

CONTINUUM



Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Volume 11, No. 1

Winter 1998



Dean Felissa R. Lashley,

Dean's Message

We reached the end of the fall 1997 semester with all of the attendant end-of-the-year events. The most memorable of these was the School of Nursing Convocation and the University Commencement. A new event was a celebration dinner for all graduating master's students, which was very successful. The convocation was an

especially lovely affair and was extremely well attended. We continue to make this ceremony a special, meaningful one for all nursing graduates. Another special part of commencement was that the faculty speaker was our own Dr. Mary Ann Boyd.

One of our major efforts this year has been to complete the University process to hire an architectural firm to complete designs for a renovated Psychomotor Skills Lab. The architects have been seeking input from faculty, students, and the subcommittee working on this project. We will begin a fund-raising campaign to start the project. This is an exciting project, and we welcome your input and participation. Speaking of projects, we completed the new School of Nursing Reception and Advisement Center. This center allows the advisors to be close together, and to have staff dedicated to answering questions from students, parents, and others about our programs. Stop in and see it. I think you will be pleased.

I have again been out and about around the state meeting more and more of our alumni. I am always so pleased to see how favorably our alumni are perceived by their colleagues and supervisors in practice. Also, it is wonderful to see how involved our alumni are in their places of employment and in nursing. One such alumni event was held at the

Holiday Inn in Rosemont for our Chicago area alums. Others were in San Diego during the summer, and in conjunction with the Sigma Theta Tau convention in Indianapolis on December 4. We are planning a spring event in Carbondale. I always look forward to seeing all the alums at these events.

This academic year we are engaged in planning for our self-study report for the National League for Nursing accreditation process. That visit is scheduled for fall 1998.

Our biggest news is that we have received permission from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to bring our master's programs to the Quincy, Springfield, and Carbondale areas beginning with the nurse practitioner specialization. This will be another exciting endeavor for us.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

*Dean Felissa R. Lashley, RN, PhD, ACRN,
FAAN*

Project GAIN Update: Project GAIN Is 10 Years Old

For the past 10 years (1987-1997), Project GAIN (Get Ahead In Nursing) has continued as a viable academic/social support system in the Southern Illinois University School of Nursing to increase the recruitment, retention, and success of culturally diverse students. Many of the students are from circumstances that provide no nurturing, support, or opportunities that foster successful academic and social development required for success. In Project GAIN, student participants are assigned tutors/mentors/counselors to guide them toward academic and social success. This guidance may be from peers and/or faculty according to the needs of the students. Also, students participate in the Project GAIN Networking Organization to enhance their communication, leadership and social skills as they serve as Big Brothers/Big Sisters in a support network for pre-college students in educational programs that range between Head Start and high school.

At the college level, a specific course, NURS 112, Empowering the Nursing Student, is offered during fall and spring semesters to all college participants in Project

GAIN. This course emphasizes the enhancement of the skills necessary to achieve success in a program in nursing, and participation in networking activities that help them teach and learn through their teaching activities. The students in the upper level clinical component of the nursing program assist and encourage student members in the pre-clinical component of nursing at Metropolitan Community College and SIU.

Between 1987-1997, 358 students participated in Project GAIN programs at SIU. Of those 358 students, 34% (n=122) have successfully completed the nursing program and graduated. Of those 122 graduates, 98% (n=120) successfully wrote the NCLEX-RN, became professional nurses and obtained gainful employment in health care facilities in the greater metropolitan area and in other health care facilities that experienced difficulty in recruiting professional nurses (i.e., Native American Reservations, rural communities, etc.). The remaining 135 students were disseminated in the following manner: 10% (n=13) graduated from SIU in other areas; 37% (n=50) are in the clinical component of the nursing program at SIU; 15% (n=21) are in the pre-clinical component of the nursing program at SIU; 17% (n=24) were suspended because of academic grades; 4% (n=6) failed in nursing and were excluded from the program; 3% (n=4) officially transferred to other colleges; and 14% (n=19) remained at SIU but changed their major.

Over the years, students withdrew from the university for various reasons, including economic needs and an expressed desire to enter an academic community that would better accommodate their specific needs. However, students who have expressed the desire and have had a demonstrated need for academic, social, and/or financial support have continued to be admitted to Project GAIN.

During the 1996-97 academic year, Project GAIN served students in four community colleges, 14 high schools, eight junior high schools, three Head Start Programs, and one university (SIUE). The participants included 564 pre-college participants (high school students in Pre-College Health Career Clubs). The Pre-College Health Career Clubs are located in 11 cities that span three counties. Because SIUE is the big sister of Metropolitan Community College, each semester 10 community college participants are admitted to Project GAIN. Those students receive the tutoring, mentoring, and other support necessary to complete their prerequisite studies to be eligible for admission to the nursing program at SIU or any other four-year college of their choice. Six of the MCC graduates have been admitted to the SIUE School of Nursing and are progressing well. There are now 71 student participants in Project GAIN on the SIU campus. These students are involved in a variety of activities that enhance their scholarship and leadership skills. Also, they serve as team leaders to selected Pre-College Health Career Clubs. During the regular academic year, the high school students led by those student team leaders and SIUE School of Nursing advisors, participate in a structured educational program

that introduces them to the rigors of nursing and other health care careers. Under this leadership, the students in the high school clubs learn to become sponsors of students in the junior high schools and the Head Start programs. The high school students sponsor many other community programs. These and other activities are an integral part of the criteria for membership in the clubs and eligibility to be admitted to the Summer Nurse Camp.

Each summer, students in Project GAIN programs who meet the membership criteria are selected to participate in a Summer Nurse Camp (SNC) on the SIUE campus. The SNC offers programs at four academic levels. Level IV is a "Basic Nurse Assistant Program" that assists qualified students to complete the program, write the Illinois Certification Examination to become a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) with the ability to gain employment in a health care facility. Between 1994 and 1996, 28 students completed this program. All 28 of the students wrote and passed the Illinois Certification Examination. Of those 28, 64% (n=18) graduated from high school and gained employment in area health care facilities. Of those 18 high school graduates, 22% (n=4) are attending college and employed in health care facilities. Ten of those 28 students are continuing their high school education. During SNC 1997, seven students completed the "Basic Nurse Assistant Program" and will have written their certifying examination in December 1997.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the continued support of Dean Lashley, the administrative team, the faculty and all the staff for their dedicated commitment to the success of all Project GAIN programs. You have given to us all the love, assistance, and support necessary to continue and enhance the activities of Project GAIN.

WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN THIS NEW YEAR!

Lorraine D. Williams, RN, PhD
Director, Project GAIN

Undergraduate Research Academy

Two of our undergraduate nursing students were among 12 students honored at a dinner/symposium on November 20, 1997, for the completion of their research projects conducted through the Undergraduate Research Academy (URA). The URA is established to encourage, support, and recognize excellence in undergraduate research.

The Academy recognizes that the undergraduate research experience enhances the quality of the baccalaureate program by giving the student the opportunity to interact with faculty outside the classroom and engage more fully in one's academic discipline. Seminars are offered throughout the year to help the students learn more about the research process, and stipends are provided for financial assistance as they conduct their research.

Stacy Nolan and Todd Shook were the two students representing the School of Nursing. Dr. Laura Bernaix served as their faculty mentor. Poster presentations of

their research were displayed at the dinner.

Stacy's research was titled, "The Effects of Attendance to an Infertility Support Group on Perceived Loneliness, Self-Esteem, and Social Support by the Infertile Couple."

Todd's research was titled, "Outcome Measurement of Functional and Psychological Well-Being for Patients Attending a Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Program."

The Newly Formed Graduate Student Nurses Organization

By: Debbie Carlson

The Graduate Student Nurses Organization (GSNO) was conceptualized in May 1997. The purpose of the organization is to serve the graduate nursing student population by providing support and serving as a centralized resource to: 1) support the SIUE educational program, 2) provide and develop leadership opportunities, 3) engage in services to graduate students, undergraduate students, and the community, and 4) provide networking opportunities and advocacy for graduate nursing students in all specialty programs.

Five graduate students worked throughout the summer to develop an organizational constitution and by-laws. These students assumed the offices of the organization: Carole McKinstry – President, Helene Seibert – Vice President, Michael Kelly – Treasurer, Debbie Carlson – Secretary, and Lynn Taylor – Planning Chair. The organization was officially approved by the Kimmel Leadership Center on August 29, 1997.

GSNO, in its short history, has co-hosted the graduate nursing student orientation in August, has offered assistance to planning the graduation dinner for the graduate students in December, and has communicated several community projects (i.e., Operation: New Spirit – a redevelopment project in E. St. Louis and the Memory Walk – a fundraiser in Belleville for Alzheimer's patients) to the graduate nursing student population. One of GSNO's objectives for 1998 is to develop a vehicle (newsletter, Internet home page, etc.) that will reach all graduate nursing students and keep them informed about School of Nursing events as well as community events of interest.

Early in 1998, GSNO will host several informational seminars whose purpose is to inform all interested graduate nursing students about the basics (and specifics) of developing their thesis or project. Selected graduate faculty will be presenting the basics of thesis/project development. Additional graduate faculty members will be available to add their thoughts and hints as well as answer students' questions.

GSNO's major objective for 1998 is to increase its membership and develop an organization represented by all graduate nursing specialties, who work together cohesively to accomplish our stated goals.

Off-Campus Master's Programs Approved

The Board of Higher Education has approved the School of Nursing's request to bring master's programs off-campus. The sites approved are in the Quincy, Springfield, and Carbondale areas. These programs will give students in those areas easier access to graduate education in nursing. Citizens of central and southern Illinois will benefit from the increased numbers of nurses with advanced practice skills who can deliver primary health care in those regions. The first specialization to be offered will be nurse practitioner followed by other specializations on rotations based on the needs of those areas. Programs begin in fall 1998 and are part-time. Contact (618) 692-3956 for further information.



Shown in photo is Rita Arras with Rep. Bill Brady (R-Bloomington).

Legislative Health Fair

On October 29, 1997, SIUE School of Nursing participated in a Health Fair at the Capitol Building in Springfield, Ill. The faculty members who provided blood glucose and blood pressure screenings were Rita Arras, Maureen Brown, Jacquelyn Gaddy, Gladys Mabunda-Temple, and Sylvia Mitchell.

Approximately 100 state legislators and staff members took advantage of this Health Fair. Among those screened was one of our local legislators, Frank Watson from Greenville. It was a very successful Health Fair, and we are very pleased that SIUE School of Nursing had the opportunity to participate.

Convocation Fall '97

The Fall 1997 Convocation, December 20, was attended by record numbers of family and friends of the graduates. Close to 700 guests packed the Meridian Ballroom to celebrate the graduation of 29 graduate students, 10 BS completion students, and 50 undergraduate students.

Joyce McKinney spoke as a representative of the graduate students, Donna Koenig represented B.S. completion students, and Mike Smithson, advisor in the School of Nursing, presented reflections of the undergraduate class.

Music was provided by harpist, Nancy Starnes Small. Youngchoon Hahm, President of the Student Nurses Association, read the poem, "My Wishes for You" during the candlelighting ceremony.

A dessert reception followed the ceremony.

Scholarship Awards

Several of our graduate students from the School of Nursing have earned scholarship awards for the 1997-98 academic year. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize their efforts, congratulate them on their accomplishments, and encourage them to continue to reach for the heights in all their future academic pursuits.

Competitive Graduate Award

Brian Hill

Jill Stulce

Minority Award

Yetzemia Arauz

Jearlean Ross

Sarah Christian

Mary Huller

Rural Health Scholarship

Mary Beth Ditman

Jane Janes

Victoria Kruta

Lynn Stewart

Graduate Assistantships

Linda Read

Tina Holden

Job well done!

Epsilon Eta Receives Key Award

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing notified the Epsilon Eta Chapter from SIUE that they were selected to receive the Chapter Key Award for 1997. The SIUE chapter (Epsilon Eta) is one of seven chapters in Region 2 to receive the Key Award. The chapter accepted the award at an Awards Luncheon on Friday, December 5, in Indianapolis, Ind. This was part of the 34th Biennial Convention, which celebrated 75 years of nursing excellence.

Additions to the School of Nursing Faculty



from left to right: Wayne Ellis, Mickey Stanley, Maureen Brown, Eileen Fowles (not pictured: Margaret Laws).

Nursing in Mexico City

Over the December 1997 holiday break, six senior nursing students participated in the School of Nursing's first international health experience in Mexico City. Under the direction of Donna Tartasky, RN, PhD, nursing students did community health clinical work at agencies

that focused on caring for street children and persons with HIV/AIDS. Students who volunteered for this experience were: Eileen Cloonan, Traci Doud, Debra Dvorscak, Bianca Granger, Shannon Saunders, and Cimone Skrzekut. One of the highlights of this trip was working on Christmas Day in Mother Teresa's House, where we assisted the sisters in caring for severely impaired adults and children. Our activities included attending a Spanish Christmas Mass in the Chapel, with guitar singers; it was a moving cross-cultural experience.

Photos in Mexico City taken 12/15/98 with senior nursing students from two area universities in Mexico City



Back row: Shannon Saunders, Bianca Granger, Debra Dvorscak, Traci Doud, Eileen Cloonan, Cimone Skrzekut, Donna Tartasky



Back row: Traci Doud, Donna Tartasky, Cimone Skrzekut, Bianca Granger, Shannon Saunders, Wendy Graumann (Professor from Canada), Debra Dvorscak and Eileen Cloonan

SIUE School of Nursing Alumni Association and SNA First Annual Trivia Night

The Student Nurses Association and the SIUE School of Nursing Alumni Association are planning a Trivia Night for a Saturday in March 1998. Watch advertisements for the date, time, and location. Everyone is invited to participate -- those who are nurses and those who are not. It promises to be an evening of great fun, with prizes awarded for the groups with the most correct answers, door prizes, and other prizes. For more information, contact Janet Sprehe, president, Alumni Board of Governors, at (618) 234-2761.

Research Utilization Workshop Report

The School participated in a Research Utilization Workshop held Friday, Sept. 19, at Steinberg Auditorium at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. More than 65 people attended the workshop, titled *Strategies to Improve Evidence Based Practice: Stories from the Field*. Marita Titler, PhD, RN, FAAN, presented a live consultation in the round with Nursing Practice Committees from Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, IL.

During the workshop, panel members described their individual roles and team successes and problems in the most recent utilization project at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and the two community hospitals. Dr. Titler asked further questions for clarification and provided pointers for future utilization projects. She also provided guidelines and worksheets for managing the projects.

Faculty members at the school continue to assist two area hospitals with research utilization projects. Other agencies interested in help with evidence-based practice are encouraged to call Dr. Margaret Beaman, Associate Dean for Research, Strategic Planning and Development, (618) 692-3980. She will make arrangements for a faculty member to meet with agency nursing personnel to discuss possible collaboration.

Annual Research Day

The annual Research Day sponsored by the Southern Illinois University School of Nursing and the Epsilon Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau was held Sept. 18. The conference theme was *Improving Nursing Practice through Research Utilization*. Twenty-two research posters were displayed, and authors were available to discuss their findings with the 150 people who participated.

One of the highlights of Research Day was the annual Martha Welch Memorial Lecture delivered by Marita Titler, PhD, RN, FAAN. Dr. Titler is the Director of Nursing Research and Qualitative Management and Senior Associate Director Clinical Outcomes and Resource Management for the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics. The title of Dr. Titler's lecture was *Research Utilization to Improve Nursing Practice: Is It for Me?* More than 300 people attended her lecture and the receptions that followed.

The 1998 Research Day will be held Thursday, Sept. 17. The theme is Collaboration for Health Related Research; interdisciplinary and cultural studies are encouraged. The deadline for the Call for Abstracts is June 1, 1998.

Student Nurses Association

The Student Nurses Association has been very active this year. The group has participated in several University functions, including a booth at Welcome Week, an activity for Tons of Fun, and is planning to sponsor a blood drive in February. It also has completed a philanthropic project providing funding for a class in East St.

Louis to have The Belleville News-Democrat delivered to the class. The teachers use the paper for classroom activities such as current events or reading assignments.

Other activities have included some fund-raising ventures. The group sold poinsettias for the holiday season. There are also many new SIU School of Nursing clothing items available for sale, including sweatshirts, polo shirts, and baseball caps. These are available from Kathy Burke or MaryEllen Jackle, faculty advisors to the group, through the School of Nursing.

The group also has sponsored a seminar series for students that includes presentations from the various graduate specialties, a computer/Internet workshop, and plans to bring a nationally-known speaker on communication to the campus in the spring.

Don't forget to check out our website at www.ezl.com/~gom\sna/.

Reception for Clinical Mentors

A reception was held Nov. 18 for persons mentoring graduate or undergraduate students. Faculty greeted mentors, and all shared a small buffet with *petit fours*, fruit, cheese and crackers, and vegetables with dip. A lovely candlelit centerpiece was the center of attraction on the buffet table. Thanks to all who assisted and attended, and thanks especially to all those mentors who give their time and expertise to our students.

Community Nursing Services

Fall semester has been a remarkably busy one for the nursing center. Under the leadership of Kay Mueggenburg, RN, MSN, the faculty who provide services at the center have been busy with school physicals and lead, hearing and vision screenings, as well as seeing clients who are scheduled in the clinic. In addition, undergraduate students who were doing their community health rotation at CNS, participated in a comprehensive lead education intervention and assisted Kay Mueggenburg in the gathering and analysis of data. Other undergraduate students under the direction of Rita Arras, RN, MSN, provided asthma education in schools and continued to monitor seniors in public housing sites. Next semester we look forward to working again with the School of Dental Medicine to screen seniors for their Restore A Smile program.

First Nurse Practitioner Graduates

The first class of nurse practitioner students graduated this past December. The majority of the 16 graduates -- two Adult Nurse Practitioners and 14 Family Nurse Practitioners -- will be practicing in rural Illinois. Many of these nurse practitioners will be providing primary care to under-served populations in the state. These graduates will be taking the national certification examination in February 1998. We wish them success with the certification examination and in their future practice.



*front, left to right: Janet Sprihe, Dean Felissa Lashley, Kelly Cramer.
back: Jackie Gaddy, Myrna Wacker, Maxine Hawkins, Chrisann Accario, Mary Ann Wehrle*

Picnic Fun

Tower Lake Recreation Center was the site of the third annual School of Nursing picnic on October 4, 1997, during Homecoming weekend. Alumni, faculty, students, and advisors enjoyed a catered barbeque lunch on a pleasant autumn day. Personnel from campus recreation organized games, and the Student Nurses Association had SIUE and School of Nursing logo clothing for sale. Plan to join us next fall for the fourth annual picnic!

SIUE School of Nursing Continuing Education Opportunities

This spring there are two exciting continuing education programs being offered by SIUE School of Nursing Continuing Education.

On March 13 and 14, advanced practice nurses will want to attend **"Diagnostic Tests in Primary Care: Finding Your Way through the Maze"** at the Ramada Inn in Fairview Heights. March 13 will feature Barb Bancroft, RN, MSN, PNP, a well-known, dynamic speaker. Ms. Bancroft will address lab diagnostic tests; ordering correct tests and interpreting the meaning of the results. Day two will feature Hank Duhadway, RN, MSN, ANP discussing advanced interpretation of EKGs, and Dr. Donna Igou, who will help attendees polish their x-ray interpretation skills. Advance registration is \$135 through March 6. Registration after March 6 is \$149. Nursing students may attend for \$75. The day- and a-half program is approved for 11.1 contact hours by Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Nursing, an approved provider of continuing education in nursing by the Illinois Nurses Association, Continuing Education Approver Unit, which is accredited as an approver of continuing education in nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Mark your calendar for April 23, 1998, when **"Combating Microbial Resistance and Emerging Infections: Moving into the Next Millennium,"** will be held at America's Center in St. Louis. This will be a full-day, multidisciplinary conference jointly sponsored by SIUE School of Nursing, SIU School of Medicine,

SIU School of Dental Medicine, and St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Continuing education credits will be offered for all disciplines. This will be a unique opportunity for professionals from a variety of settings to come together and discuss this important, timely, health topic. Dean Felissa Lashley, who has published on emerging infections and microbial resistance, will be one of many presenters. Dr. Michael Bell from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will also be a featured speaker. Registration for this program is \$119. Students in health professions may attend for \$49.

For more information about either of these programs, contact Rita Arras, RN, MS, Continuing Education Coordinator, at (618) 692-3922.

Alumni Surveys

As part of the evaluation process to strengthen all programs, the School of Nursing has mailed three sets of alumni surveys to graduates and a subset of employers. We appreciate your participation. If you have not completed your survey, it is not too late. We are still collating the returns. Please return your survey to Dr. Margaret Beaman, SIU School of Nursing, Box 1066, Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066. If you have any questions, you may call Dr. Beaman at (618) 692-3980. Thanks for your help.

Faculty News

Gynelle Baccus, R.N., Ph.D., presented her poster, "Creating a Caring Climate in a Cyberspace Classroom," at the National League for Nursing's Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Md., September 1996.

Marjorie Baier, R.N., Ph.D., presented "The Process of Developing Insight for Persons with Schizophrenia" at the Epsilon Eta Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau Annual Meeting on Feb. 26, 1997, and at the Midwest Nursing Research Society 21st Annual Research Conference on April 8, 1997. In November, Dr. Baier presented at the Society for Education and Research in Psychiatric Nursing (SERPN) Conference, Washington, D.C. Her presentation was titled: "Conceptualization and Measurement of Insight for Persons with Schizophrenia." She also has co-written two articles. Recently, she received notification that she is eligible to practice in Missouri as an advanced practice nurse: adult psychiatric and mental health clinical nurse specialist. In addition, she has been awarded a 1998 Summer Research Fellowship for \$6,000 to conduct her study, "Insight and Severity of Illness for Persons with Schizophrenia."

At the November 1996 meeting of the American Public Health Association, **Margaret Beaman**, R.N., Ph.D., received the *Executive Director's Citation Award* for Service to APHA. The award was given for her development of the Computer Theater and Software Exchange held at the annual meeting.

Laura Bernaix, R.N., Ph.D., presented her poster, "The Lived Experience of Unsuccessful Breastfeeding" at the Midwest Nursing Research Society 21st Annual Research Conference on April 7, 1997, in Minneapolis.

Dr. Bernaix also received partial funding for her FUR proposal to study the breast feeding teaching practices of midwest colleges of nursing.

Rhonda Comrie, R.N., M.S.N., director of the undergraduate program in the School of Nursing, received a University Teaching Recognition Award at the Honors Convocation on April 20, 1997. These awards recognize teaching excellence. Rhonda was recognized both for her work with classroom teaching as well as helping students reach their professional goals as director of the undergraduate program.

Wayne Ellis, R.N., Ph.D., published an article titled: "The occurrence of pain" in the journal, CRNA: The Clinical Forum for Nurse Anesthetists. Also, Dr. Ellis presented an EKG workshop and Difficult Airway workshop in Las Vegas, Nev.; Gatlinburg, Tenn.; and Key West, Fla.

Arleen Fearing, R.N., Ph.D., received the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award from the Madison County Nursing Home on April 17, 1997. She also presented two posters at the Midwest Nursing Research Society 21st Annual Research Conference on April 7-8, 1997, in Minneapolis. The titles of her posters were: "Predictors of Academic Performance for Minority Baccalaureate Nursing Students," and "The Relationship of Various Motivational Factors to Weight Loss and Sustaining Weight Loss in Adult Women."

Mary Ann Jobe, R.N., M.S.N., presented at the Eighth International Nursing Conference for the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women on April 4, 1997, in Charleston, W. V. The title of her presentation was "Retrospective Record Review: Abuse in Pregnancy Among WIC Clients." She has been selected to be a team member of the Illinois State Board of Education's Professional Development Framework Project, which will be revamping teacher and school nurse certification. Also, she has been appointed in November 1997 to the Women's Health Advisory Committee by the St. Clair County Health Care Commission. This committee was formed to implement the breast and cervical cancer early detection program.

Lisa M. Mahiger, CRNA, MBA, Nurse Anesthesia Specialization, is serving as President of the Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists (1997-1998). Also, she has participated in the Research Scholars Program and the Closed Claims Research Team (American Association of Nurse Anesthetists). She is nearing completion of her Master's Degree in Nursing with a projected graduation date of May 1998, and reports she is expecting her fourth child in March. Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Gladys Mabunda**, R.N., Ph.D., on receiving full funding for her Funded University Research (FUR) proposal, "African American Individuals' Perceptions of AIDS Clinical Trials." She has also presented a paper, "The Perception of the Social Climate of American Universities and Colleges by South African Students in the U.S." at the Annual Conference of the National Association of African-American Studies in Houston, Texas, on February 14, 1997. She also received

the Martha Welch Research Award, the Marilyn Rubin Research Award, and Epsilon Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Writing for Publication Award for her research study, "Clinical Participation of African-Americans in AIDS Clinical Trials: What are the Perceived Barriers?"

Barbara Martin, R.N., Ed.D., retiring president of the 10th District INA, participated in a press conference on managed care sponsored by the Campaign for Better Health on March 21, 1997. She also was a panelist at a town meeting on managed care held in Alton on May 5, 1997.

Donna Tartasky, R.N., Ph.D., published an article, "Community-based Assessment Targeted at Adult Minority Asthmatics," in The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. The same research was presented as a poster and paper at various conferences. She also co-wrote an article with **Dr. Felissa Lashley**, Dean of the School of Nursing. This article titled, "Microbial Resistance to Drug Therapy: A Review," has been published in Journal of Infection Control.

Myrna Wacker, R.N.C., M.S., presented "A Community Health Computer Assisted Instruction Program" at the American Public Health Association 12th Annual Meeting in New York City on November 18, 1996. She also presented "Computer-Assisted Instruction for Community as Client" at the 125th American Public Health Association Meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., November 1997.

Alumni News

B.S.N. 1969 – Sandi Macknick Spilotro received the Helen Heyrman Award for leadership in the Illinois home health industry.

B.S.N. 1971 – Linda Gates Johnson is the Oncology Care Coordinator (a case management position) at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, Va. She is married to Daniel F. Johnson, CRNA (an SIUE graduate in '71), with the Veteran's Affairs Medical System in Hampton, Va. They have one daughter, Melissa, age 22.

B.S.N. 1974, M.S. Ed. 1985 – Betty Stone was installed as president of the Illinois Association of School Nurses and is the health services coordinator of Granite City, Ill., schools.

B.S.N. 1975, M.S. 1994 – Karen Baum completed the Nurse Midwifery Program at the University of Illinois in Chicago and successfully passed her certification exam in October 1996.

B.S.N. 1977, M.S. 1984 – Verna L. Hendricks-Ferguson is currently a doctoral student at Rush University. She has presented two poster presentations and published an article, "An Analysis of the Concept of Hope in the Adolescent with Cancer" in the Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing in April 1997.

B.S.N. 1978 – Carole Hennessy Martz wrote a chapter in the book, Cancer Symptom Management, entitled, "Diarrhea," edited by Groenwald, Frogge, Goodman, and Yarbrow, 1996.

B.S.N. 1979 – Tracy Robinson Morstad has been teaching in a practical nursing program at Fergus Falls Community College in Fergus Falls, Minn. She also has been teaching in the A.D.N. mobility program at the same school.

B.S.N. 1981 – Dena Maguire is currently the Health and Promotions and Fitness Center coordinator for Life of Georgia Corporation in Atlanta. She has received a degree in exercise physiology and is pursuing an M.S. in health care administration and wellness promotion. Dena holds certification as a health fitness instructor from the American College of Sports Medicine and as a weight management consultant from the American Council on Exercise.

B.S.N. 1990 – Cathy Drilling Kurtz earned her M.S.N. degree from University of Illinois in Chicago in 1996 and is a member of INA and the Council of Nurse Practitioners.

B.S.N. 1993 – April Boeger is a charge nurse at Shriner's Hospital for Children in St. Louis. She is active on research and nurse practice committees, is participating in a quality assurance study, and is ACLS certified. In the spring of 1997 semester, she entered the Nurse Practitioner Program at SIUE.

B.S.N. 1994 – Cheryl L. Brookshier graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in May 1996 with her master of science degree in public health nursing family nurse practitioner. She successfully completed ANA certification in August 1996.

B.S.N. 1994 – Christine Wise Janson is working at Belleville, Ill. Memorial Hospital on the Labor and Delivery Unit. She lives in Collinsville with her husband.

B.S.N. 1995 – Debrah Ehrhard is working in OB/GYN and Pediatrics in the Navy and is stationed in Pensacola, Fla.

B.S.N. 1995 – Melissa Jaroszewski is working at Rush-Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, Ill., in the PICU. She got married in September 1997.

B.S.N. 1995 – Valerie Stallman Blechle was married Oct. 21, 1995, and works at LAB Home Health in Belleville, Ill., as a case manager. She worked for one year at St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo., on the Progressive Care/Cardiac Stepdown Telemetry Unit.

Composite Photographs

There are three composite photographs each from two classes, June 1992 and December 1993, that were found in the School of Nursing. If you did not receive your photograph or are interested in receiving one, please call Marti LoRusso or Marlene Martin in the School of Nursing at (618) 692-3956.

Calendar of Events for Spring Semester 1998

February 26	Sigma Theta Tau Annual Meeting
March 16-22	Spring Break
April 20-24	SIUE Student Nurses' Week
April 23	Continuing Education Conference: "Combating Microbial Resistance And Emerging Infections: Moving into the Next Millennium", America's Center, St. Louis
April 24	Sigma Theta Tau Induction Ceremony
May 8	Convocation
May 9	Commencement

Editorial Board

Laura Bernaix, R.N., Ph.D.
 Felissia R. Lashley, R.N. Ph.D., F.A.A.N.
 Lisa Evers, M.S., R.N.
 Lisa Mahiger, C.R.N.A., M.B.A., M.S.
 Kathy Burke, R.N., M.S.N, W.H.N.P.

School of Nursing
 Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
 Edwardsville, IL 62026-1066

NON-PROFIT ORIG.
 U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 68
 EDWARDSVILLE, IL