

# NURSING SCHOOL DESIGNATED AN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CENTER

**L**ast October, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the UAB School of Nursing a WHO Collaborating Center. The WHO designation recognizes the School of Nursing's sustained involvement and interest in nursing activities throughout the world. The school is now the sixth nursing school in the United States and the 28th worldwide to receive this designation. "The designation as a WHO Collaborating Center enhances the university's reputation as an international health care center," says Dean Rachel Booth, "and, at the same time, broadens nursing knowledge by creating an environment rich with culture differences."

## What is a WHO Collaborating Center?

A WHO Collaborating Center participates in an international network that works toward realizing WHO's major goal of "Health for All-Year 2000" by developing and sharing education and research materials that will help achieve this goal. The "Health for All-Year 2000" goal is to ensure that primary health care is available to everyone in the world by the year 2000. As a WHO Collaborating Center, UAB's School of Nursing will help foreign countries develop master's degree programs in nursing

education and will help educate nurses in the application of research findings. The school will also create exchange programs that allow students to participate in international nursing. Juanzetta Flowers, deputy director of UAB's International Nursing Program, explains, "Our job will be to help nurses in the Pan American region upgrade their skills while we simultaneously broaden our own faculty's and students' horizons." The Pan American region covers the Caribbean, Latin and South America, and Mexico.

## Superior Leadership

In selecting an institution to become a Collaborating Center, WHO considers the institution's scientific and technical standing and the quality of its scientific and

technical leadership in nursing. The WHO designation indicates that the research and clinical programs in UAB's School of Nursing are recognized nationally and internationally, and that UAB has superior scientific and technical leadership in nursing.

Additionally, the School of Nursing's existing collaborative relationships with China, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia have already produced visiting scholars to the school. The nursing faculty also have led study tours in Russia, China, Spain, and East Africa, and have served as visiting professors in China and Saudi Arabia.

The School of Nursing's first exchange student, Ken Farr, visited Honduras last summer and studied the differences between Honduran and American health care methods. (For more informa-



OIMI Meeting

tion about Farr's trip, see page 6.)

The School of Nursing now plans to assist the University of West Indies in developing the first master's program in nursing for the English-speaking Caribbean.

Other American nursing schools designated as WHO Collaborating Centers are George Mason University, the University of Texas at Galveston, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of California at San Francisco. The non-American collaborating centers are located in Australia,

Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Philippines, Scotland, Slovenia, Thailand, the United Kingdom (two sites), Yugoslavia, and Zaire.



WHO Dedication Ceremony