

S.O.N. NEWS

For Alumni and Friends of the University of Alabama School of Nursing, UAB

Summer 1991

Research Programs Grow
Neuman Is Kelley Lecturer
School Makes Top Twenty



UAB SCHOOL OF
NURSING

Center for Nursing Research Expands

Remodeled space accommodates expanded services.

The Center for Nursing Research has been remodeled, and Director Ann Clark reports that phase one renovations have been completed. Remodeled facilities include administrative offices, the research resources room, and the research computing resource room. The nine-room facility provides office, work, and conference space for a variety of research activities.

The research resources room houses a variety of research books, journals and monographs, data bases, and an extensive instrument file. A computer allows direct access to Lister Hill Library, and a special program called LINK will soon provide literature searches through the National Library of Medicine.

The research computing resource room houses computers for faculty use. Resources include the latest specialized research software, computer manuals, journals, and statistical resources.

The center was established in 1979 to promote research in nursing and to support the research goals of the School of Nursing. Current staffing includes a doctorally prepared nurse researcher (who serves as director), two research

faculty members, four graduate research assistants, a staff assistant, and a work-study student.

Services provided by the center include assistance and consultation for all phases of the research process, for research funding, and for research dissemination and utilization. Staff members have expertise in research design, methodology, nursing theory, clinical research strategies, statistical analyses, and computer usage in research. Statistical consultation is also available from members of the UAB Department of Biostatistics who maintain office hours in the center four days a week.

SON graduates are invited and encouraged to visit the remodeled center.

School Named to Top Twenty; Research Increases

The School of Nursing's role as a national leader in nursing education and research has been documented anew. A survey of the 467 deans and 239 nurse researchers at National League for Nursing accredited nursing schools in the U.S. ranked the SON seventeenth in the country. It was the only

school of nursing in the Southeast to be ranked in the top twenty.

Deans and nurse researchers were asked to rank nursing programs on the basis of ten factors: quality of graduates, knowledge of research, number of publications from faculty, number of doctorally prepared faculty, reputation of dean, reputation of another faculty member, history of the school, existence of a doctoral program, number of ongoing federal grants, and size of the graduate program. The survey was a follow-up to one completed in 1984. In the earlier survey, the SON ranked twenty-first.

"UAB is extremely proud of the School of Nursing," stated John R. Durant, vice president for health affairs. "Under the leadership of Dean Rachel Booth, we are confident that it will continue to serve as a model for such schools across the state and nation."

Results of the survey were published in the journal *Nursing Outlook*. In summarizing the results, the publication noted that such information "can enable schools to distinguish those qualities that make an excellent school rather than a good school and to continue striving for excellence."

Research Grows

One aspect of an outstanding program is the quality and quantity of research. The SON continues to broaden its

extramural and internal research funding and to expand research support facilities.

During the past year, eight new extramural grants were received, and six proposals are pending. Faculty members garnered fifteen internal research grants.

The range of research interests can be seen from a review of articles authored by SON faculty members. Articles from our faculty members that appeared in professional journals during the past year addressed such topics as strategies of normalization used by parents of chronically ill children; hope, self-esteem, and social support in persons with multiple sclerosis; the response of expectant fathers to pregnancy; written communication as a key management skill; the application of the Neuman systems model to a patient with cervical spinal cord injury; the changing scene in baccalaureate nursing education; Roy's adaptation model as a guide for rehabilitation nursing practice; trauma; and education for patients with back injuries.

To promote a vigorous research program, Dean Rachel Z. Booth initiated a Dean's New Investigator Award in Nursing Education. The purpose of the award is to encourage faculty members to contribute to the development and advancement of nursing education through nursing research. The award is reserved for a

faculty member who has not been a principal investigator on an extramurally funded grant exceeding \$10,000.

Dean's Portrait Continues Tradition

Shortly after her arrival at UAB, Dean Rachel Z. Booth received a first-hand introduction to one of the traditions of the School of Nursing Alumni

Association: the dean's portrait. Local artist Mark Carder was commissioned to paint Dean Booth's portrait, which joins those of the school's two earlier deans, Florence A. Hixson and Marie L. O'Koren.

UAB President Charles A. McCallum presided over unveiling ceremonies in the School of Nursing Auditorium in September,

accepting the portrait on behalf of the university. Dr. Jean A. Kelley, who was associated with the school for thirty-one years, was one of the speakers for the occasion. She noted that the portraits of the three deans say a lot about the school's history.

Dean Hixson, Dr. Kelley said, was "the school's architect," Dean O'Koren was "the great expander," and Dean Booth is "the refiner and strategist." She further described Dr. Booth as "a humanistic, problem-solving visionary," who has already had a considerable impact on the school since her arrival November 1, 1987.

Faculty Honors

Dr. Billie Henderson, former graduate faculty member, received the Nowlin Award from the Alabama Division of the



New administrators for the School of Nursing are (left to right) Robert Cummings, associate director for the Learning Resources Center; Dr. Elizabeth Stullenbarger, associate dean, graduate programs; Dr. Glenda McGaha, assistant to the dean, development; Dr. Linda L. Davis, associate dean, undergraduate program; and Dr. Ann Clark, director, Center for Nursing Research.

American Cancer Society (ACS). An active volunteer for the ACS since 1972, Dr. Henderson has participated in a number of public education offerings and has been actively involved in the Nursing Education Committee, having presented a number of workshops throughout the state. She retired from the School of Nursing in 1987.

Photo: Teresa Winters (left) accepts the Upjohn Scholarship and congratulations from Dean Rachel Z. Booth.

Dr. Mildred Hamner has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*. As a member of the board, she will be asked to review manuscripts for possible publication, in addition to writing guest editorials about every 18 months.

Assistant Professor Kate L. Jackson has been selected for participation in a special nursing project involving the Office of the Surgeon General, Health Professional Support Agency—Health Education and Training Division. The assignment concerns developing policy on nursing education, quality assurance and risk management, strategic military planning and research.

Associate Professor Judy Holcombe is serving a two-year term as president of the Alabama Division of the American Cancer Society (ACS). Dr. Holcombe has become a leader in oncology nursing in Alabama and was the 1986 recipient of the ACS Nowlin Award for individual contributions in cancer control. She currently serves on the National Committee for Scholarships and Professorships in Cancer Nursing.

Miss America Brings Check; Winters Receives It

For one nurse, winning the 1988 Miss America title did not mean an end to her nursing activities. When Kae Lani Rae Rafko, R.N., visited the School of Nursing in September, she came as a representative of the Upjohn Corporation. In that capacity, she presented the school with a check for the Upjohn Health Care Services Nursing Scholarship. The UASON was one of only twenty-nine nursing schools nationally selected to receive the scholarship funds.

Rafko spoke to a group of students, faculty, alumni, and guests about nursing. She also spoke of the hospice she is establishing in Michigan.

In January, following the nomination of eight outstanding students, Teresa Winters was chosen as the recipient of the Upjohn Scholarship. According to the Upjohn Scholarship Committee, Winters is a caring, action-oriented, critical thinker who has emerged as a role model for her peers. The committee noted in announcing its selection that Winters has the potential for a significant contribution to professional nursing.

She represented the University of Alabama School of Nursing Students' Association at the national convention in Arizona. She has served as a volunteer with the American Red Cross, helping with a Christmas party for developmentally disabled adults. In addition, she works as a nursing assistant in the Regional Newborn Intensive Care Unit at UAB Hospital.

These nursing and study-related activities are added to a busy personal life. Winters has four children, two of whom are being adopted by Winters and her husband.

