



BUILDING ON A VISION

*The University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Nursing*



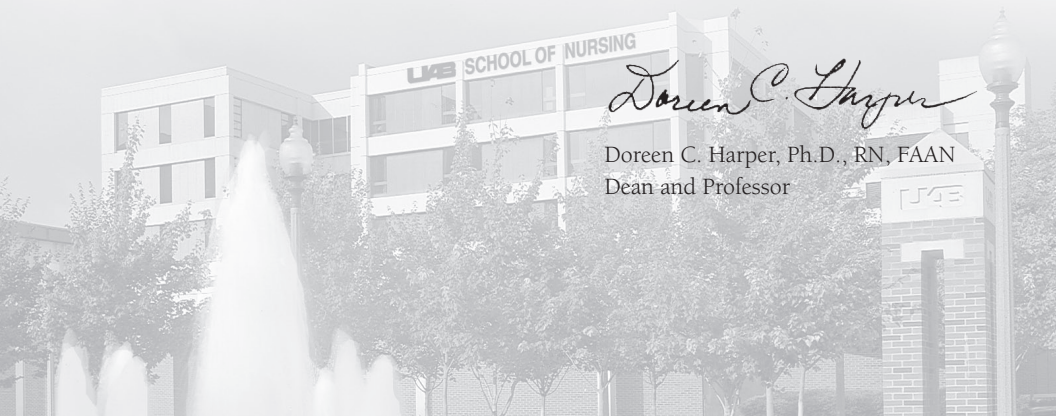
The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, chartered as the University of Alabama School of Nursing, is distinct as an integral part of a world-renowned research university and academic health science center at UAB. The School of Nursing has embraced a vision to be a dynamic and innovative leader, to raise health-care quality, and to expand the educated nursing workforce in Alabama and worldwide. Our faculty's combined quality and vision make our school one of the nation's most progressive, as evidenced by top rankings for faculty scholarship and advanced-practice nursing education.

In 2006, our faculty began designing a new five-year Strategic Plan. With support from our faculty, alumni, students, community, clinical partners, Board of Visitors, and a new Junior Board of Visitors, our school is building on this vision for the future. Our legacy of academic-nursing excellence equips our students and alumni to lead the delivery of high-quality, compassionate health care throughout the world.

It is my honor to lead academic nursing at UAB. It is with pride that, in this publication, I share highlights of impressive work being accomplished toward five strategic goals set forth in the UAB School of Nursing's new strategic plan.

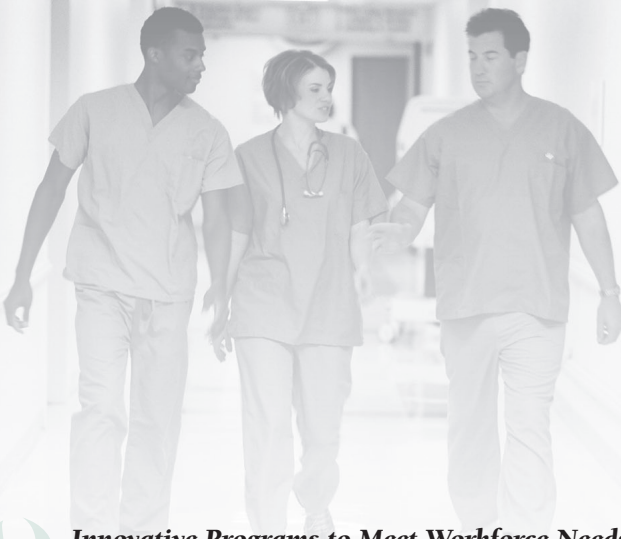
Doreen C. Harper

Doreen C. Harper, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor



↑ Outpatient Surgery
↑ Radiology (X-Ray)
↑ Laboratory

↑ Main Lobby
↑ Cafeteria & Vending
↑ Admitting & Cashier

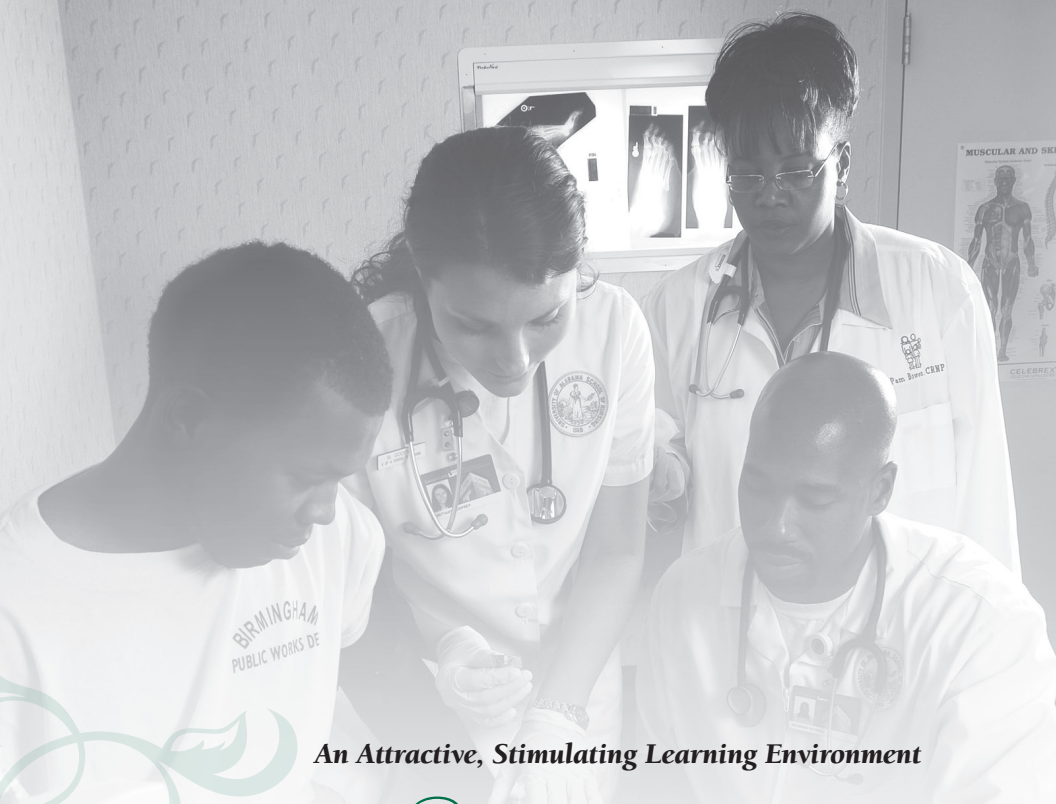


Innovative Programs to Meet Workforce Needs

To address far-reaching changes in consumers' health-care needs and in the health-care marketplace structure, our School of Nursing faculty are engaged in major reform in the undergraduate and graduate programs, resulting in the development of innovative new nursing curricula. Linked closely to the university's tripartite missions of teaching, research, and service, these enhancements are designed to increase students' clinical exposure, embrace an expanding body of knowledge, and make it easier for qualified students to move from one level of nursing education to the next.

Our school recently has accomplished the following in regard to curricula and programs:

- Revised and approved new curricula at the B.S.N., M.S.N., and Ph.D. levels, including the creation of an innovative master's-level entry pathway for non-nursing college graduates and an accelerated master's-level mobility pathway for registered nurse students.
- Reorganized the structure of the school, aligning departments and associate and assistant deanships that reflect the culture of today and tomorrow. Associate and assistant deanships are arranged into academic affairs, clinical affairs and partnerships, research, clinical simulation and technology, and student affairs. The three departments are community health, outcomes, and systems; family/child health and caregiving; and adult/acute health, chronic care, and foundations.
- Developed a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.) degree to operate jointly with the UAB School of Health Professions Nurse Anesthesia Program and the University of Alabama campuses in Huntsville and Tuscaloosa.
- Designed mission-focused programs to nurture and extend faculty and student scholarly productivity. This includes a new system for faculty mentorship and flexible scheduling, so that faculty can develop their scholarly pursuits within the school and the academic health center.



An Attractive, Stimulating Learning Environment

The UAB School of Nursing defines the components of an “attractive, stimulating learning environment” as a combination of: 1) recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty who exhibit strong leadership and extensive productivity; 2) recruitment and nurturing of high-achieving students; 3) design of high-quality classroom and clinical experiences in UAB’s world-renowned research university and medical center; and 4) provision of an appealing, functional infrastructure featuring a well-equipped building and state-of-the-art technology. We are proud of the paths we are traveling on these four fronts. These are the paths that create a culturally competent and diverse nursing workforce for the future.

The UAB School of Nursing saw these developments in its learning environment during 2006-2007:

- **Faculty:** We recruited 15 new faculty, including five full professors, four Fellows in the American Academy of Nursing, and four university minority Fellows. Faculty published nearly 200 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals.
- **Students:** Our honors students and graduates have made 11 presentations at international scientific meetings, and they have written five papers accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals, six published abstracts, and nine papers published in proceedings publications. One of our students is the 2007 international award recipient of the Pillar of Leadership from Sigma Theta Tau. Overall school enrollment recently has increased by 17.2 percent, with undergraduate enrollment increasing by 8.7 percent and graduate enrollment by 39 percent. One third of all enrolled students are men or minorities.
- **Classroom and Clinical Experience:** Classroom experience is boosted by outstanding faculty and Web-enhanced course delivery. Clinical exposure is being expanded by a collaborative network that includes internships and study-abroad opportunities in nursing.
- **Infrastructure:** Having drawn praise for three decades for its beautiful building strategically located in the heart of UAB’s campus, the school is in the midst of a refurbishment construction project, including a new entrance and office renovation. Known for leadership in the use of the Internet and other technology to enhance teaching and research, the school has embarked on a major initiative in clinical simulation.



Expanded Partnerships and Collaborations


*W*e are developing a network of partnerships and collaborations to expand the capabilities of our school, our partners, and our collaborators. Interacting with the various health-care disciplines and communities, we are sharing costs to expand infrastructure; pooling intellectual capital for research, service, and teaching; increasing students' clinical experiences; and financing and implementing new initiatives. Inspired by UAB's strong track record in interdisciplinary cooperation, we are making collaborations and partnerships a centerpiece for the UAB School of Nursing to translate UAB's cutting-edge research and evidence-based practice to the people we serve.

These are examples of our rapidly growing network of collaborations:

- Initiated partnerships with Children's Hospital of Alabama, UAB Hospital, and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center to include shared faculty, joint initiatives, increased funding for various projects, and increased clinical exposure for students.
- Strengthened partnerships with the UAB School of Health Professions through development of a joint senior-level faculty position—director of research, innovation, and technology—filled by a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing.
- Developed an initiative with Congregations for Public Health (CPH) and the UAB School of Public Health in which all undergraduate students conduct health promotion and clinical preventive services in communities served by the CPH.
- Created the new position of associate dean of clinical affairs and partnerships to oversee clinical affairs across undergraduate and graduate programs, including more than 1,300 clinical contracts, faculty-practice sites, professional development, and relationships with academic nursing's clinical partners. Collaborations and partnerships have aided in developing some of our 12 new faculty-practice sites.
- Launched the Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency with UAB Hospital as one of the 33 university-housed sites of the University Health System Consortium.



Increased Resources and Revenues

 Our school's activities to generate increased funding for UAB's tripartite mission can be likened to a broadening "map" of support in which new funding is coming from a variety of sources. This funding reflects approval of the school and its activities. It is exciting to see increased funding come from diverse sources, including federal research agencies, our partners and collaborators, foundations, and the community. To those who are investing in our school, we pledge to use these funds to generate high-level productivity by highly educated professional nurses and to inspire pioneering in new delivery models to improve health care.

These are some highlights of our recent funding-related endeavors:

- Proposed and secured a \$1-million strategic investment from the UAB Health System for an accelerated master's-entry pathway for individuals with non-nursing bachelor's degrees; these funds will support eight new faculty positions.
- Diversified our research and grant-funding portfolio with the submission of four new training grants, two of which were funded for more than \$1.3 million, plus three new research grants from the National Institutes of Health and one from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.
- Received a \$300,000 grant from the Hill Crest Foundation for scholarship support of accelerated master's-entry students.
- Continued to benefit from escalating support from the school's Board of Visitors, a community-leader group that, since its 1992 founding, has raised millions of dollars to support our school's scholarships and programs. Formerly having some 25 members, this group recently has grown to 42 members, giving it increased abilities to raise funds and create community awareness about our school. In 2006 the board gave birth to a second support group, the UAB School of Nursing Junior Board of Visitors, whose members include a younger generation of community leaders.
- Increased doctoral-student scholarship and fellowship support threefold from 2005 to 2007, with 15 Ph.D. fellowships offering full tuition and stipends.
- Recently recruited five nationally known and externally funded full professors.

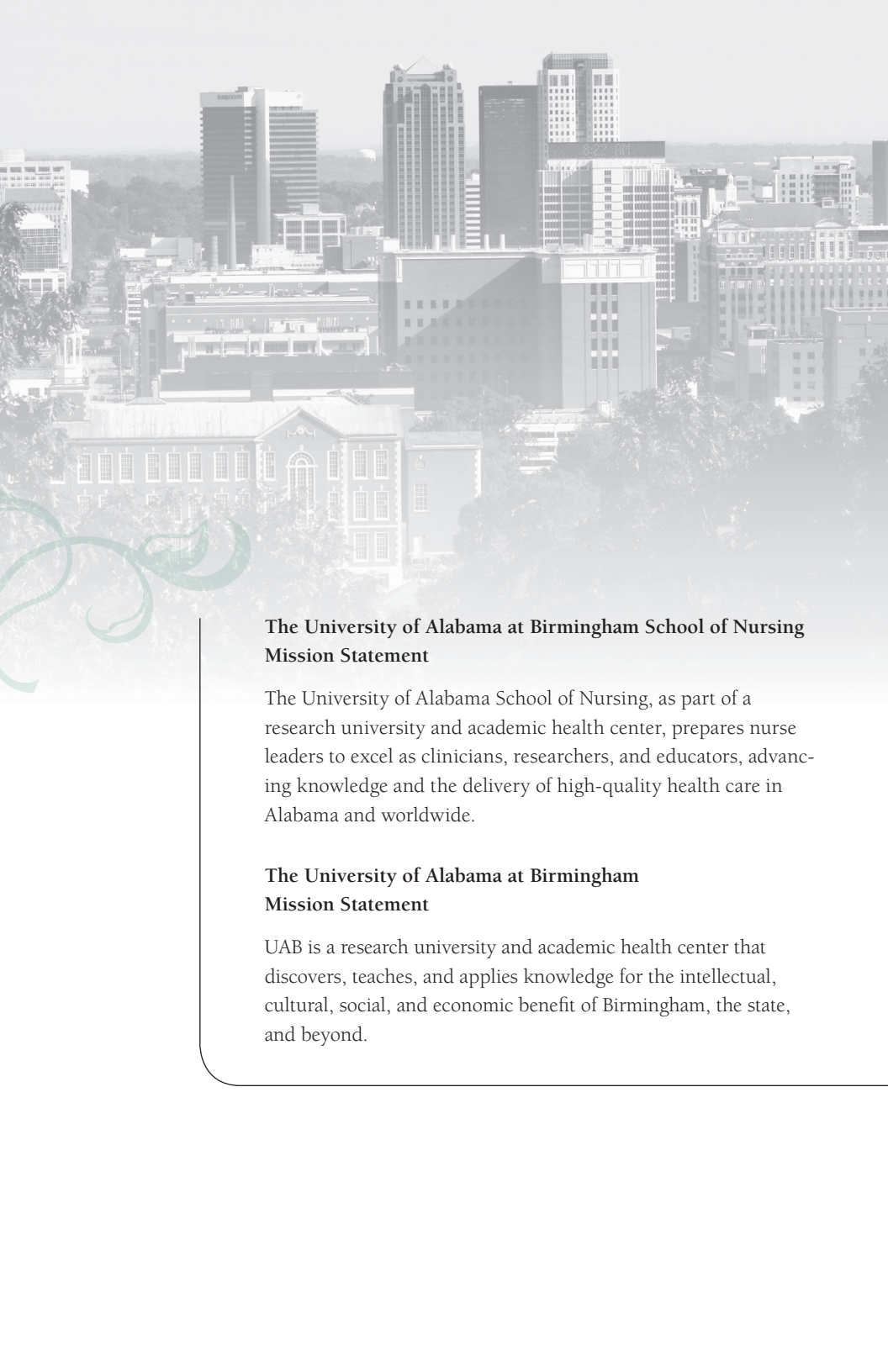


Recognition as a Nursing Leader

Established in 1950, our school has a rich history that fosters a nurturing environment for leadership and an effective incubator for achievement. Our faculty, students, and alumni are leaders in addressing needs that extend from UAB's campus and the city of Birmingham to other parts of Alabama, throughout our nation, and around the world. Through the tripartite missions of teaching, research, and service, our school is demonstrating leadership in caring for underserved populations, creating new teaching models, building on knowledge via research and practice, and translating this evidence to patients, their families, and their communities.

Leadership by the UAB School of Nursing continues to be recognized at many levels.

- A four-year redesignation, effective in 2007, of our school's 14-year-old World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization Collaborating Center on International Nursing. This is one of 10 such centers nationwide and 37 worldwide taking a lead in issues related to global nursing. This puts our faculty and students at the forefront in programs based in developing nations that relate to nursing education, service, and research. We are making active use of two key strengths of our faculty—knowledge in family and child health and experience in distance learning via the Internet.
- A #1 ranking in 2006 by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, awarded to faculty of the UAB School of Nursing for faculty scholarly productivity among nursing schools with doctoral programs.
- A #11 ranking for the school's Family Nurse Practitioner graduate specialty (in the top 5 percent nationwide) in *U.S. News and World Report*.
- A #26 ranking for the school's overall graduate programs (in the top 10 percent nationwide) in *U.S. News and World Report*.
- Nineteen faculty serve on national scientific review and editorial boards, and 67 faculty hold advanced certifications in more than 80 specialties.
- Faculty received more than 35 national, state, and university awards in 2006 and 2007.
- UAB's nursing alumni received 10 national awards in 2006-2007.
- UAB's nursing students recently received seven national awards, and 18 honors students published in peer-reviewed journals or proceedings and/or presented at international scientific meetings.



The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing Mission Statement

The University of Alabama School of Nursing, as part of a research university and academic health center, prepares nurse leaders to excel as clinicians, researchers, and educators, advancing knowledge and the delivery of high-quality health care in Alabama and worldwide.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Mission Statement

UAB is a research university and academic health center that discovers, teaches, and applies knowledge for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic benefit of Birmingham, the state, and beyond.