

MISSOURI ALUMNUS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1971

FEB 3 1971

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

NURSING SECTION

Nursing Shortage Continues in State

By Betty Hazelwood,
BS Nur '69

From the large number of young women applying for admission to the University's School of Nursing, it would seem Missouri's acute nurse shortage is well on its way to being corrected. This is probably not true.

According to Miss Jane Brinton, professor of nursing and assistant to the dean, there is a serious problem connected with the many applicants for admission and many qualified nursing aspirants must be turned away.

For the fall, 1970 semester, some 241 prospective students had applied for admission in the baccalaureate program in nursing. Of these, 93 were accepted, for a total of 317 student nurses at the University. Of those turned away, 39 per cent had been in the upper one-fourth of their high school classes, and 57 per cent were in the upper one-third.

Why are so many prospective students turned down? The reason, says Miss Brinton, is that the approximately 3000 square feet in the medical science building designated for use by the School of Nursing cannot accommodate all those interested in, and seemingly qualified for, a career in nursing.

An effort has been made



THIS IS AN ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF THE PROPOSED SCHOOL OF NURSING BUILDING. IN A LETTER TO MISSOURI ALUMNI, DR. RUBY POTTER, ASSOCIATE DEAN, REPORTED THAT THE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION ON THE COLUMBIA CAMPUS, DEPENDED ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW FACILITY.

by the School to correct this shortage. Miss Brinton said that in 1969 a plan for a combination nursing school and out-patient clinic building was presented to the federal government for consideration. The government approved the plan and agreed to appropriate approximately \$4 million. The University has requested \$5.3 million and agreed to appropriate approximately \$4 million to match State funds.

This situation is demoralizing to nursing educators in light of the nursing shortage today. In a St. Louis newspaper there were 17 help-wanted ads seeking nurses for various positions. Most of the ads were placed by hospitals asking for not one or two, but many nurses to fill vacant positions. In Columbia, one can find

advertisements for nurses in the daily papers on almost any given day.

At the University Medical Center, nurses report they are often asked to work a "double-shift" (16 hours) to provide coverage for clinical areas where staffing is poor.

A nurse at a 400-bed private hospital in St. Louis tells of a single nurse frequently being responsible for patients on three or four floors on the night shift. This hospital is continually recruiting more nurses and offers competitive salaries and fringe benefits. But there just aren't enough nurses to fill the need.

Dr. Ruby M. Potter, associate dean in the School of Medicine in charge of the School of Nursing, said that although the nurse shortage seems to be

nationwide, Missouri feels the deficit more acutely than many states. According to a report released by the Public Health Service, Missouri ranks 39th in the nation in the number of active nurses per 100,000 population. The report shows that Missouri has 241 nurses per 100,000 as compared to a national average of 303 per 100,000.

With these figures in mind, nursing authorities find it difficult to accept the fact that prospective nurses in Missouri are being denied the necessary training and education to relieve this problem. They hope the state Legislature will also find the situation unacceptable.

Margo Ballard Leads Alumni

Officers were elected at the annual homecoming meeting of the Nursing Alumni Association held in November on the Columbia campus.

Mrs. Richard Ballard (Margo Turley) BSN '69, Columbia, was elected president of the organization, succeeding Mrs. William England (Doris Asselmeier) BSN '60, St. Louis. Mrs. Donald Thompson (Thelma Jean Warner) BSN '63, Columbia, is the new vice president.

Mrs. Ballard is a staff nurse on the

pediatric division of the University Medical Center and a part-time graduate student. A candidate for a master's degree on the Columbia campus, Mrs. Thompson is currently the director of nursing service at Ellis Fischel State Cancer Hospital.



MRS. BALLARD

During the business meeting it was decided to change the date of the annual alumni meeting from homecoming to the same day as the honors convocation. The honors convocation will be held April 17 at the Columbia campus Memorial Student Union. Tentative plans are to have an alumni meeting at eleven o'clock and the honors convocation luncheon at noon.

Graduates will be receiving notice from the alumni office sometime in March. It is hoped that a greater attendance will be encouraged by combining the annual meeting and the honors convocation. Dr. Ruby Potter, associate dean, has suggested that five and ten year classes plan anniversary reunions, such as the five-year class of '66, the ten-year class of '61, the 15-year class of '56 and so forth.

Grad Program Accredited

The two-year-old graduate program in

nursing on the Columbia campus received full accreditation in December.

The National League for Nursing, professional accrediting agency, also re-certified the baccalaureate nursing program. It was first accredited in 1964.

Traineeships to 18

Eighteen nurses have been awarded traineeships ranging from \$3384 to \$4967 for the 1970-71 academic year in the graduate programs offered by the School of Nursing.

Dr. Alice Major, director of graduate studies in nursing, said that some of the professional nurses will take training for academic positions to help relieve the acute shortage of teachers of nursing in Missouri. Other students primarily are interested in nursing administration in general or psychiatric hospitals.

Logenbach Awards To Three Students

Because of a generous gift from a woman appreciative of the kindness shown her when she was ill, three nursing students received the first Myrtle Longenbach Memorial Scholarships. They are: Cathy Foy, St. Louis; Carol Waggoner, Foley, Mo.; and Janice Kordenbrock, Crystal Lake, Ill.

Through her gift of approximately \$19,000, the late Miss Myrtle Longenbach hoped to encourage those who were in training for the profession of nursing.

According to her close friend and administratrix of her estate, Miss Mary Helen Jones, Miss Logenbach was "dedicated to teaching." She did

not graduate from college until she was 38, having worked her way through both high school and college. For this reason, Miss Jones explains, she left this gift for "others striving to secure an education."

During her lifetime, Miss Longenbach was hospitalized several times. It was during these periods she gained her high respect for the profession of nursing.

Miss Longenbach died in 1967.

28 Receive Pins

Of the 28 students who received their pins during ceremonies held January 24, some 14 plan to enter the nursing profession in Missouri.

Ten of the graduates, however, were uncertain as to their future plans, although many did specify the type of nursing they wished to pursue.

Several women intend to be staff nurses in surgical, obstetric, pediatric or coronary care units. Two specified interest in public health nursing and one selected psychiatric nursing. The Mid-Missouri Mental Health Center was selected by a graduate for employment.

The state of Colorado seemed to attract several graduates, both for work in Denver and for pursuing their studies. Other states mentioned were New Mexico (for graduate study also), Florida and North Carolina.

Three students plan to enter graduate school following spring and summer employment.

Out of this January class of graduates, thirteen indicated they were married, while one mentioned marriage in her future plans.

Ruth Adams Heads Continuing Education

The new director of continuing education for nurses, Miss Ruth C. Adams, comes to the University from a similar appointment at the University of Vermont.

Miss Adams, who replaces the former director, Mrs. Rose Marie Kuhn, was director of continuing education for nurses at the University of Vermont, Burlington, from 1967 to 1970. Prior to her appointment in Vermont she was on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin.

A graduate of Simmons College and the School of Nursing at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, Mass., Miss Adams received her Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Miss Adams will be responsible for coordinating lectures and seminars for practicing nurses in Missouri, many of whom are Columbia campus graduates. Her role is to keep nurses updated in various nursing areas as well as management techniques and in-service education.

Two Students Are Eitzen Scholars

Two nursing students have been chosen as recipients of Hertha Eitzen Scholarships in the School of Nursing.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Spire, a January graduate from Maryville, Mo., and Mrs. Nancy Speckhart Albsmeyer, a junior from Payson, Ill., were the first to receive scholarships from the interest of the fund, established in 1968.