

## INDUCTEE

Cynthia L. Gibbons, PhD, RN.

Graduated. . . .1971

Resides . . . . . Columbus, Ohio

Cindy, as she likes to be called, entered Gahanna Schools in 1961 when her family relocated from Columbus proper to the suburbs. She was a serious student and recalls that one of her most memorable experiences was participating in a student exchange program promoted by her Spanish teacher Mrs. Antoine. She lived in Bogota, Columbia, and her family hosted a student from Chili. Furthering her education, Cindy earned a PhD in nursing at University of Pittsburgh (1993), a MSN at University of Kentucky (1981), and a BSN at University of Cincinnati (1975). Her focus was pediatrics and her dissertation, entitled *Maternal Self Efficacy and Maternal-Infant Interactions*, traced changes of mothers and their preterm infants through a free standing nurse-centered step down unit.

Her professional career has been split between academia and clinical practice. In early years, she worked predominately with neonates and children of multiple ages in acute, chronic, primary and home care settings across the Midwest and West. Later, while an assistant professor, she collaborated with multi-disciplinary teams in early intervention research, presenting and publishing findings. Recently however, her career path has undergone a shift. For the last seven years she has worked as a nurse case manager in military and civilian sectors and now holds a position at the Veterans Administration Ambulatory Care Clinic in Columbus. In the VA, she first visited home-bound veterans; she currently helps to coordinate comprehensive health care for injured/ill veterans who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. She also experiences outreach and presentation opportunities.

Most dear to her heart though, Cindy served 22 years in the US Army Reserves in three combat support hospitals and a medical group scattered throughout Ohio and Michigan. Dr. Mildred Horodynski at Michigan State said Cindy “was a role model on campus as a registered nurse in the military, helping students see the value of what nursing within the military has to offer.” Starting out as an 1st Lieutenant she advanced to Lieutenant Colonel and was last appointed as an Assistant Chief Nurse of a combat support hospital: a field unit. She was deployed once during the Persian Gulf War where she was a part of a unit who, amidst hostile fire and harsh conditions, assembled and disassembled a 400 bed hospital in the desert and provided care for American and Allied troops, refugees, and prisoners of war. Nearly first in and last out! Also, while stateside in Wisconsin, she was called up for a two-year period of time, in support of the current conflict in Iraq/Afghan, piloting a new nation-wide DOD initiative to expedite health care of those soldiers returning home. Her training also included several humanitarian medical missions to remote regions of Ecuador.

Cindy recognizes her family, friends, and teachers as positive influences on her life; in particular crediting her mother for adding a light hearted spirit to her life and her father for instilling the importance of persistence. She volunteers for community based organizations such as the Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity and gave the Veterans Day keynote speech at Gahanna Lincoln High School in 2009. Currently she resides in a downtown loft and enjoys adventure-type travel. Last year she took a short course on Henry VII through Oxford’s (England) Continuing Education Program and then hiked 95 miles in Scotland. In 2011 her destination is Portugal.