

Alumni Banquet May 8, 2019

“Celebrating 124 Years of the Watts School of Nursing”

- Welcome..... Susan Avent, President, Class of 76 (at 615p)
- Introduction of Current Alumni Association Officers presented by Susan Avent, President.
Note: current board members are wearing a blue ribbon
- Invocation..... Melissa Murray, Class of 2000, President-Elect (at 620p)
- Dinner Buffet began at 622p (salads were on the tables by 545p)
- WSON Update..... Dr Peggy Walters (715p)
 - Introduction of Associate Director of Nursing Education, Yolanda Neal. She was selected for the Duke University Health System Friends of Nursing award in the Fall of 2018 and she has been selected by the Triangle Business Journal as a Health Care Hero in January 2019.
 - Jennifer Hawkins was recognized for her work behind the scenes for student recruitment.
 - Other faculty present tonight was also introduced by Dr Walters.
 - Reba and Susan were recognized by Dr Walters for all their recent hard work at the school organizing the storage room.
 - The school and students are most appreciative of the alumni gift provided each semester.
 - Jamila Belk was introduced; she is the school's business analyst.
 - At this semester's graduation, a Watts graduate from 1970, Donna McDowell White, who is also a NC House Representative, will be the guest speaker. We have 21 graduating this week.
 - Dr Walters gave a summary of milestones on the journey to the BSN program. They are moving to a Student Information System (SIS –Peoplesoft) which will allow online application, and other processes that are currently managed on paper or in excel spreadsheets. The license for the BSN program (Watts College of Nursing) was received. Peggy and Jennifer were able to attend that presentation, which was a very special moment. The application for the name change was submitted to the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. The 501C application was also submitted, which is needed for future financial aid. On September 23rd at the North Carolina School of Science and Math, the school is planning an inaugural celebration. Alumni will receive an invitation in the near future. The last RN Diploma class will enter in August 2019 and graduate in 2021. The first BSN class will enter in the Spring of 2020.
 - There have been 86 graduates from WSON since our last banquet. The last two classes have had a 96% pass rate on the NCLEX. There were 34 graduates in December 2018.
- WSON History Project..... Donna Rogers and Betty Faulkner (723p)
 - Donna recognized Jamila Belk for her help with acquiring some additional pieces for the archive. They now have a picture of the Class of 1901 (2 graduates). A digital copy was acquired from the UNC archives. They have been working on correcting names on the rosters from 1895-1941. They have validated most full names and have also found some lost graduates. On display tonight are Pioneers of Nursing and the Class of 1969.
- Business Meeting (728p)
 - Susan Avent, current president, announces that are still some yearbooks available. See Susan or Reba after the banquet if you would like one of the years available. We would like to thank Donna and Betty for their support with organizing the storage/archives at the school. Thank you to all those who have supported the new graduates who are attending tonight. We re-vamped the newsletter this year with a variety of updates. The newsletter was mailed out in black and white as color was not in our budget. Color version was sent electronically via email and is also posted on the website. The alumni board has accomplished a lot this past year. After reviewing scholarship funds, we decided we

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would be able to increase the amount to \$4K per semester and will be divided amongst the applicants that qualify. We are committed to supporting our students. With the help of the dues and donations from the alumni we can provide \$250 per semester to the students to use for school/student needs. We are also able to provide lunch each semester for the new freshman at the Meet and Greet, provide snacks on exam days (3-4 days per semester). We also honored our school faculty this Spring with an appreciation lunch. At the luncheon with the faculty we received some suggestions on how the alumni could support the school, faculty and students: this includes board members volunteering to proctor exams (which 3 of the board members were able to help with this semester), alumni volunteers to attend labs to act as patients, volunteer with the students when they go to the Caring House, Angels Among Us event, speak to freshman about career options, email students with encouraging words, add stories to the student newsletter from alumni. We welcome other ideas to engage and support the students and future alumni. Please check the website and Facebook group page for alumni events and staying connected with the alumni association. Board meetings are in September and February. Membership meetings are in December and May. At the last December meeting the group decided we should try a luncheon. Mark your calendars now for December 10th.

- Future of the Alumni Association discussion – Many alumni and guest spoke on how Watts graduates are widely recognized across the country. One alumnus stated that we are all Watts graduates regardless of the school’s name, no separation is needed, diploma vs. BSN. Many shared their stories and positive comments on continuing the alumni association as is, support the growth of the school and the alumni association. We are always open to suggestions to increase attendance at our events.
- New officers for the next term 2019-2021 (2-year commitment). Slate of officers are on the back of the program. They include, Audrey Neal ('81), President Elect, Chester Farley ('08), Secretary, Reba Beavers ('68), Treasurer, Gina Edwards ('93), Database Manager, Becky Dodson ('61), At-Large, Jasetta Perkins ('18), At-Large, Brianne Payne ('03), At-Large. The Past President is also a member of the board. The motion was made by Doris Hodges to accept the new officers, motion was seconded by Jane Watkins. None opposed.
- Treasurer’s report given by Reba Beavers. ECP scholarship fund = \$203K. Checking = approx. \$6900 (prior to paying the bill for tonight’s banquet).
- Introduction of new Grads, Class of Dec 2018 and May 2019 (758p). Many of the latest graduates were hired by the Duke Health System.
- Roll Call.....Susan Avent, President
 - Beginning with the class of 1947 through May 2019
 - New Golden Agers, Class of 1969
- Door Prizes.....Louise Beasley '53 (803p – 837pm). Louise announced that this would be her last year presenting the door prizes. She asked for volunteers. Jolene Robertson Carter, Class of 1968, volunteered to take over this duty for our future annual Spring banquets.
- Death notifications since the newsletter went out. See list below.
- Banquet ended at 845p
- Attendance tonight – RSVPs – 87, walk-ins – 4, total alumni = 91 (Last year we had 111 attend the banquet). Only 11 new graduates attended tonight. Between the December 2018 and May 2019 classes there were 55 graduates. Only one graduate from the class of 1969 attended. 8 school faculty attended. The largest classes represented included 1961, 1971 and 1979.

Submitted by G. Edwards, Secretary

Edits made based on feedback from Board Members, revised 7/30/2019

Meeting minutes approved via email by S Avent, M Murray, R Dodson, C Farley, S Warren 8/7/2019

Additional approval from R Beavers with edits 8/8/19

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Recent Death Notifications

- Carolyn Lassiter Bratcher, Class of 1964, death 7/4/18
- Eloise Apple Colocho, Class of 1964, death 6/7/18
- Lou Siebert Leathers, Class of 1964, death 3/19/19
- Jonelle Thomas Mansfield, Class of 1967, death 2/24/19
- Edith Monroe Smithey, Class of 1946, death 3/25/18
- Elnore P Kimble Kalill, Class of 1983, death 4/25/17
- Margaret Long, Class of 1985, death 1/15/19
- Ellen Felty Ale, Class of 1963, death 1/3/19
- Marion Mae Hicks Rosemond, Class of 1944, death 4/7/19