

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF NURSING:  
CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF TRADITION AND INNOVATION

1939—2004



The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing proudly celebrates a tradition of academic excellence in 2004: our 65th anniversary, the 60th anniversary of our master's program, and the 50th anniversary of our doctoral program.

Over the past six decades, the school's history has been characterized by phenomenal growth and dramatic change. Ranked among the top 10 nursing schools in the nation, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing remains strong and vibrant. Its outstanding reputation continues to attract the best and the brightest students, while innovations in technology and practice distinguish our quality education and research programs.

This publication is a salute to our past, our present, and our future. It is a tribute to our deans, whose visionary leadership has successfully guided us to what we've become; our prestigious faculty, who have helped shape the profession; our alumni, who represent us through their practice; and our students, who are our link to the future. All embody the true spirit of Pitt nursing!



## THE SCHOOL OF NURSING WAS ESTABLISHED ON APRIL 6, 1939

as an independent, professional school within the University of Pittsburgh. It was at the recommendation of Ruth Perkins Kuehn, director of Ohio State University's nursing program, that the School of Nursing be separate from Pitt's School of Medicine. Kuehn was recruited as the school's first dean and immediately went to work to develop the School of Nursing from her office on the 26th floor of the Cathedral of Learning, a 42-story Gothic-inspired structure that remains the geographic and traditional heart of campus today.



**Ruth Perkins Kuehn (1939–61): First nursing school dean in the country to earn a doctoral degree**

The school's original purpose was to prepare students, with two years of general college background (60 credits), to practice as registered nurses and prepare for work in public health nursing, as well as for teaching and administrative roles in hospitals and schools of nursing. Three years of nursing courses, the sciences, electives, and practice, equating to an additional 126 or 127 credits, were divided into six semesters and three summer sessions. Some of the first students were RNs who had been pursuing further education at the University and the School of Education.

Clinical settings included the Elizabeth Steel Magee Hospital (today's Magee-Womens Hospital), Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Presbyterian Hospital, Eye and Ear Hospital, Municipal Hospital, and Falk Clinic.

Students were housed in hospital residences all around the city. This was a time of resident mothers and curfews, a time before answering machines and cell phones, when maids answered the telephones from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

### THE 1940s

Pitt nursing traditions are established; World War II brings demand for nurses.

#### 1940

- First faculty recruited: Alice Crist Malone, appointed associate professor and acting chair, Department of Nursing Education
- Frances George from University of Washington recruited as chair, Division of Nursing Arts
- First 19 students—all female—enroll; 12 had completed two years at Pitt, with the remaining seven matriculating from other universities; annual tuition: \$150
- Uniform, designed by Dean Kuehn, is light blue with white bands crisscrossed over the bodice and a white apron

#### 1941

- School receives part of a \$1.2 million grant from the Nursing and National Defense Act of 1941; course work accelerated to a 28-month program; Cadet Nurse Program provides scholarships and funding for students
- School approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Examiners
- First continuing education nursing workshop in the United States is held at the school; its focus is curriculum construction, evaluation, methods in nursing sciences, nursing arts, mental hygiene, and medical/surgical nursing

#### 1942

- Nursing education program is begun to provide education in various clinical areas for students enrolled in hospital schools of nursing; affiliations are with 27 hospital schools of nursing

#### 1943

- Seventeen students from the first enrolled class graduate; first Pinning Ceremony at Foster Memorial Hall; first Keeper of the Light: Mary Ann Cook

#### 1944

- First African American student, Adena Johnson '47, and first foreign student admitted



### 1945

- Emily Holmquist becomes first president of the Nursing Alumni Association

### 1946

- First male nursing student graduates

### 1948

- Sigma Theta Tau, Eta Chapter, established

As the war ends, the school recognizes the need to unify and specialize its approach to meet the needs of the varying groups of students and programs: the RNs, the traditional students, those returning to school, and those looking toward advanced degrees.

## THE 1950s

Curriculum during the 1950s is structured in an 11-quarter configuration, with 143–151 credits required for program completion; research begins at the school when three studies, funded by a grant from the Sarah Mellon Foundation, dealing with the ward clerk, the nurse aide, and the practical nurse, are launched; Korean conflict brings demand for nurses; Pitt nurses involved during Jonas Salk's breakthrough in polio research.

### 1951

- Uniform is a dark blue dress with white collar, bib, and apron; annual tuition: \$220

### 1953

- Medical Center Nurses Residence (MCNR) completed at a cost of \$4.75 million (Lothrop Hall today); combined residence dedicated to housing all nursing

students; it becomes first building constructed in the expansion of the Medical Center after the war; includes four lounges, eight parlors, air-conditioned dining room and single room housing for 646 students

### 1954

- Program leading to Doctor of Philosophy degree approved

### 1957

- First doctoral degree award at the School of Nursing to Florence Erickson; dissertation title: "Play interviews for 4-year-old hospitalized children"

### 1959

- First major curriculum change: trimesters implemented
- Consolidated master's degree will be awarded: Master of Nursing Education (MNEd), with majors in the clinical fields of maternity nursing, nursing care of children, and psychiatric nursing

By the late 1950s, three nursing academic levels—baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral—have been established at the school; Dean Kuehn considers retirement but decides to remain and support initiatives of newly appointed Edward Litchfield, the University's 12th chancellor.



## THE 1960s

The early 1960s ushers in an end to an era as Dean Kuehn retires in 1961, concluding 22 years of service to the University. Several acting deans (Anna Moson, 1961–62 and Virginia Braley, 1962–66) oversee administrative operation until Marguerite Schaefer is appointed as the school's second dean in 1966.



**Marguerite Schaefer (1966–73): A founding member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing**

### 1961

- Tuition: \$420/trimester; \$28/credit
- Board in MCNR: \$19.25/week; includes laundering of uniforms
- School of Nursing offices located on second floor mezzanine of the Alan Magee Scaife Hall of the Health Professions, Terrace and DeSoto Streets; faculty in the clinical divisions maintain offices in the cooperating hospitals; and student adviser operates from office in Schenley Hall, Fifth Avenue

### 1963

- Graduate program expands to include a clinical PhD in pediatric and maternity nursing

### 1964

- School of Nursing marks its 25th anniversary with a dinner in the Student Union on the Oakland campus; Chancellor Edward Litchfield gives the event's keynote address and announces that future plans include a building to house the School of Nursing

### 1966

- Marguerite Schaefer named the school's second dean

### 1968

- From this point forward, all undergraduate students are awarded the BSN degree (some undergraduates had been granted a BSNEd degree up to this time)
- Major curriculum revision: students complete five academic years of work in four calendar years
- Doctorate in nursing education offered
- First 10-year projection submitted to the chancellor includes ongoing curriculum development, a research and development center, and enhancement of services to the community
- General State Authority provides funding for a new school facility; Dean Schaefer involved in plan development; facility will be built over garage on Victoria Street
- First oncology nursing specialist program in the country is established at the school

As the 1960s draw to a close, the decision is made to permit undergraduate students to live wherever they choose and not be required to reside in MCNR. Curriculum development continues as new programs at the graduate level are implemented and modifications are made at the undergraduate level.



## THE 1970s

A change in administrative leadership occurs when Dean Schaefer announces her resignation in 1972 and the school's third dean, Enid Detlor Goldberg, is appointed; largest increase in the student body occurs with the closing of the Presbyterian University Hospital School of Nursing in 1972.



**Enid D. Goldberg (1973–91):** Developed the Center of Excellence for Nursing Practice (CENP)

### 1970

- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program developed with purpose of preparing nurses to meet ambulatory pediatric healthcare needs in a variety of settings

### 1972

- Funding from the National Institute of Mental Health enables addition of a clinical doctoral program in psychiatric-mental health
- Master's program in medical-surgical nursing offered

### 1973

- Enid Detlor Goldberg is named the school's third dean, effective July 1, 1973

### 1974

- School awarded contract from National Cancer Institute to expand oncology component of medical-surgical master's program and develop continuing education programs in oncology nursing
- Shirley Negley Kobert becomes director of the Adult Nurse Practitioner Program

### 1975

- First foreign student earns PhD



### 1977

- School moves into the Victoria Building, marking the first time in its history that faculty and classroom space share the same building
- New undergraduate curriculum implemented; conceptual framework for this program of studies is adapted from a healthcare system model, emphasizing the major concepts of Man/Woman, Health, and Nursing

The 1970s close with the school targeting initiatives that include stabilizing its baccalaureate graduating class at 180, developing operational research projects in the areas of nursing practice and nursing education, and establishing a more definitive and collaborative relationship between the school and the health center hospitals.



## THE 1980s

Because no significant faculty research was being done during the previous two decades, only the theses and dissertations by graduate students, Dean Goldberg focuses on increasing the number of faculty with doctoral degrees as the 1980s begin; major focus of doctoral program becomes research.

### 1981

- Learning Resource Center created; combines print and non-print materials, encompassing half of Victoria Building's second floor
- June Abbey appointed as director of nursing research to assist faculty in developing pilot studies and obtain a multifaceted research grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Nursing
- First students admitted to the baccalaureate program at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

### 1982

- Faculty and alumna, Ann Lyness, completes 200-square-foot mural on First Floor Lobby wall; project took 600 hours over nine months to finish and depicts nursing students, faculty, and people from the community

### 1986

- Chi Eta Phi International Inc., Kappa Beta Chapter, established as a minority nursing sorority

### 1987

- Office of Nursing Research (est. 1981) reorganized as Center for Nursing Research (CNR), with Jacqueline Dunbar as its first director, a post she will hold for nine years

### 1988

- Ten-year plan sets major goals for future advancement of the school: research, teaching, service, and technology

### 1989

- Master's program in anesthesia nursing is established when the University Health Center of Pittsburgh School of Anesthesia for Nurses joins the School of Nursing
- School's CNR one of first two Exploratory Centers for Research funded by the NIH-NCNR



- BSN curriculum revised to include more clinical experience, critical care, and med/surg content and an experiential bridge from the role of student to the role of professional nurse
- RN Options program, opportunity for students who have completed a diploma program to earn BSN or MSN, initiated at Oakland campus; Johnstown campus initiates similar program in fall 1990

The close of the 1980s marks the 50-year anniversary of the school. As the school looks back to celebrate its past, it looks ahead with two major goals: future advancement of the school and securing the future of the school in a rapidly changing environment.

## THE 1990s

Dean Goldberg retires and the school's fourth dean, Ellen B. Rudy, is appointed; research at the school intensifies and leads to significant increase in national rankings and in the level of healthcare knowledge; curriculum changes keep pace with continual advances in healthcare arena.



**Ellen B. Rudy (1991–2001):** Led the school to a national sixth-place ranking in National Institutes of Health research funding

## 1990

- Annual tuition: \$5,010; credits required for BSN: 120; uniform is a dark blue dress or pants and no cap
- School celebrates 50th anniversary at the Westin William Penn Hotel

## 1991

- First class of MSN-prepared nurse anesthetists graduate
- Ellen Beam Rudy becomes School of Nursing's fourth dean

## 1992

- School structured into three divisions: Acute and Tertiary Care; Health Promotion and Development; and Health and Community Systems
- Faculty two-track system of appointment approved: research track with goal of funded research and tenure; non-tenure clinical track with goal of implementing and maintaining faculty practice to enhance clinical teaching
- First time in school's history research award funding surpasses \$1 million
- School hires its first director of development: Elizabeth Crow

## 1993

- Uniforms are navy blue scrubs with School of Nursing seal
- National Institute of Nursing Research designates the School of Nursing as a Nursing Research Intensive Environment

## 1994

- Goldberg retires from teaching as Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus
- Learning Resources Center renovated, optimizing existing space; Brick Campaign launched
- Through a generous endowment from Ellen Chaffee (MLitt '50), alumna and retired anatomy and physiology instructor, the Ellen Chaffee Nursing Skills Laboratory is dedicated
- Corinne M. Barnes retires as Professor Emeritus
- One of the first of five core centers for research funded by NIH-NINR established at the school

## 1995

- External research funding surpasses \$2 million



- School assumes administrative and financial responsibility for delivery of all primary care at the Matilda Theiss Health Center

## 1998

- Bronze sculpture, *Caring*, created by alumna Judith Strellec Charlson, BSN '66, unveiled at annual Alumni Day event

## 1999

- School of Nursing establishes its first endowed chair: the UPMC Health System Chair in Nursing Science
- Cameos of Caring Awards Program and Gala created to honor excellence in bedside nursing; first event at the Pittsburgh Marriott City Center draws 600 guests; glass sculpture created by Judith Strellec Charlson presented to first 20 awardees

As the 1990s come to a close, the school's focus includes attention to student recruitment, particularly at the master's and doctoral levels; recruitment of faculty with established programs of research, essential to the school's continued growth in research; improving its national reputation in research; and fundraising to build endowments.

## THE 2000s

The dawn of the new millennium brings the retirement of Ellen Rudy in June 2001 and the appointment of the school's fifth dean, Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob; enrollment in the undergraduate programs continues to increase, a trend directly opposite the national trend of decreased enrollments in BSN programs.



**Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob (2001–present): Pioneer in healthcare research; research focus: patients with chronic disorders and their adherence to treatment**

## 2000

- School of Nursing Library merges with Falk Library, Scaife Hall
- Advanced pharmacology courses for practicing nurse practitioners offered in anticipation of NPs being granted prescriptive authority

## 2001

- Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob officially becomes the school's fifth dean in September
- Curriculum additions include a genetics course and an enhanced health informatics course
- School begins collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University on development of robotic assistance in elderly care

## 2002

- Distinguished Clinical Scholar Endowment, the first of its kind nationally, reaches its \$750,000 goal; faculty and alumna Kathy Magdic '92, '95 named endowment's first recipient
- Simulation Lab dedicated and offers nurse anesthesia students the opportunity to develop critical event management skills for high-intensity, low-frequency anesthetic situations in a low-risk setting

## 2003

- As of spring 2003, total number of degrees conferred since 1939:  
*BSN—5,700; master's—2,904; doctoral—167*
- Tuition: undergraduate—\$375/cr. for Pennsylvania residents; \$757/cr. for non-Pennsylvania residents
- School benefits from 43 scholarship endowments
- Enrollment, Academic Year 2003–04:  
*448 full-time and 169 part-time undergraduate students*  
*126 full-time and 218 part-time master's students*  
*16 full-time and 27 part-time doctoral students*
- School ranked among the top 10 graduate programs in the United States

## TODAY AND BEYOND

Dean Dunbar-Jacob's vision for the future...

With an impressive 65-year history of preparing nursing leaders to contribute to health care and practice advancements, the School of Nursing at the University of Pittsburgh remains committed to producing quality professionals.

In many ways, today's world has become smaller and more accessible as travel and technology have created almost immediate access to an ever-growing society. As we look to the future, our vision must be global, offering students options for practice in regions across the United States and well beyond.

Additionally, technology is, and will continue to be, an integral part of health care, communication, and decision-making. It is imperative students are familiar with relevant technology and prepared to adjust to the rapidly evolving technologies impacting the future of the profession.

Currently ranked sixth in NIH research funding among schools of nursing in the United States, the school recognizes the significance of a continued emphasis on preparing the next generation of nurse scientists. Tomorrow's nursing professional must have the capability to evaluate and synthesize information, the capability to adapt to an ever-changing environment, and the willingness to continue education as knowledge becomes available and the delivery systems progress.

While today is an exciting time for nursing, we believe tomorrow holds opportunities beyond all expectation. The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing is proud to be a leader in shaping health care's future.

# TRADITIONS...

## ...UNCHANGED

### SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN

Designed by Dean Ruth Perkins Kuehn, the pin has as its center a lighted candle, a symbol of learning first lit in 1787 when a charter was granted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to establish the Pittsburgh Academy, which would later become the University of Pittsburgh. The rays emanating from the candle represent the confluence of Pittsburgh's three rivers, and the laurel leaves are symbols of honor and distinction.

### PINNING CEREMONY

Graduates are presented with the School of Nursing pin during the traditional Pinning Ceremony. Since the first Pinning Ceremony in 1943 at Foster Memorial Hall, the ceremony has remained virtually unchanged. It marks the culmination of the students' undergraduate program and provides the venue where the traditional Passing of the Light occurs. The event is now held at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Oakland.

### KEEPER OF THE LIGHT

The Passing of the Light, part of the Pinning Ceremony, is a ritual that represents the graduates' commitment to the ideals of excellence in nursing practice. The student who has achieved the highest academic standing in the graduating class is designated as the "Keeper of the Light," and becomes its custodian until it is time to pass it on to a member of the next class.

## ...TRANSFORMED

### UNIFORM

The student uniform at the School of Nursing has undergone a complete evolution. Designed by Dean Kuehn in the 1940s, the first uniform was light blue, with white bands crisscrossed over the bodice, and a white apron. A navy blue woolen cape was often worn over the uniform in the winter months but was discontinued as part of the uniform attire due to wool shortages during World War II. Students were required to appear in full uniform in the hospitals and in the classroom. If they were out on the street, they had to carry their caps.

In the 1950s, the uniform became a dark blue dress with white collar, bib, and apron and remained a version of this style over the next several decades. In 1990, students had the option of either a dark blue dress or pants and then in 1993, the uniform took its present-day form—navy blue scrubs with a patch bearing the School of Nursing seal sewn on the V-necked top.



## ...REMEMBERED

### NURSING CAPS

Objectives for the design of Pitt's nursing cap were that it must be attractive, must look well with all types of faces and off-the-collar hairstyles, and must be easy to launder.

The Pitt Nursing cap, patterned after the cap at Yale, was designed by a young woman in the first class to enter the school in the fall of 1940. She had previously completed a degree in design and was very artistic. Recognizing that nursing wasn't for her, she left the school before she was capped.

In 1989, Dean Goldberg put the issue of the nursing cap up for student vote. The majority of students decided the cap should no longer be part of the uniform for female students. In September 1989, freshmen no longer ordered caps, marking an end to the tradition of the nursing cap at the School of Nursing.

### BLACK BANDING CEREMONY

Junior students received a half black band that was secured diagonally across the left wing of the cap. Seniors received a full black band that was secured  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the fold of the cuff. Male students received a single gold bar worn on the uniform shirt.

Marian Neustadt Hershman '58 recalls the following about black banding: "The day before senior nursing students graduated, they passed their black bands to the junior nursing class. The bands were  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch black velvet ribbons that were attached to the nursing cap. On the inside of each ribbon was a piece of adhesive tape on which was printed a saying or proverb that would be meaningful to the student advancing in the profession."

Black banding ended in 1989 with the elimination of the cap as part of the uniform for female students.

### GOLD BARS

After the discontinuation of black banding, senior nursing students wore two gold bars on the collar of their uniforms, while juniors wore a single gold bar. Today, juniors and seniors are presented with white nametags at the fall convocation program, identifying their University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing class status. Sophomores receive nametags in advance of their clinical rotations.

## ...ONCE AGAIN NEW

With the completion of the Medical Center Nurses Residence (MCNR) in 1953, nursing students lived together in a single residence throughout the 1950s and the 1960s. This, however, became an option as the 1960s came to a close, when nursing students were permitted to live wherever they chose.

In the late 1990s, the Learning and Living Center on the 13th floor of Lothrop Hall, the former MCNR, was created to bring nursing students together. Its purpose was to provide a place where students could live, study, and support each other as they moved through the program. Currently, there are 24 students in residence, including a learning center advisor who is a senior.

## THE RUTH PERKINS KUEHN RESEARCH AWARD

The Ruth Perkins Kuehn Research Award, established in honor of the school's founder and first dean, Ruth Perkins Kuehn, is presented annually to an alumnus or faculty member whose work demonstrates a clear clinical application and support for the practice of nursing.

Please review application instructions on the Center for Nursing Research Web site at <http://cnr.nursing.pitt.edu>. Presentation of award funding and award recognition occurs at the annual convocation event in September.

Requests for applications and correspondence may be directed to:

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing  
Ruth Perkins Kuehn Research Award Application Committee  
Center for Nursing Research  
3500 Victoria Street  
Room 360  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
412-624-4854

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