

## Message from the President

Dear Alumni,

**G**reetings from the OHSU School of Nursing Alumni Association! We are pleased to share with you the activities and goals set by the Alumni Board for the year.

The academic year started off with a bang by welcoming new students at orientation and hosting a wine and cheese reception for incoming PhD students. The



*Gabrielle Petersen with her husband Ken and daughter Olivia.*

### Alumni Association Board 2002-2002

Gabrielle Stein Petersen, BS '91, president  
Donna Clark, BS '71, MS '81, past president  
Bonnie Driggers, BS '75, MS '86, president-elect

### Nominating Committee

Ellen Radakovich Harrison, BS '85

### Board Members

Patricia DeShazer, BS '82  
Hannah Pappas, BS '97, MS '02  
Valerie McGinnis, BS '95  
Reneé Menkens, MS '86  
Cynthia Norman, BS '98  
Thomas Saifkhani, BS '01  
Janice Tendler, BS '97, MS '00

energy and excitement from these new students was contagious. Their stories and comments regarding learning and being a student at the School left the board members with feelings of nostalgia.

It is these types of experiences that further drive our commitment as an alumni organization to make more meaningful connections within the School and greater community. As an organization we have set our ambitions high and are eager to accomplish the goals set forth.

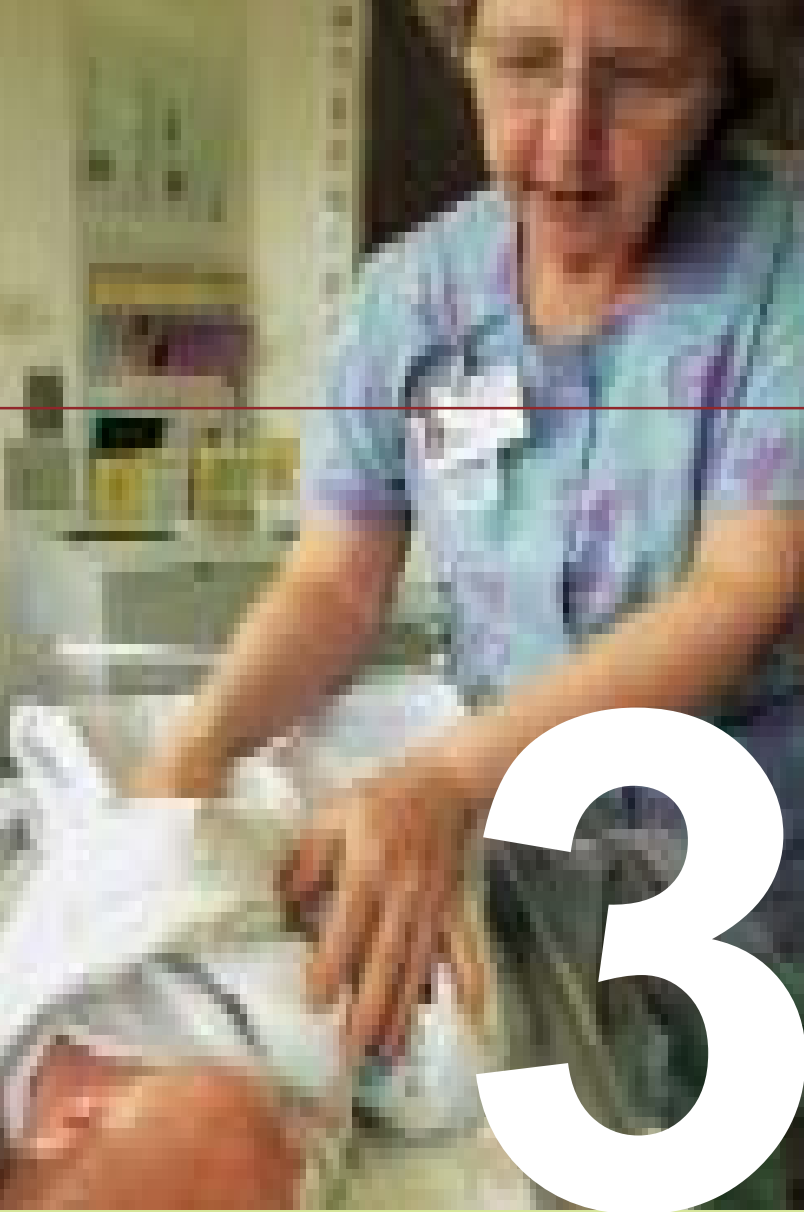
As this year's president I am excited about our progress in obtaining continued funding for the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. During the first year of its existence, alumni helped to raise \$28,000. Since July 2002, the Alumni Association, through direct mail appeals, has raised another \$7,000. The Alumni Association is hoping to reach its \$10,000 fundraising goal for the year by helping to raise another \$3,000. In addition, we will look for additional alumni support through the fundraising efforts of the annual phonathon. It is through these types of endeavors that a legacy is continued. We will impact the lives of nursing students for many generations.

Other activities this year include the annual career fair, establishing a mentor program to connect students with alumni, hosting graduation receptions on each campus, and Alumni Homecoming.

I hope you will take the time to be involved in the Alumni Association this year. There are many opportunities to volunteer or to give in other ways. We need your ideas, your talents and support for a successful organization. Please contact Carolyn Marlette, director of alumni relations, at 503 494-4404, e-mail [nursalum@ohsu.edu](mailto:nursalum@ohsu.edu), or visit the association's Web site at [www.ohsu.edu/son-alumni](http://www.ohsu.edu/son-alumni) to learn more. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Stein Petersen, BS '91  
School of Nursing Alumni Association President



BY THERESA HOGUE, GAZETTE-TIMES REPORTER  
PHOTO: JENNIFER JONES, GAZETTE-TIMES

# 35

## Years of Miracles

### Carol Carter Looks Back on Caring for 35,000 Babies at Good Samaritan

**C**arol Carter never gets tired of babies. That would be unremarkable if she hadn't seen more than 35,000 come into the nursery. But each one is still a miracle to her.

"They're all different. It's a miracle. You never get tired of it," she said. "It's amazing so many are perfect." Carter is retiring from her post as obstetrics nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis, Ore., after working there 39 years, 35 of it in the nursery.

She has seen more than 100 babies each month come into the nursery, and delivered around a dozen herself, when the babies arrived before the doctor did.

"When they come that easy, it's no problem," she said with a wave of her hand.

Carter grew up in Corvallis, and a neighbor who worked in the emergency room at Good Sam inspired her to become a nurse. She took prenursing classes at Oregon State University, and received her degree in nursing from what is now Oregon Health & Science University.

"I worked nights on the surgery floor for my first year, but I got up on the obstetrics ward part time," she said. "After my son was born three years later, there was an opening on the day shift (in the nursery). I've been here ever since. Sitting in a rocking chair in the nursery where new mothers often rock their infants, Carter discussed her sadness at leaving the hospital.

"I love the job. It's hard to quit. I get my baby fix here every day. But it's hard to get up every morning at 5:45." Her husband Jerry, a former postal worker, retired 10 years ago, and the couple has lots of plans, including enjoying their timeshare in Hawaii.

"I want to do gardening, more housework, traveling more and reading more," she said. "I've got a lot of books I want to read." In the 39 years since Carter has been a nurse, she's seen a huge shift in her job and her surroundings. All babies used to stay in the nursery for a day or so after birth, but now, unless the infants are born prematurely or are ill, they remain in their mothers' rooms. And fathers, formerly relegated to the waiting room to pace and smoke cigars, are now a part of the birthing process in a way unheard of when Carter first began her nearly four-decade stint as a nurse.

Because Carter has been with Good Samaritan so long, she's seen several generations come into the world.

"A grandmother recognized me the other day. I'd delivered her child. She said 'My son is having his first baby!'" Carter started out in the hospital's former building, and one of her strongest memories is of the move to the new home on the Samaritan campus in north Corvallis.

Once, during a remodel in the new building, nurses had to wear hard hats and cover the babies' bassinets with hard covers when they pushed them down the halls to

protect them in case of falling plaster.

"That was quite a challenge, but it was worth it after we got it remodeled," she said. "There was chaos and noise and hard hats for us, but now mothers all have private rooms, and that's a big improvement." When Carter began, she remembers maternity rooms with eight beds, quite a change from the private birthing rooms. Because more babies are being born at Albany General Hospital now and the birth rate has dropped, fewer babies are born each year. At the former hospital building, Carter recalled 25 babies being born in one night.

"It was bumper to bumper!" she said.

Paige Down, assistant department manager, first met Carter in 1988 when she had her own child. She began working under Carter after that and continued until 1997. She came back to work for the hospital recently as Carter's supervisor, and can't really believe Carter's leaving.

"She's awesome," Down said of Carter. "I'm not anxious for her to leave," fellow nurse Kathy Snell said. "She's a wealth of information, and she's tutored so many of us. She will leave a huge hole. She's a delightful teacher and advocate. Many babies have gotten their start with Carol." "It's funny how many generations have been born while Carol's been here," said Down.

"She took care of my son," Snell said.

"She took care of my son and daughter," Down said, smiling.

"It doesn't seem like it's going to be the same place without her," Snell said. "The nursery has grown up with her." Carter isn't anxious to leave her friends, either.

"It's like a family," Carter said. "The staff has increased by leaps and bounds. I'll come in at least as a volunteer once a week in the fall." She said the advice she gives to new mothers is the advice she's always given. It's simple and it never fails.

"Sleep when the baby sleeps, and take a nap whenever you can," she said. "And don't worry about the dust. It will keep." NP

*Theresa Hogue is the higher education reporter for the Gazette-Times. She can be reached by e-mail at [theresa.hogue@lee.net](mailto:theresa.hogue@lee.net) or by phone at 541 758-9526. Reprinted with permission from 6/10/02 Gazette-Times.*

# Class Notes



## Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund

The School of Nursing Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund provides a special opportunity for the School's alumni to invest — not only in the School — but also in the future of nursing. With alumni support, the School of Nursing will continue its tradition of attracting the best and the brightest students to the profession of nursing and OHSU. Indeed, such support will provide a solid foundation for compassionate and competent care.

The School loses some strong students because they cannot afford to attend. More and more applicants have complex lives — they are older, have families of their own, and many are paying college tuition for their children. The Alumni Association Board of Directors views the problem of meeting students' financial needs with urgency, especially in light of the nursing shortage. The board established the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship Fund in 2001 as a special opportunity for students of the past to connect with the students of the future.

The board is pleased with the support alumni have shown for the endowed fund. Since its inception, the fund has raised more than \$35,000, and is continuing to grow. The first Alumni Association Scholarship will be awarded next school year.

**Charlotte Forrest Gray, '52**, obtained a BS in 1980. In 1986 she started her own home care agency with a partner (Adams and Gray Home Care). She sold the company in 1996 and continued to work part time for Clackamas County Social Services. Charlotte retired in February 2002. She married a physician in 1953 and had four children. Charlotte and her husband divorced in 1979. She has three granddaughters to whom she is very devoted. Charlotte enjoys travel, gardening, hiking, golf, theater and art museums. She is looking forward to doing more of everything now that she is retired.

**Roma Lue (Hartman) Nelson, '52**, specialized in OB/ GYN and geriatric nursing. She retired in 1990 and took up the study of art. Roma is still attempting watercolor, along with her husband Stan. They have two daughters. One daughter, Deb Triest, and her husband Bill have two wonderful boys. Another daughter, Donna Morrow, adopted a baby girl from China in 2002. Roma and Stan spend a lot of time at the beach.

**Patricia (Bucklin) Schulz, '52**, after leaving OHSU, went into anesthesia training and gave anesthesia for 38 years before retiring in 1990. She married Wayne Schulz in 1960. Her daughter Lori was born in 1961. Lori is an ER nurse in Auburn, Washington, and has two sons. Patricia's son Eric was born in 1962 and is now a college math professor in Walla Walla, Washington. Eric has a son and a daughter. After Patricia retired in 1989, she and her husband started going South for the winter. They have been living and traveling full time in their fifth-wheel for 14 years — the Palm Springs area in the winter and Oregon and Washington in the summer.

**Kathryn (Mumm) Goodwin, '57**, spent about four years working in public health nursing, two years in school nursing, and six years teaching nursing in Indiana and Boise State University. She took eight years off to raise three children. Kathryn went back to work when the children were in school and worked various jobs, ending her career at Idaho State School and Hospital. She retired in 1999 and spends much of her summers in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, where she has a cabin. Kathryn loves to hike, camp and be in the wilderness. Currently she is living in Meridien, Idaho, a suburb of Boise.

**Joyce Colling, '61**, retired in 1995 after 30 years as faculty at OHSU School of Nursing. She currently sees patients part time at her incontinence clinic and consults with geriatric care facilities and HCFA. Joyce is the regional director for the Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates. She is also enjoying her retirement by traveling and singing in community chorus.

**Ann (Garner) Culver, '62**, retired on April 1, 2001, and writes, "It's like a miracle!" Ann's only child, Shelley Hughes, RN, is also a graduate of OHSU School of Nursing. Shelly is a hospice nurse at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland, the same hospital where Ann also worked. Ann has one grandchild, Ben Hughes, who will be 7 on May 17, 2003. She enjoys family, friends, the beach, bridge and talking on the phone. She lists her accomplishments as, "having survived all those years as a bedside nurse; having survived without an answering machine, computer, microwave or cell phone; and having never used an ATM or purchased a lottery ticket!"

**Cheri Fahlsing, '64**, works in a large primary care clinic as a care manager for four physicians — the combined practice of 6,700 clients. The clinics main population of focus is the high-risk elderly, which includes the identification of risk factors and risk reduction by doing appropriate referrals and intervention — with domestic violence intervention on the other end of the spectrum. For recreation, Cheri and her husband sea kayak in Alaska and the Puget Sound. She has two grown children and one grandchild. They own a home in Eagle Crest, Redmond, Ore.

**Gloria (Robinson) Colvin, '72**, received a master's degree in public administration from Lewis and Clark College. She is the executive director at FISH Emergency Service. FISH provides emergency food, clothing and information/referral services. The organization served over 21,000 people last year — almost half were children.

**Patricia A. Cheadle, '77**, has spent most of her career in oncology nursing with the most recent being at OHSU in the Leukemia/bone marrow transplant program outpatient clinic. She focuses on simplicity as a lifestyle that allows her to live relatively comfortable within the restrictions of fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue immune dysfunction syndrome. In addition to spending time with friends and extended family, Patricia enjoys reading, computers, sewing and various handcrafts. Patricia's proudest moments are those when a patient or family member looks at her with understanding when she has shown or explained something to them. Thankfully, she has had many of those moments in her lifetime.

**Kimberly Kropf-Eshelman, '82**, since graduation, has worked in oncology, dialysis, pediatrics, medical surgery, childbirth and prepared childbirth. She currently works at Kaiser Permanente in the family nursing unit and enjoys her job. Kimberly married her husband in January 1982. They have two teenage boys who are very active in sports. Kimberly writes, "they both take after me and are on the small side." The boys graduated from eighth grade in May 2002. Kimberly and her family have seven acres and 28 sheep.

**Kathleen J. Murray, '92**, after graduating from the nurse-midwifery program at OHSU, moved to Tacoma to take a job and 10 years later is still loving it. However, her truly greatest joy is her children. Kathleen adopted two baby daughters from orphanages in China — Emily and Sabrina. "They are treasures," writes Kathleen.

*To share your Class Note with fellow alumni, e-mail [nursalum@ohsu.edu](mailto:nursalum@ohsu.edu) or visit the association Web site at [www.ohsu.edu/son-alumni](http://www.ohsu.edu/son-alumni).*