused upon the directors of the school since the establishment of the position in 1936. An exhibit summarizing our interesting and inspiring findings is being planned for the spring banquet.

Another endeavor involves the school roster that was originally compiled from both early and recent school lists. Using school records and various genealogy resources, efforts are being made to ensure correct spelling and to include the graduate's full name when possible. A most rewarding facet of this endeavor is learning about the lives of many of our graduates and their contributions to the school's long-lasting legacy of excellence.

A further focus, and primary concern entails maintenance of the history collection. Stored items are reviewed for condition and any identified repair or preservation need is addressed. Scrapbooks present special challenges and recent undertakings have been directed toward keeping several intact.

Best Regards,  
Betty Faulkner, Class of 1965  
Donna Rogers, Retired Faculty



Do you know anyone in this photo? What year? What was the special occasion?  
Come share the history and the memories with us at the Spring Banquet.

## WATTS Up ...

- Mildred Carneal '45 states she was in a class of 18 and was a member of the special class that was taken in the early 40's during the war. She was a cadet nurse and went to Seattle WA to nurse at an area hospital. She had planned to go into the navy but met a boy there who had come into port for repair of his ship and they dated. He was in the Navy, and they were married for 70 years. She lost him to a stroke in 2014. She is the last one in her class alive. She turned 94 February 28<sup>th</sup>. She left nursing and got her Masters in Geology at the University of Reno. Her small class graduated with another class.
- Hazel Bryan Lathan '51 states she still enjoys her life at The Village at Brookwood in Burlington NC. Her dear and wonderful husband died 7 years ago. After 57 years of marriage she has four great children and four great grandchildren, and there are no great grandchildren yet. She teaches Sunday School and has devotions for shut ins at Edgewood. She works in the health clinic and is on the "Care and Concern Committee" sending cards and visiting shut-ins. She has a good life with one drawback: she needs to use a walker for balance problems. Otherwise all is good.
- Marion Louise Sanford Beasley '53 states she will be 86 on May 30, 2018. This was not in the last newsletter. She is still dancing at Fred Astaire studio.
- Betsy Kennedy Gresham '55 states her husband, Buck, died of Alzheimer's disease, February 26, 2016.
- Anita Arrington Krzywicki '64 state she is really enjoying her retirement and volunteer work at Mills River Library, her church knitting and crochet groups and at the YMCA twice a week for water aerobics. She states she has got to keep the old body working. But best of all is the e-mail connection the class of 1964 has. They keep up with everyone near and far.
- Billie Privette Wilson '64 States she retired in January 2015 after 43 years with Wake Med. Tony retired in January 2016 after 50 years as a barber. They are enjoying the retired life but are still keeping busy with grandchildren ages 21 (ECU), 19 (College of Charleston) and 8 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade.)
- Sandra H Ouellette '66 states it is great fun to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary from Watts School of Nursing. She enjoys frequent fishing trips out of Hatters to Gulf Stream
- Carrie June Parker Barnett '65 states she is healthy and happy. She is so grateful to Watts School of Nursing and Watts School of Anesthesia for the most wonderful career, profession, and life that anyone could wish for. Thank you, WATTS and all her instructors. She is retired.
- MeLanie Burke Nordahl '69 states he enjoys reading the newsletter about former classmates.
- Beth Ward '1971 states she treasures her Watts experience with an all-female school in the old Watts Hospital. She is a retired navy Nurse of 20 years plus she worked for 30 more years in the OR as a civilian.
- Kathleen Absalom Harris '72 states she retired from Critical care nursing after 28 years at the same hospital. She moved to Dunn to be closer to the family.
- Mary Coleman Justesen '72 states she has a new grandson born April 2, 2017. He joins an older brother. She continues in the ever-changing Infection Control Prevention and Control job at Duke Regional Hospital. Changing computer systems are a constant challenge. She was honored to be chosen by colleagues for Friends of Nursing Award in 2016.

## WATTS Up ...

- Brenda Blackwood Slaughter '73, states on May 1, 2016 she had her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and on May 2, 2016 she retired. On Feb 22, 2016, she was blessed with a 3<sup>rd</sup> grandchild. A boy, Jabriel Kristian Mackey. She is doing well in retirement.
- Ruth Cole Boone '75 states she finally finished her doctoral studies in 2014 and received her DNP 3/2014 from Frontier Nursing University in Hyden, KY! Her topic was interdisciplinary education. I am now 63 and still pulling full call, delivering lots of babies within our 12 CNM Midwifery Service at Fort Bragg, NC, teaching within the FP and OB-GYN residencies within our Womack Army Medical Center. Also, her daughter, 1 LT Halston Ladd (Johnson) recently returned from deployment (1 year) "over there" with Special Forces Division from Ft Bragg. She is so proud of her soldier.
- Robin W Godwin '77 states she started a new job at Chapel Hill Pediatrics and Adolescents in June 2013. It is a fabulous job. She is one of four advice nurses, so she is on the phone all day. They are terrific pediatricians and awesome staff to work with. It is almost as much fun as the newborn nursery at DRH with Mrs. Newton.
- Lynn Nicholson Wainwright '82 States after working over 30 years in Labor and Delivery. She took a full-time position with First Health/UNC maternal fetal Medicine. She loves this new position. Her husband and she can travel more and enjoy spending time with the children and family.
- Tammy Schneid Berry, May 1984, stated she just spoke at the Watts graduation (December 2016) and loved it. She is still so proud to be a Watts Graduate.
- Nicole Murray Coates '92 states this has been a very busy year. She left her job of 16 years to join Dr. R. Hardie Hood at DCI-N and continue work with her beloved patients. She was married in February and lost her father in April. The special news to share is that her daughter was accepted to Watts and will fulfill her dream of being a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Watts grad!
- Angela Christine Bartol '95 writes that she is enrolled in an on-line RN-BSN program with an anticipated graduation date of August 2016.
- Heather Thompson Mackey '95 states she is working as a nurse Practitioner with cancer Survivorship program at Cone health cancer Center in Greensboro NC. She has served on national workgroup producing American Cancer Society/American Society of Clinical Oncology Breast Cancer Survivorship guidelines for Primary Care Physicians.
- Tim Henkels, 2002. I received my NP/masters at Duke in 2009 in Adult primary care. I am opening my own Direct Primary Care practice in Tempe AZ. Best wishes to my classmates.
- Leslie Spillman Gray, 2009, States she and Larry have been married for 12 years and just celebrated the birth of their first child in January 2016. They are beyond blessed. She is a nurse at Duke and a proud Watts Graduate.



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: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - (\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_)

**NEW News to Share:**

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Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Submitted for Dues:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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