The University of Nebraska College of Nursing

1917-1987
Compliments
of the
University of Nebraska
College of Nursing
and the
Alumni Association
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF NURSING 1917-1987

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PREFACE

The University of Nebraska College of Nursing celebrates the 70th anniversary of its founding this year, 1987. The publication of this history is long overdue.

No attempt has been made to record or interpret every event, or to include the names of all who have made contributions to the College. Some details of early events have been lost or have become indistinct with the passing of time. Few writers can hope to secure approval from all readers; I hope that the majority of those who read this history will appreciate the heritage of the College and its impact on nursing and nursing education.

This history is dedicated to students, alumni, and faculty — past, present, and future.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This volume is the culmination of years of effort by many people with a deep interest in the College of Nursing. Special thanks are due to students, faculty, and alumni for their foresight in preserving the materials used to compile this history.

My effort to write the history began in 1981 with the encouragement of the College of Nursing Alumni Association and donations of money and memorabilia from many individual alumni members. Rosalee Yeaworth, Dean of the College of Nursing, and the administration of the University lent their support by providing funds in 1982 and by approving a sabbatical leave in 1984. Dean Yeaworth has been a source of encouragement throughout the project and wrote the original draft of the chapter related to her years as Dean.

Regina Tangney Barentson made major contributions by locating and compiling materials and writing the original drafts of the Burgess and Kyle chapters. Her knowledge of nursing and nursing education was invaluable in placing events in a broad historical perspective, and I am indebted to her for her assistance.

Thank you to Ann Gray for typing and retyping the manuscript; to Pete Boughn for editorial assistance; to Reba Benschoter and the staff of the Biomedical Communications Department for editorial and production assistance; to Walt Allen and the staff of the Print Shop for expert advice and a finished product.

Finally, a sincere thank you to those who have nourished my love for nursing and dedication to the College of Nursing and the University of Nebraska Medical Center for the past 31 years — my classmates and instructors, my students, my faculty peers, and my nurse and physician colleagues.

Nancy Warren Schneckloth
BSN, 1960
MSN, 1975
Chronology

1881  Omaha Medical College incorporated
1883  College of Medicine opened at University of Nebraska in Lincoln
1887  College of Medicine in Lincoln dissolved
1902  College of Medicine of the University of Nebraska created through an agreement between the trustees of the Omaha Medical College and the Board of Regents
1909  Land purchased at 42nd and Dewey Avenue
1913  North Lab building erected (named Poynter Hall in 1970)
1917  130-bed hospital opened with Charlotte Burgess as Superintendent of Nurses
      School for Nurses opened with 13 students on October 16
1918  Dormitory built
1919  South Lab Building erected — dispensary moved from 17th and Dodge
1920  Dormitory burned down
1921  School pin designed by Dr. Alfred Brown
      Alumnae Association formed
1923  Conkling Hall built as the Nurses’ Residence
1927  Unit II of hospital built — total bed capacity now 230
1930's  Probationer uniform discontinued
      Sleeves of uniform shortened and white shoes and stockings adopted
1939  School participated in a study by National League for Nursing Education (NLNE) to establish accreditation criteria
      Nursing faculty given University rank
1946  Charlotte Burgess retired and Irma Kyle became Director
      Childrens Hospital built
1950  Four year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program approved by Board of Regents
1952  Students entered freshman year of BSN program
      Diploma program temporarily accredited by National Nursing Accrediting Service (NNAS)
1954  Master of Psychiatric Nursing program offered through Department of Psychiatry
1957  New School of Nursing building dedicated
1961  Admission offered to married students and male students
1962  Curricular and organizational changes started under the direction of Regina Tangney, to ensure accreditation
1963  Control of nursing service and nursing education separated; Carol Wilson named Director of Nursing Service
1965  BSN program accredited by the National League for Nursing (NLN)
1966  Irma Kyle resigned as Director
       Regina Tangney Barentson named Acting Director
1967  Rena E. Boyle named Director and Associate Dean
1968  University of Nebraska restructured into 3 campuses: UN-L, UNO, UNMC
1969  Dr. Boyle's title changed to Dean
       Nursing Care Research Center established
       Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program started
       New hospital opened — total bed capacity now 285
       Basic Science Building (named Wittson Hall in 1972) dedicated
1970  Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) program opened
       Library of Medicine (named the Leon S. McGoogan Library of Medicine in 1980) opened
1972  School given College status
       Articulated programs planned and decision made to close generic BSN program
       All programs accredited by NLN
1974  Students entered Lincoln Division program
1976  Last class graduated from generic BSN program
       College of Nursing and College of Pharmacy buildings dedicated
1977  Off-Campus BSN program began with grant from Kellogg Foundation
       Clinic Building opened
1979  Rena Boyle retired
       Rosalee C. Yeaworth named Dean
1983  All programs received continued accreditation from NLN
       Plans made for closing of ASN program and return to a 4-year BSN program
1985  Students entered generic BSN program
1986  Last class graduated from ASN program