

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