The warm weather has finally arrived in Western New York and the flowers are blooming.

This time of year brings rejuvenation and a belief that anything is possible when talented individuals are determined to make a difference. The School of Nursing embraces that sentiment in each of our missions. This season, we want to share with you our remarkable accomplishments in practice and research related to children and adolescents, and our educational efforts to combat the nursing shortage.

**Clinical practice and research makes impact**

The School of Nursing has long been recognized as a leader in clinical practice and research. In this issue of *Rochester Nursing Today*, we are proud to present our East High School-Based Health Center and the Center for High-Risk Children and Youth. The school-based clinic, run by the Community Nursing Center, provides primary care and mental health services to students at East High School.

The Center for High-Risk Children and Youth also is addressing a variety of health care issues. Childhood asthma is being examined through the early use of medications in preventing asthma symptoms. A school-based intervention that reduces risky behaviors and HIV has been developed and implemented, and a home-based nursing intervention to improve outcomes in underprivileged pregnant women and their children is also being studied. You will read about many more examples in this issue.

We are very excited about the work currently being done at East High School-Based Health Center and at the Center for High-Risk Children and Youth and have no doubt
that the future holds incredible opportunities for our practitioners and researchers to positively affect our community and the nation's youth.

**Facing the nursing shortage head-on**

One of the most significant challenges facing our local health care community is a shortage of nurses, a crisis being experienced across the country. The shortage will reach critical levels by 2010, when an estimated 600,000 baccalaureate-prepared nurses will be available to fill 1.4 million jobs. The average age of nurses is 47 years old and the majority of today's nurses will retire in the next decade. Only 9 percent of working nurses are under the age of 30, down from 25 percent in 1980. Current realities include the fact that fewer young people are enrolling in nursing programs—we must address the value of the nursing profession in order to reduce this trend.

In collaboration with nursing practice at Strong Health, the School of Nursing is taking a leadership position to address the crisis. The School has begun working with health care employers, such as the Visiting Nurse Service, Strong Memorial and Highland hospitals and long-term care providers, to educate their employees about opportunities in the nursing field. We are developing collaborative programs that benefit both the prospective students and the employer by creating a work environment that allows for and fosters nursing education. We seek to increase the number of nurses in our community and enhance the view of the nursing profession.

The School's new focus on the RN to BS program, with locations on campus and in Canandaigua, is adding BS-prepared nurses to the Greater Rochester community at a rate that is 20 percent higher than originally projected. However, the challenge to recruit new students does not belong to the nursing faculty alone. All of us need to communicate the value of nursing as a professional discipline and the nurse as a knowledgeable worker. Faculty and practitioners, community leaders, school counselors and others must encourage potential students to consider a nursing career.

Technology, too, is playing a role in recruiting nursing students and retaining nurses. We continue with our initiatives to develop online courses and a distance-learning plan, so that the School has the ability to educate nursing students off-site. Additionally, we are mindful of the need to keep both nursing students and practicing nurses up-to-date on new clinical technologies. The School is committed to providing an environment that allows students and faculty to succeed in this highly specialized health care arena.

*Patricia Chiverton, EdD, RN*

*Dean*
When 10th-grader Alonzo Lucas moved to Rochester from Mississippi last spring, he found he needed more medical care, more often.

An asthmatic, Alonzo managed his condition quite well before he and his father relocated. Yet once they’d moved north, the unfamiliar Western New York climate seemed to trigger his asthma attacks, making it more difficult for Alonzo to breathe, not only during strenuous activities but even sitting in class at East High School.

When he began having great difficulty breathing during the night, he sought help from the staff of the East High School-Based Health Center.

“Working closely with Alonzo’s primary care physician, we got his asthma under control with medication and other therapy to the point where he can now play outside during gym class and can sleep through the night,” says Maureen VanCura, MS (’90), RN, FNP, the clinic’s program director.

Run by the School of Nursing Community Nursing Center and the Monroe County Department of Health, the school-based clinic is nursing intervention at its best.

“Had the clinic not been so convenient, there is a good chance Alonzo’s condition would have worsened,” VanCura says. “By having the option of the school-based clinic, he didn’t have to leave school for doctor’s appointments and his father didn’t have to miss work to take him, and it gave us more chances to evaluate his symptoms and come up with the best treatment.”

Growing up in poverty, many students at East High rarely sought medical care until their illness was severe and then, in the absence of a primary care physician, often would use area emergency departments for primary care.

The clinic, which is open daily throughout the school year, offers a full range of primary care and behavioral health services. Services are provided by psychiatric and primary care nurse practitioners, community health nurses, school health aides, a medical assistant, dieticians and patient care

(above) Maureen VanCura, MS, RN, FNP examines a student.
(above & below right) A staff member talks with students.
able to gain their trust.”

While providing an excellent community service, the school-based clinic also provides researchers with opportunities to develop and test their interventions and train future investigators in the art and science of clinical research, all while helping the students.

The services provided at East High School are undoubtedly having a positive impact.

“In my life, I have never felt as passionately about something as I do here,” VanCura said. “We are dealing with students, many of whom have no health care, have no transportation to get to a doctor, or lack the knowledge to know when they should seek care. Not a day goes by that I don’t see the difference I am making in the lives of these kids.”

The staff members who have made up the clinic staff—including School of Nursing alumni Lorraine Lawrence (MS ’95) and Marlea Allan (MS ’98, PMC ’98)—are pleased not only in the success of the clinic, but also with the strong bond that has been forged with the Rochester City School District. With ongoing support from East High School Principal Ed Cavalier, the district plans in the next year to add an addition onto the clinic to create more exam rooms and office space for staff, a result of services the district considers invaluable.

“This is health care at its best,” VanCura says. “Bringing accessible, comprehensive and collaborative care to adolescents in their own environment.”
While School of Nursing researchers have long been investigating ways to improve pediatric care, the recently established Center for High-Risk Children and Youth brings a new energy and focus to improving the health of all children with special emphasis on those whose lives are compromised by poverty.

“The relationship between family poverty and children’s health is well documented,” says center director Marilyn J. Aten, PhD, RN. “Not only does poverty result in increased prevalence of acute health problems, it also exacerbates chronic health problems in children.”

The Center — established to support both research and training — has 11 faculty investigators testing a wide range of nursing interventions to improve health outcomes for disadvantaged children and their families. Interventions for preventing youth violence, high-risk sexual behaviors, HIV transmission and teen pregnancy are among the studies; as are innovative programs that promote parental empowerment as a way to improve child health.

While the studies address varied child health issues, they share common characteristics. All are substantial interventions that have shown promise for preventing or reducing threats to child health; all include rigorous longitudinal evaluations; and all are large samples that are primarily aimed at families living in poverty.

Many Center faculty members have joint appointments, and studies are conducted collaboratively with the School of Medicine and Dentistry’s Department of Pediatrics and other programs within the University.

Center researchers are finding that health interventions that begin early in childhood are maintained over time, and a focus on health issues within the context of the child’s environment may have a key role in reducing the health-related impact of poverty.

“Children living in poverty have special needs and can only be evaluated and treated within the full context of their families and lives,” Aten says.

The work of Center researchers is critical in today’s health environment as care is increasingly provided by nurses whose practice is guided by rigorous nursing studies.

“Our investigators are designing protocols that
improve children’s health in the Rochester area and serve as models of nursing intervention for the nation,” Aten says.

For instance, a group of researchers led by Jane Tuttle, PhD, RN, CS, FNP, CPNP, assistant professor of Clinical Nursing and Pediatrics, is studying an intervention for adolescent children of substance-abusing parents in inner city Rochester.

Teen Club was founded in 1992 by Gail Richeson, BA, BS, RN, then a community health nurse who is now a drug and alcohol counselor, and Wilfredo Irizarry, a community outreach worker. The Teen Club intervention consists of weekly group meetings, with case management and support provided between meetings.

The study suggests that, when compared to similar young women, Teen Club participants completed more grades in school on average, and were significantly more likely to be working or actively seeking employment. They were less likely to score in the moderate-to-severe and severe categories on the Beck Depression inventory and had fewer pregnancies.

Other researchers include Nancy Campbell-Heider, PhD, RN–CS, FNP, Sharon Bidwell-Cerone, PhD, RN–CS, PNP, Gail Richeson, BS, RN, and Sue Collins, MS, RN-CS

Another powerful example involves Kathy Rideout, EdD, RN, assistant professor of Clinical Nursing, and Mary Sue Jack, PhD, RN, PNP, assistant professor of Clinical Nursing, who are working on a trial with Chrisanne Mansfield, MS, RN, and O.J. Sahler, MD, that studies various ways to reduce nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy in the adolescent population. One such alternative is the ReliefBand, which is worn like a watch on the underside of the wrist. It emits gentle electrical signals that interfere with nerves that cause nausea.

“Adolescents are often embarrassed when they experience nausea and vomiting since it is a vivid reminder that they are not ‘normal,’ that they are not in control of their bodies,” says Rideout. “Noncompliance with chemotherapy regimens and ending treatment early is often associated with the severity of side effects they experience.”

**Research Funding A Priority**

As some of the most devastating health and social problems facing our nation are unfortunately also prevalent in Rochester, Center researchers have fertile ground for their work. School of Nursing faculty members have embraced the opportunity to make a difference in a city where 25 percent of school children live below the poverty line and a high incidence of low birth weight, asthma, STDs and teen pregnancy are well documented.

The high caliber of research conducted through the Center for High-Risk Children and Youth and other SON research Centers is affirmed by the increasing level of federal and private grants SON researchers receive.

“In the past year, the School has doubled its federal research funding and now, with support from the Medical Center and generous donors, we’ve been able to recruit new faculty members to expand research,” says Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN–CS, PNP, associate dean for research and director of the Center for Research and Evidence-Based Practice.

“The Medical Center has been very supportive by infusing funds for our pilot studies. It takes resources to do what needs to be done. We are committed to moving the SON into the top 10 schools of nursing in NIH research funding within the next five years.” The School improved its ranking from 28th last year to 26th this year.

Both Aten and Melnyk emphasize the importance of donor support. “The School needs to be less tuition-dependent in all our endeavors,” Melnyk says. “When you consider the benefits that come from donor support and the additional dollars gifts can attract from other funders, a donation for nursing research is truly an investment in a healthier future.”
and high school students — Aten has been a relentless advocate for young people. Her master’s in Maternal and Child Nursing and doctorate in Developmental Psychology further shaped her life’s work in support of children and youth.

“Kids think they are invincible and invulnerable and that bad things can’t happen to them,” Aten says. “My interest has always been to understand how we can get through to them.”

Early in her career as a pediatric nurse, Marilyn Aten (BS ’65) recognized the devastating impact of teen pregnancy on the lives of young girls and their children. That realization led to a lifelong commitment to finding better ways to help adolescents cope with their emerging sexuality.

From the 1970s, when Aten helped found the Rochester Adolescent Maternity Project to support parenting teens and help them prevent future pregnancies — to her comprehensive school-based studies (in collaboration with David Siegel, MD) aimed at decreasing high-risk sexual behavior among middle
We have amassed good evidence that carefully designed nursing services delivered in the home can make a significant difference…

Harriet Kitzman, PhD, RN

“...that sex education can change attitudes and behaviors if delivered in ways meaningful to teens.

The RAPP intervention consisted of 10 to 12 sessions in which health educators taught 5,300 teens how to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. The control group of students received the City School District’s regular sex education program.

RAPP educators — which included both adults and teens — were given an intense 40-hour training and the teen peer educators were monitored and supported by the adults.

“The intervention was highly focused on sexual risk,” Aten says. “There were no lectures. It was student-driven and intensely concentrated on communication and decision-making skills. The kids learned, and they loved it.”

Follow up evaluations revealed that the RAPP students’ knowledge scores improved substantially (a finding that was maintained a year after the intervention) and their attitudes changed regarding abstinence, using condoms and avoiding pregnancy. Some exhibited positive behavior changes.

“It’s hard to change behavior purely through education,” Aten concedes.

While pleased with the middle and high school results, Aten believes that late elementary school is probably the best time to begin the intervention, a premise confirmed by a pilot study. She and Siegel have submitted an NIH grant for a broader study with the younger group.

“By the time they reached middle school, one-third of girls and 60 percent of boys in our sample had already experienced intercourse,” Aten says. “We can teach safer sexual practices at any age but if you want to prevent sexuality related problems, you’ve got to get into it earlier.”

While Aten’s own research interests have focused on issues of maternal and child health and teen sexuality, her influence on clinical research has been much broader. She is an associate professor in the Medical School’s Department of Pediatrics and holds the title of research methodologist/senior scientist.

As director of the SON’s Center for High-Risk Children and Youth, Aten hopes to attract new faculty and grants, as well as build elective courses on research with children and families into SON graduate programs.

“I like to develop programs and people,” she says with characteristic understatement, “and I’m concerned about kids.”

continued on page 10
office visits and hospitalizations for sick children.

Kitzman’s interest in home-based interventions began in the 1960s when her position in Strong Memorial Hospital’s Pediatric Continuity Clinic (now called The Pediatric Practice) called for a series of home visits after the birth of a child. “I was surprised at what I learned and what I could achieve in the home that I would never have been able to do in the office,” she recalls. “It helped me see the value of home interventions and the need for a new type of bridge between the institution and the home.”

Kitzman’s research — with former faculty member Evan Charney, MD — on the preventive value of home visits to mothers and newborns gained international recognition and became a building block for one of Kitzman’s greatest achievements: creation of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner role. “We learned that during times of major transition, the right intervention by the right health professional can help change the trajectory of a life,” Kitzman says. “Delivering carefully structured nursing visits over time affected the family’s emphasis on child care and their decisions about additional pregnancies, and helped them develop a relationship with the child that is reinforcing for mother and child.”

Kitzman credits the study’s positive outcomes with the development of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner role and the development and evaluation of home visitation programs. “The most important thing is to respect the privacy of the parent and recognize that each family needs to work to meet its own goals. All families want the best for their children but each has a different idea of how that can happen.”

“If we say a family ‘doesn’t want to do something,’ we haven’t done our work because we haven’t offered options that meet the goals they value,” she says.

Today, Kitzman maintains a busy schedule, working with other investigators on home-based interventions for a number of health issues and training more individuals to carry on the responsibility of clinical research. Kitzman, with Marilyn Aten, PhD, RN, Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN-CS, PNP, Madeline Schmitt, PhD, RN, FAAN, and other Center faculty, are the recipients of the new National Research Service Award training grant to prepare pre- and post-doctoral fellows to do clinical research. Kitzman also is a consultant to an exciting new child health initiative in San Mateo County, Calif.

“We are developing and evaluating the impact of a countywide umbrella program for each family expecting a new baby that will follow them from pregnancy through age 3,” she says. Kitzman is involved with primary care provider training, designing interagency cooperation and creating a home-visiting program.

“For me, it goes back to the beginning — building a better bridge for patients between the home and the system.”
Disturbing new data about transmission of the HIV virus has been widely reported in recent months: Adolescent girls are among the groups experiencing the highest rates of new HIV infections.

The news came as no surprise to Dianne Morrison-Beedy (PhD ’93) who — more than a decade ago — was one of the first nurse researchers to recognize and investigate HIV risk and transmission issues for women.

“In the early days of the epidemic, many people refused to believe that HIV would have a significant effect on women,” Morrison-Beedy recalls. “Even today, young women engage in risky behaviors without worrying about HIV because they still believe it affects only gay men and intravenous drug users. That misconception is putting their lives at risk.”

Morrison-Beedy traces her interest in HIV transmission to her clinical career as a Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner, where she has seen young women return time and again for treatment of sexually transmitted diseases that could and should have been prevented.

“We had given them information about HIV and other infections, stressed the danger of risky behaviors and taught condom use, but when patients keep coming back with the same problems, you know you’re not being effective,” she says.

Morrison-Beedy’s newest study, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, focuses on targeting new approaches to prevent HIV infection in this young and vulnerable population. The study will be conducted in reproductive health care clinics in Syracuse and Rochester.

“This time we are really trying to understand what motivates young women to change their risky behaviors, as well as what information and specific skills they need to help them to take better control of their sexuality,” she says.

One of the new interventions involves teaching effective negotiating skills concerning the use of condoms. Since the condom decision is so often determined by the male, we’re hoping that better negotiating skills add to “a young woman’s ability to protect herself,” she says.

The Syracuse/Rochester connection for the study is a natural fit as Morrison-Beedy continues to serve as Research Associate Professor at Syracuse University School of Nursing. She joins the University of Rochester faculty as the new Brody Endowed Professor.

“Urban areas like Syracuse and Rochester — with economically disadvantaged inner cities and linked by a major thoroughfare like the Thruway — represent the next wave of HIV infection,” Morrison-Beedy says. “We need to find these answers as quickly as we can.”

Morrison-Beedy is enthusiastic about her new faculty position and gratified to be part of what she calls Rochester’s “strong research infrastructure.”

“The School of Nursing is becoming a powerhouse in nursing research,” she says. “I’m glad to be here.”

Dean Patricia Chiverton, EdD, RN, believes it’s the perfect match, as well.

“The Brody Endowed Professorship carries with it a significant honor for the School,” she says. “We were proud to have Dianne as a student and are prouder, still, to welcome her to the faculty.”
If thinking about the myriad of problems that beset critically ill children and their families overwhelms you, spend an hour with Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk (PhD '92), the School of Nursing’s associate dean for research and director of both the Center for Research and Evidence-Based Practice and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program. Her enthusiasm and “can do” attitude energize everyone around her and the dramatic impact of her research offers reason to hope.

“As nurses, we have always focused on helping children recover from their physical illnesses,” Melnyk says, but hospitalization for serious illness can leave children with psychological scars and developmental deficits, as well. Our research is focused on helping parents cope better with their child’s illness and hospitalization so that they can, in turn, provide more effective support to their children.”

Melnyk and her interdisciplinary research team, including Linda Alpert-Gillis, PhD, director of the Department...
of Psychiatry’s Child and Adolescent Outpatient Services, developed an intervention — appropriately named the COPE Intervention (Creating Opportunities for Parent Empowerment) — that they initially used with young children on the general pediatric units and their families. They then adapted the program for use with parents of critically ill, hospitalized children and are now using it with parents of low-birthweight, premature babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Strong Memorial Hospital. Melnyk and Alpert-Gillis also have developed a COPE intervention for families undergoing marital separation.

“The idea is to educate parents about what is happening to their child, give them framework for seeing the normalcy in it, and teach them to interact with their infants and children in more positive, supportive ways,” Melnyk says.

The COPE intervention framework includes meetings with families at specific times during the crisis; providing educational materials for parents about their own and their child’s reactions to the situation; and offering age-appropriate activities for parent/child interaction.

The newest COPE intervention — in the NICU — involves meeting with parents two to four days after admission, two to four days after that, one to four days prior to discharge and again one week after discharge.

“Most programs for parents of premature babies start just before the family is ready to go home and that is too late,” Melnyk says. “The parent/infant relationship has already started to form and is clouded by fear and uncertainty. Our intervention creates the idea of normalcy for that baby from the beginning, so parents know what to expect and how to interact in ways that support their child’s development.”

Melnyk’s team found that mothers who received the COPE intervention were less stressed by the NICU environment and had more confidence in dealing with their infants. At 6 months, the COPE babies had significantly higher scores for cognitive development than the non-COPE babies.

The team this spring was awarded a $2.4 million grant from NIH/NINR to further investigate the potential of the intervention program at Strong and Syracuse’s Crouse Hospital. A study will enroll parents of low-birthweight, premature infants and will use the same protocol but include follow-up visits at 6, 12 and 24 months, with interventions at 2, 9 and 18 months.

“Our dream is for the COPE program to be used across the United States,” Melnyk says.

As a pediatric emergency department nurse for more than 20 years, Tener Veenema (MS ‘92, PNP ‘93, MPH ‘99) thought she had seen the worst that could happen to children. Physical and sexual abuse. Overwhelming neglect. Violent injuries that would leave scars for a lifetime.

But it was not until she began the research for her doctoral dissertation on adolescent violence that Veenema realized she had only been seeing the symptoms. The disease — far more virulent — was raging silent and unchecked in the urban streets and alleys of the Rochester community.

“I wasn’t naïve and I thought I’d seen everything in the emergency department, but when I went out into the community, I was overwhelmed,” Veenema says. “Children in Rochester are dying not just from bullets and stabbings, but from an intellectual and emotional acceptance of violence that our health and social policies — however well-meaning — aren’t even beginning to address.”

“We are really a tale of two cities,” Veenema says.
A child goes to bed feeling well, then awakens during the night … crying for help and gasping for breath. This unexpected and frightening scenario is all too familiar for more than 5 million American families whose children suffer from asthma, the most common chronic illness of childhood.

"Despite better understanding of the disease and improved therapies, morbidity and mortality continue to rise at an alarming rate," says Lorrie Yoos (MS '79), whose interest in asthma research is based on the many children she has cared for in 20 years of clinical practice with urban families.

"Asthma affects all children, but minority children living in poverty are at the greatest risk."

"You can’t change behavior unless you really understand what is causing it," she says. "My research takes a step back and asks those questions."

Veenema acknowledges that our community “has many really good people who are working very hard on this, but there are also those in our community who have the greatest power and resources who are not committed enough,” she says.

As a pediatric nurse practitioner and a mother of four, Veenema has found her research both “deeply compelling and very personal.” She is hopeful that her work will shed a powerful light on one of society’s most perplexing problems and provide empirical evidence that will influence the creation of more effective anti-violence policies and programs in the future.

Holding master’s of Nursing Administration (School of Nursing ’92), Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (School of Nursing ’93), and master’s of Public Health (School of Medicine and Dentistry ’99) degrees, and as a doctoral candidate in Health Services Research (School of Medicine and Dentistry), Veenema brings a unique blend of talents and insights to the Center for High-Risk Children and Youth.

"Nursing research has traditionally focused more on how nurses can best impact specific clinical situations," she says. "I believe my interest in health services and health policy in the broader context is an important addition to the School of Nursing and has the potential to play a critical role in improving the health and well-being of children everywhere."
likelihood of getting the right treatment and the best outcome,” Yoos says. “Some families are dealing with so many challenges that they may take lesser symptoms in stride and not seek help. By the time symptoms escalate, it can be too late.”

Yoos’ research team, which includes Harriet Kitzman, RN, PhD, and Anne McMullen, MS, RN, has completed a study that assesses how accurately parents and children are able to interpret and report asthma symptoms during an episode, and whether use of a small and inexpensive lung function monitoring device — called a Peak Flow Meter — is helpful.

“The child simply blasts a breath into the tube and it measures the severity of airflow obstruction,” Yoos says. “It’s simple to use and gives important, objective data about the severity of the episode.”

Yoos and her research team divided a cohort of families in Strong Health’s Pediatric Practice, and taught half of them to use the device when a child’s symptoms began. They then measured treatment outcomes for both groups.

“Low-income African-American families who used the Peak Flow Meter when their child had symptoms had significantly better outcomes than those who didn’t,” Yoos says. That finding was not as dramatic for families in other racial and socioeconomic groups that had lesser improvement.

Yoos is reluctant to speculate about what factors contributed to this difference, but suggests poor families have less access to consistent health care — and a close, ongoing relationship with a provider is a key to optimal asthma care.

“Families who use the Emergency Department may see a different provider each time,” she says. “The Peak Flow Meter readings offer clear data on which to base treatment decisions. That may have contributed to the improved outcomes.”

While other studies have generated controversy on the value of the Peak Flow Meter, Yoos is hopeful that their study, the first to highlight effects for disadvantaged children, will encourage providers to incorporate the device into their care.

“Some providers may believe that these families have so many challenges they won’t be able to follow through, but our study shows that isn’t the case,” she says. “It takes extra time to determine the right readings for each child and create a treatment plan, but the results are clearly worth it.”
Watson secures $1.2 M grant for urinary incontinence study
Nancy M. Watson, PhD, RN, director of the School of Nursing’s Center for Clinical Research on Aging, has been awarded a $1.2 million grant by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for a study about urinary incontinence.

Watson’s research will test the effectiveness of a model of care implemented by nurse practitioners in collaboration with nurses and physicians to translate the AHRQ urinary incontinence (UI) guideline into practice in United States nursing homes. The study will determine the feasibility of this model in reducing the UI in nursing homes, preventing complications associated with UI, improving the quality of life of nursing home residents and families, and reducing the cost of UI care.

National partnership organizations for the study consist of American Medical Directors Association, American Geriatrics Society, National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration and The John A. Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University. Local nursing home partners include the Jewish Home, the Friendly Home, the Episcopal Church Home, St. Ann’s Home, Hill Haven Nursing Home and Monroe Community Hospital.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program 9th in US
The School of Nursing’s Pediatric Nurse Practitioner/Care of Children and Families Program has been ranked ninth in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

The ranking is based on the results of surveys sent to deans, faculty and administrators of accredited graduate programs. Respondents were asked to rate the academic quality of programs as distinguished, strong, good, adequate or marginal, based on their own assessment of the quality of curriculum, faculty and graduates.

Hall’s gift creates historical reference
Eleanor Hall, MA, RN, who served as chair of the Department of Nursing at the School of Medicine and Dentistry from 1957–71, has generously provided funds to begin to create a comprehensive and detailed history of the School of Nursing, to be made available to its students, faculty and alumni, as well as scholars and nurse historians.

The project will include sorting through existing, unprocessed collections located at Helen Wood Hall, processing all for inventory, and developing a written document about the items. An oral history will capture the reflections of notable nurse leaders on video.

Ford honored
Loretta C. Ford, EdD, (left) founding and former dean of the School of Nursing, with newly inducted Dean Patricia A. Chiverton, EdD, RN, at the Investiture Ceremony on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2000. Dr. Ford received an Honorary Degree at the ceremony for her leadership and dedication to the School of Nursing.

The Dean’s Investiture
Attending the Dean’s Investiture on Oct. 12, 2000: (above) Kathleen Parinello, PhD, RN; Patricia A. Witzel, RN; Madeline Schmitt, PhD; Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, RN-CS, PNP; Patricia A. Chiverton, EdD, RN, dean of the School of Nursing; JoAnne J. Clements, MS, RN; Judith G. Baggs, PhD; Victoria G. Hines, MHA.

News briefs
Brody Professorship
On April 11th, Dr. Bernard Brody (MD ’51, second from right) and his daughter Rachel Bandych (left) had the opportunity to meet with Dean Patricia Chiverton, EdD, RN, and the new Ruth Miller Brody and Bernard Brody Professor, Dianne Morrison-Beedy, PhD, RNC, WHNP (far right). Mrs. Brody (BS ’42) was unable to attend, but the group assembled around a portrait of her in the conference room that is named in her honor. Mrs. Brody was the third director of the School of Nursing and she and Dr. Brody have been true leaders through their involvement and support over the years.

Their daughters, Rachel and Sarah, are continuing this legacy through their support of this important professorship. The Brody Professorship made possible the recruitment of Dr. Morrison-Beedy, and the School and its students are pleased to have her on board.

Luncheon recognizes scholarship donors and recipients
Past recipients of the Carolyn Taksen Friedlander Scholarship and the Mabel M. and A.T. Hatch Memorial Scholarship were honored Jan. 10 at a luncheon in Helen Wood Hall.

Each year, three outstanding students in the Care of Families Tract who have financial need are honored with the Carolyn Taksen Friedlander Scholarship, each receiving $5,000. Carolyn and Roger Friedlander have long been dear friends of the School of Nursing and the University of Rochester Medical Center. They established the Carolyn Taksen Friedlander Scholarship in 1996 to support students in the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, in honor of Carolyn Friedlander’s career in this field. Roger Friedlander is currently chairman of the University of Rochester Medical Center Board of Directors.

School of Nursing students recognized were Zendi Moldenhauer, Annette Munson, Linda Zurich, Shari Hogan, Jennifer Maddison, Adrienne Platt, Holly Stratton, Nancy Swank, Amy Jerum and Ann Kraska.

Helen Heller earned her bachelor’s degree from the School of Nursing in 1937. She has been a leader through her dedication and involvement over the years, and played a crucial role in establishing an endowed scholarship from the Davenport-Hatch Foundation, a long-time supporter of the School of Nursing. The scholarship, named in honor of her parents, Mabel M. and A.T. Hatch, has benefited nursing students since its establishment in 1979.

Scholarship recipients recognized for the Hatch Scholarship were Cheryl Hokula, Harry Blossick, Shalow Heckman, Stephanie Ball, Rachel Smith, Jerome Pfaller, Amy LaTourelle, and Jennifer Dollinger.

Scholarships are especially crucial during a time when there is a severe shortage of qualified nurses, and scholarships are a major incentive for nurses to further their education here and go on to be leaders in the field.

Day at the Races slated for July
The University of Rochester Medical Center invites alumni, faculty and friends to enjoy a Day at the Races, including the running of “The Whitney” on July 28 in Saratoga Springs. There are seats reserved in the Tent at the Rail. Each guest is invited to enjoy refreshments and an elaborate gourmet buffet. A New York Racing Association professional will be on hand for a brief instruction on betting.

Transportation is provided to and from Rochester via bus on the day of the races. There are a limited number of tickets available so please reserve today. The new Hilton Gardens also has rooms, if guests are interested in staying in Saratoga Springs.

For more information or to reserve tickets, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 1–800–333–4428, or e-mail the office at alumni@urmc.rochester.edu. For hotel reservations, call 1–518–587–1500.
Nurses gather at Texas conference
Patricia Lindley, PhD, RN, associate professor of clinical nursing, visits with Col. Ethel Nelson, RN ’53, at a National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Conference dinner in April in San Antonio, Texas.

1955 alum creates scholarship fund
According to Janet C. Scala (RN ’55), establishment of the Dr. Robert A. Scala and Mrs. Janet C. Scala ’55 Nursing Scholarship Fund was a way of returning something to a school that has a tradition of teaching compassion toward patients, professional integrity and sensitivity in human relationships.

“My husband and I felt it was important to give back to the School of Nursing,” Mrs. Scala said recently from her home in Arizona, adding that they are pleased to be able to do this for individuals who will become our future nurses.

The fund will provide a scholarship annually to an undergraduate nursing student who has unequivocally demonstrated his or her ability to perform according to the highest standards of academic excellence, who shows great promise for a productive career in clinical nursing, research or academic medicine, and who has substantial financial need.

NIH grant funds study on end-of-life issues
A grant of $712,000 was awarded to Judith G. Baggs, PhD, RN, by the NIH National Institute of Nursing Research to study interaction between patients, families and clinicians regarding end-of-life issues and the effectiveness of communication among all those involved in a patient’s case.

For families that have a critically ill loved one in a hospital’s intensive care unit, issues surrounding care can be overwhelming, and receiving support from the patient’s care providers is an important aspect in the outcome of end-of-life decisions that may need to be made, Baggs says.

During the three-year study, researchers will spend time on four Strong Memorial Hospital adult intensive care units, observing how caregivers and family members interact, and interviewing families and medical staff members, including nurses, medical residents and social workers, about their perceptions regarding the effectiveness of communication.

McLouth Challenge begins
The School of Nursing announced a $2 million challenge grant made possible through the estate of Charles McLouth III. Mr. McLouth was a strong supporter of the School during his life and provided generously through his will.

The “McLouth Challenge for the 21st Century” is a two-year challenge that provides a 2:1 match for all new and increased gifts to the School. For every dollar raised, the McLouth estate will provide $2 to the McLouth Scholarship Fund. The School’s goal is to raise $1 million in new and increased gifts by June 30, 2002, in order to receive the $2 million grant.

Many thanks to Jean Johnson, RN, PhD, who was a faculty member of the School of Nursing from 1979–95. Announced during Reunion Weekend 2000, Johnson generously pledged funds for research by faculty, helping the School of Nursing come closer to the goal set by the McLouth Challenge.
Conversation with the Dean

(above) A group gathers at a School of Nursing event at the Highlands at Pittsford in March. Standing from left: Vicki Dodds, Russell Craytor, Howard Spindler, Marvin Jacoby, Helen Heller, Andrea Marshall, Dean Patricia Chiverton, Cynthia Hart, Jean Johnson, Florence Jacoby, (seated) Eleanor Hall, Helen McNerney, Ruth Mulligan and Jane Gilman. Josephine Craytor was unable to attend.

Nursing student’s graduation will bring program full circle

School of Nursing student Lisa Waldman will graduate in 2002 with the last four-year undergraduate class. Coincidentally, the Brockport resident’s grandmother graduated with the first SON undergraduate class in 1926.

Madge Dunn, who died in 1975, worked during her nursing career at Iola Campus. Her desire to care for patients was passed down to 31-year-old Waldman.

“As nurses, we are multifaceted,” Waldman says. “We need to be the family, the advocate, the caregiver, the social worker, and sometimes just a listener for our patients. Nursing can enrich not only the patient’s life but your life, as well. Every moment is a learning experience and that can only make you grow as a person.”

Waldman is currently working as a patient care technician in Strong Memorial Hospital’s Emergency Department. After graduation, she plans to work in the Burn-Trauma Unit and continue her education to become a family nurse practitioner.

Endowment honors Frances S. Dietrich, RN ’43

R.V. Dietrich of Mount Pleasant, Mich., has donated $25,000 to create the “Frances Smith Dietrich Visiting Professorship Endowment Fund,” which will provide guest lecturers for students, faculty and alumni of the School of Nursing.

In a telephone conversation, Dr. Dietrich noted: “The gift is in my wife’s honor, and given to the University of Rochester’s School of Nursing in recognition of the fine education and experience she gained as a student at Strong Memorial Hospital and her subsequent teaching duties there under Miss Wenona Abbott, who was head of Nursing Arts.”
SON faculty, alumni recognized

Cynthia Remington King, PhD, NP, RN, has been elected to the American Academy of Nursing. King, who earned her Post-Masters Certificate from the School of Nursing in 1994, was formally inducted into the American Academy of Nursing on Nov. 4, 2000, during the organization's 27th Annual Meeting and Conference in San Diego, Calif.

The Academy nominated 62 new fellows for induction. The 2000 nominees represent a variety of disciplines within the field of nursing.

Kathleen B. King, PhD, RN, FAAN, Gail Ingersoll, RN, MS, EdD, FAAN, Jean Johnson, RN, PhD, FAAN, and Madeline Schmitt, RN, PhD, FAAN, were elected to the American Academy of Nursing in recent years.

Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN, a graduate of the doctoral program at the University of Rochester School of Nursing, has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences’ prestigious Institute of Medicine.

Campbell earned her doctorate degree from the University of Rochester in 1986. She also was the recipient of the University’s Distinguished Alumni Medal in 1997.

Campbell is currently the Anna D. Wolf Endowed Professor and associate dean for doctoral education and research at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing in Baltimore. Her clinical practice interests focus on domestic violence. Her research concentrates on women's physical, emotional and behavioral responses to battering in intimate relationships.

Bernadette M. Melnyk, PhD, RN-CS, PNP, associate dean for research and director of both the Center for Research and Evidence-Based Practice and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program, was honored with the 2000 Distinguished Nurse Researcher Award by the New York State Nurses Association.

Nancy M. Watson, PhD, RN, assistant professor of nursing and director of the Center for Clinical Research on Aging, received the Biennial Research Dissemination Award, and Diane Mick, PhD, RN, CCNS, assistant professor of nursing, received the Biennial Research Dissertation Award from the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Region 5. The awards were presented at the Professional Development Conference and Chapter Leader Academy in Philadelphia on March 23.

Dr. Watson's study is titled “Rocking Chair Therapy for Dementia Patients: Its Effect on Psychosocial Well-being and Balance.” The Dissemination Award honors an individual who has made a major contribution to the dissemination of research to nurses for use in clinical nursing practice, education, administration and/or research.

Dr. Mick's 1999 dissertation is titled “Functional Outcomes of Elderly Patients Following Intensive Care.” The Dissertation Award recognizes a nurse whose doctoral dissertation is exceptionally meritorious and exemplifies high standards of scholarship and knowledge development.

Dr. Mick also received the Hartford Foundation's Junior Investigator Award at the Eastern Nursing Research Society’s Annual Scientific Sessions on April 3. Given the Dissertation Presentation Award at the same meeting was Nancy Fischbeck Feinstein, PhD, who is currently a research associate in the Center for Research and Evidence-Based Practice. She earned her doctorate degree from the University of Rochester in 2000.

Class of 1959 Scholarship Award

Connie Leary, RN '59, presents undergraduate student Luis Berrios with the Class of 1959 Scholarship Award at the School of Nursing’s 2000 Reunion Luncheon.
Baggs Named to Senior Leadership Position
The University of Rochester School of Nursing has named Judith Gedney Baggs, PhD, RN, associate dean for academic affairs. In this position, Baggs manages and coordinates all aspects of the School’s baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral programs. She also is responsible for educational program development, implementation and evaluation, as well as student recruitment, admission, progression and retention. In all of these matters, she will work cooperatively with the dean, other associate deans, program coordinators, the Office of Evaluation, and other faculty and staff.

“Dr. Baggs is a highly regarded educator and researcher and will lead the faculty in the development of innovative educational programs that will meet the needs of nursing students in the 21st century,” says Patricia Chiverton, EdD, RN, FNAP, dean of the School of Nursing.

Baggs, whose specialty areas include critical care, nurse-physician collaboration, ICU decision-making and end-of-life decision-making, has published extensively and received numerous honors, including being named Distinguished Lecturer for Sigma Theta Tau for 2000–01 and Distinguished Nurse Researcher by the New York State Nurses Association in 1997. She also received the Excellence in Nursing Research Award from the Epsilon Xi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, Honor Society of Nursing, in 1995.

Telesuite joins professionals and students
Dr. Dov Almog demonstrates to Dean Chiverton how the telesuite he developed for Eastman Dental Center can bring together students and professionals from around the world for educational and clinical purposes.

Donor list correction
The following names should have been listed in the fall 2000 Donor Listing of *Rochester Nursing Today.*

Gifts from July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000

**Deans Diamond Circle** (gifts exceeding $1,000 annually)
Associates: George S. Terry, Anna Bater Young, ’41

**Helen Wood Society** (gifts exceeding $500 annually)
Karen J. Sutherland, ’61

**Donors** (gifts exceeding $100 annually)
Virginia Reiter, ’67
Strong opens area’s largest, most efficient ED

Strong Memorial Hospital unveiled the region’s largest and most modern emergency facility in March. The 55,000-square-foot Frank and Caroline Gannett Emergency Center is more than three times larger than the previous department.

The facility features distinct treatment areas for adults and children, as well as for those who require urgent care for minor injuries. The adult treatment area was constructed with 25 private patient cubicles surrounding a raised nursing station so that patients are readily visible to staff.

It includes a dedicated Children’s Emergency Department with a private waiting room. The Children’s ED is funded in part by Ronald McDonald House Charities.

In addition, there is a nine-bed Clinical Decision Unit where patients with conditions such as chest pain can be evaluated, an enlarged Family Express area for minor injuries, and a full psychiatric emergency department on the second floor.

The showpiece of the new ED is the Kessler Regional Trauma Unit, a 3,200-square-foot space for patients with life-threatening illnesses and injuries. The unit can comfortably accommodate seven patients, and up to 14 patients in a mass casualty incident. Overhead imaging equipment eliminates the need for patients to be moved for X-rays, while ceiling mounted heating units provide warmth.

Dear Friends,

As long ago as it was, I have always—and continue to—cherish the education I received at the University of Rochester School of Nursing. It has been priceless to me in many ways, and I have used what I learned in numerous aspects of my life. I’m confident you feel the same.

From the early days of my nursing career as a head nurse in Psychiatry at Strong Memorial Hospital, and through my 27 years as a school nurse teacher in the Pittsford Central School District, I often thought back to the wonderful role models we had in the nurses and professors who trained us and shared their knowledge with us. We learned about life in a big hurry, but what a thrill it was 50 years ago to see that women were able to really do something with their lives and their talents.

Today I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as chair of the new National Alumni Board. Like many of you, I have recognized that things are so different today. Now it is my job to help communicate the forward thinking and ongoing commitment to our traditional values that will keep the School of Nursing vibrant and productive well into this new century. I hope in the months ahead to get you all up to date on the goals of the new administration and all our School hopes to accomplish. And I’ll let you know how we, as alumni, can support the School in its endeavors.

Your continued connection with the School of Nursing will be one of my first priorities. I look forward to being in touch with you very soon.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Smith, RN ’50
SON Reunion & Fall Weekend 2001

Thursday, October 18
noon - 5:00 pm  Finger Lakes Wine Tour  in conjunction with School of Medicine & Dentistry
SON Reception
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Friday, October 19
8:30 am - 9:30 am  Breakfast with SON Deans, Faculty and Students
10:00 am - noon  Clare Dennison Lecture (Location: TBA)
12:15 pm - 2:15 pm  School of Nursing Luncheon (Helen Wood Hall)
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm  SON Scholarship Recognition Event (Helen Wood Hall)
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm  Informational Session I with Joanne Clements and Rita D'Aoust regarding the RN–BS program (SON Classroom)
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm  Informational Session II with Associate Dean Bernadette Melnyk and Center Directors (SON Classroom)
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  Dean's Diamond Circle Reception (Rochester Museum and Science Center with President Jackson)
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm  All-Alumni Event, Rochester Museum and Science Center  in conjunction with School of Medicine & Dentistry

Saturday, October 20
8:30 am - 9:30 am  Estate Planning Seminar  in conjunction with School of Medicine & Dentistry (Location: TBA)
8:30 am - 10:00 am  School of Nursing Breakfast Reception honoring 50-Year Club Classes (Helen Wood Hall)
11:15 am - 3:00 pm  Colonial Belle Boat Tour and Lunch  in conjunction with School of Medicine & Dentistry
noon - 5:00 pm  Golf Tournament  in conjunction with School of Medicine & Dentistry
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm  School of Nursing Class Dinners (Hutchinson House)
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm  School of Nursing Class Dinners (Hutchinson House)

Sunday, October 21
9:00 am - 10:00 pm  Memorial Service  in conjunction with School of Medicine & Dentistry
10:00 am - noon  Brunch  in conjunction with School of Medicine & Dentistry

Deceased alumni from 1998 - present

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>UR Degrees</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeanette (McDonald) Bennett</td>
<td>B NURS 1955</td>
<td>09/15/99</td>
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<td>Penny Brown</td>
<td>MS NURS 1998</td>
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<td>Esther (Harvey) Bumpus</td>
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<td>Mary (Davis) Clewell</td>
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<td>01/14/98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane (Santycook) Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary (Kittle) Cupermail</td>
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<td>Frederica (Morse) Deakins</td>
<td>B NURS 1937</td>
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<td>June (Gilluly) Dec</td>
<td>B NURS 1943</td>
<td>01/10/00</td>
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<td>Carol (Grounds) Dodge</td>
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<td>Donna Fair</td>
<td>FLW NURS 1981</td>
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<td>Leslie Feldman</td>
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In Memorium

Carol E. Grounds Dodge, RN, School of Nursing Class of 1959, died Nov. 23, 2000, after a three-and-a-half-year battle with Multiple Myeloma. She worked as a staff nurse and clinician in the operating room at Strong Memorial Hospital from 1975–88, and owned and operated the Gold Club Adult Day Care Center from 1989–97. She leaves three children, eight grandchildren and good friend Cynthia Krutell.