

From the Dean

Enrollment up, West Wing expansion under way.

It is a pleasure to bring you greetings and to provide you with a brief overview of the activities under way in the School of Nursing. As you may have noticed, we have a new name for our publication—*The 1992 Vignette*. This title was submitted by Dr. Sarah Johnston and was selected from among many that were submitted by faculty and staff. The word “vignette” describes what we are attempting to do, that is, provide you with a brief description about the activities of the School. We are pleased to report on our programs and accomplishments and hope that you share our pride in doing so.

Enrollment Trends and Other Changes

After experiencing a significant decline in undergraduate enrollment over several years, the trend has reversed with a 26 percent increase for Fall '91 in comparison to Fall '90. Enrollment decreased in the graduate program, resulting in a total School increase of 6 percent. Another trend that is occurring is the increasingly high quality of students, many of whom have



degrees in related fields prior to entering nursing.

As the size of the student body increases, so does the size of the faculty; thus, we have several new faculty and teaching assistants who have joined us during the past two years. At the present time, 66 percent of the faculty have the terminal degree and an additional 20 percent are in doctoral study. Several of our faculty have been successful in obtaining extramural funding for their research programs from the National Center for Nursing Research, foundations, corporations, and associations. Also, many of our faculty have been awarded research grants from resources within the University. A training grant to support the preparation of pediatric primary health nurse clinicians was awarded to Dr. Ann Edgil by the Division of Nursing,

Department of Health and Human Services.

When you visit the School, you will notice that we are building a new West Wing that will provide 6,600 square feet of additional space. This addition will enable us to have a thirty-five-station, state-of-the-art computer classroom with additional stations for interactive video and computerized testing and a state-of-the-art skills laboratory. By placing these functions in the West Wing, other space will be reallocated to more than double the amount of space available for the Center for Nursing Research.

To increase our technologic capabilities, the University is installing a network of fiber optic cabling that will be accessible to all buildings on the campus. The School of Nursing will connect to this campus network via a broad-band cable system that will be installed throughout the School of Nursing building. This broad-band system will support duplex transmission of audio, video, satellite, and data communications. Our goal is to position the School so that it will be able to achieve the tripartite missions of education, research, and

service over the next five to ten years.

The Look of the Future

A 2001 Task Force has been appointed to create a vision of what the School should look like in the year 2001. Task Force membership consists of Drs. Norman Keltner (chair), Kathy Brown, and Arthur Ree Campbell. They are soliciting input from faculty groups and community leaders as they proceed with their charge. We will up-date you on that vision in our next edition of *The Vignette*.

One of the highlights of the year has been the appointment and convening of a Board of Visitors. The purposes of this Board are to assist the School with public relations, marketing, and development and fund raising. We are extremely fortunate and are excited to have many of Birmingham's most prominent and finest leaders serve on this Board. This activity is described in more detail in the Development column.

We wish to thank each of you for your support and assistance in maintaining the quality of our School while at the same time launching into new initia-

tives. Your efforts in recruiting students and faculty and your gifts to the School are greatly appreciated. As is described elsewhere in this publication, we have added several gifts to our scholarship endowments this year and are getting closer to our

goal of one million dollars for our first endowed chair. We are grateful to each of you and seek your continued support.

Rachel Z. Booth

Rachel Z. Booth, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor



Dean Rachel Z. Booth prepares a time capsule as part of the celebration of the West Addition to the School of Nursing. The capsule is to be opened in the year 2042.