INTRODUCTION

- The nursing school is grateful to God for the wonderful team and the team spirit within it. As witnessed by James 3:18 - “You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honour”, I think this is what our Lord has blessed us with.

The mission statement

- The mission of the nursing school is to ensure growth and maturity of the students we train through comprehensive programs that are in operation as well as the love of God so that the knowledge, skills and attitude change that are acquired help in the upliftment of health of the public in an effective and efficient manner.

The Objectives

- To produce future professional nurses who are competent, responsible, reliable, confident and accountable
- To give the best possible training to students in line with the high standards required by the communities that surround us and set by the South African Nursing Council
- To educate nurses on training on human rights so that they become aware of their rights and respect the rights of others
- To establish efficient and effective communication with other institutions
- To develop nursing research to improve nursing care and nursing education
- To inculcate the culture of learning in our students which is holistic, lifelong and is in line with Outcomes Based Education

General Remarks

- Still running the four courses i.e.
  - Enrolled Nurse course
  - The Bridging course
The Basic Midwifery course
- The Primary Health Care course

The results also display a beautiful picture yearly. There are ups and downs. There are courses which need more labour than others based on the heavy weighting of subject matter but the high standards are still sustained. They are as follows:

THE NURSE TRAINING COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE/PROGRAMME</th>
<th>1ST YEAR</th>
<th>2ND YEAR</th>
<th>PASS RATE IN (%)</th>
<th>DISTINCTIONS IN FIGURES</th>
<th>FAILURES IN FIGURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled Nurse</td>
<td>2/2005 – 68</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6/2005 – 31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2/2004 - 49</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridging Course Leading to</td>
<td>8/2004 – 33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration as a General Nurse</td>
<td>4/2005 – 32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8/2003 - 26</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4/2004 - 35</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ONE YEAR COURSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE/PROGRAMME</th>
<th>1ST YEAR</th>
<th>PASS RATE IN (%)</th>
<th>DISTINCTIONS IN FIGURES</th>
<th>FAILURES IN FIGURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwifery Course</td>
<td>3/2005 – 16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Care (PHC) Course</td>
<td>2/2005 – 8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5/2005 – 7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of students/pupil nurses currently registered in our institution:

- Pupil Nurses currently enrolled for the Enrolled Nurses courses are = 203
- Bridging course students currently registered for the General Nurse course are = 120
- Student Midwives currently registered for the basic Midwifery course are = 12
- PHC students are = 32

Future Vision:

- Expanding services so as to train specialists of other courses in nursing i.e. inclusive of receiving Diploma in Advanced Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing Science
- Linking to HWSETA and other funding sources which is inclusive of lobbying for the banks to recognize the nursing profession as a part of tertiary education for students’ loan availability
- Expansion in technology and advanced media for teaching
- Expansion of physical facilities

The schematic pupil/student nurse selection is procedurally done as follows:
Activities of the Nursing School

- Buttoning ceremonies for all second year students' pupil nurses
- Annual general meeting reporting for the hospital
- Graduation annually: - [September 2006]
- The prayers prior to examinations which take the place of spiritual revivals whenever there is a group to sit for exams.

Highlights: - Two students received the Gold and the Silver Fob watches this year. One was in Diploma for General Nurse category and the second one in the enrolled nurse category.

The citation of the one who received a gold watch is as follows:

**Ms. NOXOLO PURITY KHUMBUZILE DLAMINI [DURBAN CITY AWARD WINNER]**

Ms Noxolo khumbuzile Purity Dlamini was born in Bulwer on the 11th October 1977. They are a family of 8 (eight) i.e. both parents are still alive plus 5 (five) siblings.

She is more attached to her grandparents though, on the maternal side, who are still alive because they are the ones who brought her up while the parents were still upgrading themselves academically.

She received her primary education at Mphephethwa Primary School. Her higher education was attained at Pholela and Phambili High Schools. At Pholela High School, she joined the teams for basketball and volleyball respectively and was a captain for these teams. She also was a member of the student’s representative council.

She developed love for nursing when, at one time, she was taken to hospital in 1988 because she had sustained an injury. The white uniforms worn by the nurses then and the way they carried themselves while they were bandaging her infused passion and love for the profession.

She trained to be an enrolled nurse at Michaelmas Nursing School. She was then employed at Mahtma Gandhi Hospital as a qualified enrolled nurse. She was admitted as a Bridging Course student at McCord Nursing School in 2004.

**In the classroom:**
She displayed excellent performance throughout the course. She never missed a day on her day release and block system attendance for theoretical instruction.

**In the clinical area:**
She has been reported to be responsible and has worked with an astute sense of accountability, performing her duties with great accuracy. She led by
example, maintained a very sound interpersonal relationship with patients, relatives and all members of the health team.

**Additional comments:**
She is now serving the community as a qualified professional nurse in one of the rural clinics at Matatiele.

The citation for the one who received a Silver Fob watch is as follows:

**MS BANOTHILE ZUMA (DURBAN CITY AWARD WINNER)**

Ms Banothile Zuma was born on the 13th February 1974 at Impendle in a family of seven. They are now six in the family as her mother passed away in April 2005.

She received her primary, secondary and high school education at Emnyezaneni L.P. School, Inzunga C.P. School, Lugaju Junior Secondary School and Mazwendoda High School respectively. During this period she played netball and became the captain of the A team. She also became a member of the Student’s Christian Movement (SCM).

She had to be a caregiver for her sickly grandmother in 1994 and that stimulated a desire to look after the sick. She volunteered to be a caregiver and was then chosen by a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) known as KZN PPHC to help educating, hostel communities and people in surrounding areas in Durban, about HIV/AIDS. In 2003 she was chosen as a mentor for the other community health workers. In a group of twenty nine (29), in 2004, she was one of the two (2) given a chance to upgrade their skills through nurse training at McCord Hospital. The training was funded by KZN-PPHC which is an Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) which accessed learnerships through SETA at that time. She commenced her training therefore in February 2004.

**IN THE CLASSROOM:**
She displayed excellent performance throughout her training - actively participating in the classroom discussions with insight. She also had an analytic mind.

**IN THE CLINICAL AREA:**
Ms Banothile Zuma has been described as a dedicated, reliable and a responsible nurse who showed concern for human life and preserved the dignity of patients under her care - She worked harmoniously with all health care team members. She was a flexible person who worked well when there was crisis at any given time.

**Other Comments:**
She is at the moment, continuing to be supported by the KZN-PPHC NGO whilst pursuing her bridging course to be registered as a general nurse here at McCord Hospital.

*Keynote: KZN -PPHC = KwaZulu-Natal Progressive Primary Health Care
They have also been recipients of **Alan Taylor Awards**. The citation of this award is as follows:

**ALAN TAYLOR TROPHY**

The award was established in 1964, in memory of Nurse Helen Thlabanyane who died during her 2nd year of training from Leukemia.

Nurse Helen Thlabanyane displayed great courage and determination during her illness.

She worked or attended her lectures during the day and would be admitted in the evenings for blood transfusions – she would be up and reporting for duty again in the morning to complete her nursing shift.

She eventually died while on vacation at her home in Johannesburg.

Dr Taylor and his family (our ex Medical Superintendent), donated this floating trophy in remembrance of Helen and other nurses in training who displayed the same courage during times of adversity or illness, displaying their will to succeed against all odds. Two of our students received this award.

The Recipients of **Henrietta Stockdale** awards were two: The citation is as follows

**HENRIETTA STOCKDALE FLOATING TROPHY**

- A senior student following the basic integrated course in nursing, who according to the criteria of the institution involved, has achieved the highest level of professional maturity.

There is also a **Nurse Educator of the Year Award**. The attributes for this award are as follows:

- Approachability and patience
- Professional integrity
- Compassion
- Passion to facilitate learning
- Dedication and be a disciplinarian

The students do actively nominate through voting (involvement of senior students’ is maintained)

Other attributes like accurate record keeping in students accompanied and maintenance of personal programme give an added value.
INTERESTING SUCCESS STORIES FROM STUDENTS: -

Ms Zenani Kunene wrote and thanked the nursing school after her enrolment as a nurse course. She is quoted as having said, “Thank you so much for what you did for me, I wouldn’t be as happy as I am today if it wasn’t for you. All the words of wisdom, all your encouragement, your comfort, your support throughout my training. Thank you for everything I will always honour each and everyone of you. Keep up the good work that you are doing. You are the best tutors we have ever known.

Thank you very much. I will miss you all, the morning prayers prior to examinations, and the practical in the wards.” She is now a bridging course student in our nursing school and is working at Prince Mshiyeni Hospital.

Another wonderful story has been shared by Mondli Khumalo, who is now working at The Durban University of Technology. This is an extract from his letter:

“This is the place where I was taught to be dedicated, disciplined, determined and committed in whatever I am doing. This is the only nursing school whereby you are trained to be an extra-ordinary nurse on top of that you are given a chance at fully understanding the HIV pandemic and how to manage it.

Through the best education I received from McCord, I managed to get a decent job sooner than I had expected. I’m happy with my performance at work. Obviously there is still a lot of work for me, but all the credits go to McCord Nursing School and Hospital.”

There is one more letter of gratitude from a lady called Winlove Hadebe who has been in our institution as a trainee pupil nurse between June 2004 and May 2006.

“I have had very bad times in my life trying to find a better job but I couldn’t find any. I decided to go for a security course and everything went down the drain, no job. At long last I decided to go for cleaners. I think that was the way God gave me a path to go. Finally I got the job at the McCord Hospital employed by Superclean in 2001. As time went on I had that passion to show the management of the hospital what I had in my pocket, as I was working in their offices as a cleaner. Successfully I had a response.

Today I thank them all from being a cleaner to be a staff nurse. I have passed both examination first and second year with distinction. God Bless!”

Some of the executive members serving in the National Committee on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths [NCCEMD] have been trained to be facilitators of the Advanced Midwifery and Neonatal Nursing Science [Decentralised] here at McCord Nursing School.
**STAFF DEVELOPMENT:**

In service education handled, by the hospital is on going. The staff members at the nursing school - ±43% - are engaged in part time studies. The assessors, as required by the SANC, are being trained every year and the fees for this course are paid by the hospital.

**WORDS OF APPRECIATION:**

This is to all members of the nursing school for being passionate about their work. We are also grateful to the Medical Superintendent who always sends us flowers and thank you cards to acknowledge the good work.

**CONCLUSION:**

It is said that the Lord gives perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and putting trust in Him [Isaiah 26:3]. The prayer I have is for all of us to stay focused knowing that purpose gives our lives meaning, simplicity and motivation.