

FRESNO STATE NURSING STUDENT MEMORIES

- List any student nurse experiences you may remember and any faculty:
- Joan Fiorello was my master's level teacher and she was fabulous

—*April Aleman, Class of 1985*

- Student Nurse Experience
- I lived at home while I attended school. My education was financed by my parents, with a modest assist from me my senior year.
- Tuition cost about \$35 a semester, and the general parking fee was \$8.
- Initially our class was large, maybe 50 students. Everyone who applied to the nursing program was accepted; there were no restrictions other than meeting the admission requirements of the school. 21 students went on to graduate.
- Our student uniform was a blue pin striped shirt dress, and each student was measured individually by a representative from the uniform company (Barco, I think.) We wore white stockings, white shoes, and pants were not an option. At that time, no one in nursing wore pant suits.
- Our nursing cap was initially made of white organdy, but we replaced it after about a year with a ready made cap from Kay's Caps. None of us could wash and starch the organdy cap so it looked like the original.
- Lois Pisano, a classmate, designed both the nursing pin and the nursing badge.
- Our clinical experiences were held at the following hospitals: St. Agnes, Community, Fresno County, Kings View, and Valley Children's.

—*Pat Scheidt Austin, Class of 1962*

- My best experience was with the teacher watched me place an NC tube. The patient was moving and I got faint and the world went black. My instructor ran around the bed and got me into a chair before I hit the floor. The patient had to have the tube placed in surgery, I was very embarrassed but Miss Stitch told me it was ok. I didn't place another NC Tube until I was working as an RN
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—*Susan Cocciolo, Class of 1978*

- I remember much of my nursing education; the TB Training we did at Fresno County Hospital, my Public Health nursing I took in Bakersfield with Eva Bailey. She was excellent. This occurred during my last semester/Senior Year at FSU. Psych training was obtained at Kingsview in Reedley
- Head of Nursing Department
- Fanny Gardner
- Teachers
- Miss Ahern
- Mrs. Bajoshian

- Mr. John Bergey
- Mrs. Karen Nishio
- Mr. Kreel

— *Pat Amourosa DeFehr, Class of 1965*

- I remember my rotation at the VMC OB/GYN floor as a pretty eye-opening one. What a diverse community! We were just starting to get Hmong refugees in the local community and everyone was pretty blown away with the cultural “clash”. I also remember my pediatric psych rotation at Kings View Hospital and the suffering of those children there. I can remember being on the “Heritage Pavilion” at the old Valley Children’s. The new campus in Madera seemed like a very far away dream indeed! And I had such a great experience in the Leadership program at Clovis Unified with Roberta Bavin as my preceptor. My class was the first class that had the Neuman Systems Theory (which makes total sense to me now) and the first class not to wear caps at the pinning ceremony.

— *Tanya Desmond, Class of 1990*

- List any student nurse experiences you may remember and any faculty:
- I enjoyed leadership class at St. Agnes, senior focus was at VMC- E.D where I went o to work for 11 years I remember Fred Krell in med/surgery nursing, Helen Sprengel maternity nursing and interim chair of Dept. Psych rotation at VAH was interesting- lots if addition in our veterans.

— *Ernestine Faggionato, Class of 2000*

- List any student nurse experiences you may remember and any faculty:
- Mrs. Stitch was one of my teachers she was tough but good
- I was in a severe auto accident coming back from Kings View Mental Hospital. Another student was driving. I was thrown out of the car and rolled over by it. Everything was punctured and fractured. I made it through, thoracotomy, laporotomy, chest tubes 25 pts of blood, punctured lung, punctured spleen, broken ribs fractured clavicle, fractured pelvis, subdural hematoma and concussions. It took me 5 times to pass the boards; I had short term memory loss and had to take off school for a while.
- How do you feel about nursing then and now, and in the future?
- I always wanted to be in OB and have been there for 25 years

— *Debbie Malicoat Haines, Class of 1984*

- I remember being reprimanded by my instructor for disturbing the class; I remember her telling me that I probably wouldn’t become a nurse and that she’d make sure. Remember thinking that “yes I would become a nurse and graduate and show her” and I did. I also remember Mrs. Green she was really into athletics, and so was I

— *Lynn Henderson Hendricksen, Class of 1964*

- We were the first class of the nurses from Fresno state. Generally we were well received at the three Fresno hospitals but I imagine some of the 3 yr grads weren’t sure about us. We never had a pediatric course – interesting because several of us practiced in school nursing settings! I especially remember Marie Welch my public health nursing instructor- perhaps my love for that field came from her teachings. Eleanor Green was our maternal health instructor- great teacher and I enjoyed her so much. We had out mental health lab at Kingsview hospital in Reedley. At my first encounter at a staff/patient group, I

thought a psychiatrist or two were patients. There were 16, of us in our graduating class. Some of these “girls” continue to be my best friends!

— *Nancy Dirkson Hinsch, Class of 1962*

- List any student nurse experiences you may remember and any faculty:
- Bobbie Sheppard comes to mind as an excellent role model. Her personality and caring nature was a great support and encouragement for many of the nursing students.

— *Karen Bever Hughes, Class of 1980*

- Elaine Slitich demonstrated by her experience and professionalism how to care for a large, unresponsive woman with CA. I was completely overwhelmed and couldn't see how I could bathe her, make the bed and provide care. I was ready to quit the program and walk out. By modeling her care giving in a professional manner with respect and care I had a complete turn around

— *Suzanne Babcock Kelley, Class of 1968*

- List any student nurse experiences you may remember and any faculty:
- -Being scared to death the first day on the TB ward at Fresno County General Hospital
- -Roughly 3 months of doing cath after cath after cath on the Gyn. Ward at Fresno Community to get the “experience”. I hated it but it worked and became a viable ability, especially in Pediatrics
- -Love & Dorothy Maxson and generally liked the faculty

— *Sharon Bolster Klocksieben, Class of 1962*

- I remember an Armenian patient who underwent abdominal resection surgery. I was her nurse for my clinical rotation; I helped her in her recovery and learned how to treat a patient physically, emotionally and spiritually. She was so touched with my care that she sent me 2 autographed poetry books written by her husband. She also sent me a card and pictures of her newly adopted son. Her husband was picking him up in Armenia when she was in surgery. I fell blessed to have been the one that supported her in her recovery.

— *Donnamae Mallett, Class of 1998*

- Giving my first bed bath to a 102 year old woman named Maggie at a nursing home in Las Cruces, New Mexico
- As a BSN student at the old Valley Children's hospital on the Pediatric Oncology Unit
- Precipitin with Amy Tobin at the old Valley Children's Medical Center as an MSN student

— *Ginger Manss, Class of 1985*

- Surviving Dr. Flores's occupied bed linen change seemed like the worst part! Certainly don't miss the care plans during the time when there were no computers to use. Lots of white out with my type writer

— *Blaine McAafee, Class of 1991*

- Mrs. Jewinkle

- Eleanor Green
- Miss Ray
- Eva Steffes

— *Kathleen Nyberg, Class of 1971*

- My most favorable student nursing experiences were my Psych and Public Health classes. I had two of the most awesome nursing instructors in the persons of Mrs. Baumgartner and Mrs. Gorthompson! These women were so very good at seeing the student's potential and doing everything they could to help you bring it to fruition. They were also very caring, supportive and grounded in their profession. I guess they were the reasons I am a Public health nurse with a Masters in social work (clinical Psych)

— *Emily Oliver, Class of 1974*

- Maragaret Thornburn- Surgical nursing she helped us get to see extra surgeries what a great instructor!

— *Colleen Stuart Panec, Class 1981*

- I remember being so nervous the first time we had to make a hospital bed in front of our instructor my hands were sweaty

— *David Parker, Class of 1984*

- Mike Russler RN. Being a male nursing student, I looked up to him as a male leader and role model. He was very intelligent and encouraging, he made an impact on all of us. My first med/surg lab teacher who I can only recall her last name, Dodril, was so kind and gentle to us nervous students. Diane Rowe instructor was the perfect instructor and very Beautiful too! My pediatrics instructor Kathy(1984) was such a hard teacher in lecture and lab, but I really liked her as a person and respected her clinical skill as well. I would have my child seen by her anytime!

— *Jerry Rodriguez, Class of 1986*

- I remember our first year- realizing our program would be challenging in matters of academics, technical areas and endurance. I never expected being faced with making up a bed with clean linens with a person in it! Susan

— *Sawdy Mikkelson, Class of 1981*

- My memories go to Dr. Gozil Oxley who made graduate school both, fun and non- threatening. She provided guidance and an excellent role model.

— *Genevieve Delich Rohan Sexty, Class of 1998*

- My first nursing class was with Miss Ahern who was a great role model for me and my first patient was a doctor who offered much support and encouragement.
- My last nursing class was with Mrs. Bailey who taught public health nursing in Bakersfield. She inspired me to be creative in working with various families in their homes dealing with their various health problems.

— *Joan Wall Sweet, Class of 1966*

- I attended school all over the US whenever the opportunity was given, I learned and I served as a nursing administrator and teacher of many. Teaching is rewarding but so is practicing, administration is a challenge

— *Rowena Taylo, Class of 1972*

- How nervous I was to do the 1st skills test... HANDWASHING!
- Dr. Russler helped me so much years before I even entered the BSN program. He made me feel like I had promise and potential to do something great within the nursing field

— *Valerie Villagomez Herring, Class of 1999*

- Many good experiences, learning and social. The caliber of educators was impressive. Louise Paulson and Dr. Kirksey most notably

— *Laura Woods, Class of 2003*

- Miss Stittich- She got me interested in telemetry

— *Carri Lukes Young, Class of 1981*

- Mary Ahern was our kindest and most dear teacher in nursing 5. OB teachers were Mrs. Green and Miss Bogosian. Miss B married Mr. Markarian that year and remembered one day she came in and wrote "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" on the board in huge letters. She was announcing her pregnancy, and we were all thrilled for her. Our Sr. year 5 of us went to Bakersfield and rented a house together. It was great fun!

— *Louise McKinney Armstrong, Class of 1966*

- Terea Gianetta was a fantastic professor who was inspirational. I was lucky to have had an excellent study group and project group. We needed each other's support.

— *Robyn Montgomery Boertje, Class of 2006*

- I received an excellent foundation in nursing education and research at CSUF from an excellent professor, Dr. Rabago. Dr. Shirley Good was the Department Chair and she was a positive advocate for nursing education at CSUF. As a result, myself and others received a grant for nurses who majored in Mental Health nursing. My graduate education prepared me well for a lifelong career in nursing education and for that, I am grateful.

— *Carolyn Krauch Mihordin Braudaway, Class of 1976*

- I remember the Leadership class best. I learned a lot and learned how to be a team leader. It has served me well throughout my career. Myrthel Nelson was a great Med- Surg. instructor!

— *Nancy Busch, Class of 1980 & 1995*

- I remember my first clinical experience at the Armenian Home. It was my first semester in nursing school and my first day with hands on experience caring for patients. I was very nervous and anxious not knowing what to expect. While caring for my patient, she started to cry and shared with me that it had been some time since she had spoken to or seen her family. She and I talked and cried together for some time before it was time for me to leave. Before I left for that day she thanked me for being caring and attentive to her needs. That experience alone taught me to be a compassionate and attentive nurse for my patients.

— *Shaneya Carraway Garner, Class of 2003*

- Nursing 17, was a memorable time. The instructor was Mrs. Karen Nishio, a consummate professional. We had six women and one man in our class. On one occasion, Mrs. Nishio proceeded to instruct us in bed bath technique. Terry Bavin, our sole male student, volunteered to be the patient for us. There are two nursing school experiences that I will always remember. My first clinical class in nursing, bed bath practice. He was quite good humored about it and we all learned how to protect a patient's modesty while providing a cleansing bed bath.
- The second nursing school experience that I will always remember was during a Public Health Nursing class. Two class mates and I were assigned as a team to evaluate the health care status of farm workers in the small Westside community of Three Rocks. We drove out approximately 60 miles from Fresno to Three Rocks but had difficulty getting anyone to talk with us. I later drove back to Three Rocks alone and was able to talk with several individuals about the availability of health care in that remote region. Years later, my nursing friend Marsha and I realized the reason why we could not get anyone to talk with us on the first trip to the Westside. We were riding in Marsha's old green station wagon. The vehicle was very similar to vehicles driven by the Department of Immigration employees. We came to the conclusion that farm workers were avoiding us because they were afraid of Immigration employees and possible deportation. When I drove back to Three Rocks by myself, I had a different car that was not painted "government green".

— *Judy Case, Class of 1976*

- I entered the nursing program in 1964 by a simple declaration of the major on my college application. In the "Welcome Address" then Chair Fannie Gardner told us to look to the right and left because those people would not graduate in nursing. It was slightly terrifying knowing that I was on the right and left of someone. Fortunately I made it, but her high attrition prediction was pretty accurate.
- Later in fall of 1964 each freshman nursing student had an appointment with Chair Gardner. We individually had to model sample uniforms, blue pin-stripped dresses, and she passed judgment on fit and hem length. Of course, all this occurred in her office while she smoked with a long cigarette holder. She also helped us order our scissors, name pin, nursing cap and other items we needed as we entered the hospital second semester.. In that role, Chair Gardner was like a surrogate mother helping us shop for clothes. I cannot imagine any chair helping students pick out a uniform today. Although I don't think we realized it, she was a pioneer bringing BSN education to the Central Valley. If she helped with uniform selection, I imagine she was fully involved in all aspects of the program in those early days.

- We had a lot of clinical days in the program. I remember having them two days a week for each specialty course. We started them in the second semester of our four year program, taking required science and other courses concurrently with nursing. The sciences and other non-nursing courses were co-requisites rather than pre-requisites. We didn't have a skills lab but learned basic skills by practicing on each other for a couple of weeks in the hospital, and then via direct patient care. My favorite course was public health, although I didn't fully appreciate Professor Hilda Hogan until she made a joint home visit with me. I saw first hand how knowledgeable and effective she was. One time on the way home from a public health clinical, Linda Murray, Jan Malio and I, as well as number of others, stopped off at a local winery for some wine tasting. It was a class requirement for a general elective enology class, although others accompanied us who were not actually enrolled in the class. Needless to say a fairly good sized group did not make it to the afternoon public health lecture. This was unfortunate as Miss. Hogan had arranged for a special lecturer (a rarity) and it seems half the class was absent. We got in a lot of trouble over missing class and she actually rescheduled the speaker. I didn't recognize her dedicated teaching efforts (or anyone else's for that matter) until I became an educator. She reprimanded me once for wearing jeans to lecture – not the norm in spring of 1968. She took it as a personal insult that I was not in a dress, skirt or what she considered appropriate slacks. Spring of 1968 was a time of tremendous strife in the country because of Viet Nam, but the politics and protests were slow to reach Fresno as were jeans in the nursing classroom.
- Public health rotations occurred in fall or spring of the senior year. My public health rotation was in Fresno, but eight students had to take the course in Bakersfield. Those eight were chosen by lottery and literally had to move to Bakersfield for the semester. The lottery selection and subsequent posting of names was a time of great anxiety for most of us.
- When I graduated in 1968 there were no males in the class and only one African-American, the first in the history of the department. Tuition was \$50 a semester and my entire BSN education cost \$4000 for four years. It was a rare person who took more than four years to graduate. My salary as a new staff nurse in San Francisco immediately after graduation was \$635 a month

— *Nancy MacDonald Clark, Class of 1968*

- What I remember from nursing school:
- I remember my study group, Tricia Hardy, George Langley, and Tracy Kutsenkow.
- I remember having a lot of problems getting started in nursing school. In 1977 when I started in the nursing program, the department had a policy that it would not accept any pregnant student. I was pregnant when I started school that fall and as usual, I was told thank you but no thank you. I was able to stay on the program, not without making a few waves and gaining a bad reputation for being a trouble maker. (I had to threaten to sue the university based on discrimination laws.) Well, I made it through with the support of my team members and a few teachers. It was the biggest lesson of my life. I learned to fight for what I believe in and perhaps I should thank the school for that. I made my mark by being allowed to stay through my pregnancy but also graduate ahead of my group. The policy was discontinued.

— *Nitza Coleman, Class of 1979*

- I remember all of my instructors, some with fondness. I learned from all of them. I felt close to many other students and still call some my friends. Experiences in nursing school quite stressful (many of them). Personal life was also quite stressful then.

— *Stephanie Lippold Fisher, Class of 1966*

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- I will always remember my first clinical rotation at University Medical Center. As a student our first exposure to nursing was at a nursing home. Jumping right into adult acute care was intimidating initially. Our lecture and clinical instructors have always promoted a positive environment in which we learn. Being a male, I was not looking forward to our fourth semester. Fourth semester entailed L&D as well as pediatrics. I will always remember Dr. Mathai and helping me adjust to our L&D rotation. Dr. Mathai is one of my favorite instructors. She has always given me the encouragement to pursue a further education, and helped me along the way to graduate school.

— *Ronnie Garabed, Class of 2007*

- A student nursing experience that I remember from my CSUF days was the opportunity to work with the Hmong Culture at Stone Soup as a result of my community-public health rotation. It was quite an extraordinary experience experiencing the culture and providing nursing health services to the people. It was amazing to learn about the cultural and spiritual beliefs of the people. I assisted a lady in obtaining a hearing aid. In her culture not being able to hear was “spiritual,” and not necessarily a problem, but in getting to know her, she was willing to go to the various medical appointments to obtain a hearing aid. It was incredible to be a part of her experiences when she actually “heard her children clearly” for the first time. It was very humbling. There was also an occasion in which the students and the Hmong people of Stone Soup worked together to provide a health fair and cultural food luncheon. It was amazing learning how to cook with the wonderful ladies and prepare the Hmong food utilizing large wok like cooking dishes over an open flame. It was also quite an experience to shop in “their grocery store,” which very much like an open third world market located in south Fresno. The entire experience was incredible and truly unforgettable.

— *Roxanne Garispe, Class of 2002*

- I had great experiences as a student at CSUF. The most memorable experience I can remember is the first day of clinical in first semester. My instructor was Jan. I went into the first patient's room and discovered that the lady was incontinent and had a bowel movement. Jan was there with me. She saw the look on my face and walked me through the process of how to handle this situation. I was about to walk out of the room, but she made me feel so comfortable and helped me feel better. She had so much patience and respect for my feelings.

— *Mandy Gill, Class of 2002*

- I really like the on-line program. Nancy Busch was my instructor. It was practical, reasonable, and manageable.

— *Esther Lindskoog Harris, Class of 2004*

- As a psych. student, I felt sorry for a young female patient who told me that she couldn't leave the hospital until she found someone to stay with for a few days. I was young and sucked into her sob story and invited her to live with my husband and me for a couple of days. Well, after a week, I tired of our guest, who threw 4-5 towels a day into the dirty laundry and wanted to be waited on. I had to ask her to leave. I sheepishly told my psych. teachers (one was Mrs. Baumgartner). She was older and kindly. The other one told me off for doing this without permission. Mrs. B. defended me and said I had a kind heart.

- In my senior year at Fresno State, I took Public Health in Visalia in 1971. At the beginning of the semester; I told my instructor who had never married, that I was newly pregnant. She sternly told me that she knew from past experience that I would drop out and not ever finish. I knew I was strong and healthy and did indeed graduate being 7 months pregnant and got 2 roses at the FSC pinning.
- In Visalia that year, I was staking out a home of someone I needed to see and fell asleep in my car. I awakened at a knock on my window. It was a police officer seeing if I was alive!

— *Sharon Gaede Hoard, Class of 1971*

- As a student nurse, I remember studying and having to put much effort into courses that other nurses seemed to find easier. Memorizing, going to class, drilling & memorizing so many subjects—that was all there was time to do. During the summers, I worked at Fresno Community Hospital as a nurse's aide to reinforce my skills. I remember Miss Maxson being very encouraging. Alton Boghosian is my most fond faculty memory—being encouraging and available when I needed appointments to inquire about curriculum & other questions. She also facilitated my being presented a certificate at graduation as most “outstanding student” in my nursing class.

— *Marie Yela-Madahar Hoemke, Class of 1962*

- Online learning was difficult to get used to at first, and still prefer meeting together in class.

— *Linda Datz Howat, Class of 1977*

- I tried really hard not to be a nurse because my sister and sister-in-law were both nurses. I took one class and was hooked.

— *Peggy Hofer Huebert, Class of 1989.*

- I never slept the night before our clinical practice as I was so worried that I would make a mistake or forget something important. I learned the most from the course work and some dedicated instructors. Mrs. Thorburn (sp?) was my 1st year clinical and course instructor (1975). She was tough. I learned early not to ask hard questions or I would have to research the answer and present the findings orally in the next class. There was another instructor that taught med/surg. She never married and loved teaching (her name started with a “S” Styles?). I really admired her dedication, passion and compassion. When I did make that big mistake she was there to catch me.

— *Joanna Brown Hughes, Class of 1977*

- In 1974, when I first entered nursing, Professor Delores Kendall identified “caring made visible” as our calling. And, I have found, there is nothing more powerful or health promoting as one individual showing actual caring for another...even if there is little that can be done medically. Although there have been times when the demands of nursing seemed overwhelming, I have never failed to believe in the value of my profession, nor have I found regret in choosing such a challenging career. Alleviating fear, relieving pain, encouraging self expression and creativity, gentle confrontation of bad health habits, therapeutically touching, active listening coupled with accurate research-based therapies define nursing at it's best.

— *Patricia Hall Jackson, Class of 1978*

- -Mrs. Nishio always had great pearls of wisdom and was the first person to call me an optimist. I have found that she is correct.
- -Miss Stittich taught us to always use an alcohol pledget when breaking glass vials open, one day I had a phenergan vial break and no cuts because 3 years later I was still using the alcohol pad.

— *Margie Rihn James, Class of 1982*

- I remember how Eva Steffes helped me so much and how John Bergey was encouraging. Of course, Fannie Gardner was very helpful to me on a few key times. Finally, Marie Welch was a real encourager.

— *Dr. Norman Keltner, Class of 1977*

- I remember my first rotation in the nursing program at the Armenian Home. A fellow student and I would look forward to our morning break when we would have a piece of toast with the “mystery butter”. There was Marjean, Carol Coppock, Janine Spencer, Dr. Oaxley, Andy at UMC ICU, Terea, and the every challenging Sam ‘Scare you to death’ Wilkerson, Nidi, and Dr. Mathai.

— *Tami Kinnunen, Class of 2001*

- Beverly Miller and all teachers I worked with were encouraging, helpful and very knowledgeable.

— *Terry Kirby, Class of 1976*

- I remember Gozil Shockness and her beautiful accent. She was a phenomenal maternal health clinical Instructor. Theresa was also amazing. I absolutely loved my nursing school experience and every instructor as well.

— *Tina Loewen Merklinger, Class of 1991*

- Most influential instructors: Monette Viau and Mrs. Green (OB). Monette was the advisor for the Student Nurse Organization and I was involved in that, so I spent many hours with her as we drove to meetings. I enjoyed her as a pediatric instructor and took her class in the summer time. Our lab days were longer and we got more experience than if taken during the regular year. We did our field work at the old Children's Hospital- it was quite an experience.

Mrs. Green, being a midwife shared some of her experiences with us. I saw that there was a lot more to OB than we learned and that having a spinal or general anesthesia was not the way to go. Because of her I became a Certified Lamaze Instructor and taught Lamaze classes from 8/73 until 12/05. I also worked Labor and Delivery part time. Many patients encouraged me to become a midwife, but with the nearest class in San Diego, it wasn't possible. I organized a breast milk bank at our County Hospital in the mid 70's- getting moms from my classes to donate breast milk for the premi's. I'm still friends with some who were donors.

— *Sandra Thomas Lourenco, Class of 1972*

- I enjoyed all of my experiences at FSU. My classmates and I worked hard and had fun.

— *Joanne MacKenzie, Class of 1998*

- My most memorable experience as a nursing student at CSUF was combining my agriculture experience with nursing and working closely with one of my fellow classmates and life-long friend. Dr. Judith Allender approached me and Michael Martinez about building a garden for Fresno Community Hospital's Alzheimer Care Facility, which is located in North Fresno. With Mike's construction experience, we had no choice but to jump at this opportunity for our "Senior Project." The end result was a beautiful courtyard garden complete with water fountains, shade trees, park benches, raised vegetable garden beds, and an abundance of colorful and aromatic vegetation that clients and staff members could enjoy. In addition, staff physical therapists and the recreation coordinator provided useful ideas to make our project multipurpose and improve quality of life. Talk about synergy! I am also grateful toward Dr. Michael Russler. He is sincere about consistently contacting me and asking about my professional career and the well being of my family. Dr. Russler is a true role model and leader.
- I am proud of being associated with Fresno State, especially, the School of Agriculture and the School of Nursing. Fresno State solidified my work ethics and provided me the drive to obtain a college education. It also made my Mother proud since I was the first child out of five to earn a college degree. I will never forget the great instructors and how they encouraged me to think beyond the "Fields of California." I also cherish the great friends I made over the years as a student at Fresno State. Believe it or not, Fresno is a great place to live. I miss the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Pacific Ocean, and the wonderful Mexican and Armenian restaurants (I honestly have to say Miami has great Cuban Coffee)! I have to be honest, during my entire undergraduate nursing experience, I dreaded pediatric nursing. To this day, I am not a pediatric nurse nor do I inspire to be one, but the experience I gained under the guidance of Professor Terea Giannetta at Valley Children's Hospital will always be appreciated. Ten years after graduating from CSUF, I was placed in an austere military setting and my nursing practice changed. I was assigned to the only U.S. Army hospital during the initial stage of Operation Iraqi Freedom. When President Bush announced to the world that Coalition forces were ordered to liberate Iraq, we received wounded soldiers. Three days later, we were also treating critically injured civilians, many of them were children. At that time, I had no choice but to be the best pediatric nurse I could be because no one else was available to take my place. Professor Giannetta was right when she said, "The nursing profession involves a continuum of care from cradle to grave. So learn all you can about pediatrics now because you may need to take care of children in the future."

— *Major LeRoy Marklund ANC, Class of 1993 (In Florida at the time, now in Maryland.)*

- During my second rotation at Sierra Hospital I remember taking the narcotic keys home with me....mortified.....I contacted my instructor, Stevie Fisher and promptly returned them. Later at Children's Hospital, I hired Stevie as the first NP in Employee Health - we shared great memories! Memorable instructor at VMC Bob Olson.

— *Linda Kellett Miller, Class of 1975*

- My most memorable experience is the weekly bouts of diarrhea the morning before pediatric practicum. I can't remember my instructor's name but she told me to choose another career path. I hated peds however I work with kids everyday now and absolutely love it!

— *Patricia Hutchison Noble, Class of 1985*

- When our last daughter started Fresno State in the fall of 2004, I also decided to return for my Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, a life long dream. Her and I both graduated in May 2008 from Fresno State. This was a very special day for me! I am starting the Master's program this fall of 2008. I am not really sure what exactly I will do with my Master's degree, I just feel like I have a lot to offer others and I love nursing.

— *Kendra Norris, Class of 2008*

- I did my senior focus in the E.R. at Valley Medical Center. George Nunez was my preceptor. He proved to be a wealth of knowledge.

— *Lori Phillips Boudreau, Class of 1987.*

- You asked about memorable experiences in school. I think we all remember our first patients. And I remember that mine was a former army nurse that did not want a bed bath or a back rub. And of course those were the first things we were taught to do. And a few weeks later I saw her name in the obituaries. I was also doing my OB rotation during the campus unrests/riots after the Kent State disaster. It was time for finals. So we took our final at our instructor, Mrs. Chang's, house. And she served us Dim Sum.
- When I was stationed in Japan 1973-1975 I went to Taiwan to visit her. She was on sabbatical there and showed me the hospital, warning..." just look, don't say anything" Very different hospital conditions. I remember seeing two babies in one isolate.

— *Col Cathy Latona Pluts USAF Retired, Class of 1971*

- Probably one of my biggest mentors during school and especially in graduate school was Dr. Mike Russler. I hit a few bumps along the way and lost some of my confidence and Dr. Russler was always there for me, to grab me by the neck and pick me up telling me to "get back out there!" To him I will forever be grateful, as he always seemed to know I could finish even when my path was unclear to me.

— *Julie Lyons Post, Class of 1994*

- I began at Fresno State College (still a College) in fall 1970 and chose nursing during my first semester. My sister-in-law, Linda Lindstrom, graduated from Fresno State's nursing program and was a public health nurse. This seemed a very solid choice for a major and fit my desire to help while working in a healthcare field.
- While in college, I ran track and cross country and my running and exercise has continued to be an important part of my life. One experience I recall is the frequent question I received as a male nursing student. People would always ask "So you're studying to be a male nurse?" My response was "No, I challenged that first part and I am just studying to be a nurse!"
- I enjoyed my time as a nursing student and had several key faculty that were influential. Sandy Kindell was my fundamental's instructor and gave me the encouragement to return to school for my master's degree. She also was active with CNA and served as a mentor for me as I began in local leadership roles.
- Dr. Karen Nishio was my critical care faculty and was a warm clinical instructor who was able to challenge her students to perform their best. Later, she was one of my mentor faculty in my CNS/Nurse Educator program and I still use many of the educational approaches she taught me then. When I became a faculty, Karen continued to serve as a role model for educational leadership.
- Arlene Evans was my master teacher in Psych/Mental Health. I can honestly say her knowledge, compassion, and expertise changed me as a young man and I still use the content and approaches I learned from her.

- In my role as a nursing faculty, Dr. Pauline Kliewer has been an important mentor and still influences my work as the Department chair.

— *Dr. Michael F. Russler, Current Chair of Nursing CSUF, Class of 1974 & 1978*

- I have a BS degree in Criminology, Corrections option from 1975. I began a program as an MSW but decided to pursue Nursing instead. I attended FCC because I could get in quickly and take my science courses at the same time. (Talk about being crazy!) I finished my AS degree in Nursing from FCC in 1978. I completed my BSN at CSUF in 1980, my MS in Community Health in 1990, and my MS/FNP in 1994 while working.

— *Rebecca Russler, Class of 1980 & 1990 & 1994*

- Fresno State was a great place to go to college. And I really felt that my first nursing job at Fresno Community helped me find my strengths. My first nursing instructor was Dr. Nishio. Wow, what a patient and intelligent instructor. I will never forget her clear instructions with many of my basic nursing skills.

— *Sheri Shields, Class of 1986*

- Cal State Fresno really prepared me for my career and over the years I have had five major job changes. My career has evolved over the years. I am a 19 year employee of Fresno Community Hospital working in Med/Surg to a Dialysis Supervisor. I opened and ran a Dialysis center for a large company listed on the New York stock exchange as a Dialysis administrator. Something that made me appreciate the private sector of our health care system.
- One thing that I remember as a student was the day I was to give my first injection! It was a deltoid injection and my first instructor Dr. Karen Nishio. I remember I was pretty good at all the basic nursing care and getting along with the most difficult patients but that fateful day I was to give my first injection I went blank. So what would any nursing student do, ask her good friend and colleague another nursing student Ann Cohen for help. Dr. Karen Nishio had told me twice I was going to give it in the deltoid, good heavens where is the deltoid...I know I was supposed to know where the deltoid was but I have drawn a blank deltoid,...deltoid and I didn't have my book and not a clue.
- In my state I went to my friend, roommate Ann Cohen who went to our other friend Teri Ross with all her wisdom. By this time Dr. Nishio had been informing the patient of a student nurse going to give the injection and preparing the site, and rubbing the upper arm as I walked in giving me the clue. Teri had come to the rescue at the same moment and was in the room with Ann behind the curtain, she opens it just a little pinch and she's pointing to her upper arm motioning to me where the deltoid was. This is a funny story and makes me remember two true friends in college and to this day is a good memory and I have never forgotten that day. For all those reading this, you had to be there that day. Has it been something that helped me during nursing school? I know in my 40 years from 1969 working at Valley Medical Center to today and thousand of injections later it really helps me with patient education to make sure I always make them feel at ease.

— *Jeannie Bell Smith, Class of 1971*

- Student experience: Dr. Pat Kissell was the chair of my thesis committee. I enjoyed working with her. She now is Chair of the Nursing Department at North West Nazarene University in Nampa, ID where I work with her as a colleague. Small nursing world!
- Nursing: I have always loved nursing. I believe nursing truly personalizes the health care experience for people. I highly recommend nursing as a profession to everyone I meet!

— *Dr. Pam Springer, Class of 1987*

(Associate Dean of the Dept. of Health Science and Chair of the Nursing Dept. Boise State University.)

- I think the 1st 2 graduating classes felt a lot of responsibility to do well, because in a sense, we were under the microscope! Our teachers Miss. Tanka/ Mrs. Nishio, Ms. Ahern, Mrs. Green and Miss Boghosian were great! They were supportive and encouraging. They set the standard and then walked the path with us. I know I studied a lot. I worked in the library on campus. I was engaged my sophomore year to a guy in the Air Force – so I kept my nose in the book.

— *Sue Farley Szpor, Class of 1963*

- Three of us in the Nursing Club at John Burroughs High School in Burbank, CA, chose to go to the new Nursing Program at Fresno State College. Margo Reynolds Derry, Brenda Oberstein Ashkar and I all graduated in the second class in 1963 with a BSN.

— *Mary Schumway Tolle, Class of 1963*

- When I look back on my student nurse experience, I remember Dr. Michael Russler being a very supportive instructor.

— *Kelly Tuttle, Class of 1992*

- The most memorable student experience was during my psychiatric nursing rotation. I remember the clinical instructor pulling out her comb from her purse, as she began to brush my hair and tell me it was “too sexy” for the psychiatric unit! I wouldn’t be surprised if others remember this story as well....as it was very odd to say the least.

— *Debbie Zamora, Class of 1999*

- My first interview with nursing chair Fannie Sample Gardner was on a hot July day and my mom and I had been running errands. Fannie insisted my mom come into the interview also. Her first question was, “So are you Seven Day Adventist?” We looked at each other and said, “No why?” She said, “Well you both don’t have any make-up on, so I figured you were?” We laughed and said, “No it’s so hot out side, it must have come off.”
- My first nursing clinical was at St. Agnes the summer of 1963. We had our new uniform and student cap without stripes on and were told we could answer call lights. My first one was for a pre-op patient who had been given an oil enema. She said I hate to ask you to do this, but my bedpan needs to be emptied and it’s full!! I said no problem. Well it was full and running over, I made it to the restroom shared by 4 patients, but it didn’t have any ventilation or fan, and the smell almost did me in. I was overcome by the smell and couldn’t stop wrenching! I was sure all the patients could hear me and I was afraid to come out. I was so naive. I had the same reaction trying to help patients who had emesis. My instructor thought I wasn’t cut out to be a nurse, but I persisted and learned to not breath through my nose!

- I remember getting up early for surgery clinicals. It was very scary for new student nurses. You had to scrub in, wear masks, gloves, shoe covers, and paper hair covers and observe the surgery and occasionally hold a retractors for the surgeon. One nurse in our class was to observe and the surgeon's assistant didn't show up, so he said to her, "I guess you'll have to be my assistant!" She went over to the kick bucket where sponges used in surgery were tossed, and threw up in it and never came back!
- One of my classmates was observing surgery on a stool because of her short stature. She got off the stool to move it closer so she could see what was going on, and the surgeon kept mumbling, finally she realized he was saying, "Your stool is on my foot, move it."
- One morning I was observing a surgery and I was standing in the patient's armpit and the surgeon was at his waist, and the surgeon asked me to hold a patient's diaphragm, and I guess I was looking pale, and he asked if I was going to faint because they didn't have time to pick me up if I did. I said, "No I was just tired from studying all night for a test." So every few minutes he would punch me in my ribs with his elbow to make sure I was awake.
- We usually had 2 three hour lectures weekly in OB (obstetrics) MS, (med-surg), Peds. (Pediatrics), Psych. (Psychiatric nursing), Public Health, and 2 seven hour clinicals weekly. As well as all the anatomy, physiology, microbiology, chemistry, nutrition, psychology, English, history, pharmacology, etc.
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- I remember my first burn patient. He was a Black gay male, who hated women, nurses in particular. He had been burning trash in a barrel when his shirt and pants caught fire. He had 3rd degree burn all over his trunk and abdomen and some on his legs. He had several IVs, a trach, and a super pubic catheter. The room had to be kept very warm for the patient, and we had to gown, mask, glove, and wear paper shoe covers. We always gave him Demerol before changing his dressings, but it was always so painful for him, and he hated it and seemed to project his hate on us nurses. I think the staff nurses gave this patient to students because they didn't like to deal with him. I learned you don't need a culture to tell when the patient has a pseudomonas infection, the scent is distinctive. Thank goodness for the first Burn Unit started at VMC.
- I remember learning to care for quadriplegic patients on striker frames and circle electric frames, and having to turn them to prevent decubiti, and being afraid the frame would malfunction or the trach and IVs would get hung up. Thank goodness for seatbelts that now prevent some of these injuries .
- Our psych clinical was at a private hospital in Reedley, near my home, called Kings View. The psychiatrist decided that student nurses would wear street clothes and no name tags and sit in with patient's in group therapy. Never having been in a psychiatric hospital, I was a little scared. My first group therapy session, a male patient kept shaking his head and saying, "I don't understand what a nice girl like you is doing in a place like this!"

- I remember watching electric shock therapy which was given to depressed suicidal patients, who did not respond to medication. I felt like it was pretty traumatic, like watching a prisoner getting electrocuted. My cousin who was a nurse part time doing only EST, reminded me that it was voluntary and patients didn't have to have it.
- We also went to visit a state mental hospital, and saw how severe these patients were and that many were in catatonic stupors. Many years later these patients were discharged to the streets, because people thought the hospitals were not well run. These patients were to get medicated as outpatients, but most patients will refuse meds given the options. Many of these patients self medicate with illegal drugs to try to feel normal. Most end up as street people or homeless, and many now end up in the prison.
- It seems like every time Mental Health Programs get funding cuts, more mental health patients end up in the prison system.
- I remember working in a TB ward. We had to wear masks and gowns over scrub dresses. It was a little scary at first. I remember they gave Streptomycin and Penicillin I.M. on severe cases, and they were still using glass syringes and needles that had to be sharpened to prevent burs. I had a patient that I had to give a Penicillin shot in the buttocks, and he had received so many injections that he had many scars in the buttocks and it was hard to get it in, and the needle had a bur on it and I could feel it tearing on the way in, and I stopped half way and wondered if I should remove it and get another needle, or go ahead and finish it ! I finished it, but I never forgot the pain that poor patient had. Not too long after that they switched to tubex syringes for the Streptomycin with a new needle every time!
- Now they have more effective meds and patients are put on home isolation orders, and will be jailed, if they are infectious and violate the isolation order. If there are children at home, they have to stay in the hospital until their sputum's are negative. The meds can usually kill the tubercle bacillus within 48 hours, unless it is multi-drug resistant, and that can be identified with a DNA test on the bacteria. Treatment still is at least 6 months after sputum conversion, unless they are MDR and that takes 4 drugs daily until culture sensitivity and then it's a 2 year treatment with daily home observation of daily doses. Now they use PICC lines for some of the toxic meds similar to CHEMO of the lungs. So no more TB sanitariums.
- Now they have special N-95 masks called respirators, that screen out the TB bacteria that float in the air 2-3 hours.
- They now have a blood titer test, called quantafuron, that replaces TB skin tests and the long term follow-up.
- Preventive treatment can be 6 months to 2 years, depending on the type of TB exposed to.
- I really liked my public health instructor, Mrs. Eva Bailey-Dixon. Five of us had to go to Bakersfield for our PHN experience. We carried a case load of 5-6 families. The first time I went out to observe a field PHN for the day, we went to a bar to try to find one of her TB patients. When we got out of her car, I said, "I'm not 21 yet!" She said, "it's ok."
- I remember this was about the time of the Watt's riots, and black areas were rioting in many towns. I was trying to eat my lunch in my car in a bad section of town, and a drunk kept trying to talk to me through the window. A policeman stopped to ask me what I was doing there? I said I worked there. He said this area isn't very safe, you need to move on.
- I was visiting a black grandmother who was raising her three daughter's illegitimate children and one day I sat down on her living room couch which only had 3 legs. She said, "I wouldn't sit there if I was you." I said, "Oh I'll be careful." She said, "No, I was sitting there last night and a mouse fell out of the hole in the ceiling on me!" I moved. She said she expected her grandchildren to iron their clothes for school by the time they were seven years old! She also said she never fixed their meals for them, they were to make their own meals from the refrigerator! Which was usually baloney sandwiches or peanut butter and jelly! Another time I went to visit this lady who was a diabetic, the house was full of water up to my ankles, and I was afraid something had happened to her. So I walked through the whole house calling her name and wading through the water. She was in the back yard hanging up wash, and said, "Oh honey child, I'm sorry you walked through that, the sewer overflowed and I'm waiting for the repairman!"
- I remember one assignment was to ask clients what their dreams were for their future. I had a 16 year Hispanic unwed girl and her baby. She answered the questions by saying, "I'd like to have curtains on the

windows and meat once a week!” I was so shocked at such low expectations, that I didn’t know what to say.

- I remember we used glass syringes and had to sharpen the needles with a soap stone (pumas stone) and sterilize the needles. If you didn’t sharpen the burs off the bevel it could be very painful for patients! They were all sterilized by autoclave. There was a glass dyad in the instrument packs covered with towels and masking tape. It was supposed to turn colors if the sterilizer was hot enough. The strips on the masking tape turned black after sterilization. We used oxygen tanks before hospitals built them in. Premature babies were fed with eye droppers and preemie nipples and smaller bottles, then NG tubes. Eventually they made a baby bird to ventilate preemies. The first ones could collapse lungs as they were not that sensitive. Doctors used to order painful imferon (iron) shots for the anemia they saw in preemies until the nurses refused to give them as they were so painful, then doctors realized they needed to give blood transfusions to elevate their hemoglobin. I knew I was considered older, when younger nurses asked, “did you really sharpen needles and use glass syringes!” Now everything is disposable and paper gowns drapes etc.
- The FSC nursing courses were very challenging and the other courses were not light weight courses either, but we had 3 student nurses who decided to get their BSN in 2 years instead of 4. One of the instructors had one of them talk to our class. They got permission to double up classes taking 21 to 22 units each semester. They took four clinicals per week. They talked to each faculty for their classes asking about term papers and quizzes were given and if they could pick out their paper topics ahead of time and on semester breaks, they would copy all their research for their papers and get a head start. I uses some of these strategies to get 2 masters in 2 years instead of 3 ½.
- I remember when we first started nursing we would offer patients a back massage in the evening before they went to sleep. I had been assigned a physician who was a urologist, and scheduled to have surgery the next morning. The nurse said I needed to offer him a back massage. I didn’t want to, as he had a reputation of being very brusque. Well I went into his room and he was reading his medical journals, and I asked him if he wanted a back massage. He said, “Honey, don’t start something you can’t finish!” I turned bright red, turned around and walked out.

— Pam Loewen, Class of 1966

(CSU Fresno Dept. of Nursing volunteer Historian and Alumni Historian)