

Hundreds return for Nursing's biggest-ever reunion

More than 300 School of Nursing alumni came to campus for the All-Class Reunion Weekend, September 24–27. The success of the gathering, which brought together 50 percent more alumni than any previous reunion, signaled the strength of our graduates' continuing commitment to their school even in challenging economic times.



The reunion attracted classmates and friends including, from left: Karen Kurrasch Shumaker, Sharon Cheney Timmins, Lila Hensler Beyer and Kathryn Fredricks Hartung (all BSN '59)

Among the hundreds of attendees were nearly 70 members from the Class of 1959, who celebrated their 50th Reunion. They and their fellow Nursing graduates enjoyed a Friday Dean's Reception at the School of Nursing, a Friday evening Reunion Gala dinner and emeritus pin presentation, and a Go Blue Tailgate on Saturday before watching Michigan beat Indiana in this year's homecoming game. The '59ers also enjoyed some special events exclusively for their 50th, including a Thursday night gala and a Saturday tailgate party generously hosted by Mary Hunter (BSN '59).

The weekend was a tremendous success, and we hope you'll join us in 2010 for another celebration of great School of Nursing spirit.

More REUNION photos on page 5

CONNECTIONS MATTER

Greetings! I am delighted to share with you this inaugural issue of the School of Nursing's alumni newsletter. Our Alumni Board of Governors generously provided the funds to launch this new publication. With their support we now have a wonderful way to help you and your more than 13,000 fellow alumni stay connected with each other and the School.

This has been an exciting year of growth and success at U-M Nursing. As we grow, our guiding vision remains the same: to lead the nation and influence the world through extraordinary research, educational programs and practice innovations in health.

The following are a few indicators of our success:

- The School ranks among the top five nursing graduate programs in the nation according to *U.S. News & World Report*;
- We achieved a top-ten ranking in NIH funding among the country's schools of nursing;
- Interest in our program remains high: we enrolled 647 BSN students, 193 MSN students and 66 Ph.D. students last year – nearly 900 future nursing leaders;
- And we have hired 11 outstanding new tenure-track faculty to teach our students and continue our research leadership.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the latest news at Nursing. Please contact me at (734)764-7185 or potempa@umich.edu if you would like more information on how you can help keep our School of Nursing among the leaders and best.

Yours truly,

Dean Kathleen Potempa,
Ph.D, RN, FAAN





Support for a nursing difference maker

Certified nurse-midwife **Terri Murtland** (BSN '75) helped establish the U-M's Nurse Midwifery Service in the late 1980s. During her career she delivered more than 800 babies and inspired countless people to pursue midwifery as a profession. Her friends and colleagues admired her love of life, as well as her dedication to the women she cared for and the profession she loved.

After Terri lost her battle with pancreatic cancer in 2008, her mother, Audrey



Audrey Murtland, left, with midwifery student Melissa Scott on receiving the 2009 Terri Murtland Scholarship

Murtland, of Farmington Hills, Michigan, established the annual Terri Murtland Lectureship and Terri Murtland Scholarship. The Murtland Lectureship supports presentations on topics related to nurse midwifery in the U-M Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, while the Scholarship continues Terri's legacy of mentorship by supporting School of Nursing graduate students enrolled in the Midwifery program.



Associate Professor Kristy Martyn, left, and Assistant Professor Lisa Kane-Low (BSN '84, Ph.D '01), far right, congratulate Melissa Scott on receiving the Murtland Scholarship. Professor Low is holding a portrait of Terri Murtland created to commemorate the award.

Professor's gift promotes global study experiences

As the School of Nursing's Director of International Affairs, Professor **Shaké Ketefian** appreciates the impact a global experience can have on a student's education. She also understands that, for many, international study remains financially out of reach.

Through her recent \$25,000 gift establishing the Shaké Ketefian Endowed Fund for Student International Experience, Ketefian extends her generous track record of support for Nursing students by providing scholars with essential resources to gain a global perspective.

"Such experience expands student horizons, makes them more open-minded to differences of all kind, helps them recognize the need to work toward social justice, and most importantly, helps them see the possibilities in themselves of ways that they can make a difference in the lives of others," Ketefian said.

Her gift capitalizes on President Mary Sue Coleman's donor challenge, Enriching the Student Global Experience, a one-for-two match that helps donors leverage their support for U-M students participating in global study and internship programs. Read more at www.giving.umich.edu/presidents-challenge.

"I saw the creation of this challenge fund by President Coleman as an expression of the University's commitment to student global experiences," Ketefian said. "This was a great incentive in my decision to make this gift to the School of Nursing."



Muellers generously celebrate a proud U-M lineage

Why do people give to Michigan? For **Amy** (BSN '68) **Mueller** and her husband, **Eric** (BSEEE '65), it's a family affair—her family and the School of Nursing family. The couple recently honored both by establishing the L.E. and A.J. Mueller Charitable Remainder Unitrust to benefit future Nursing students and faculty, among others.

Even at a university famous for inspiring intergenerational loyalty, Amy's lineage stands out. Her grandfather, father and five of her aunts and uncles all graduated from Michigan. She met Eric while she was at Nursing and he was following in his father's footsteps at U-M Engineering. The true-blue couple went on to raise two daughters, Karen and Erica Jill (BS '00). And Jill brought still one more Wolverine into the fold when she married Sean (AB '01) Roberts.

But Amy's commitment is also about the U-M Nursing family. "When I had to drop out of the program for two semesters after having surgery I was really worried about money," she recalls. "So I talked to the dean at the time, Verna Barton. She helped me get my student loans in line and gave me so much support and so much confidence. That personal touch meant everything."

"Later, no matter where I went in my nursing career, I always appreciated the education I got at Michigan. The U-M gives you a way of thinking about what you do. Rather than just teaching you a task, it's a whole way of approaching your work."

Now, through their generous gift, Amy and Eric Mueller will help Michigan educate great nurses for the future.



Patricia Butler (BSN '59, MS '70, Ph.D '86), left, catches up with classmate Sue Ellen McFatridge Askew (ABED '59, CERTT EDUC '59)

Why I support the U-M School of Nursing

"I never realized the wonderful education I received at the U-M School of Nursing until I graduated and was away from Ann Arbor. My experiences both then and now have enhanced every part of my life, and I am grateful to the School and the University. I wish to give something back. I am a part of the University and the more I give to it, the more I feel a part of it."

—Patricia Wittle Mitchell Butler (BSN '59, MS '70, Ph.D '86)

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ALUMNI NOTES



The American Academy of Nursing inducted **Denise Charron-Prochownik** (Ph.D '91), associate professor in the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing's Department of Health Promotion and Development, as a fellow during its annual awards ceremony and banquet in Scottsdale, AZ. Charron-Prochownik was selected for her outstanding achievements in nursing and diabetes research.

The Grand Rapids Press recently profiled **Sylvia Mupepi** (Ph.D '01) in recognition of her outstanding work as an associate professor of nursing at Grand Valley State University.

Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the honor society of nursing, recognized **Joanne Disch** (Ph.D '85) with the 2009 Mary Tolle Wright Award for Excellence in Leadership. Joanne serves as clinical professor of Nursing at the University of Minnesota.

Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) honored **Linda Cronenwett** (BSN '66, Ph.D '83) with the 2009 Dorothy Garrigus Adams Award for Excellence in Fostering Professional Standards. Professor and Dean of Nursing at UNC-Chapel Hill, Linda also shared an STTI Nursing Media Award for the project, "Transforming Nursing Curricula to Improve Quality and Safety in Patient Care," and an Information Technology Award in Knowledge Advancement for the collaborative website qsen.org.

Stephen Strobbe (MS '98, Ph.D '09), clinical director for the University of Michigan Addiction Treatment Services and adjunct lecturer at the School of Nursing, co-authored a publication entitled, "Association between val66met brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) gene polymorphism and post-treatment relapse in alcohol dependence." The study appears in the April 2009 issue of *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*.



Have an update you want to share?
Just send an e-mail to nursingalum@umich.edu with the words "Alumni newsletter" in the subject line or call us at or 734-763-9710 and we'll include your news in our next issue.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

The School of Nursing offers congratulations and best wishes to our nine distinguished Nursing faculty members retiring between January 2009 and June 2010:

2009

Violet Barkauskas (MPH '68)

Bonnie Metzger (Ph.D '82)

Joyce Roberts

Marilyn Svejda

Barbara Therrien (Ph.D '82)

Ann Whall

2010

Carol Loveland-Cherry (BSN '64, MPH '74)

Shaké Ketefian

Ann Kruszewski (BSN '71)

Over the course of their careers, these professors have mentored numerous graduate and undergraduate students and influenced the lives and careers of many more. To celebrate their contributions, more than 150 members of the School of Nursing community gathered on October 15 for a special celebration at the Michigan League. A number of grateful former students joined the festivities while attending the School's Ph.D. Reunion, which was specially scheduled to coincide with the event.

All-class reunion weekend



The Class of '59 reunites for a weekend of celebration



Class of '59ers (from left) Lillian Kamper Kuiper (BSN '59), Patricia Wittle Mitchell Butler (BSN '59, MS '70, Ph.D '86), Elizebeth Davie Kearney (BSN '59) and Marilyn Clark Kiesel (BSN '59)



Friends and family gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of Class of '30 alumna Ruth Conser Shaw (CERTN '30) (center, in white) in August, just prior to the reunion



The Class of '64 was also well represented among the more than 300 alumni who returned for the all-class reunion



Please save the long weekend of October 14 through 17, 2010, for next year's All-Class Reunion. We'll share information about the program of activities in a future issue of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Class of 1960 has begun planning its 50th reunion for 2010. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Assistant Director for Development and External Relations Ed Maki-Schramm at (734) 763-9710 or eschramm@umich.edu.



FACULTY NOTES

In August, the National Black Nurses Association inducted Professor of Nursing **Margaret Scisney-Matlock** into its Institute of Excellence. The NBNA is a non-profit organization representing 150,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students, and retired nurses from the U.S., eastern Caribbean and Africa.



This fall **Professor Scisney-Matlock** was also honored with a 2009–10 fellowship from the U-M Medical Innovation Center. The MIC Fellowships bring clinicians, scientists, dentists, engineers and business professionals together to improve health by fostering innovation and new medical technologies.



The American College of Nurse Midwives has presented U-M researcher **Michelle Sperlich** and Associate Professor of Nursing **Julia S. Seng** (left) (MS '95, Ph.D '99) with its 2009 Best Book Award for *Survivor Moms: Women's Stories of Birthing, Mothering and Healing after Sexual Abuse*.

The American Academy of Nursing inducted **Professor Seng** and her colleague, Associate Professor of Nursing **Janean Erickson Holden** (MS '87, Ph.D '93) into its ranks in November. The Academy, which comprises many of the nation's top nursing executives, policymakers, scholars, researchers and

practitioners, selected Seng and Holden for their significant contributions to nursing and health care and the strong positive influence they have had on health policies for all Americans.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded Associate Professor of Nursing and Assistant Dean **Bonnie Hagerty** (Ph.D '89) a grant for her research project, "Expanding the Accelerated Second Career Program through Innovative Partnerships."



Associate Professor of Nursing **Penny Pierce** (Ph.D '85) has earned significant publicity for her research project, "Women and War: The Toll of Deployment on Physical Health," including a recent interview by Detroit Public Radio.

Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the honor society of nursing, recognized Associate Professor of Nursing **Violet Barkauskas** (MPH '68) with its 2009 International Award.



There's always plenty of fresh news about U-M Nursing at www.nursing.umich.edu.