CAROLINA WOMEN

Jane Rouse Ellison '95

Born in Durham, North Carolina, Jane Rouse Ellison '95 became a Carolina fan when she learned more about the University's dedication to being "of the public and for the public." This commitment to education without barriers spoke to her personal values of equality and compassion, and she knew UNC-Chapel Hill was the best school for her. After she became a student at the UNC School of Nursing, Jane committed herself to helping others. While in school she honed her professional skills as a nurse, met her future husband — Lucien Ellison '97 — and made "monumental friendships of a lifetime."

After graduation, Jane worked as a nurse on the surgery floor for the NC Jaycee Burn Center and the Pediatric ICU at UNC Hospitals. Nursing allowed her to continue helping and healing those around her. "UNC Hospitals treat every patient without discrimination, and that is something I began to view as crucial and a source of great pride."

In 2018, at her first Carolina Women's Leadership Council meeting, Jane heard author Kathy Izard speak at the Eve Marie Carson Lecture. Izard advised the audience to "listen to your whisper." Jane took that to heart and found that her whisper was telling her to return to the bedside. The next month, she enrolled in the Nurse Refresher Program through UNC-Chapel Hill. She is now a pediatric nurse in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Jane is dedicated to giving. She gives her time and energy to various non-profit boards in Wilmington, where she and Lucien live and raise their three young boys. She gives back to Carolina by serving on a number of boards, including the Board of Visitors, the Chancellor's Philanthropic Council and the Board of Advisors for the UNC School of Nursing. She supports scholarships across campus and the Summer Bridge program. Now, she is focused on sharing her message with others. "I'm turning my whisper into a strong voice for what I value most."

The Carolina Women's Leadership Council is a network of women committed to supporting the University. For more information, contact Lanier Brown May at lanier_may@unc.edu or 919-843-5883.



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