

Alumni Banquet May 9, 2018

“Celebrating 123 Years of the Watts School of Nursing”

- Welcome.....Susan Avent, President-Elect, Class of 76, started at 605p
- Introduction of Alumni Officers presented by Susan Avent, President-Elect
 - Chester Farley, Class of 2012, announced that is running for a seat on the NCBON this year and voting begins on 7/1. He asked that all those who are eligible to vote to please consider voting for him.
- Invocation.....Melissa Murray, Class of 2000, At-Large Board Member
- Dinner Buffet began at 610p (salads were on the tables by 545p)
- WSON Update.....Dr Peggy Walters (721p)
 - There have been 86 graduates from WSON since our last banquet. The last two classes have had a 96% pass rate on the NCLEX.
 - The school has a full class coming in August (50) and the January 2019 freshman class is filling up. Many thanks to Jennifer Hawkins, Coordinator of Student Affairs, for all her hard work in recruiting students each semester.
 - NCNA Student of the year was our own Watts student Amy Gira who is a representative at the state and national level.
 - Sad to report that one of our recent seniors passed away unexpectedly, Amber Best
 - There are two new scholarships for students to apply to, one in memory of Amber Best and one in memory of Brooklyn Boone who desired of coming to Watts after she graduated from high school.
 - Nurse Educator of the Year was awarded to our own Lorraine Wilson
 - There are faculty who are currently enrolled in doctoral programs
 - The students have purchased a microwave and TV with the gift from the alumni which the students are very appreciative.
 - We are appreciative of the Newton family have donated funds for new mannequins for the student labs
 - We are working with Duke for an opportunity for the students to participate in more simulation lab exposure
 - Baccalaureate Program is still in progress. We did receive the national accreditation, but we are still waiting on the license from the General Assembly and actively making changes to meet requirements.
 - The application to the NCBON cannot be submitted until the license is received
 - We are working on the implementation of a student information system and with IT security at Duke, so all the recruitment will be moved to online along with financial assistance, etc. the goal is to implement Fall 2018
- WSON History Project..... Donna Rogers and Betty Faulkner (730p)
 - The school along with Donna and Betty continue to collect items.
 - Tonight's display honors the Class of 1968, the newest Golden Agers. In addition to new items on the Hospital Nursing Superintendents/Directors and School Directors of Education. The first full time director was in 1923, seven total since the position was created. Other items on display include WWII post cards with Watts Hospital Nurses and other staff that were referred to as the “Watts Gang”.
 - They are working to collect more information about the RN anesthesia school, the beginnings of the ICU at Watts.
 - They continue to work on early school graduates and updating rosters.

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- They acquired a published paper that was by a Watts student from 1901. In addition to some newspaper articles written during and about the WWII era about staff involved from Watts.
- Donna read a summary of events around the hospital that occurred around 1918, during that time Grace Cruz was the hospital superintendent.
- **Business Meeting (750p)**
 - Susan Avent, current association president, reflected on her experience at Watts and recognized mentors from Watts, both those who have passed and those present at the banquet tonight.
 - Treasurer’s report given by Reba Beavers. We have approx. \$192,000 in the ECP scholarship account and a little over \$5000 in the Credit Union account, but this is before the bill is paid for tonight’s event.
 - We gave out 3 scholarships in January. We can give up to four each semester.
 - Those who are Golden Agers that continue to pay dues we greatly appreciate this funding and always treat as donations to support operational expenses and scholarships. We also appreciate those alumni who sponsored a student’s meal tonight, this helps greatly with the banquet expenses.
 - We continue to sponsor the Freshman Meet & Greet each semester, provide snacks for the students during exam weeks and we started a fund in collaboration with the school where the alumni give a monetary gift to the students each semester which they may use for student needs while they are at the school.
 - Beth Ward suggested we consider a one-time membership vs. a yearly membership of course it would be a larger amount, like \$300-500. Susan indicated we can discuss and review this option.
 - We are always looking for volunteers/contributions for student events.
- **Introduction of new Grads, Class of Dec 2017 and May 2018 (758p).** Many of the latest graduates were hired by the Duke Health System.
- **Roll Call.....Susan Avent, President- Elect**
 - Beginning with the class of 1947 through May 2018
 - New Golden Agers, Class of 1968
 - Largest groups present include 1963, 1968, 1971 and 1979
 - RSVPs – 109
 - Attendance = 113
- **Door Prizes.....Louise Beasley '53 (810p).** Banquet ended at 845p