From the Alumni President

More than 25 years ago, I came to the nursing school to earn my master’s degree. A lot has changed, as one would expect. But the school’s core values of education, scholarship, and service have remained consistent and strong, and I see them exemplified still in our many alumni.

I recently talked with a few recent graduates who asked me about my career path. As I told them about my time in positions here in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., and abroad, I once again was reminded about how versatile nursing is. It truly is a field where opportunities abound.

As the new president of the Emory nursing alumni association, I’m proud to see new nursing graduates join. I know the future of nursing is in good hands, although, regrettably, in too few hands, as the nursing shortage in this country and around the globe grows dire. We, as alumni, greatly influence future students as advocates of the school’s academic mission.

Two such alumni are Sarah Hall Gueldner, 65MN, and Twilla Haynes, 80MN, who were honored in September during the alumni reunion weekend. Gueldner is dean of the School of Nursing at State University of New York at Binghamton. Her research in gerontology is widely praised, and she is a member of the National Academies of Practice. Haynes, one of the school’s first Native American graduates, is a nurse practitioner and co-owner of Health Connections, Inc., in Atlanta, which serves the needs of the poor and underserved. She also started an orphanage for medically fragile children in Haiti and organizes trips for student nurses to get hands-on learning there. She also has helped the school further develop its migrant farmer worker program in Moultrie, Georgia.

They are just two examples of the more than 10,000 accomplished alumni of the School of Nursing. As a graduate, you are our most important asset. Now is the time to reconnect.

Mary Lambert, 81MN
President, Nurses Alumni Association

Class News

1960s

Martha Lane Orr, 64N, 65MN, was presented with the Honorary Recognition Award from the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) at its convention last fall. Orr was executive director of NYSNA for 19 years. Since retiring in 2003, she moved to Austin, TX, to be near her grandchildren. She is active in Democratic political campaigns and served as a delegate to the Texas State Democratic Convention. President of the local chapter of AARP, Orr also is taking Spanish lessons so that she can communicate with the growing Hispanic population. She says she misses New York and is still adapting to the “brutal summers” but is enjoying retirement.

Kay Kittrell Chitty, 65N, 68MN, completed the fifth edition of her textbook, Professional Nursing: Concepts and Challenges. The book has been in print since 1990 and is used by more than 150 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. It is used in introductory courses in BSN programs, in RN to BSN programs, and as a reference in graduate programs. Dr. Chitty credits her excellent undergraduate and graduate education at Emory for her ability to write and edit this textbook. She retired after a varied career in private practice, education, and educational administration and lives in Mount Pleasant, SC.

1970s

Nancy Olson, 78N, has been named senior vice president and general counsel for John Muir Health in Walnut Creek, CA. John Muir Health is a not-for-profit organization that includes a 321-bed medical/trauma center, another 251-bed medical center, a behavioral health center, a physicians network, and three outpatient centers. She is the
first in-house general counsel for the organization. She lives in nearby Lafayette, CA.

1990s

**BORN:** To Rebecca Olson Knaak, 91OX, 93N, and husband, Bill, a son, Grayton Daniel, on April 6, 2007. She is a CRNA with Gwinnett Anesthesia Service. The family lives in Flowery Branch, GA.

**BORN:** To Anna Katherine (Katie) Foshee, 94OX, 96N, and husband, Andrew, a daughter, Emma Elizabeth, on Nov. 6, 2006. Emma has two older brothers, John and Luke. Foshee is a day shift supervisor on the medical oncology floor at Gwinnett Medical Center. The family lives in Auburn, GA.

Barb Lockart, 98MN, was selected as one of two 2007 Nurses of the Year by the Leukemia Research Foundation. Lockart is an advanced practice nurse with the Long-term Survivor Clinic and general oncology population at Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago. The award, presented annually since 1996, recognizes a hematology-oncology nurse or nurses who give time and compassion every day to patients and families affected by leukemia, lymphoma, or myelodysplastic syndromes.

There were dozens of nominations this year from almost 20 hospitals, clinics, and doctors’ offices in the Chicago area, reports the Leukemia Research Foundation, headquartered in Glenview, IL.

**2000s**

Iman Omer, 04MN, has accepted a position at Maxim Healthcare Services, Inc. in Falls Church, VA, as a case manager/clinical nursing supervisor. Previously, Omer was an RN at Emory Crawford Long Hospital.

Amanda Nickerson, 06MN/MPH, is a public health fellow in the Division of Nursing, part of the Department of Health and Human Services in Rockville, MD. Nickerson graduated from the International Health Program of the School of Nursing’s Lillian Carter Center for International Nursing.

**BORN:** To Rebecca Olson Knaak, 91OX, 93N, and husband, Bill, a son, Grayton Daniel, on April 6, 2007. She is a CRNA with Gwinnett Anesthesia Service. The family lives in Flowery Branch, GA.

Amanda Nickerson, 06N

Barb Lockart, 98N

Nancy Olson, 78N

Suzanne White, 06MSN/MPH

Suzanne M. White, 06MN/MPH, is manager of a medical surgical unit at Good Samaritan Hospital, a not-for-profit community hospital in Puyallup, WA. She says one of the hospital’s goals is to build community relationships through partnerships and ownership. She participates in the hospital’s recruitment and retention program, the safe patient handling committee, and quality patient care as a whole.

Bavier to be UConn Nursing Dean

Dr. Anne R. Bavier, 73MN, was appointed dean of the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Nursing effective Aug. 17, 2007. Dr. Bavier is the former assistant dean for development, alumni, and external relations at Emory’s School of Nursing, from 1999 to 2003. Before coming to Emory, Bavier worked for a dozen years in federal health care agencies, including as deputy director of the National Institutes of Health’s Office of Research on Women’s Health.

After leaving Emory, Bavier took up duties as dean of the School of Nursing at St. Xavier University in Chicago in 2004. At St. Xavier she quadrupled faculty publications and scholarly presentations, increased the school’s grant funding by 50%, and expanded funding for disadvantaged undergrad nursing students.

“My approach at UConn’s School of Nursing will be to set forth a bold strategic plan for elevating the school’s research focus, while enhancing its emphasis on teaching excellence,” Bavier said before taking the post. UConn’s interim nursing school dean, Carol Polifroni, said, “She is a dynamic administrator who will further the school’s research, teaching, and service excellence.”
The Long and Winding Road of Jean Johnson Givens

At 93, Jean Johnson Givens, 62MN, is one of Emory’s oldest nursing alums. She is also one of the most amazing, with all she has done in those 93 years. Her accomplishments were recognized this past spring when she received the 2007 Alumnae Award for Distinguished Service to the Community from Wesleyan College in Macon, GA.

After Wesleyan, Givens earned her nursing certificate in 1934 at Wesley Memorial Nursing School, the predecessor of Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Her inspiration was her mother, who was a 1929 graduate of Wesley Memorial. “Mother waited until her three children were old enough to be on their own some and then went to nursing school,” says Givens. “Bless her heart, she came home every day after school to look after us.”

Givens worked as a nursery school teacher and school nurse but went back to school and earned a BA at Emory College in 1940 and a master’s in biology at Emory in 1942. She got married, had a child, and was teaching at St. Joseph’s Infirmary School of Nursing, which was in downtown Atlanta at the time. Twenty years after her last degree at Emory, she decided to go back for her master’s in nursing. “I wanted to be more efficient in my job—things had changed a lot since I was in school,” she explains.

After earning her MN at Emory in 1962, Givens taught nursing students for eight years at Georgia State University in Atlanta—in anatomy, physiology, and microbiology. Later she taught medical and surgical nursing services at Piedmont Hospital School of Nursing. Somewhere along the way she also took the first nurse practitioner course offered by Emory and began working for Emory Community Nursing Services. Emory’s nurses ran a clinic and treated, among other patients, students from Agnes Scott College.

In addition to her nursing career, Givens is a master horticulturist. She is the author of several books about gardening, including The Georgia Gardener: State-by-State Gardening. She has lectured on numerous gardening topics, served as president and trustee of many garden clubs, and been recognized by state and national organizations for her contributions to the field.

Givens was born and raised in Druid Hills and still lives in Decatur near Emory. “I go way back in DeKalb County,” she says. “My grandfather’s farm became the core of Druid Hills.” She still loves gardening and cooking and was going to a master gardeners’ meeting in Athens, GA, one weekend recently. She has come a long way and is still going.

—Carol Pinto

In Memory

1930s

Martha Cheves D’Anna, 30N, of Savannah, GA, on July 6, 2006. She was the first nursing instructor at Warren A. Candler Hospital in Savannah and was director of nursing education at that hospital from 1931 to 1961. She was also a past board member of the Chatham County Board of Education.

Mary M. Means, 30N, of Decatur, GA, on Nov. 14, 2006, at 97. She had two daughters, Mary Catherine and Sarah Anita.

Grace Hart, 36N, of Decatur, GA, on Feb. 15, 2007. She was preceded in death by her first husband, James A. Hart, and her second husband, James Wade. She was a retired RN from Emory University Hospital. She is survived by one brother and numerous nieces and nephews.
NURSING NOTABLES

1940s
Frances Hill Rothrock, 40N, of Snellville, GA, on July 10, 2007, at 88. She was born and buried in Warm Springs, GA. Her family said she served proudly for many years as an Emory nurse. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph M. Rothrock Sr. Survivors include a son, a daughter, three brothers, four grandsons, and several nieces and nephews.

Harriet W. Sladek, 45N, of Dallas, GA, on Feb. 5, 2007, of Alzheimer's disease. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Sladek Sr., who was a pharmacist in the Air Force and died in 1998. She is survived by her son, James Sladek Jr., also of Dallas, GA.

Blanche Kirby Holden, 46N, of Dublin, GA, on Oct. 8, 2006, at 81. Survivors include her husband, Norman, and three sons, Kenneth, Michael, and Stephen.

Kathryn Lockaby Lott, 46N, of Springfield, VA, on March 1, 2007, at 84. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sterns B. Lott, Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Kristian.

Hilda Sellers McMullen, 47N, of Fort Walton Beach, FL, on April 25, 2007. She was the widow of the late Col. James McMullen. Born in Dixie, GA, she worked for many years in the health departments of Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida. Survivors include her sons, Buddy Rogers of DeFuniak Springs, FL, and Jimmy McMullen of Niceville, FL; her daughters, Gwen Galucki of Jefferson, MA, Janie Wylly of Destin, FL, and Patti Powell of Shalimar, FL; brother Herb Sellers; 12 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Jean Thompson Butler, 48N, of Austin, TX, on Feb. 19, 2006, at 78. She was born Margaret Jean Thompson in St. Louis, MO, on May 20, 1927. She worked at St. David's Hospital in Austin for more than 26 years, moving from head nurse to hospital supervisor before retiring in 1992. She had continued her education at Southwest Texas State University and earned her bachelor's degree in health professions in 1985. Butler was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Robert Perrin Butler. She is survived by her sons, Robert and Michael, her daughter, Cheryl Ann Smith, and two grandsons.

Marilys M. Dekom, 48N, of Brunswick, GA, died Nov. 22, 2005, at 78. She was preceded in death by her husband, Anton. She is survived by two sons, Fred and Martin, and two daughters, Anne and Kristian.

1950s
Marilyn W. May, 50N, of Powder Springs, GA, on Sept. 19, 2006, at 76. Survivors include her son, Donald, also of Powder Springs.

Beverly Bacon Gray, 52N, of Tampa, FL, on June 17, 2006, at 78. Born in Atlanta, she moved to Tampa at age 10. She began her nursing career in Birmingham, AL, where she met her husband. They moved in 1955 to Tampa, where she worked at Tampa General Hospital. After the birth of her children, she opened Tampa's first greeting card store in 1962—Beverly's Card Shop—and later opened two other stores. She is survived by a daughter, Gretchen, a son, Bradley, her sister, Jean Divers of Tampa, her brother, Robert Bacon of Clearwater, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.

1960s
Lucile “Tee Rae” Melton Dismukes, 67MN, of Alabaster, AL, on June 30, 2007, at 77. Born in the Dominican Republic to American parents, she was raised in Plaquemine, LA. Public health was her passion, especially making prenatal care available to mothers, including those who could not afford it. “From the cornfields of rural Georgia to the statehouse in Atlanta, Tee Rae championed this cause,” reported the Birmingham News. She served as executive director of the Council on Maternal and Infant Health for the state of Georgia from 1977 to 1997. She donated her brain to the University of Alabama for research. Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Walter W. Dismukes, sister Petra Kelly, brother Edward, son Walter W. Dismukes Jr., daughter Carole D. Barton, and three grandchildren.

1970s
JoAnn Hayes, 56N, 60MN, of Stockbridge, GA, on May 31, 2007, at 73. She taught at the University of Virginia, Western Carolina University, and the University of Miami. She retired from the Chatham County Public Health Services as district immunization supervisor. Survivors include her two sisters, Virginia Cooper of St. Augustine, FL, and Elizabeth Wilson of Monroe, GA, four nieces, and one nephew.

1980s
Shirley Wiggins Bell, 57N, of Gainesville, GA, on May 10, 2007, at 71. She served as a public health nurse in several north Georgia counties, including Habersham, Lumpkin, and Dawson, and was an enrichment nurse in Georgia Health District 2. She retired as a health educator in the Hall County Health Department. Survivors include her husband, Rev. George Emory Bell Sr., her son, George Bell Jr., of Flowery Branch, and two granddaughters, Hannah and Kayley Bell.

2000s
Rachel Elizabeth Rogers, of Hayesville, NC, on Sept. 24, 2004, at 28. She was in the pediatric advanced nurse practitioner program and was to have graduated in 2005. Dr. James Eli Averett, Jr., 56C, 60M. Other survivors include her daughter, Angela Averett Rose, her son, James Eli Averett III, and three grandchildren, Frank, Claire, and Catherine Rock, all of Atlanta.
On May 14, 2007, 97 nursing students received their BSN degrees, and another 87 earned MSN degrees. An additional six students received a post-master’s specialization certificate, and three received PhDs. Barbara Stilwell, one of the first nurse practitioners in Great Britain, was commencement speaker. She urged graduates to be open to opportunities that may not appear to offer a foreseeable future, because such experiences often lead to unexpected gratification. “Nursing skills are so scarce and so important, you can work anywhere in the world. As you step out onto this pathway, consider where you would be of need, even if it’s for a few months here or there,” she said.