2008-2009 CCN AMBASSADORS
This is an absolutely glorious spring for the Capstone College of Nursing here at The University of Alabama. Of course our campus is always so beautiful in the spring that it takes your breath away. The blooming red buds are followed by the blooming Japanese cherry trees and the azaleas and tulips are just about to pop. But this spring is particularly special for us. We had our ceremonial ground breaking in the fall but now we are ready to move real soil for a real building. If you have been on campus lately, then you have seen the heavy fencing that has been placed around our building site on University Boulevard just across from DCH Regional Medical Center. Since there were no utilities to the site, that work has already begun. At the same time, construction contractors were working on their bids for the project. The bids were opened March 5th, with construction starting in March or early April. I am very pleased with the interest expressed by construction firms. That it will be the first building you will see as you enter the campus from University Boulevard and that it is a building to educate nurses are factors that have contractors interested in the project.

At the same time that construction on our building is getting started we will celebrate Honors Week in April where we honor our best and brightest. We continue to have record numbers of students, almost 1200 undergraduate students and more than 150 graduate students, an all time record for our college. These bright and capable women and men will impact nursing and health care for decades to come. Our more than 70 May graduates will be entering the profession at a time that they are sorely needed. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 233,000 additional jobs for registered nurses will open each year through 2016, in addition to about 2.5 million existing positions. What a wonderful time for our college, our students, and our graduates!
ome Tuscaloosa area residents may soon be on the path to better health care. At least that is the intention of Ms. Lisa Hatcher, Program Director for the PATH Project, and a number of local health care service providers who recently attended the Care Transitions Workshop hosted by The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing; the Case Manager's Society of America—Tuscaloosa Extension, Birmingham Chapter and Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation (AQAF), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for the state of Alabama, which is leading the PATH project.

Care transitions refer to situations where a patient is handed off from one health care service provider to another. Perhaps the most common example is when a patient is discharged from the hospital to a community-based provider such as home health or a skilled nursing facility. Despite the good intentions of individual health care workers, approximately 25% of all transitioned patients incur one or more adverse events resulting in family dissatisfaction, unmet patient needs and often re-hospitalization. According to Hatcher, re-hospitalizations due to recurrent and perhaps avoidable problems account for as many as 13% of all patient hospitalizations and as much as 60% of health care resource consumption.

That could all change with the implementation of the PATH program in Alabama. PATH is an acronym that stands for Post Acute Transitions in Healthcare. It is one of only fourteen similar pilot projects across the nation funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce re-hospitalizations through improved coordination of care among health service providers.

PATH targets the 42,000 Medicare beneficiaries in seven west Alabama counties including Tuscaloosa, Fayette, Lamar, Pickens, Green, Bibb and Hale counties. According to Ms. Hatcher, the service providers and patients who participate in the pilot project are part of something very special that could extend well beyond the seven-county pilot project. “Through this pilot project, health care providers will have a direct voice to CMS in helping promote better patient outcomes not just for the residents of these seven Alabama counties but potentially the entire nation,” Hatcher stated. She also indicated that each of the seven acute care hospitals, 12 home health agencies and 13 nursing homes located in the seven county area making up the pilot program have already agreed to participate.

Hatcher, a Capstone graduate herself, described the involvement of the Capstone College of Nursing as being critical to project success. “The Nurse Case Management program at UA is one of the premier programs in the country. Having the support and involvement of the Capstone provides a tremendous leverage point in impacting current as well as future nurse case managers,” Hatcher stated. Dr. Marietta Stanton, the Program Director for the CCN’s Nurse Case Management Program, described the opportunity to work with the Care Transitions Project as a definite win-win situation. “We have an opportunity to expose our students to the very latest information regarding the all-too-common problems that can occur when patients move from one health service provider to another. It is exciting to be such an integral part of a project that could result in new and creative models for how nurse case management is performed. More importantly, by equipping our students to proactively address these problems, we can make a real difference in the lives of the people of Alabama,” Stanton stated.

The next 18 months are critical for the PATH project. CMS will evaluate the project’s performance on interim measures to achieve the overall outcome in reducing avoidable re-hospitalizations. Depending on the ability to show improvement, the contract could be extended through July 31, 2011. For more information about PATH, go to http://www.aqaf.com or call 1-205-970-1600 extension 3201. 

Dr. Linda Dunn, CCN faculty, along with CCN students Lionel Player and Carla Taylor were among the participants in the Care Transitions Workshop.

Ms. Lisa Hatcher, keynote speaker and PATH Project Director.
October 10, 2008 saw the groundbreaking on the site of the future Capstone College of Nursing, the first facility centered on nursing education for the college since its inception in the 1950s. Those who participated in the 2 p.m. ceremony were UA President Robert E. Witt; Dr. Sara Barger, Dean of the Capstone College of Nursing; and special guests whose generosity supports the new facility.

Senator Poole addresses the crowd.

State Senator Phil Poole, who addressed the crowd, said the facility has been long overdue for the college and that nursing students deserve a facility that enhances their learning.

“[I] found out that students were having to go to 13 different buildings just to get their nursing classes,” he said. “I thought that was outrageous.”

Currently, the college is housed at Russell Hall, which served as the former health center at the University.

Sara Barger, Dean of the college, said that nation-wide, there is a shortage of nurses. With baby-boomers getting older and requiring more medical care, this problem may escalate in the near future. However, Barger maintained that this new facility has the potential to attract more students into the nursing field.

“It is an honor to be here in this moment in history,” Barger said.

There are currently 1,300 undergraduates in the college with an additional 150 graduate students.

The building will be three stories, two of those floors occupying classrooms, and will cover 60,000 square feet. Other resources at its disposal will be its use of practice patients and virtual simulations.

Katie Hyde, Ambassador to the college, said that this project has
been a dream-come-true for the students as well as the faculty and that it is the perfect time to start the process. “So many people have worked so hard to make this happen,” Hyde said. “It will encourage students to come back.”

Hyde, a senior at the college of nursing, said that she will graduate before the construction is completed, but with a potential job at DCH Regional Medical Center she will be able to be around the site all the time.

“This will not just be a building for today, but for 2050 and on,” Hyde said.

The construction will start in April 2009 and is projected to be completed by summer 2010.

A combination of federal, state and private support is making construction of the approximately $20 million building possible, and more support is needed to complete the building, says Shelley Jordan, Director of Advancement for the College.

“Naming opportunities are still here, and there is still room for statewide involvement,” Jordan said. To find out more, contact Jordan at 205/348-9876 or sdjordan@bama.ua.edu.

“The graduates of this program will be taking care of all of us,” Barger says. Alabamians, in particular, should take note. “Eighty-nine percent of the nurses that we graduate stay in-state to work, even if they did not come from in-state.”
Sherry Arboneaux, who is in the MSN program, had to postpone studies due to deployment with Continuing Promise. Seven members of the 81st Medical Group, including Sherry, put on their sea legs recently as participants in a U.S. Southern Command humanitarian mission and served as augmentees aboard the Navy amphibious ship USS Kearsarge during a 4-month deployment. She says, “It’s been a great experience so far.”

A total of two U.S. Navy amphibious ships brought health care and other relief services to eight Latin American and Caribbean nations during this humanitarian and civic assistance mission. Humanitarian teams embarked on the USS Kearsarge and USS Boxer provided medical care to 71,000 patients, conducted 348 surgeries and completed numerous community renovation projects. Continuing Promise offered valuable training to U.S. military personnel while promoting partnerships and goodwill.

A key aspect of the mission is the partnership of military personnel with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations, like Project Hope and Operation Smile. Such diversity of humanitarian expertise enhances mission effectiveness. It also lays the foundation for relationships that could pay dividends in the event the U.S. responds to a potential humanitarian crisis in the region.

The Kearsarge departed its homeport of Norfolk, Virginia on August 6 to support the second phase of “Continuing Promise 2008.” The humanitarian assistance mission includes assisting partner nations impacted by natural disasters and other emergencies resulting in human suffering or danger to human lives.

During the mission, the ship visited six countries during the deployment—Nicaragua.
Embarke on the ship was a team of more than 150 military and Public Health Service medical professionals who worked with partner nation medical teams and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) – like Project Hope and Operation Smile – in treatment, training and infrastructure support across the host countries. Forces from Brazil, Canada, France, Netherlands, and Spain were also embarked for the mission. The crew included a team of medical personnel to provide first-aid and other health-related services to communities impacted by conditions associated with storm-produced flooding. Medical facilities aboard Kearsarge included four operating rooms, 13 intensive-care unit beds, 40 medical ward beds, a laboratory, X-ray equipment and a blood bank.

The medical team treated patients, conducted surgeries, dispensed prescriptions, conducted medical, dental and optometric services and provided veterinary care to animals. About 60 military engineering and construction troops also supported the mission by providing robust construction capabilities, civic action repairs and minor construction projects at each stop. The troops built schools, completed renovation projects on schools, clinics and hospitals, renovated parks and community centers and performed infrastructure projects.
Student Highlights

Nicole Jordan, a sophomore at The University of Alabama from Memphis, Tenn., double majoring in nursing and musical theater, has been selected Miss UA for 2009. Jordan will represent the University at the Miss Alabama Pageant in June at Samford University. She is a member of several UA honor societies, including the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and she was recently selected as a delegate to the Presidential Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C. Sponsered by the UA National Alumni Association, the Miss UA Program remains the largest and one of the most competitive Miss Alabama/Miss America preliminary programs in the Southeast. The winner receives a full-tuition scholarship for her year of service, book scholarships and numerous other gifts from area businesses, alumni and Alabama fans.

Nicole later participated in the Scholarship Date Auction and fetched $125! The event, sponsored by the SGA and the National Society of Black Engineers, offered up 33 of the most high profile students from across a wide variety of student organizations and athletic teams to be taken on a date with the highest bidder. Terry Saban was the master of ceremonies. The event raised more than $13,000. All the money raised will be put towards various student scholarships. The couples enjoyed a dinner at Desperados Steakhouse.

Three students and one alumni attended the Region 6 meeting of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses with CCN instructors Dr. Angela Collins and Marti Clifton. While there they presented a high fidelity simulation of a mock malignant hyperthermia code. The presentation was attended by 167 participants and was ranked highly relevant to clinical safety.

Fourth semester student, Katherine McGiffert, enjoys deer hunting in her free time. Her mom reports that she hunted this deer for many days, most of the time she had her class notes with her and studied while in the deer stand. Her mom says, “When she sets her mind to something she usually accomplishes her goal. Katherine wanted to kill this particular deer, which she did, and she wants to graduate with top grades.” Katherine currently has a 3.839 GPA.

The 1st Annual Nurse Education Conference was held on Feb. 6, 2009. The Nurse Educator Program’s Cohort 1 students displayed and presented teaching applications using high tech methods in teaching. Presenters included Stacey Hart, Susan Welch, Tera Kirkman, LaTonya Pringle, Nancy Smith, Monika Gragg, Marsha Cannon, Karen Nabors, Myrna Williamson, Vicki Pierce, Katrina Swain, and Mary Franklin.
Student centered learning using collaborative and active learning strategies are an expectation at the Capstone College of Nursing. Role play is one such strategy that promotes students’ engagement, particularly young adults. The UA Capstone College of Nursing and the Law School collaborated in a mock trial to illustrate the complex interrelationship between the profession of nursing and the law. Over 80 Semester I nursing students and 12 law students participated in the mock trial. Judge Scott Donaldson was responsible for script design and worked collaboratively with ten nursing faculty to orchestrate the event. Legal aspects of nursing is introduced in Semester I with NUR 308: Conceptual Foundations in Professional Nursing. As a result of the mock trial, nursing students were able to take legal vocabulary and a medication error and “see” the consequences that can result from not being a reasonable and prudent nurse. The law students were able to learn courtroom techniques. Nursing students were able to learn the relevance of patient safety that stimulated their thinking on the subject. This experience was a win/win situation for all involved.

**NUR 422 Community Health students** worked with employees of UA during the UA employee health fair.

LaKristin Graham does “health coaching” with a UA employee.

Corrine Lewey performs a finger stick while Kristin Lewis looks on.
Dr. Katherine Burkhalter hosted a 50th Reunion of the 1958 nursing class. The graduating class members consisted of Jean Boyd Bartlett, Birmingham; Jim Bryan, Tuscaloosa (deceased); Katherine Hubbard Burkhalter, Talladega; Given Howell Mitchell, Tuscaloosa (deceased); Rose Ellen Scott-Smith, Dobbins, New York; Helen Winslow Taylor, Collumburg; Merita Rudd Tingley, Cottonwood; and Nina West, Baker Hill.

Regrettably, at the last minute, Jean Bartlett, Helen Taylor, Merita Tingley and Nina West were unable to attend. They were missed tremendously. Two faculty members, who were nursing professors to the class of 1958, Dr. Betty Ann Cleino and Mrs. Dorothy Scarbrough, also attended along with two granddaughters currently enrolled at Alabama. Kadi Rebecca Burkhalter, Katherine’s granddaughter, is in Business Administration and Ashley Eagan, Scotty’s granddaughter, is in Education and plays flute for the University Orchestra. Both students are President’s List Scholars and both lived in Tutwiler Hall as freshman just as the nursing students did fifty years ago. They wanted to hear how it was then.

A wonderfully positive three generation discussion of the evolution process in nursing education at the University of Alabama was had by all, especially including the new building plans currently in motion for the College of Nursing. The reunion group capably discussed Past, Present and Future.

Thank you to Dr. Cleino and Ms. Scarbrough for your input to this project and may you be surrounded with peace, love and success throughout the New Year!
The 2008-2009 Board of Visitors gathered for their Spring 2009 meeting in the Recruitment Room at Bryant Denny Stadium. The meeting was followed by a tour of the stadium including the sky boxes, The Zone, the President's Box and the player's locker room. The attendees got to take the same walk from the locker room to the field that the players do before each home game.
Announcements

**DR. CAROL LAMMON**
with others published the 9th edition of _Clinical Drug Therapy_.

**JEFF BEANS**
was awarded the DCH Excellence Award. This is a hospital-wide quarterly award and only two employees are honored each quarter.

**DR. MARSHA ADAMS**
had “Lessons Learned from a Decade in a University-Community Partnership: Keys to Successful Engagement and Outreach,” published in the _Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement_. It was coauthored with Dr. Alesa Judd.

**DR. FELECIA WOOD**
had the article “Educating Supervisors of Employees with Diabetes,” published in the _AAOHN Journal_ in June 2008. It was coauthored with Dr. Sharol Jacobson.

**DR. ROY ANN SHERROD**
had her appointment to The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education Accreditation Review Committee extended. Dr. Sherrod presented a poster entitled “Male Infertility National Survey of Family Growth: A Comparison of African American and White Men” at the Sigma Theta Tau Region 8 Conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

**DR. RUBY MORRISON**
and Dr. Roy Ann Sherrod had “Baccalaureate Nursing Students’ Leadership Experiences Improve Quality in a Nurse-Managed Rural Health Clinic,” published in _Nursing Education Perspectives_. Dr. Morrison and Dr. Sherrod received certification as Clinical Nurse Leader from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

**DR. SUSAN GASKINS**
and Pamela Payne-Foster are featured in a video by the _UA Research Magazine_. Check them out at http://research.ua.edu/extra.html.

**DR. SARA BARGER**
is incoming President of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).
**NURSES RALLY IN FRONT OF ALABAMA STATEHOUSE**

On February 12, several hundred nurses from across Alabama rallied in front of the Alabama Statehouse to encourage legislators and Gov. Bob Riley to take action to address a shortage of nurses.

The nurses held signs and listened to speakers. The Alabama State University marching band played during the rally. Afterward the nurses walked through the Statehouse and met with legislators.

Dr. Ruby Morrison said the problem is the state’s nursing schools are turning away applicants because they do not have enough qualified instructors.

The nurses are asking lawmakers to support several bills aimed at easing the problem. Those include a measure to fund more scholarships for nursing students.

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**Dr. Sara Barger and Dr. Cindy Jones** signed the partnership agreement between Capstone College of Nursing and Northeast Alabama Community College at The Partnership Advisory Council meeting that was held November 5, 2008 at Hotel Capstone in Tuscaloosa.

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The University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing formed a new community partnership with Aliceville Rural Health Clinic to provide staffing. The employees are (from left to right) Dana Moorehead, LPN; Alesha Walker, Receptionist; Amy Bigham, MSN, APRN, BC; Charles Davis, Insurance Clerk; Susan Mitchell, MSN, CNS, CRNP; Kayce Marlowe, LPN; and Deborah Boykin, Office Manager.
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CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Promoting the profession of nursing and quality nursing education requires commitment. Membership in the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association is one way to demonstrate your commitment to the University of Alabama's Capstone College of Nursing. Your membership is an important way to help provide scholarships, reward student excellence, and increase the financial base that allows us to engage in activities beyond day-to-day operations. If you have any questions about the University of Alabama Nursing Alumni Association, call us at (205) 348-6639 or write to us at the address below.

Name _____________________________

If you are UA alumnus/a, please indicate the following:

Date Degree was awarded _______________ (month/year) Last name at graduation ____________________________

Address ____________________________________________

Employment ___________________________ Employer’s Address ________________________________

E-mail ________________________________

Home Phone __________________________ Business Phone ___________________________

Spouse’s Name __________________________

Spouse’s Employer __________________________

My annual membership gift is as follows:

( ) .................................. $60 – $99 Support Group Membership
( ) .................................. $100 – $249 Century Circle
( ) .................................. $250 – $499 Crimson Circle
( ) .................................. $500 – $999 Ivory Circle
( ) .................................. $1000 – $4,999 Denny Chimes Circle
( ) .................................. $5,000 – $9,999 Capstone Circle
( ) .................................. $10,000 – and above: The 1831 Circle

Family memberships are encouraged:

( ) Minimum of $75 .........UACCNAA Alumni Association Family Membership

Matching Gifts Program

Matching gifts are an excellent way to double your support to the College.

Does your or your spouse’s employer have a matching gift program? ( ) yes ( ) no

If yes, please provide the name and address of the organization:

Make checks payable to the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing Alumni Association Fund and mail to The University of Alabama, Office of Advancement Services, Box 870101, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0101. (Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. You will receive an official receipt of your donation by the end of the calendar year from The University of Alabama Office of Advancement Services.)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CAPSTONE COLLEGE OF NURSING!
EVENTS

APRIL 27  UACCNAA BOARD MEETING
MAY 9    COMMENCEMENT
AUGUST 19 CLASSES BEGIN
OCTOBER 15 HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 16 BOARD OF VISITORS MEETING
OCTOBER 17 HOMECOMING ON THE LAWN

To contribute to the Capstone College of Nursing’s scholarships, programs, and activities, email sdjordan@bama.ua.edu or call (205) 348-9876.