

**Florida Atlantic University Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing  
Archives of Caring in Nursing**

**Jane Sumner Collection  
Publications 2001 --  
Archives Collection ARC-009**

**Extent:** 0.33 linear feet

**Provenance:** Jane Sumner, PhD, RN, APRN, BC

**Access:** This collection is unrestricted.

**Citation:** Jane Sumner Collection, Archives of Caring in Nursing, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing, Florida Atlantic University

**About the Archives of Caring in Nursing:**

Please visit <http://nursing.fau.edu/archives> for information on scope, collections, and policies. Send inquiries to [nurarchives@fau.edu](mailto:nurarchives@fau.edu).

The Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing is dedicated to caring: advancing the science, studying its meaning, practicing the art, and living it day-to-day.

The Archives of Caring in Nursing has as its mission preserving the history of caring in nursing, inviting the study of caring, advancing caring as an essential domain of nursing knowledge, and creating meaning for the practice of nursing. We are committed to securing the papers of Caring scholars, and developing and maintaining the Archives to provide access to primary sources.

Finding Aids for the collections are accessible at the Archives of Caring in Nursing [Collections](#) page. On-site use of the materials in the collections is available by appointment.

Contact information:

Archives of Caring in Nursing  
Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

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**Brief Biographical Sketch:**

Jane Finlay Sumner, PhD, RN, APRN, BC, is currently [2010] Professor of Nursing at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) School of Nursing in New Orleans. She received her Doctorate in Nursing from Hutt Hospital School of Nursing, New Zealand, a BS in Nursing from Eastern Carolina University, Pennsylvania, the Master of Nursing from LSUHSC School of Nursing, and her PhD in educational leadership from the University of New Orleans.

Her PhD dissertation, in 2000, is titled *Caring in Nursing: A Critical Theory Study*. Her Master's thesis, completed in 1993, is titled, *The relationship between spiritual well being of the terminally ill cancer patient and perceived nurse empathy*.

She began her nursing career as a Tutor Sister in the Wellington [NZ] Hospital School of Nursing Diploma Program, continuing with Staff Nurse positions in London, UK and with the Visiting Nurse Association/Home Health Service in Norristown, PA. She became Director of the Hospice VNA/HHS in Norristown, and after several years moved into consecutive Administrative positions, including hospice program coordinator, with several for-profit health care services in Metairie, LA. In 1993 she moved to a faculty role at LSUHSC, where she held the post of Acting Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education during 2006-2007.

Dr. Sumner's curriculum vitae [February 2009] is archived in the Collection. She has provided the following statement of her nursing philosophy and its foundation:

Caring in nursing as bi-direction communication has long been of interest to me. I knew that I was getting something very powerful back from my patients and that as a nurse I had thoughts and feelings about what was going on between in the interaction. This probably grows out of my hospice nursing, but from my earliest nursing training I wondered why some patients got overlooked or ignored on the ward, was it the fact that they were dying or were miserable with uncontrolled pain or that they were so unpleasant the nurses wanted to spend as little time as possible with those patients. I have also long known how much I have received back from my patients, and they have made me feel so special as a nurse. I learned that the 'dialogue' is both verbal and non verbal and in some ways the latter may be the most important because it is frequently unconscious, but also the tasks and skills of nursing are an integral part of communication which is flowing both ways.

I had imprinted onto me as a very young student nurse the duty and obligation of nursing, which I accepted but when I grasped that all humans are vulnerable in need of considerateness I could acknowledge my humanness as a nurse and my own need for considerateness. Thus Habermas' (1995) theory of Communicative Action and Moral Consciousness was the seminal work for me, enabling me to dissect the nurse into professional self and personal self and the patient as illness self and personal self and then what occurs in the interaction. The nurse and the patient as a whole could, at last, be offered, and how emotion and thinking of each could influence what was going on, in the interaction. Habermas explained the moral of nursing in ways which made complete sense to me, and the critical social theory lens has enabled me to think about nursing in ways that I hadn't before.

Jane Sumner, February 2009

Folder 5 – Sumner, J.F., & Fisher, W.P., Jr. (2008). The moral construct of caring in nursing as communicative action: The theory and practice of a caring science. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 31(4), E19-E36.

Folder 6 – Sumner, J., & Townsend-Rocchiccioli, J. (2003). Why are nurses leaving nursing? *Nursing Administration Quarterly*, 27(2), 164-171.

Folder 7 – Sumner, J. (2010). A critical lens on the instrumentation of caring in nursing theory. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 33(1), E17-E26.

End: Finding Aid: Jane Sumner Collection  
Last updated: 3/15/2011