LECTURE SERIES INAUGURATED

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Cover - Rhetaugh G. Dumas Inaugurates the
Rhetaugh Dumas Visiting Professor
Lecture Series - Photo by J.D. Levine

From YUSNAAN

This year the Board of the Alumnae Association has functioned as the Planning Committee for Alumnae Weekend. We have programmed some time for socialization as well as content relevant to professional practice. We're looking forward to the Banquet to be held in the Presidents' Room and seeing you all there. A highlight of the Alumnae College will be presentations by Margretta Styles and Doris Bloch both of the class of '54, the 25th year reuniting class. Our annual meeting on Saturday, June 2nd will include the report from the Nominating Committee, an update on Alumnae Funds and possible discussion on constitution revisions. At the Alumnae Association Annual Meeting last June, Professor Emeritus Hedwig Toelle was nominated for Honorary Membership in the Alumnae Association. Because of illness, travel difficulties, and other commitments we have not been able to arrange a presentation in person, so the statement and a framed certificate have been mailed to her. It does honor to the alumnae to have her one of the family. Miss Toelle taught Public Health Nursing at YSN for more than 23 years - teaching the social and psychological aspects of both illness and good health, the opportunity for nurses in conservation of health and in prevention of disease, and the role of the nurse as a health teacher. She became a full professor at Yale in 1954 and Professor Emeritus in 1960. Her interest, hard work and dedication to the students played an important part in the growth and development of many Yale Nurses, and her interest continues as reflected in the following quote from her letter: "I was very, very pleased and honored to be invited to become a member of the Alumnae Association. -- I have always considered it a real privilege to have associated with such a carefully selected group of young women - able to think and make judgments on a mature level. I try to follow careers of former students and have watched the development of the present program. The accomplishments of the School must be most gratifying to faculty and students. Those responsible are to be congratulated on the uniqueness of the program."

Hedwig Toelle

On Wednesday, March 7th, members of the Alumnae Association Board honored three program chairpersons at a dinner at Moris'. These three people are not graduates of YSN and it was felt that because of their very hard work and loyalty to the School, and frequent participation with Alumnae Activities, it would be appropriate to say thanks and make them feel an even closer part of the YSN family while they hold these positions. Dorothy Sexton (Med-Surg), Charlotte Januska (Community Health), and Nancy Hedlund (Research) were awarded Honorary Membership, Privitam, in the YSN Alumnae Association. Penny Camp, president of the Association, spoke in behalf of all YSN alumnae in expressing appreciation to them and she presented each with a framed certificate of membership.

The Alumnae Association is only as strong as the voice of its members. It will be fun to hear directly from you who will be present in June - but we do want to hear from everyone, so please keep the Post Office busy - we need your ideas, reactions, and suggestions.

- Penny Camp, President
From The Dean

The public is (are?) abyssmally naive about nursing. That is not a very original observation. The thought is stimulated by a number of recent anecdotes:

- a student, lobbying in Washington for Nurse Training Act funds reports a serious question to her by a Congressional health aide: "let's see, what's the difference between a practical nurse and a nurse practitioner?"
- a very thoughtful consumer member of the H.S.A. locally tells me of his surprise to learn that the Yale School of Nursing was not under the medical school;
- a representative of a large circulation lay publication asks me to write something on the changing face of nursing and suggests I organize the piece around a letter to the editor a disillusioned nurse wrote to the L.A. Times, as if that's all there was to nursing;
- a student tells of the reactions of his former colleagues to his decision to enter nursing, and of their distancing themselves from him, apparently believing that he has sold out his fine previous education and obvious intelligence, and they question whether it is right for men to express themselves as nurturing;
- the lay Commission on Hospitals and Health Care in Connecticut delivers a report on the proposed replacement building for the New Haven Unit which discusses the "fact" that of course if the average length of stay were decreased for patients, the Hospital could cut staff because patients need fewer nurses at the end of their stay than at the beginning;
- a lawyer who specializes in hospital-related matters including malpractice expresses surprise that nurses are increasingly being called as expert witnesses in hospital malpractice cases - what do they have to be expert about?

It's too easy to say that nurses haven't been forthright enough about educating the public, or that our national organizations have fallen down on the job. It's very difficult to help lay people understand nursing since it is such a pervasive, ever-present service, delivered primarily by women, who are invisible to begin with. But one wonders sometimes in those dreams-of-glory moments what might happen if all of the YSN alumnae, students and faculty, some 2000 strong, made just one individual effort each, on whatever place was most convenient, in whatever way was most comfortable, to try to tell some lay group what nursing is these days, what it does, how it works, and how the entire health care system revolves on one ball bearing: nursing. We might get more mileage out of such efforts than all of the lobbying in the world in Washington, or all of the tedious meeting attendance we put in.

In the alliance of consumers with nurses lies the long term future of the profession, I think.

The public is the best source of power there is, and certainly the largest. We have a wonderful, dramatic, important message to deliver. Let's do it.

Annie Goodrich Was Right All Along!

AYA Assembly - October 1978. Part of the charge of being an AYA Representative is reporting to your constituency. While the rules are loose, the form indefinite, the mandate is clear.- COMMUNICATE. Since Donna Diers didn't have anything specific for me to get a line on (I had no structured assignment) and I hadn't been back to Yale except to drop off undergraduates, trunks, beanbag chairs and guitars for almost 20 years, I came away with a kaleidoscopic series of seemingly unconnected impressions. Most of them were personal. After all, in the few years I lived in New Haven, I found romance, got married, had two babies, learned to cook, run a home, drive. Starting a career was almost incidental.

But no matter how long deferred, start a career I did, and some impressions from that intensive AYA meeting did sift into the purely professional category. The most surprising to me (cynical, dirt hard, proletarian me) was that I was touched by a feeling of what can only be called sentiment. No, I'll never be able to whip out my hankie and wave it back and forth ".....for God, for Country and for Yale", - but I do, now, having studied and taught in other schools with other traditions, feel consciously proud to be a part of the national nursing tradition in which YSN has always been pioneer. We didn't have to wait until 1985. Yale had been turning out nurses who were also inductably educated women since 1928. By chance, I fell haphazardly into thinking this was a pretty good idea in the 1950's and now, not only we "Yalles", but much of the rest of nursing is militantly convinced. Annie W. Goodrich was right all along. It was the only way to go.

Judy Krauss, at her presentation on YSN admissions policies, tugged at the cutting wedge of this tradition when she spoke of the present "basic" master's program as an attempt to attract the highly achieving, creative, innovative people, who might not otherwise find it - into nursing. How wonderfully elitist! How exciting to know one has been and can remain a part of it!

Another line of thought I came away with that at first seemed entirely personal, does link up to women at Yale, YSN, and nursing in general. My eldest daughter as the Coordinator of the Undergraduate Women's Caucus, invited me to a meeting of the group, which is helping Dean Brandenberg plan an alumnae weekend to coincide with the AYA Fall 1979 Assembly, the theme of which will be ten years of women in the college. One of the women's groups' goals is to get all (continued on page 7)
DUMAS LECTURE INAUGURATED

- Sandra Nelson '72

The Minority Affairs Program at YSN officially inaugurated the Rhetaugh G. Dumas Visiting Professor Series on February 26, 1979. The inauguration was a gala fan-fared event with a special lecture presentation by one of our most distinguished alums, Rhetaugh G. Dumas, R.N., Ph.D. Addressing a capacity audience at Davies Auditorium, Dr. Dumas spoke about the "Dilemmas of Black Females in Leadership", the topic of her doctoral dissertation. "Poking fun at our sometimes stringent tendency to view only hard research data as significant," Dr. Dumas began by acknowledging the softness of her data - a statement which prompted laughter and applause from an audience of Yale faculty, students and alums and New Haven citizens and leaders. She continued by citing the advantages in the intimacy of detail and breadth of exposure that a study such as hers permits. In her hour long presentation Dr. Dumas captivated the audience with crisp delivery and concise, penetrating analysis. Stating that black females have courageously struggled for a better quality of life in black communities and at large from the time they set foot in the New World, Dr. Dumas noted that "their struggles have been waged from the lowest position among black and white Americans." ..."While their contributions have been significant in the development of this Nation and in the continuing fight against the oppression of its black citizenry, black females have yet to enjoy the full benefits of their suffering and arduous labors. Obstructed by the dynamics of racism and sexism in the groups in which they live and work, the full leadership potential of black females throughout their history in this country has remained a relatively untapped - or at best, underutilized - resource, not only in predominantly white institutions and organizations, but also in black communities as well."

The presentation received thunderous applause and a standing ovation. A reception followed, in the Presidents' Room at Woolsey Hall, attended by more than 250 people. With former Yale Presidents looking on the occasion, invited guests sipped rum punch and ate elegant tea sandwiches and canapes. Silver chafing dishes filled with hot hors d'oeuvres were inviting but most of the oohs and ahs were reserved for the melon carved swans and the lighted candleabras which decorated the tables. The air sparkled with festivity as old friends renewed acquaintances and new friends were introduced. Among the notables who attended were Florence Wald, former Y.S.N. Dean, Helen Watson, member of the State Commission for Hospital and Health Care, Stephen Fleck, Yale Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health, Virginia Henderson, Y.S.N. Professor Emeritus, Louis Kaplan, Assistant Dean for Community and Government Relations and Dan Levinson, Yale Psychology Professor and author of the best seller, Seasons of a Man’s Life.

During her three day whirlwind visit at Y.S.N., Dr. Dumas maintained a pace which would have tired an Olympic Champion. Among the groups to which she offered consultation were the Minority Affairs Committee and the Psychiatric Mental Health Program Faculty. Dr. Dumas also attended a reception for ethnic minority faculty, students and administrative staff at Y.S.N. and was interviewed by Delores Hill of WOMAN, a New Haven radio station focusing on those issues of interest to women.

A wonderful time was had by all and the Rhetaugh G. Dumas Visiting Professor was indeed well inaugurated.

At the reception: Martha Mitchell, Louis Kaplan, Thelma Thornton '61

Sharon Christopher '80, Leona Mardenbro '80 and a visitor.
"DILEMMAS OF BLACK FEMALES IN LEADERSHIP"

For those of you who couldn't be with us for the inauguration of the Rhetaugh G. Dumas Visiting Professor Series, here are some excerpts from Dr. Dumas' February 26 presentation at Davies Auditorium.

"For despite the outstanding achievements of some black women in many fields of endeavor, the mass of black women in America are still at the bottom of the heap -- among this country's underdogs. And although increasing numbers of black women are beginning to occupy important positions of authority and prestige in organizations within and outside black communities, there are forces at work today as in the past that tax the physical and emotional stamina of these women, undermine their authority, compromise their competence, limit the power that they might conceivably exercise, and thus limit their opportunities for rewards and mobility in the organization - not to mention the impact of these on job satisfaction. I contend that this problem has its roots in myths about the privileged position and role of the black woman in slavery. The mythical image of the strong, powerful, castrating black matriarch pervades contemporary organizations and poses a critical dilemma for black females which makes competition for, and competent performance in, leadership positions at best a costly endeavor. There are increasing efforts to resurrect the Black Mammy in today's ambitious black women who aspire to move up the socioeconomic ladder or into political arenas. And there are negative consequences for those who succumb as well as for those who dare to resist. The remainder of this paper is devoted to an elaboration of this thesis..."

"...the preference is to have the black woman assume a variety of functions that resemble those described for black mammy during the plantation era."

The presence of black women in leadership positions takes on highly significant meanings in organizational life. Myths of the superiority of black women over white women and black men, their tremendous power and strength, and their unique capacity for warm, soothing interpersonal relationships prompt others to press them into symbolic roles that circumscribe the nature and scope of their functions and limit their options and power in the organizations in which they live and work.

The black woman leader is often torn between the expectations and demands born of her mythical image and those that are inherent in her official status and tasks in the formal organization. The pressures to conform to the roles of her earlier predecessors are often irresistible. Whether she likes it or not, the black woman has come to represent a kind of person, a style of life, a set of attitudes and behaviors through which individuals and groups seek to fulfill their own socio-emotional needs in organizations. It is not surprising, therefore, that there is a great deal more interest in the personal qualities of black women administrators than in their skill and competence for formal leadership roles.

There is general resistance to having black women perform competently in formal, high-status positions. Rather, the preference is to have the black woman assume a variety of functions that resemble those described for the black mammy during the plantation era. In performing these functions, however, the power of the black woman leader is as illusory as Mammy's was. It is derived from her relationships in the informal system - her willingness to put her person at the disposal of those around her. And it can be maintained only as long as she is willing or able to provide what is demanded of her.

The demands very often go beyond the responsibilities of her formal position. For example, the black woman in leadership is expected to comfort the weary and oppressed, intercede on behalf of those who feel abused, champion the cause for equality and justice - often as a lone defender...

Virginia Henderson, David Johnson, '80, Jake Weinstein '80

black women in slavery. The mythical image of the strong, powerful, castrating black matriarch pervades contemporary organizations and poses a critical dilemma for black females which makes competition for, and competent performance in, leadership positions at best a costly endeavor. There are increasing efforts to resurrect the Black Mammy in today's ambitious black women who aspire to move up the
crusader. She is expected to compensate for the deficits of other members of her group speaking up for those who are unable or unwilling to speak for themselves, making demands on behalf of the weak or frightened, doing more than her share of the work to make up for people who dawdle or fail to complete their assigned tasks. Expected to be mother confessor, she counsels and advises her superiors and peers as well as her subordinates, often on matters unrelated to the tasks at hand. She is called upon to fill in for her boss in dealing with problems of sex and race, to mediate in situations of conflict - quiet the 'natives,' curb the aggression of black males, dampen the impact of other aggressive black women - and to maintain stability or restore order in the organization or one of its sectors.

Black women who are pressed into such positions are faced with problems that challenge their own identity and threaten their inner security. For example, they are often caught in the struggles between the boss and subordinates, blacks and whites, men and women, between units in the organization, and between the organization and the community in which it is located. Sometimes they are unclear who or what they are representing and find themselves trying to manage certain organizational boundaries without adequate authority and hence without appropriate backing and support. They are subject to high levels of tension as they become the repository of the problems, conflicts, and secrets of individuals and groups on both sides of the boundary.

"...black women today are also expected to have unlimited internal resources..."

Because of the myths about the strength and courage of their predecessors, black women today are also expected to have unlimited internal resources to cope with any problems that might conceivably confront them. Consequently, people around them are likely to be insensitive to their needs for socio-psychological support, reassurance, or some relief from the heavy demands on their time and energy.

Many of them work long hours in activities related to these symbolic roles, leaving less time and energy available for task performance. Consequently, doubts may be raised as to their competence for the positions they hold. Some black women in this predicament come to doubt their own ability and are disillusioned with their newly acquired status and prestige. Unfortunately, efforts to alter these situations are met with strong resistance from people who value their performance in the informal network of relationships. Such people are likely to subvert the leader's attempts to effect a more realistic distribution of time and effort between the informal and formal roles. If they persist, such situations not only undermine the upward mobility of the black woman, but they have important implications for her physical and emotional health as well. For she takes the risk of being 'used up' or 'burnt out' rapidly. The trouble with symbolic leaders is that they often cannot tell where their personal lives end and where their organizational roles begin. They are treated as if they belong to the people around them and they feel as though they do. Black women who succumb to these symbolic roles do not actually lead - they offer themselves to be used. Hence the danger of overcommitment to activities of this nature...

"...the rich imagery evoked by black women comes as close to the Great Mother as one might imagine."

Although males in authority may be symbolized as good or bad mothers, the implications are more severe for females. Feminine authority cast against a black background thus becomes the most haunting of all symbolic mothers. Bad mothers who are white seem to be more easily tolerated than bad mothers who are black; bad mothers who are black and female border on the intolerable. Indeed the rich imagery evoked by black women comes as close to the Great Mother as one might imagine. When the black woman leader fails to give people what they believe they need, she is perceived to be deliberately depriving and rejecting, and therefore, hostile and potentially destructive. Just as she is believed to be capable of providing generative, nourishing, protective femininity of the most powerful order, she is also imagined to have the capacity to withhold or destroy resources necessary to life and safety in the organization's symbolic world. The forceful exercise of her authority thus arouses intense irrationality and creates one crisis after another with which she must deal.

The black woman leader who is perceived as a bad mother - bad black mammy - must deal with the dependency, fear, and rage that often find expression covertly and undermine the effectiveness of all involved. Stubborn resistance to work is a frequent manifestation of anger in such situations. The leader finds herself deluged by requests for clarification of procedures or special instructions for the most simple tasks. Indeed, those who feel deprived by her will frequently relinquish their authority and behave as if only she has the knowledge and skill required for a particular task. This type of dependency leads many executives to take on themselves the responsibilities that should
be delegated, or at least shared by others. Sometimes the anger and hostility find as targets people who are close to or supportive of the black woman in question. In these and other ways, the black woman in such situations is kept busy mediating staff conflicts, dealing with hostile confrontations, having to rush to meet deadlines for work that should have been completed long before, having to persist against covert resistance to get information she needs to do her job well...

It is often difficult to separate the influence of race from that of sex; there is no doubt in my mind that the combination levies a heavy toll on the black woman who tries to exercise her authority and responsibility in groups. Herein lies the most significant challenge to black women executives, to those who claim an interest in promoting the upward social mobility of minority groups and women in America, and to all who are concerned with the development of social and psychological theories of organizational leadership.

Annie Goodrich (continued from page 3)

the alumnae they can, not only those from the College but from the professional schools as well to meet and try to start building an "old girl" network.

I think that YSN alumnae would do well to get heavily involved in this effort. As many as possible should come back to New Haven to mingle with undergraduate and newly graduated women. I don't think these young people know what a satisfying, wide ranging, exciting career nursing can be or how uniquely they would be suited to YSN. My daughter tells me there's a large group of graduates - women and men - the "caring types" - who go off to Vista jobs, schools of social work, pre-school education and work with children in day care centers. It's my thought that if many of them knew how much social reform can be achieved with and through health care, how much caring there is to be done and how deeply it can have an effect when it is tied to meeting the physical and emotional needs of people (to say nothing of the fact that there are jobs), they would be beating down the doors of the YSN Admissions Office. If we meet with them as both recruiters and role models, we'll do them, YSN and American nursing a favor.

- Madelon Amenta '57 - YSN Delegate

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

YSN's Dean - Professor

A surprise party to honor the Dean was held on Friday, March 2nd. An announcement was made recently of Donna's promotion to full Professor effective July 1, 1979, and those of us who are most directly involved with her here at YSN were anxious to share our delight and pride with her. According to the Yale Faculty Handbook, Professors are to be "among the most distinguished in their field." Review for professorial appointments is the responsibility of the Provost's Office. An ad hoc committee of the University faculty is established, and the candidate submits a vita, statement of goals, and materials in support of the request for promotion. References from colleagues in the field are solicited by the Provost and the committee may call in persons outside the University to advise them on the decision. This is the first promotion to full professor in the School since the School was granted tenure in the University in 1964.

This is one more important event to be added to the long list of achievements Donna has made since she came to New Haven in 1962. Her unlimited energies, her persistence, her willingness to "fight" for the right of nursing, her dedication to YSN, and her scholarship, vision and teaching abilities all add up to a most unusual person - how lucky we all are that she's the dean of our School!!

Judy Krauss reads a citation to Donna Diers as a new Masters Hood, a gift from the Executive Committee, is presented by Dorothy Sexton and Charlotte Januska (who is moving out of the picture).

LeBoyer Bath at YNHH

Sarabeth Gottlieb

Tony and Cynthia Cavallaro delivered their 3rd child recently in the Birthroom at YNHH. They had met Dr. Frederick LeBoyer, had read his books, and are great advocates of his ideas for "non-violent" births. Since their first two children (born in another state) were "LeBoyer babies", they were most anxious to follow the same procedure with their third child. The nurse-midwives caring for them during the pregnancy, Sarabeth Gottlieb YSN '78 and Mary Ellen
Francis, encouraged them to seek approval to do the bath. Permission was granted by the doctors in charge of obstetrics and pediatrics at the hospital. Their private pediatrician and obstetrician were on hand to watch Tony give his son, Benjamin, his first bath. Both parents firmly believe that the warm water bath given soon after delivery is soothing and calming for the infant, and helps to minimize the sensory bombardment of birth.

This was a "first" at YNHH, and since then more requests for the LeBoyer method have been made and granted.

**FACULTY NEWS**

**New Appointments**

Sharon Holmberg, Instructor/Clinical Nurse Specialist, CMHC. Sharon comes to Yale by way of the University of Nebraska (B.S.) and New York University (M.S.), and spending a year at the University of Stockholm, working with chronically ill psychiatric patients. ...Marilyn Minrath, Instructor/Clinical Nurse Specialist, HELPS Center (Health, Education and Life Problem Solving) at CMHC. Marilyn comes from the University of Virginia (B.S.N., M.S.N.). ...Glee Wahlquist, Assistant Professor, Medical/Surgical Nursing (Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh), specializing in rehabilitation, patient education and neurology/neurosurgery. ...Jerrilyn Meyer (B.S.N., University of Mississippi and M.S.N., Columbia University), nurse-midwife, childbirth education specialist, particular interest in intrapartum. ...

**At Conventions, Workshops**

John Ginnetti, Assistant Professor, at the "Life Styles" conference in California; Doris Banchik '74, Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Psychiatric Nursing, and Karen Duggan '76, Instructor/Clinical Nurse Specialist at the JONA conference for nurse managers in Los Angeles; Linda Juszczyk, Instructor/Pediatric Nurse Clinician at the Association of Children in Hospitals conference in Washington, D.C.; Beckett Rodgers, Assistant Professor in the Pediatric Program attended the Annual Health Conference of the N.Y. Academy of Medicine in New York City.

**Speaking**

Cornelia Porter, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Nursing, speaking on teaching children about their bodies at the first annual pediatric nurse practitioner conference, University of Utah in February; Sara Gottlieb '78, presents on "Alternatives in Childbirth in the Hospital," and YSN Ob-Gyn grand rounds; Trish Horvath, Instructor and Kelsie Gatison, Clinical Instructor are co-leading the first inner city "sharing and caring" group for the Connecticut Heart Association in downtown New Haven; Dean Diers speaking at Sigma Theta Tau sessions at Columbia University in February, at University of Pittsburgh in March and University of Rhode Island in April. Helen Burgess, Assistant Professor, nurse midwifery was featured in a public service advertisement on the Hospital of St. Raphael in New Haven, speaking about the nurse midwifery services provided to patients of the Fair Haven Health Care Clinic at HSR. Carol Ostler, Instructor in nurse midwifery featured on WOMEN radio discussing pregnancy and childbirth, and plugging the faculty nurse midwives private practice. Judy Krauss '70, Associate Dean, on nearly every radio station in town talking about Congressional proposals to rescind monies under the Nurse Training Act. Nancy Medlund, Associate Professor and Chairperson, Research Program, delivered a paper in Amsterdam, Netherlands to the 2nd International Congress on Patient Counselling at The Hague. Penny Pierce '75, Assistant Professor, Medical/Surgical presented a paper to the Royal College of Nursing in London, England.

**Other Activities**

Eleanor Herrmann, Assistant Professor, awarded Doctor of Education degree in January by Teachers College, Columbia University. Her dissertation was on The Development of Nursing Education in Belize (British Honduras), Central America. John Collins '72, Assistant Professor, elected to the Board of the Connecticut Nurses Association; John is also a reviewer for the National Foundation/March of Dimes neonatal respiratory depression unit. Vicki Wirth '76, Instructor, runs a workshop for pregnant runners. Debbie Ward '77, Instructor/Nurse Practitioner, studying battered women. Pat McCarthy, Instructor and John Ginnetti, Assistant Professor, certified by the A.N.A. as adult health nurse practitioners. Donna Diers, Dean, appointed to the Visiting Committee of the University of Rochester School of Nursing.

**Publications**

Now Available...

Since the Class of 1968, graduates and enrolled students have been asking, "when will Donna's book be out?" The mythical book, Research in Nursing Practice, which years of students have used in mimeographed form has finally been published by J.B. Lippincott Co. of Philadelphia. Donna Diers used her sabbatical time last year to revise and rewrite, and the published version is considerably different from the wornout mimeo copies people had come to know and love. Donna admits she is particularly pleased to have the thing done, and will be interested in the reactions of former students to the new material on prescriptive theory testing especially. The book is about 280 pages, available only in hardcover.

An order blank was published on the back cover of Nursing Research, January-February 1979 issue, or it can be ordered directly from the publisher: J.B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

Spina Bifida Clinic

(condensed from Yale-New Haven December/January 1979)

Few people know that spina bifida is the second most common birth defect and one of the oldest on record. Until the recent development of effective treatment, most children born with spina bifida either died soon after birth or were stillborn.

Recent developments in the treatment of spina bifida include a shunting device that can be surgically implanted to drain excess spinal fluid into parts of the body, such as the peritoneal cavity, where it can be absorbed in the abdomen.

Like the other groups, the Connecticut Spina Bifida Association originated with parents responding to a need. In 1972, Joan Venes, M.D., then head of the Spina Bifida Clinic at Yale-New Haven, and Beckett Rodgers, R.N., YSN '72, Pediatric faculty, current Director of the Clinic, began holding monthly meetings for parents to discuss the problems of coping with the children at home.

The March of Dimes, which had been supporting the clinic, withdrew its support in 1972 to back genetic research instead. The New Haven Foundation agreed to support the clinic for a year until the hospital could take it over, but the hospital was unable to provide the funds. Therefore, in 1975, the parents formed an organized fund-raising group to maintain the support services of the clinic.

The money they raise pays the salary of a social worker and secretary as well as material resources for the clinic. "The clinic really survives because of the parents," said Mrs. Rodgers. "It's not just the medical problems, but the psychosocial variables, like school, the home environment, and contact with other agencies they need to be in touch with that help families to cope and move forward. The stress that spina bifida causes is tremendous and it's these other areas that help make the difference."

"If there were no clinic," said Mrs. Mackbach, "my Johnny would have to see four different doctors separately. He needs a neurosurgeon, an orthopedist, a physiotherapist and a urologist. The clinic offers the services of all of them in one place, as well as those of the social worker and others. It's a team approach. They treat the whole child."

All the parents who are actively involved in raising money for research and treatment of their children's diseases or birth defects share the compelling need to do something. "If I don't do something about it," said Mrs. Burns, who might have been speaking for Larry Johnson, or Dorothy Guiliotis, or Nancy Shapiro, or a dozen others, "how can I relate to my child? I hope that some of this will inspire him to be an active person in the community to help others with handicaps. It's like, you know, putting your money where your mouth is." No one could have said it better.

ALUMNAE NEWS

Regional Groups

Donna Diers is to be the speaker at the Boston Regional Meeting in late April. She also met in March with those alums living in the Pittsburgh area, combining that trip with her Sigma Theta Tau speech at the University of Pittsburgh.

Doris Banchik '74 and Karen Duggan '76 spoke at the dinner planned for alumnae in the Los Angeles area by '52 classmates, Judy Lissner and Ardis Wagner, on March 9th.

Alumnae Weekend

The Alumnae Association Board has planned another super program for the Alumnae Weekend in June. "New Directions" is the theme for Alumnae College on June 1st, the keynote speaker will be Margretta Madden Styles '54. These Alumnae Weekends are the ideal opportunity for each of us to renew and develop friendships with YSN grads, to share ideas and projects with colleagues in similar situations as our own, and to become a close part of the YSN family (of which we can be justly proud)!! If you have not already sent in your reservation form, DO IT NOW - it's not too late.

Things We Find In Our Files

A recent semi-systematic review of our alumnae records reveals the following fascin-
ating bits of information about MSN grads from the classes '59-'78. We know of approximately 11 alumnae of YSN who have received doctoral degrees, and we know of 16 others who have been or are currently enrolled in doctoral study. (We don't have complete data on everyone.) The fields of study range from sociology to higher education, with the majority in the social sciences.

One YSN alumna has gone on to complete law school, Roberta Spurgeon '65, and what is even more interesting, 8 recent alumnae are now studying law: Terry Beck '74, Mary Ellen Erlandson-Maloney '74, Anne Defillippi '73, Susan Feldman '71, Elizabeth Chaney '68, Anne Mulkeen Romond '73, Anne Nakamoto '76, Jim O'Malley '77.

Margaret Craig '70 has gone on to medical school and is a practicing physician. Two others are currently in medical school.

Second master's degrees in public health have been earned by several alumnae, and a recent trend seems to be for nurses to pursue the M.B.A.: one YSN alumna has received that degree, Beth Strutzel '68, and one is currently enrolled.

In Memoriam


Ethel Elliot '34, died November 27, 1978.

Catherine McLaughlin Gillespie '36, died January 22, 1979.

Elizabeth Kemper Davis '36, died February 15, 1979.


Barbara Rogoz '64, died June 25, 1978.

Class News

Dr. David Dolowitz has informed YSN alumnae office about the 10th Annual Frances Dolowitz Memorial Workshop sponsored by the Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City on February 1 and 2. It is a two-day workshop for nurses. Frances Fleisher Dolowitz was YSN Class of 1936 and died in 1968.

Annette Massey '59 "elected to be listed in "Who's Who of American Women" is in her 18th year on faculty of West Virginia University School of Nursing, and contributed to developing the nationally recognized "West Virginia Plan" on the inception of the School.

Chris Nuger '73 gave birth to a son on December 25, 1978.

Mary Chaucer-Hatton '78 has moved to a new position with Ob-Gyn Associates in Burlington, Vermont.

Susan Kopcha Davis '78 "loves her job" as PNP at Emory University, Dept. of Neonatal Medicine, Grady Memorial Hospital.

Joan Fink '78 is Nurse Practitioner in Pediatric Oncology Clinic in National Children's Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Carolyn Foland '78 is an ANP in West Roxbury V.A. Hospital.

Gail Kaler Gaffey '78 is a Psychiatric Nurse in New England Medical Center Hospital in Boston.

Anne LeDell-Hong '78 is a Nurse Practitioner at United Hospitals, Minneapolis.

Karen Maurer Lee-Benner '78 works as Clinical Nurse Specialist/Liaison Psychiatry at Memorial Hospital of Glendale, California.

Barbara Mieras '78 is working on Ph.D. in Department of Sociology at Yale.

Mary Ellen Mullens '78 is Staff Nurse at Newington V.A. Hospital.

Lois Neu '78 is in Seattle working in Child Development and Mental Retardation Center.

Eileen Quinlan '78 is Instructor in Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Program, Columbia Graduate School of Nursing.

Janet Taft '78 is working as Supervisor, Ob-Gyn Department at Conn. Health Care Center, New Haven. She was recently a speaker on Nurse Midwifery at Mount Holyoke College.

Winnie Thomas '78 is a Staff C.N.M. at Boston City Hospital.

STUDENT NEWS

Deborah Welch, a second year student in the Medical-Surgical Program who is undertaking a clinical specialty in Oncology nursing, recently has gained prominence through her writing and lecturing within her field of cancer nursing.

In January, Debbie was a guest presenter at a symposium sponsored by the University of Southern California concerning an update of current trends within the field of oncology nursing. In March, she presented a mini-core course for graduate nurses through the State University of New York Continuing Education Department for Nursing. She has also had an abstract accepted for presentation at the Fourth Annual Oncology Nursing Society Convention in New Orleans this coming May where she will be presenting the results of her research. She has also been offering ongoing inservice education classes for nurses at the Yale-New Haven Medical Center as well.

Along with four other authors, Debbie has completed a book entitled Chemotherapy: Treatment and Care which will be in print this spring. It will be used as a resource manual on the patient care divisions within Yale-New Haven Hospital and can be purchased through the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center. The book provides information regarding the various anti-neoplastic drugs - their action, uses, toxicities and method of administration; as well as explanations of various nursing care problems associated with the administration of chemotherapy including nausea and vomiting,
stomatitis, drug extravasation, etc., and what
to do for these problems.

Debbie is under contract with a New York
publishing firm for her book entitled Grief: 
Implications for Nursing Practice. This book
describes the phenomenon of grief within the
hospital setting and describes three different
perspectives of the grief response - the pa-
tient's, the family's and the nurse's grief re-
actions. It should be in print Winter 1980.

Recently, Debbie has published several
articles including "Assessing Psychosocial Needs
of Cancer Patient Care" in the January issue of
the Oncology Nursing Forum and "Thrombocytopenia
in the Adult Acute Leukemic" in the December
issue of Cancer Nursing. She has several other
articles accepted for future publication in
Nursing 79, The Journal of Nursing Administra-
tion, Cancer Nursing, Oncology Nursing Forum,
and Nursing Leadership.

FIGHT FOR FUNDING

- Sally Solomon '80

YSN has always graduated students who have
gone on to become leaders in many aspects of
nursing. Yet, it's ironic that there has not been
any structure within the school to provide
for organization in political action, an area
which is critical for nursing leadership and
advancement. Recently, this has changed. After
President Carter's pocket veto of the 1979-80
Nurse Training Act last fall, followed by rec-
cent proposals in House and Senatorial sub-
committees to rescind nursing funds, YSN finally
mobilized an enthusiastic group of students and
faculty, who are working hard at increasing the
school's awareness of and involvement in poli-
tical issues related to nursing.

Our activities were boosted off when the
House Appropriations HEW Sub-Committee approved
a Carter administration proposal to revoke
$38,796,000 from nursing funds already allocated
for fiscal year 1979. The Senate sub-committee
was considering a similar proposal, although
the exact amount to be rescinded had not yet
been determined. In response to these issues,
Donna Diers called a school meeting, and several
activities got underway.

First, there was an "all out" letter writ-
ing and telegramming campaign to senators and
congressmen, requesting them to vote against
recession of nursing funds. Second, 4 students
organized a press conference, held Monday, March
5th, at YSN, during which Judy Krauss, Donna
Vose (Exec. Director Conn. Nurses' Assn.), Berta
Meija (Speaker for Minority Affairs at YSN),
Katrina Clark (Dir., Fair Haven Clinic) and Dr.
Elliott Livstone (YSM) addressed the issues of
advanced nursing education and the importance
of the ongoing allocation of its funds. Local
newspapers, radio and TV stations, as well as a
UPI reporter, were represented and the coverage
was all favorable.

Third, on March 5th, 8 YSN students went
to Washington, D.C. and joined nursing students
and faculty from other schools to lobby against
the recession proposals. The organizing ori-
ginated from the University of Michigan Nursing
School. Altogether, approximately 75 nurses,
from all over the country merged on Capitol Hill.
It was quite an historic event!

Our "strategy" was to meet with health aides
in Senate and House offices, to argue against the
alleged surplus of nurses and to present reasons
why nursing funds should not be revoked. Appar-
ently, our lobbying efforts did pay off. An
amendment was introduced and passed by the House
of Representatives to rescind $21.7 million of
nursing funds, which represented a cutback of
half the original amount recommended by the sub-
committee. The Senate later approved a bill to
rescind $15.75 million. ($9 million for capita-
tion, $6.75 million for loans and loan repayment.)
After being sent to joint Conference Committee,
the House Sub-Committee Chairman moved to accept
the Senate's figures, which became the final
amount agreed upon. Advanced nurse training,
nurse practitioner, special projects, research
and scholarship funds were all left unchanged by
this decision.

The NLN has called this episode a "triumph"
for nursing; and in terms of our lobbying efforts,
iindeed it is. But the battle isn't nearly over.
We still need to pass Nurse Training Acts for
1979-80 and other nursing related health care
legislation is always pending. Moreover, we
need to concentrate on improving the image that
others have of our work as nurses with advanced
training. We need to bring ourselves together
as a group and work towards these goals.

At YSN, students and faculty have approached
these issues by forming sub-committees of the
political action group mentioned above, each
with different assignments such as: collecting
information on federal and state legislation,
compiling facts and figures on nursing funds as
compared to overall HEW and government spending,
and liaison with other nursing schools, organi-
zations and with nurses at YNHH.

We are proud of our work, but we need more
support. We appeal to all alumnae, to let us
know how you can join our efforts. Do you have
any contacts or affiliations with nursing groups
and organizations? Are you involved in any
local, state or federal politics? Do you have
any ideas on nursing organizing as it relates to
your personal experiences? Or are you just con-
cerned and interested, and looking to get in-
volved yourself? Whatever, we'd appreciate
hearing from you. Your experience as nurses
"out there" can help us gain perspective on our
work. This type of action is long overdue, but
couldn't be more timely.

Contact Donna Diers or Sally Solomon (stu-
dent political group coordinator) if you have
something to share with us.