

PREFACE

Ann Mabe Newman, RN, PhD

Growth and development is a process. And so it has been with this book. In 2004 for the 40th Anniversary of the School of Nursing at UNC Charlotte, I was asked to compile a brief history to be used in a brochure. Fast forward to 2012. I retired and wrote a proposal for a book. "The college/school does not have a recorded history, and if one is not recorded now, much of the documentation may be lost forever," I wrote in the proposal. Maybe a slight exaggeration, but much of our history was contained in "The Box." A cardboard box of papers, newspaper clippings, pictures, and books from the days of Dean Edith Brocker in 1965 to the present (2017), the box had been lovingly moved to whatever space the College of Nursing (now School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Services) occupied over the course of 50 years. At one point, we feared the box had been lost for good in the shuffle. Good detective work, a part of every nurse's repertoire of skills, found and saved our treasures.

In 2016, I again began compiling our history in more detail this time. A serendipitous conversation at a UNC Charlotte Nursing Alumni event moved the history from the box to the printed page. Dona Haney, RN, MSN and I determined that, between the two of us, we were missing only four years of anecdotal history about the nursing program. Because of her previous experience in compiling and writing histories, I asked if she would be interested in joining me in writing *Miss Bonnie's Nurses: The First Fifty Years of Nursing at UNC-Charlotte*. Little did I know what this dynamic detective would

accomplish over the next year and a half. We collaborated on an outline, then Dona suggested focusing on the three early leaders in nursing education at UNC Charlotte. She researched and wrote brief biographies on each. Dona hunted down nursing graduates from the 1965-2016 cohorts and collected their memories. She lovingly restored the first cap worn by our graduates, and kept everyone on schedule to produce this book. Her contribution to this history can only be described as extraordinary. She captured the powerful spirit that appeared early in the school's life and continues today enriching the lives of students, faculty and graduates.

To explore the history of the first 50 years, I thought it best to ask the former deans to tell us in their own voices what the school was like during their tenure—how they began, the events that transpired, and their hopes and dreams for the school's future. As a member of the College of Nursing's faculty for more than 30 years, I have worked with hundreds of faculty and students and served with five deans/directors of nursing. I was privileged to know two of the early leaders, UNC-Charlotte President Bonnie Cone, MEd, and Professor Elinor Caddell, RN, Med. Dona knew them, too, and Dean Edith Bocker, RN, MEd, as well.

In working together, the two of us developed a relationship we have come to prize. In collaborating on writing this book we searched for a single voice, a collective "we." We learned to listen to each other and build on each other's insights. Hence, this book is not separated into parts that we wish to attribute to one of the other of us, even though each

of us took the primary responsibility for different parts. There may be stylistic differences, but the book as a whole is the product of our joint efforts.

We are grateful for the cooperation, assistance and support of many persons. Ashley Lopez, a graduate assistant found the tattered cardboard box and transferred its contents to a safer plastic storage bin and labeled it “Nursing History and Pictures.” Upon inquiry, she took us straight to what has become known as “The Box.”

The staff of the UNC Charlotte J. Murrey Atkins Library gave invaluable assistance. When we met her, we knew that we had found our champion in Somaly Kim Wu, MLIS, Head of Technology and Innovation. She helped us navigate the world of publishing and introduced us to John McLeod of UNC Press Office of Scholarly Publishing. He, in turn, did all the rest necessary to bring our book to life. Ryan Miller of the Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte designed the cover for the book and other library staff, most notably those in the Special Collections and Archives, pulled box after box of archived material for months so that Dona and I, who became known just as “The Nurses,” could have everything we needed. A special thanks to Olivia Eanes, Pamela Mason, Alison Wilson, Lolita Rowe and Tina Wright for supplying us with these archived materials. Thank you to Shannon Homesley and Shannon Dudley of Provost Joan Lorden’s office who furnished us with documents that had not yet been archived.

To the students who wrote about their memories and the deans who wrote about the trials and triumphs of their tenures, your contributions provided the foundation for this

book about the formative first 50 years. Mr. Christian Calibrino, RN, MSN, one of our own Niner Nurses gave our manuscript its first read. We also want to express our gratitude to Dr. Dena Evans, interim Director of the School of Nursing. Even though she had just come on board, she took a chance on us and provided an editor. A special thank you from Ann to her daughter-in-love, Thea Mayne for always being there to listen. Dona thanks her patient husband Loy Haney for his support. Thanks to you, our readers, we hope this book will help you fondly remember your years of becoming a 'Niner Nurse' at UNC Charlotte.