Greetings Buckeye Nurses! Now that fall has officially arrived, I encourage you all to return to campus for Reunion Homecoming Weekend, October 17-19. Based on alumni feedback, we will gather on October 17th for a casual All-Class Social at Mershon Auditorium overlooking the parade route, so we can enjoy the homecoming festivities and one another. This replaces the dinner event held off campus in the past. Since the only formal business will be election of new board members, let me take this opportunity to highlight past accomplishments and future plans. The Alumni Society board has worked diligently to strengthen our connection with the College of Nursing, the Ohio State University Alumni Association (OSUAA) and our 12,000 Buckeye Nursing Alumni. It has been a year of collaboration and celebration!

- We hosted over 200 alumni during a welcome reception in the lobby of Newton Hall on March 28th to launch the anniversary festivities and partnered with the college to plan the Centennial Gala attended by 840 guests.
- To honor graduating students, we sponsored the Second Annual Graduation Celebration and participated in the 2014 Convocation.
- We collaborated with student organizations to support several College of Nursing strategic priorities around diversity, wellness, and outreach.
- The Board made a financial donation to the Honduras Mission which is part of the Global Health Initiative, helped with screenings during the Health and Wellness Expo, and participated in the Second Annual NSPIRE 5K Race to Heal.
- Based on the positive response to regional events held in Cincinnati and the Cleveland/Akron area last year, an alumni luncheon was hosted earlier this month in Dayton.
- To enhance communication, we expanded website content, provided updates in the biannual electronic newsletter and Transformations magazine, and increased the use of social media. Online survey tools provide welcome feedback and new ideas.

The College of Nursing Alumni Society board collaborates closely with the OSUAA in support of the advancement plan. We were an early adopter of the new logo and toolkit designed to strengthen the university’s brand and national reputation. All Society Board Members are sustaining or life members of OSUAA and have contributed to the College of Nursing fund of their choice. The annual solicitation to our generous alumni last year raised $11,000 and we again awarded 20 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students. Board members attended OSUAA sponsored roundtables on membership, programming, and social media and have consulted other club/society leaders to explore best practices. The Board revised the Society’s Bylaws and Constitution to support implementation of a new membership model. This model expands inclusivity for members and ensures alignment with the association. We also participated in several networking events hosted by the OSUAA, including the following: the Club and Society Leadership Symposium, Dinner for 12 Buckeyes, and a hockey tailgate.

Despite expanded capacity, the 8th Annual Wine Tasting still sold out quickly. During the event, we honored the visionary members of the Scholarship Committee who exceeded their $1 million fundraising goal. If you were not able to join us at the Faculty Club, we hope to see you on campus during reunion weekend, October 17-19, at the social on Friday or the tailgate on Saturday. For the first time, we are partnering with the OSUAA to host a family-friendly Buckeye tailgate lunch at the Ohio Union prior to the homecoming game against Rutgers. Please plan to join us in the Archie M. Griffin Ballroom along with Archie, Brutus, and the OSU Spirit Squad.

During this Centennial Year, we honor and celebrate each of you. Live Well and Go Bucks!

Linda Burnworth Johnson

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