



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

SCHOOL OF NURSING

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Dr. Marie L. O'Koren has been named new dean of the University of Alabama School of Nursing.

Now associate dean of the School of Nursing and chairman of the nursing graduate program at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Dr. O'Koren will step up to the new position July 1.

Announcement was made today by Dr. Joseph F. Volker, president of the University of Alabama in Birmingham and Dr. S. Richardson Hill Jr., the University's vice president for health affairs.

Dr. O'Koren will succeed retiring Nursing School dean Florence A. Hixson, who has served for 20 years as the school's first dean.

Prior to joining the nursing faculty here, Dr. O'Koren served in staff and supervisory positions at Seaside Memorial Hospital in Long Beach, Calif. Her first appointment at the University of Alabama School of Nursing, assistant professor of medical-surgical nursing, came in 1958.

"Her experience in nursing education during her association with the University of Alabama in Birmingham makes Dr. O'Koren ideally suited for this position," said Drs. Volker and Hill in announcing the appointment today. "We are confident that the School of Nursing will profit by her leadership in the days ahead."

A native of Eveleth, Minn., Dr. O'Koren received a doctor's degree in education in 1964 and a masters degree in nursing in 1958 from the University of Alabama School of Nursing. Her diploma in nursing was granted by the University of Minnesota, and her BSN degree came from Long Beach State College in 1957.

Listed in Who's Who in American Education, Dr. O'Koren

was a Bixler Scholar and received a 1968 Best Article Award from the American Journal of Nursing.

She has served on the Executive Committee for Assessment of Nursing Education in Alabama and the Alabama Education Study Commission. Dr. O'Koren is a member of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Committee on Graduate Education in Nursing and of the SREB Committee on Planning for the academically Disadvantaged Nursing Student. She also serves on the National League for Nursing Accreditation Board of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs.

PROGRESS REPORT -- UASN

Constant and continuous progress is being made by the School of Nursing. Enrollment has increased from eleven basic and six registered nurse students in 1954 to almost five hundred in 1970. The number graduating has increased from nine basic and seven registered nurse students, a total of seventeen, in 1954 to fifty-eight basic students, eighteen registered nurse students and seventeen masters students, a total of ninety-three in 1970.

The total number of alumni by August, 1970 is expected to be 845, including 368 graduates of the basic baccalaureate program, 325 registered nurse graduates, and 152 graduates of the masters' program. Five graduates have received the doctoral degree and eight additional graduates are known to be taking courses on the doctoral level either in the University of Alabama or elsewhere.

The long awaited, and anticipated, education building for the University of Alabama School of Nursing is now under construction and is expected to be completed in time for the beginning of the fall classes in September, 1970. It has been designed to provide for anticipated growth during the next ten years to a total of 700 students and 70 faculty members.

As other baccalaureate programs in nursing are established in Alabama and the total number of baccalaureate graduates increases, the University of Alabama School of Nursing plans to increase its offerings on the masters level and thus provide more teachers, supervisors and administrators for schools of nursing, hospitals, and health agencies in Alabama. There are plans to offer majors in all of the clinical nursing areas with minors in teaching and supervision. There will also be provision for clinical specialization in some of the highly specialized areas such as cardiovascular nursing.

We appreciate your letters. Please keep us informed on what you are doing and send us your latest address so that we can in turn keep you informed.