

# WATTS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and looking forward to spring temperatures as much as I am! This year, Watts School of Nursing is 122 years old!

This year's Spring Banquet will be held on May 10, 2017 at the Croasdaile Country Club. Come meet our newest Watts graduate nurses from the classes of December 2016 and May 2017, celebrate 50 years with the class of 1967, and reconnect with your classmates!

The new graduate sponsorship for the Spring Banquet has continued to be a huge success. Your support has continued to assist greatly with the overall expenses in the last few years. We hope you will consider supporting a student again at this year's banquet.

It is time for the appointment and election of officers for your alumni this year. The ballot of officers will be presented at the Spring Banquet for a final vote.

Dues remain \$30 annually and allow us the opportunity to give back to the students in the form of scholarships, awards to graduating seniors, and gifts to the student body. The membership period is December 1-November 30. Feel free to renew your membership at any time during the membership year.

The Watts Alumni Association is looking forward to a busy year and we welcome your participation. Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to seeing you in May!

*Rosalin Robinson*

Class of 1972

Email: [wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com)

Alumni Website: <http://wattsschoolofnursing.org/alumni>

## CURRENT OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rosalin Robinson '72 – President

Susan Avent '76 – President Elect

Gina M. Edwards '93 – Secretary

Reba H. Beavers '68 – Treasurer & Database  
Manager

Elizabeth Cantor '08 - Past President

Rebecca Dodson '61 - At Large

Page Brantley '98 - At Large

Melissa Murray '00 - At Large

Sherry Warren '03 – At Large

## ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

**Date:** May 10, 2017

**Time:** Registration 5:15 pm Dinner 6:00 pm

**Place:** Croasdaile Country Club, 3800 Farm Gate Avenue, Durham, NC (off of Cole Mill Road)

**Cost\*:** Alumni -- \$35, Golden Agers (1940-1966) -- \$25, Non Alumni/Guests -- \$40

Graduates from Classes of Spring '17 & Dec '16 -- *No Cost*

**RSVP Deadline:** All checks must be received by **May 2, 2017** to reserve your seat and meal.

- If you as an alumni member would like to support a May 2017 or December 2016 graduate for the banquet, please indicate the amount of your donation with your check and RSVP response.

**Please make checks payable to:**

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association

**Mailing Address:**

Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association

Attn: Treasurer

2828 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27705-2505

**Email Registration for New Grads Only:** December 2016 & May 2017 Graduates, please RSVP via email by **May 1st** to Elizabeth Cantor at [elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu](mailto:elizabeth.cantor@duke.edu)

We **invite** alumni members to either bring a "door prize" for the traditional door prize drawing event (1 gift per person is appropriate) or consider a donation which will support our current graduates, students, and/or scholarship fund.

**For Questions you may contact:**

Reba Beavers 919-815-9510 [rebabeavers@nc.rr.com](mailto:rebabeavers@nc.rr.com) or Susan Avent 919-684-6264 [susan.avent@duke.edu](mailto:susan.avent@duke.edu)

## Celebrate Alumni Accomplishments!

We need to celebrate our accomplishments. Have you recently finished an advanced degree? Published a paper or article? Completed your nursing certification? Received a local, state or national award? Please send us your accomplishments so we can share across our organization.

Email us at [wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsalumniassociation@gmail.com)

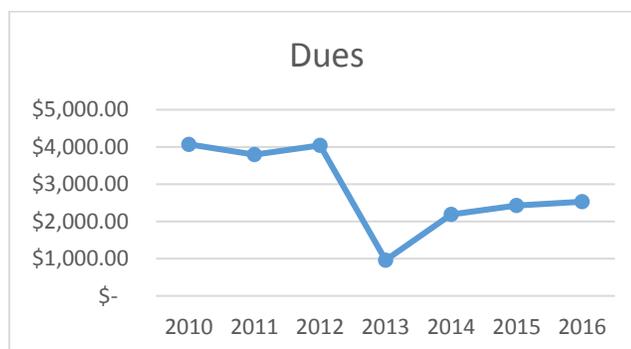
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Dues for 2016-2017 are now past due.** Dues are \$30 and the dues year is from December 1 to November 30. **Complete and mail-in the form included in this newsletter**

**SAVE THE DATE** for our **Annual Winter Gathering:** Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

## FINANCE UPDATE

During 2016 we did have a slight increase in dues and contributions compared to the last two years. For the 2016 fiscal year we received \$2530 in dues. In 2015 we received \$2430, 2014 we received \$2190, and 2013 we received \$960, and in years prior we received as much as \$4070. We received \$8940 in contributions for 2016. Dues and contributions are used for yearly operations i.e., banquet, printing and mailing of newsletters, gifts for students, treats/goodies at exam time for the students, etc. A reduction of funds can impact yearly operations. Several members have asked about donations to the alumni, these are certainly welcome and will be used to pay for a graduating senior at the banquet or other expenses.



## Ethel Clay Price Scholarships

Up to four scholarships are awarded two times a year at \$500 each.

Four scholarships were awarded to the following students in **January 2017**: Brittany Grant, Sarah Luihn, Jasetta Perkins, and Kate Woodard.

## December 2016 Graduation Awards

- Beulah Owens Award: Leah Cagwin
- Burke Matthews Award: Stephanie Douglass

## IN MEMORIAM

<u>Name</u>	<u>Watts Class</u>	<u>Death</u>
Laura Elizabeth Long	Class of 1944	June 4, 2016
Joyce Oakley Holloman	Class of 1952	September 30, 2016
Peggy Poole Norton McCallum	Class of 1953	December 20, 2015
Kathryn Fish Latta	Class of 1953	May 29, 2016
Yvonne Yeargin Bourner	Class of 1956	August 29, 2015
Frankie Dunn Upchurch	Class of 1963	January 19, 2017
Kathy Bennett Stark	Class of 1964	February 1, 2016
Surván "Van" Umstead Whitfield	Class of 1976	January 27, 2017
Frances Roberts Sharpe	Class of 1983	May 5, 2016
Effie Eunice Wood	Class of 1987	September 10, 2016
James Patrick O'Corroll	Class of 1994	December, 2, 2012
Richard Potter	Class of 2005	September 5, 2016
Gwendolyn M. (Pickett) Leary	Class of 1993	January 8, 2017
Mary Roberts Terry	Class Year Unknown	September 2, 2016
Emily Lee Maness	Class Year Unknown	February 8, 2017

*Spring 2017*

## **UPDATE FROM THE SCHOOL**

Hello Watts Alumni!

What a difference a year makes! The warm weather of the past few days has us looking forward to spring and May graduation. Watts has been very busy!

Thank you for your continued support for our students with the snacks, lunches, and gift to the student body. The students very much appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Watts is all about the students. Our NCLEX-RN pass rate for 2016 was 100% with three consecutive classes having 100% and the December 2016 class to date also has 100% pass. The faculty are doing an outstanding job with our students. All graduates are getting jobs, many before they graduate and our last Employer Satisfaction survey is at 100%. We have our largest graduating class to date with 50 for May; 42 started in the freshman class. Going strong at 122 years!

Mrs. Mary Newton, Class of 1947 has given a wonderful gift this fall for the purchase of additional mannequins, supplies, and computers. Watts is so grateful for all the support Mrs. Newton and her family have given to Watts.

Watts has three new faculty members to join us this year. Dr. Trynequa Jones, Mrs. Cynthia Cross, and Mrs. Kristen Schutz. Mrs. Schutz is a Watts graduate, class of 2009. Four faculty are prepared with the doctorate: Dr. Lisa Lewis, Dr. Libby Carver, Dr. Trynequa Jones, and Dr. Lorraine Wilson. Ms. Barbara Dotson and Ms. Shirley Murray are in doctoral programs and Ms. Yolanda Neal and Mrs. Judy King are waiting acceptance to doctoral study. Faculty members Mrs. Elizabeth Cantor, Class of 2008 and Mrs. Nancy Eisenson were selected recipients of the Friends of Nursing award for the Duke University Health System in 2016. Congratulations to both!

Watts had site visit on January 25, 2017 from the University of North Carolina General Administration regarding licensure to offer the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The visit went well. Watts still has some work to be completed; we will keep you posted.

The next day Watts had a preliminary site visit from the Accrediting Bureau for Health Education Schools (ABHES) for national accreditation. The visit went very well and a final Self Evaluation Report is due May 1, 2017. Watts will then have a formal site visit in either August or September with the recommendation to the full Board for ABHES in January 2018 for approval.

Watts also completed application with the North Carolina Board of Nursing to offer the BSN. The application received glowing remarks. We have to wait for licensure from UNC-General Assembly before it will go to the full Board of Nursing. What a year! Watts wrote three self-study reports/applications in less than nine months!

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Spring Banquet!

Best regards,

Peggy C. Walters, EdD, MSN, MEd, NEA-BC

Director of Nursing Education

Associate Chief Nursing Officer

## Watts History Project Update

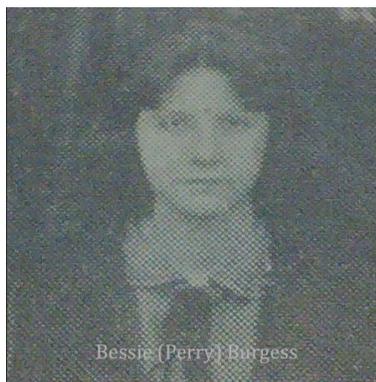
We are pleased to report that the historical research on the leaders of Watts School of Nursing is nearing completion. The finishing touches are being made into vignettes about the women who served as a superintendent (1895-1913) and superintendent of nurses (1914-1976) of Watts Hospital and director of the school (1936-1994).

An offshoot of the project was finding information not widely known about several early graduates, including Anne Ferguson (class of 1898) and Mamie Nunnally (class of 1906). Their careers and contributions to nursing in North Carolina categorically give credence to the school's legacy of excellence.

A letter written in 1916 to Emily Jenkins (class of 1915) by Vashti Bartlett (superintendent of nurses, 1914-1915) is another exciting discovery. At the time the letter was written, Miss Bartlett was serving with the American Red Cross in Pau, France as part of the Mercy Ship operation. She mentioned a nurse by the name of Baity and further investigation resulted in Maude Baity's name being added to the school roster. The names of early graduates were originally compiled from lists in the annual reports of the hospital, and for some unknown reason Miss Baity's name appeared in newspaper articles about the 1914 commencement exercises but not in any of the annual reports.

The one find that many of you will appreciate is a photo below of Bessie Perry Burgess (class of 1931; superintendent of nurses of Watts Hospital, 1938-1968). She was a high school student in Oriental, NC when the photo was taken, in 1923, and later graduated from Oriental High School with the highest scholastic average in her class.

Best Regards,  
Donna Rogers  
Retired Faculty



## WATTS Up ...

- Mildred Carneal '45 states she was in a class of 18 and was a member of the special class that was taken in the early 40's during the war. She was a cadet nurse and went to Seattle WA to practice nursing at Angvay Hospital. She had planned to go into the navy but met a boy there who had come into port for repairs on his ship, so they dated. He was in the Navy. They were married for 70 years. She lost him to a stroke in 2014. She is the last one in her class alive. She turned 94 February 28<sup>th</sup>. She left nursing and got her Masters in Geology and the University of Reno. Her small class graduated with another class.
- Marion Louise Sanford Beasley '53 states she will be 86 on May 30, 2017. This was not in the last newsletter. She is still dancing at the Fred Astaire studio.
- Betsy Kennedy Gresham '55 states her husband, Buck, died of Alzheimer's Disease, February 26, 2016.
- Anita Arrington Krzywicki '64 states she is really enjoying her retirement and volunteer work at Mills River Library, her church knitting and crochet groups. She also goes to the YMCA twice a week for water aerobics. She states she has got to keep the old body working. But best of all is the e-mail connection the class of 1964 has. They keep up with everyone near and far.
- Billie Privette Wilson '64 States she retired in January 2015 after 43 years with Wake Med. Tony retired in January 2016 after 50 years as a barber. They are enjoying the retired life but are still keeping busy with grandchildren ages 21 (ECU), 19 (College of Charleston) and 8 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade.)
- Carrie June Parker Barnett '65 states she is healthy and happy. She is so grateful to Watts School of Nursing and Watts School of Anesthesia for the most wonderful career, profession and life that anyone could wish for. Thank you WATTS and all her instructors. She is now officially retired.
- Sandra H Ouellette '66 states it is great fun to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary from Watts School of Nursing. She enjoys frequent fishing trips from Hatteras to the Gulf Stream.
- Melanie Burke Nordahl '69 states she enjoys reading the newsletter about former classmates.
- Beth Ward '1971 states she treasures her Watts experience with an all-female school in the old Watts Hospital. She is a retired Navy Nurse of 20 years plus she worked for 30 more years in the OR as a civilian.
- Kathleen Absalom Harris '72 states she has retired from Critical Care Nursing after 28 years at the same hospital. She moved to Dunn to be closer to the family.
- Robin W. Godwin '77 states she started a new job at Chapel Hill Pediatrics and Adolescents in June 2013. It is a fabulous job. She is one of four advice nurses so she is on the phone all day. There are terrific pediatricians and an awesome staff to work with. It is almost as much fun as the newborn nursery at DRH with Mrs. Newton.
- Lynn Nicholson Wainwright '82 states after working over 30 years in Labor and Delivery she took a full time position with First Health/UNC Maternal Fetal Medicine. She loves this new position. Her husband and she are able to travel more and enjoy spending time with the children and family.
- Tammy Schneid Berry, Class of Spring 1984, stated she just spoke at the Watts graduation (December 2016) and loved it. She is still so proud to be a Watts Graduate.
- Nicole Murray Coates '92 states this has been a very busy year. She left her job of 16 years to join Dr. R. Hardie Hood at DCI-N and continue working with her beloved patients. She was married in February and lost her father in April. The special news to share is that her daughter was accepted to Watts and will fulfill her dream of being a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Watts grad!

## WATTS Up ...

- Angela Christine Bartol '95 writes that she is enrolled in an on-line RN-BSN program with an anticipated graduation date of August 2017.
- Heather Thompson Mackey '95 states she is working as a Nurse Practitioner with the cancer survivorship program at Cone Health Cancer Center in Greensboro NC. She has served on a national workgroup producing American Cancer Society/American Society of Clinical Oncology Breast Cancer Survivorship guidelines for Primary Care Physicians.
- Leslie Spillman Gray '09 states she and Larry have been married for 12 years and just celebrated the birth of their first child in January 2016. **They** are beyond blessed. She is a nurse at Duke and a proud Watts Graduate.
- Margaret (Meg) Fenu '2013 states she completed her BSN from University of Mount Olive in May 2016 and obtained her SCRN certification (Stroke Certified Registered Nurse).
- Congratulations to our Watts Graduates who were recent winners of the 2016 Duke Friends of Nursing award. Elizabeth G. Cantor ('08), Gina Edwards ('93), Heather Greene ('11), Amanda Gress ('11), and Mary C. Justesen ('72).

Please complete this form and mail to address below with your annual dues.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) - (\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_)

**NEW News to Share:**

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Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Submitted for Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Yearly dues are \$30.00 which covers December 1-November 30)

**Mail to:** Watts School of Nursing Alumni Association, Attn: Treasurer  
2828 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 200, Durham, NC 27705-2505