

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

NURSING

Spring 2007

Be More.

University of Tennessee College of Nursing



Alumni Board of Directors

President

Rita Kimbro Miller (2008) '71
Dickson, Tenn.

President Elect

Madge Richbourg Saba (2008) '66
Memphis

Vice President

Alice Parham Nunnery (2009) '71, '95
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Secretary

Sari Bledsoe (2009) '64
Marion, Ark.

Tennessee Representatives

West

Michael Briley (2009) '05
Medon, Tenn.

Sam Maceri (2009) '01, '02
Cordova, Tenn.

Tammara Harris Beard (2009) '94, '98, '03
Memphis

Middle

Alice Parham Nunnery (2009) '71, '95
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

East

SuAnne Cobb (2008) '76
Knoxville, Tenn.

Out-of-State Representatives

Sherry Barry (2007) '73
Tampa, Fla.

Sari Bledsoe (2009) '64
Marion, Ark.

Elizabeth Fuselier (2009) '93, '95, '05
Houston, Texas

Mayola Rowser (2009) '05
Evansville, Ind.

Representatives-at-Large

Paula Spears (2009) '84, '02
Bartlett, Tenn.

Charmin Thomas (2009) '93, '98, '01
Memphis

Johneene Coble (2009) '93, '01
Bartlett, Tenn.

Carol Headley (2009) '04
Memphis

Debbie Crum (2009)
Memphis

Sigma Theta Tau

Dianne Greenhill (2008) '62
Memphis

Immediate Past President

Irma Jordan '97, '98
Arlington, Tenn.

Past Presidents

Janet McMurray (Jan) Johnson '76

Alice Upchurch Warren '65

Areti (Tina) Moskos Klein '86

Carol Denise Graham '86

Patricia Fuqua Walker '56

SuAnne Cobb '76

Terri Boyd Jacobs '74

Jo Ann Kyle '54

Dean's Message



Many of us entered nursing school because we wanted to make a difference. I am encouraged to find that this passion persists today. You see it in the eyes and feel it in the hearts of our professional entry students who brought a new energy and vibrancy to our college. The first graduates of our recently re-opened professional entry program are highlighted on page 10. These students are just starting their professional journey, but it is already obvious that the future leadership of our profession is in great hands.

As many of us progressed through our careers, we developed a gnawing desire to know more, do more and contribute more. Graduate education proved to be the key for us to fulfill this desire; a condition which seems to afflict a growing number of nurses if enrollment in our graduate programs is any measure. The quest to know more is what brought protégés of distinguished College of Nursing alumnus Margaret Newman to campus for the Newman Dialogue of Scholars (see page 8). The quest to do more is what drove College Nursing Professor Dr. Veronica Engle to take the knowledge acquired through her experience and research directly to the individuals she now serves (see page 3). And, the quest to contribute more is seen in the intensity of the work being carried out by the College of Nursing Faculty Research Fellows (see page 4).

The spirit permeating the College of Nursing today is clearly one of "more." We and our community Expect More of ourselves; we are prepared to Deliver More, and our graduates are prepared to Be More.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Hathaway".

Donna Hathaway, Dean
University of Tennessee Health Science Center
College of Nursing

Spotlight on Holistic Nursing

A university professor often wears many hats — educator, author, clinician and scientist. Still, it's out of the ordinary for the hats to be worn in two nursing specialties: gerontological nursing and holistic nursing. That's the norm for Veronica F. Engle, PhD, RN, FAAN, who is a UTHSC professor in the College of Nursing and the College of Medicine.

Dr. Engle's dual emphasis seems to serve her and her clients quite well. During the last 10 years, she has developed and implemented four evidence-based holistic programs that integrate gerontological nursing with holistic nursing. She has developed these holistic programs in the Mid-South, an area which is often skeptical of holistic care. The strong faith-based tradition of the Mid-South, however, has been a strength and has enabled her to partner with churches to provide community-based holistic programs.

Dr. Engle is a board certified Geriatric Nurse Practitioner and a certified Advanced Holistic Nurse. In addition to these traditional Western health care provider skills, she is also a Reiki Master practitioner and teacher, and internationally certified Tai Chi for Arthritis instructor. This varied background provides her with the theoretical perspective, skills and knowledge necessary to develop programs for clients and their families, the lay community, students and health care providers. These programs treat the person as a whole — addressing the mind, body, spirit and environment.

Following is a summary of three of Dr. Engle's holistic initiatives.

Holistic Faculty Practice

Started in 2003, Dr. Engle's fee-for-service entrepreneurial faculty practice integrates gerontological nursing with holistic nursing. She provides care to

individual clients and their families and offers Tai Chi for Arthritis classes at the UTHSC College of Nursing's HELP Center. Holistic care is provided for health and well-being; pain, stress and insomnia; depression and anxiety; support during cancer treatment; recovery from surgery; healthy aging; and comfort at the end of life. Dr. Engle works with clients, their families and their health care providers to create a holistic plan addressing mind, body and spirit; provide therapy and tools for well-being, comfort and self-care; and to restore and re-balance



Byhalia, Miss., residents participate in a Tai Chi class conducted by Dr. Veronica Engle.

the client's natural energy. Her faculty practice was highlighted in the Memphis Medical News in 2004.

As part of her faculty practice, Dr. Engle is also a volunteer professional advisor for Out On A Limb – Limb Loss Support Group. She provides persons

with limb loss information on evidence-based holistic complementary and alternative medicine therapies for phantom limb pain and general well-being. There are currently few effective Western medicine interventions for phantom limb pain. Her work with Cecile Evans, a PhD candidate in the PhD in nursing program of the UTHSC College of Graduate Health Sciences, and Out On A Limb was the focus of an article on community partnerships published in inMotion Magazine, the national magazine of the lay and health care provider organization, Amputee Coalition of America.



Dr. Veronica Engle

Healthy Feet

The majority of lower limb amputations are due to diabetes. Because 56 percent of adults in the Memphis area read at the two lowest levels of literacy, Dr. Engle also obtained funding for a program to develop very low low-literacy diabetic foot care education materials and train-the-trainer materials for use by faith-based health educators. The Healthy Feet program is funded by CIGNA-Methodist, and is imbedded in the strong Memphis faith-based community.

Spotlight...continued on Page 5

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Six Faculty Fellowship Awards Granted | 4 |
| UTHSC Staff Appointments | 6 |
| Using Dialogue to Transform Health | 8 |
| Professional Entry Program Graduates 55 Students | 10 |
| College of Nursing Lauds Outstanding Alumnus | 15 |
| State of Nursing Workforce Looking Better | 17 |

Nursing Magazine Editorial Team
 Sheila Champlin
 Rebecca Ennis
 Susan Jacob
 Ramona Pierce

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.



Dr. Patricia Cunningham



Dr. Carolyn Driscoll



Dr. Carrie Harvey



Dr. Wendy Likes



Dr. Jill Oswaks



Dr. Leslie McKeon

Six Faculty Fellowship Awards Granted

In 2006, the UTHSC College of Nursing set aside \$90,000 for a program that is novel, not only for this college, but for any nursing venue. The funds were allocated to support Faculty Research Fellowship Awards, the first such awards offered by the college.

Proposals for the awards were submitted and thoroughly reviewed in October 2006 with recipients being announced in November 2006. The research projects funded by the one-year awards began during the fall and are expected to be completed by close of the fiscal year in June.

All applications were evaluated by an external NIH-funded consultant, who assessed the significance of the project for nursing, future fundability of the program of research, appropriateness of budget for the plan, quality and clarity of the proposal, soundness of methodology, and expected outcome. An NIH-style biographical sketch on each fellowship applicant was also required.

Since the fall when the awards were made, six CON faculty members — all who hold earned doctoral de-

grees — have been conducting four separate, small-scale studies or pilot projects. The BLINK Research Group, which refers to the best-selling book *BLINK* by Malcolm Gladwell, consists of Dr. Patricia Cunningham, Dr. Jill Oswaks and Dr. Leslie McKeon. This team of researchers is developing and testing a Patient-focused High Reliability Team Training intervention. The intervention incorporates performance and stress inoculation training in simulated patient situations to enhance effective communication and improve patient outcomes in acute care settings.

Gene expression differences between liver transplant recipients who develop diabetes after transplantation and those who do not is the focus of the study that Dr. Carolyn Driscoll is conducting. This study seeks to validate findings from her dissertation, which identified a group of genes that were differentially expressed in patients who developed diabetes after receiving a liver transplant. If these genes are differentially expressed in this second group of patients, Dr. Driscoll will explore developing a risk profile

for patients most likely to develop the disorder and propose interventions to reduce this risk.

Dr. Wendy Likes' study focuses on exploring quality of life particularly in the areas of sexual function, relationship satisfaction, genital body image and depression in women who have undergone surgery to remove abnormal lesions referred to as vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia.

The subgroups of heart failure patients who would most benefit from receiving an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator are the focus of Dr. Carrie Harvey's study. Dr. Harvey will test these patients for T-wave alternans, a noninvasive marker of electrical myocardial instability.

"Providing awards like these to junior faculty is not standard practice for colleges and schools of nursing," said Mona Wicks, PhD, professor in the Department of Primary/Public Health, UTHSC College of Nursing. "These types of development programs are more common in research intensive schools that receive extensive extramural funding." She noted, "A more typical approach is to offer research

packages to newly hired faculty. Often these packages are support funds for more senior faculty researchers who have a funding track record."

The CON Faculty Fellowship Awards were devised to encourage and support faculty development. By granting funding to nurse scientists with little or no research experience or grant funding, the awards will assist recipients as they prepare to make the transition to nurse scientists who will manage extramural funding of \$100,000 or more.

"As junior faculty, we aspire to develop programs of research that are meaningful, self-sustaining and translate to improve health outcomes," stated Dr. Harvey. "The Faculty Fellowship Award has had a significant impact on my ability to develop a successful program of research by providing me with support, guidance and resources," she added.

"The complexity of health care requires collaboration of unlikely partners to discover innovative solutions to address not only today's problems, but future ones as well," said Dr. McKeon. "Who would have thought that a nurse anesthetist, psych nurse, nurse administrator and genetic nurse researcher would partner to explore the physiologic effects of health care system failures on providers?"

With any new program, the questions of short-term benefits and long-term potential always arise. Dr. Wicks sees promise for the Faculty Research Fellowship Awards on both fronts.

"There are several short-term benefits of this program," she noted. "The fellowship provides faculty with monies to purchase needed research equipment and supplies and/or funds to cover release time, if requested, so that they can conduct the study."

"Funds can also be requested to pay a research assistant to help with data collection, data management and other work needed to complete the funded project."

Dr. Wicks stressed there are also several long-term benefits of the program. "These small studies, pilot projects, will provide important research evidence to help faculty fellows obtain larger grants for more complex studies. The larger grants will be submitted to funding agencies like the National Institute of Nursing Research, which is one of many institutes within the National Institutes of Health."

She added, "Other benefits of these projects include the refinement of award recipients' research skills, plus results from these studies can provide important information that serves as substance for research-related publications and presentations.

"Finally, fellows meet with senior scientists each week to discuss their projects both to provide updates and to obtain mentoring in the research process. The overall process and resources provided by this program are designed to hasten the work of novice researchers so that they can submit grant applications for greater amounts of money much earlier in their research careers."

The award recipients are in complete agreement with the immediate benefits and far-reaching potential advantages of this program.

"Because the faculty fellowships have a component where the fellows meet as a group with a senior researcher, it has provided a perfect opportunity for mentoring junior faculty in the research role," observed Dr. Ann Cashion, chair of the Department of Acute and Chronic Care. "This is a wonderful support mechanism for me as a department chair as I focus on faculty development."

Dr. Likes concluded, "This is a great example of one of the many ways the College of Nursing supports its faculty and their career development. I am so excited about the fellowship and the close mentorship and support it provides. This opportunity provides us with the support we need to begin and be successful in our program of research."

Spotlight...continued from Page 3

This is an important program because almost twice as many African-Americans (9.2 percent) and caucasians (7.6 percent) in Tennessee have diabetes, compared to 5.1 percent of American adults. African-Americans in Memphis also have 4.4 times more major leg amputations than caucasians. A faith-based approach was chosen to capitalize on the strengths of the Memphis community.

Tai Chi Wellness

Tai Chi is a holistic healing exercise that integrates the mind and the body, and involves intense mental

focus with slow, gentle movements that are coordinated with deep breathing. The graceful movements are very complex because of the coordination of mind, body and breath. The majority of Tai Chi programs and evaluation studies have been done with more-able older adults living in the community rather than with frail and cognitively impaired nursing home residents. Dr. Engle used her skills and knowledge as a geriatric nurse practitioner, advanced holistic nurse, certified Tai Chi for Arthritis instructor and NIH-funded scientist to develop, implement and evaluate this innovative program.

This evidence-based Tai Chi Wellness Program was developed with funding from the state of Mississip-

pi awarded to Covenant Dove, Inc. The Tai Chi program was designed to enhance the quality of life, reduce pain, improve ability to do everyday activities and enhance the mood of nursing home residents in four Mississippi nursing homes. The Tai Chi Wellness Program focused on training nursing staff to provide Tai Chi for arthritis therapy, and evaluating resident outcomes after receiving Tai Chi therapy. Subjectively, both residents and staff reported less pain, greater ease of movement, enhanced appetite and better sleep. Residents and staff were enthusiastic about the program, and residents who never participated in activities or refused to come out of their rooms came to the Tai Chi sessions. The Tai Chi Wellness Program benefited both residents and staff.

UTHSC Staff Appointments

Linda Garceau-Luis to Serve as Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs



Linda Garceau-Luis

Linda Garceau-Luis has been named as vice chancellor for Development and Alumni Affairs. Serving as the senior development officer for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Garceau-Luis will be based in Memphis and serve all three UTHSC campuses. Reporting to Chancellor William F. Owen Jr., MD, Garceau-Luis began on March 1.

Most recently, Garceau-Luis worked for more than five years as an independent consultant, providing development services to large and small not-for-profit organizations. Prior to starting her own firm, she spent 10 years as director of Major and Planned Giving for Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Before assuming that role, she worked for four years as director of major gifts at the State University of New York at Binghamton. Previously Garceau-Luis worked with Dartmouth Medical School for four years as the director of capital gifts.

"Ms. Garceau-Luis brings extensive business acumen and experience to this position," stated Chancellor Owen. "She will provide the leadership and coordination for all private fundraising at UT Health Science Center, working in close collaboration with the leading development and alumni officers of the UT System." He added, "She will provide direction and staffing for development and alumni activities in coordination with the deans of our six colleges and with the leadership of the statewide Health Science Center campuses."

Garceau-Luis holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University and a Master of Arts from Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. She also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Plymouth State College of the University of New Hampshire. She has published several articles on planned giving and endowment, and serves as a board member for a Senior Citizens Foundation and the Monroe Harding Children's Home. She is also a member of the National Committee on Planned Giving, Middle Tennessee Planned Giving Council and the Leave A Legacy organization.

Gosnell Assigned as Associate General Counsel at UTHSC

Devon L. Gosnell, an associate general counsel for the University of Tennessee, was assigned to the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in July and relocated to the UTHSC main campus in Memphis. Her responsibilities include handling litigation for UTHSC and other University units in West Tennessee, as well as providing advice to UTHSC administrators on legal issues.

Since November 2004, Gosnell has served as an associate general counsel in the main office of the university's vice president and general counsel located in Knoxville. She has represented the University in federal and state courts.

Before joining UT, Gosnell was in private practice for nine years handling employment litigation at Ford & Harrison and McKnight Hudson Lewis & Henderson, working in their offices in Memphis and Tampa, Fla.

Prior to joining the firm, she spent 19 years in Memphis working for the Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee. During that period, her work entailed prosecuting criminal cases and defending the United States in civil cases.

Gosnell holds both her bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from West Virginia University in Morgantown, W. Va. She also holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Memphis and a Master of Divinity degree from Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis. She is licensed to practice law in Tennessee, West Virginia and Florida.



Devon Gosnell

Scheid Named New Vice Chancellor for Academic, Faculty, Student Affairs

On September 1, Cheryl R. Scheid, PhD, assumed the position of vice chancellor for academic, faculty and student affairs.

As vice chancellor, Dr. Scheid will be responsible for identifying and implementing academic process improvements, and the establishment and enforcement of academic policies that affect UTHSC's students and faculty. Dr. Scheid will work closely with the UTHSC's college deans, Offices of Research, Equity and Diversity, and Human Resources, as well as the UT System Provost, Dr. Bob Levy.

Prior to joining UTHSC, Dr. Scheid was interim provost and vice chancellor for faculty administration, as well as professor of physiology and surgery for the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Mass. While simultaneously holding these positions, she led several major initiatives including, a successful accreditation visit for the medical school, a task

force to review faculty salaries and address gender-based disparities and an interdepartmental research program on kidney stone disease.

During this same time period, Dr. Scheid held a temporary position as vice president for academic affairs at UMass Memorial Health Care, the clinical partner of the medical school.

Dr. Scheid began her academic career as assistant professor of physiology at Tufts University School of Medicine after receiving her doctorate in biology from Boston University. She is internationally recognized in the field of urology and has published extensively in the area.



Dr. Cheryl Scheid

Johnson Assumes New Role as Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty and Student Retention



Dr. Dianna Johnson

Dianna A. Johnson, PhD, assumed her role as the associate vice chancellor for faculty and student retention in the fall.

Reporting to Cheryl R. Scheid, Dr. Johnson is responsible for facilitating the UT Health Science Center's processes for recruiting faculty, as well as developing and executing faculty development and retention programs.

She has been the assistant dean for faculty affairs at UTHSC since 2002. Dr. Johnson held the Roger L. Hiatt Endowed Professorship and served as director of

research in the UTHSC Department of Ophthalmology since 1997. She was director of the UTHSC Center for Vision Research from 1997 to 2002.

Before coming to Memphis, Dr. Johnson was the Research to Prevent Blindness Stein Professor and director of basic research in the Department of Ophthalmology, as well as assistant dean for research training at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston Medical School.

She has made significant research contributions in the area of retinal development through her publications, collaborations and success in garnering extramural funding for construction of laboratory facilities and for shared research equipment.

Third Forensic Nursing Conference: Collaborative Response to Violence

In July 2006, more than 150 community leaders, health care professionals, and students from Baptist College of Nursing, joined UTHSC College of Nursing students, faculty and staff for the third Forensic Nursing Conference. The subject of the conference, Collaborative Response to Violence, brought together resources and professionals from the Psychiatric Program and Forensic Doctor of Nursing Program at the UTHSC College of Nursing.

The conference is organized to help health care professionals from various disciplines increase their knowledge and collaboration skills in order to provide mental health and psychiatric care to the forensic populations and victims of crime. The event also serves to promote awareness of systems that might prevent violence in the community.

Content of the 2006 program included the prevalence of psychiat-

ric disorders within the incarcerated population, experiences with the incarcerated population, assessments and intervention and prevention strategies. Speakers included nurses who held leadership positions in nursing education and had completed research in the forensic population.

The next Forensic Nursing Conference will be a collaborative effort with psychiatry and public health. It will be held in January 2008.

Using Dialogue to Transform Health

A "Dialogue Among Scholars of Health as Expanding Consciousness" was held at UTCN in August under the leadership of Margaret Newman, PhD, FAAN, adjunct professor at UTCN. The dialogue was offered at the request of Emiko Endo, PhD, professor at Miyazaki Prefectural Nursing University, Japan, who is a leading researcher in the application of Health as Expanding Consciousness (HEC) in the nursing care of cancer patients. Dr. Endo was accompanied by 14 of her research collaborators.

Dorothy Jones, PhD, FAAN, professor at Boston College, and Carol Picard, PhD, director of graduate studies, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, authors of the book, "Giving Voice to What We Know: Margaret Newman's Theory of Health as Expanding Consciousness in Nursing Practice, Research and Education," were prominent among the invited participants. Other U.S. HEC scholars included Anne-Marie Barron, PhD; Jane Flannagan, PhD; Kathryn Musker, PhD; Margaret Dexheimer Pharris, PhD, FAAN; Katherine Rosa, PhD; and Avonne Yang, BSN. Representing UTCN were Cheryl Stegbauer, PhD, associate dean, and J. Carolyn Graff, PhD.

The dialogue was based on a concept of group interaction initiated by David Bohm, noted theoretical physicist, who advocated a way of learning together by carefully listening to one another's ideas without judgment. Bohm proposed that true dialogue can lead to a transformation of consciousness, both individually and collectively.

At the conclusion of the two-day conference, plans were made to form subsequent dialogue meetings in Japan and at other scientific meetings in the United States to advance the application of HEC in nursing practice. For further information go to www.healthasexpandingconsciousness.org.



Participants in the Newman's Dialogue on Health as Expanding Consciousness included a number of Japanese visitors:

Back row: Nagai Tsuneo, Kathleen Musker, Saito Ryoko, Emiko Endo, Margaret Newman, Satsuki Kubo, Mitoko Senzaki, Naomi Morota

Semicircle: Mari Takaki, Hideko Minegishi, Yasumi Matsubara, Hitomi Maeda, Mariko Takahashi, Hiroko Shimizu, Toshie Ogasawara, Chizuko Sakashita, Saori Miura

Campus Progress

Progress is being made throughout the UT Health Science Center. A snapshot of the most recent happenings is provided here.



UT Cancer Research Building

The UT Cancer Research Building, a 90,000-square-foot facility located at 19 South Manassas, will house 32 state-of-the-art labs, a 60-seat lecture hall and conference rooms on every floor.

An open house for the campus community was held March 14, and a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in May.



Student Lounge in SAC Revamped

Kirk Hevener, former president of the Student Government Association Executive Council, left, and Ken Brown, JD, UTHSC chief of staff, cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the new student lounge.

A revamped student lounge brought new life to the Student Alumni Center (SAC) when it opened last May.

Knoxville Pharmacy Building



Construction on the UTHSC Knoxville campus is also in the works with a groundbreaking for the new Pharmacy building set for September.

UT-Baptist Research Park and RBL



The UT-Baptist Research Park, above, will consist of the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, circled, as well as 1.4 million square feet of laboratory, research, education and business space in the heart of the Memphis Medical Center.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the RBL was held March 9.

Professional Entry Program Graduates 55 Students



UTHSC alumnus Jeanette Lancaster, PhD, RN, FAAN, who is also president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, addressed the graduates in December.

On Friday, December 1, 2006, the UT Health Science Center College of Nursing graduated 55 men and women in its first BSN class in seven years. More than 50 percent of the students who enrolled in this professional entry program entered with a bachelor's degree or equivalent. After 16 months to two years of study, the graduates emerged with a second degree, prepared to sit for RN licensure.

UTHSC alumnus Jeanette Lancaster, PhD, RN, FAAN, joined the December program by providing the charge to the graduates. Dr. Lancaster is the Sadie Heath Cabanis Professor of Nursing and dean of the University of Virginia School of Nursing. She is also president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

A significant number of graduates have already decided to pursue advanced nursing degrees and are planning to re-enroll in the UTHSC College of Nursing.

December 2006 - College of Nursing Graduates

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Pauline Linda Adhoch, BS Memphis
 Sarah Elizabeth Amos Memphis
 Terri-Lynn Barger Arlington, Tenn.
 Candace Corneshia Barnes Clarksdale, Miss.
 Roger Dale Barnes, BA Kodak, Tenn.
 Kyle David Beall, BS Memphis
 Kathleen Herrod Behnke, BA Memphis
 Katherine Amanda Bousson, BS Collierville, Tenn.
 Leah Denise Box Collierville, Tenn.
 Amanda Oakman Caldwell, BS Memphis
 Blair Boeving Cannon, BS Memphis
 Hope Antionette Clayburn, BA Memphis
 Heather Keith Colley, BS Cordova, Tenn.
 Anita Ann Condon Memphis
 Keanna Shenise Dandridge, BA Cordova, Tenn.
 Margaret Ann Dibble Collierville, Tenn.
 Emma Di Cesare, BS, MS Memphis
 LaTonya Yvette Dowell, BST Memphis
 Brenda Joyce Echols Memphis
 Sally Feh Fomuso Memphis
 Tiffany Rene' Green, BA Texarkana, Ark.
 Quitah Nilaja Imani Haille Memphis
 Cille Johnson Hale Cordova, Tenn.
 Artangela Demetria Henry, BS Memphis
 Irene Burch Hervery Memphis
 Nancy Ann Hunt Covington, Tenn.
 Emily Meredith Jaynes, BS Greeneville, Tenn.

Lee Sanders Kauerz, BS Memphis
 Claudia Jean Kones Memphis
 Audra Aldridge Laney Starkville, Miss.
 Stephanie M. Lewis Drummonds, Tenn.
 Ayishia Keveta Lowe, BS Memphis
 JoAnna Marie Maltsberger Cordova, Tenn.
 Ande' Olga Marie McDaniel, BA Germantown, Tenn.
 James Mark McLaughlin, BA Memphis
 Claudette Elizabeth Morrison, BS Memphis
 Erin Debra Nickleson, BS Memphis
 Connie Murphree Pfeiffer Arlington, Tenn.
 Kimberly Dawn Polk Cordova, Tenn.
 Melanie Elizabeth Prince, BS Winchester, Tenn.
 Janice R. Ransfer Bartlett, Tenn.
 Delores Roberson Memphis
 Timothy R. Stewart Munford, Tenn.
 William Jerod Thornton Middleton, Tenn.
 Jessica Faith Trautman Germantown, Tenn.
 Venessa Tucker, BS Southaven, Miss.
 Aditya Surendrapal Tyagi, BEngr, MS Memphis
 Erica Michelle Van Arsdale, BS Germantown, Tenn.
 Mary Kathryn Vescovo, BS Memphis
 Jennifer Blake Voss Germantown, Tenn.
 Savannah Ann White West Memphis, Ark.
 Stella Annette Wilburn Moscow, Tenn.
 Lillian Karonia Wilkerson Memphis
 Kristine C. Wilson Cordova, Tenn.
 Ternisa Lenette Wilson-Vaughn Memphis

College of Nursing December Graduates (Continued)

Master of Science in Nursing

Joyce Deann Anschutz, BSN Bartlett, Tenn.
 Mark Lyndon Baker, BSN Tazewell, Tenn.
 Norma Carol Baker, BSN Lexington, Tenn.
 Eric Beachell, BSN Lakeland, Tenn.
 Amber Lynn Berry, BSN Memphis
 Brian Christopher Cain, BSN Memphis
 Jenipher Elizabeth Chaney, BSN Brighton, Tenn.
 Brandisha Nichole Chism-Yokie, BSN Memphis
 Maria Kristina Christides, BS, BSN Memphis
 Ginger Marie Collins, BSN Olive Branch, Miss.
 Courtney Gooch Davis, BSN Germantown, Tenn.
 James Carl Duncan Jr., BSN Collierville, Tenn.
 Susan Davis Earl, BSN Collierville, Tenn.
 Laura H. Evans, BSN Rogersville, Tenn.
 Christina Lee Feinstone, BS, BSN Memphis
 April Holley Fraiser, BSN Booneville, Miss.
 Kristine Elaine Gable, BA, BSN Memphis
 Lonnell Gant, BSN Memphis
 Jory Gates, BSN Memphis
 Deborah Louise Graves, BSN Jackson, Tenn.
 Mark Allen Hassler, BSN Clarksville, Tenn.
 Valerian Keith Hendrix, BA, BSN Memphis
 Melissa Marie Hessock, BSN Clarksville, Tenn.
 Suzanne Michelle Hester, BS, BSN Marion, Ark.
 Sara Elizabeth Hulett, BSN Memphis
 Stacye Denise Jeter, BSN Brownsville, Tenn.
 Amanda Claire Johnson, BSN Iuka, Miss.
 Mary Jane Jones, BSN Cordova, Tenn.
 Sissy Diane Jones, BSN Bartlett, Tenn.
 Cindy Grosman Katz, BSN Germantown, Tenn.
 Robert David Lane, BA, BSN, MSW, MPH Tulsa, Okla.
 Jayme Carol Leke, BSN Lexington, Tenn.
 Julia Conner Mendez, BSN Memphis

Mindy Ann Mullins, BSN Oxford, Miss.
 Rachel L. Murray, BSN Cordova, Tenn.
 Jennifer Patterson O'Dell, BSN Memphis
 Bonnie Susan Poston, BSN Memphis
 Elizabeth Ellen Smith, BSN Mishawaka, Ind.
 Amiee Foley Stooksberry, BSN Martin, Tenn.
 Kelly Baker Wade, BS, BSN Cordova, Tenn.
 Wendy Abington Whitaker, BS, BSN Mason, Tenn.
 Charonda Lynnice Williams, BSN Cordova, Tenn.

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Sattaria Smith Dilks, BSN, MSN Lake Charles, La.
 Rebecca Lee Matthews, BSN, MNS Jonesboro, Ark.
 Stacey Ann Mitchell, BSN, MSN Magnolia, Tenn.
 Claudia Patricia Neira, BSN, MSN Lakeland, Tenn.
 Sarah Jane Rhoads, BSN, MSN Sherwood, Ark.
 Arthur Jack Zwerling, BS, MS, MSN Elkins Park, Pa.

Doctor of Nursing Science

Barbara Jean Cherry, BSN, MBA, MSN Lubbock, Texas
 Rhonda Marie Gee, BSN, MSN Pana, Ill.
 Cecelia Hope Hartz, BSN, MSN Little Rock, Ark.
 Brian W. Higgerson, BSN, MSN Nashville, Tenn.
 Brenda Joyce Walters Holloway, BSN, MSN
 Spanish Port, Ala.
 Patricia Joy Ketterman, BSN, MSPH Newport, Tenn.
 Debra Pecka Malina, BSN, MS, MBA Memphis
 Kathleen Theresa McCoy, BSN, MS Cookeville, Tenn.
 Tina Denise Thornton, BSN, MSN Bartlett, Tenn.
 Stephanie Gene Tyler, BS, MSN Memphis
 Sherry S. Webb, BSN, MSN Germantown, Tenn.
 Rita Rich West, BSN, MSN Memphis
 Tina V. White, BSN, MSN Peoria, Ill.

UT Launches New Strategic Plan for **FUTURE**

On September 19, William F. Owen Jr., MD, chancellor of the UT Health Science Center, addressed a standing-room-only crowd at Freeman Auditorium in the Hamilton Eye Institute during the launch of the UT branding campaign titled "Future."

Although the Chancellor was in Nashville participating in a previously scheduled meeting, via teleconference he reinforced the pivotal role the UT brand and image will play in distinguishing our organization and positioning us for even greater success. More than 250 pom-pom waving members of the UTHSC faculty and staff gathered at Freeman Auditorium and in the GEB to participate in the simulcast.

UT President John Petersen, PhD, spoke to six locations across the state, listening intently to the cheers from UT colleagues statewide. The simulcast is available on the Web at <http://future.tennessee.edu>.



From a Student's Point of View

A current BSN student made the time to send us some frank observations, which we want to share with you. Identifying information has been altered to protect the student's identity.

Well, I know we often moan about the abundance of in and out of class work we have to do, and WE DO have a great deal of work to do, especially compared to other BSN programs. However, as a group of us discussed one day in skills lab, excellence is expected of us. We are led by excellence and a great deal is expected from us. I guess that should really be viewed as a compliment and not a curse.

Yesterday I learned a very valuable lesson, one that has been reinforced to us by our faculty (time and time again). There is an elderly man who was involved in a motor vehicle accident and has been in the unit for quite some time. He can't talk due to his trach. He is legally blind and couldn't hear thunder. He suffered several cervical vertebrae fractures and has a halo to keep his back in place since he couldn't bear the corrective operation. He has no teeth, and he is diabetic. Not being the most excited about this gerontologic aspect of nursing, I really wasn't keen on caring for him. How dare I though?

So, I helped the nurse get "Grandpa" as he is now known back to bed, helped bathe him, helped place a Dobhoff Tube (yeah!) and did the normal nursing grunt work as most externs do. I turned off the light and Grandpa grabbed my hand. He had been in pain and often would point to where the pain was. I thought he was going to show me where it hurt. Instead, he took my hand, held it tightly on his chest, and proceeded to pat me and rub my arm with his other hand. That's all he needed. He was doing fine, but he just wanted the company and appreciated my time with him.

The time came for shift change and report, and the nurse who was assigned to him for the night shift pitched a fit in front of the whole staff and refused to take care of him. She needed a patient who was "sicker than he was and one who would help keep her awake during the night." She continued to say that she would turn around and go home if the charge nurse didn't change her assignment.

The charge nurse immediately changed the assignment in the already understaffed unit.

I felt compelled to share this with everyone. The UT College of Nursing is preparing us to be that nurse who doesn't mind taking care of the elderly man. The UT College of Nursing is teaching us to meet his needs and plan our care around what he needs and not what we want. The UT College of Nursing is pushing us into recognizing excellence and preparing us to utilize this excellence in our scope of practice.

Let's remember this when we want to gripe about ALL we have to do, or we gripe about how much personal time we don't have, or we gripe about discussion board, or we gripe about test questions we don't agree with, or we gripe and we gripe and we gripe. There is a pattern here. AND I AM A GRIPER MYSELF! We will come out of school head and shoulders above the rest. We already are. I gripe about my alternative experience requirement, but we have the privilege of observing in areas some seasoned nurses will never get to experience.

We are sitting pretty, and we are about half-way through this program. I personally feel it will be down-hill from here; and when we get to the floor as a licensed nurse, people will notice something different about us. We will be ready and more than prepared to do our jobs. We will be the ones who will quickly be in charge. We will be the ones that people will come to for advice and expertise. And this will all be because we have endured these 16 months. What is 16 months of hard work compared to a career of excellence? Not much in my book.

So, I don't know why I chose to send this. I just felt compelled to share the fact that we are being prepared for great things through ALL of this work. I felt as if some of you needed a pep-talk.

The cool thing is that we have been forced to rely on each other. I will venture to say that I could go around the room and share some sort of personal experience with almost every person in our class. How rare is that? So keep up the hard work because it is already paying off.

Here's an awesome and should-be inspirational quote from Faye Abdellah, one of the theorists in our Issues book, from her speech at her induction to the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2000:

"We cannot wait for the world to change.... Those of us with intelligence, purpose, and vision must take the lead and change the world. Let us move forward together! ... I promise never to rest until my work has been completed!"

"All my best!"

Scholarships Awarded in College of Nursing

During academic year 2006 to 2007, the College of Nursing was involved in the allocation of \$214,140 in scholarship funds to 143 graduate students and 54 undergraduate students. Approximately half of the funds originated from one-year federal grants, one-time donations or the UT System. The other half came from repeat donors and endowed scholarships.

Virtually all scholarship money allocated by the College of Nursing is based on one or both of two key criteria: student financial need and/or student academic performance. In fact, inquiries related to the availability of scholarship funds are typically among the first questions asked by entering nursing students. Our response is consistent, "While some scholarship money is available, the amount is far less than what we would like." As such, we welcome discussions from potential donors to help support our growing nursing programs. Please contact any UTHSC College of Nursing faculty member or Dean Donna Hathaway if you would like to discuss the possibility of becoming a College of Nursing scholarship donor.

| <i>Scholarship</i> | <i>Distribution</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Andrew Holt | \$10,000 |
| Marie Buckley | \$1,900 |
| Chancellor's Minority (tuition) | |
| Elizabeth Club | \$3,000 |
| Faculty Minority Endowed Scholarship | \$3,835 |
| Grace Wallace | \$5,315 |
| Roane County | \$5,000 |
| Ruby L. Stephenson | \$4,711 |
| Ester J. Trentham | \$1,800 |
| Frances Washburn | \$3,000 |
| Absher Memorial | \$1,938 |
| UMC - North AR | \$2,000 |
| UMC - North MS | \$9,000 |
| UMC - RN to BSN | \$2,000 |
| UMC - Shelby County | \$13,000 |
| AENT | \$65,436 |
| NAT | \$16,205 |
| Whitehead Grad & U/Grad | \$45,000 |
| Josephine Circle | \$21,000 |
| Total | \$214,140 |

◆ 143 Graduates received scholarship funds during the July 2006 to June 2007 distribution

◆ 54 Undergraduates received scholarship funds during the July 2006 to June 2007 distribution

College Granted Accreditation

Earning college accreditation is not for the faint of heart. Months of preparation precede a grueling three-to four-day site visit by academic and clinical experts. As the UTHSC College of Nursing experience attests, self-study and comprehensive written reports are derigueur for the process. The reward is accreditation for a five-year period, at which time it has to go through the process all over again.

After beginning the self evaluation in January 2005, the College of Nursing received official word this past October from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education that their baccalaureate program met all four accreditation standards. "The evaluators confirmed that our program is extremely high quality and our faculty and staff exceptional," said Susan R. Jacob, PhD, RN, professor and executive associate dean and self-study coordinator.

New Nursing Faculty and Staff

Faculty

- Kathy Gaffney, Instructor
- Irma Jordan, Instructor
- Linda Thompson, Instructor

Staff

- Arabella Mitchell, RN
- Erwin Story, Program Coordinator II
- Helen Dotson, Administrative Aide

Distance Learning Leads Dane to On-Site Observership

The Kingdom of Denmark may seem a world away when measured in miles, but student observer Eva Nielsen has bridged the distance with no trouble at all. Since her arrival in early February, Eva has enhanced her undergraduate nursing studies at the University College Oresund in Copenhagen through an observership arrangement with the UTHSC College of Nursing. While in her home country, Eva was able to participate in the online Health of Populations course taught by Dr. Jackie Burchum. Eva is continuing her community health focus during her stay in Memphis.

"This online program is a completely new learning experience for me," Eva said. "I'm impressed by its high degree of organization and the depth of interaction by its participants." She added, "The program gives a glimpse into the high standards held by the institution. Memphis should be proud to be the home of the UT College of Nursing."

"This whole process has been made surprisingly easy by multiple people on this campus, as well as by Eva herself and her faculty member in Denmark," said Dr. Cheryl Stegbauer,

associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Nursing, who serves as Eva's international coordinator.

"Connie Burk has been incredibly accessible, knowledgeable and responsive throughout this process. She and Cheryl Scheid demonstrated a serious level of cooperation and skill at helping orchestrate this effort," she stated. Connie serves as director of international affairs reporting to Cheryl Scheid, vice chancellor of the Department of Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs. "It also makes a tremendous difference that Eva is one of those people who executes assigned tasks both promptly and thoroughly. Everyone involved with this initiative was eager to find the best solutions as rapidly as possible."

Dr. Stegbauer also stressed that technology made a tremendous difference in the ease of bringing the Danish student to America. "We were able to communicate with people half-way around the world as if they were sitting next door. That ease in planning



Eva Nielsen, a nursing student in Denmark, has enhanced her studies through an observership with the UTHSC College of Nursing.

and execution is very different than we would have been able to do without the technology."

Eva has been working closely with Dr. Susan Jacob, executive associate dean in the College of Nursing, to complete community experiences for the Health of Populations course. Her experiences have included hospice, school health and children with obesity. She will also have an intensive experience at Holy Names, an inner city Catholic Diocese jubilee school.

"This initiative is a true exchange because the result is a richness of cultural exposure from both directions," Dr. Stegbauer said. "We're learning from Eva as well as being her teachers."

Eva plans to return to Denmark in May and come back to Memphis in June to continue the observership for a full semester at the UTHSC College of Nursing. She has completed more than half of the seven semesters required by her home university and expects to finish her nursing degree from University College Oresund in Copenhagen in June 2008. Eva would like to become certified to practice her profession in the United States after graduation in Denmark.

College of Nursing Sponsors Second Annual National Public Health Nursing Conference & Webcast

On May 3 and 4, the UTHSC College of Nursing will sponsor its second annual National Public Health Nursing Conference & Webcast. The theme for the conference will be "Public Health Nursing with Disadvantaged Populations."

Susan Cooper, RN, MSN, the first nurse to be appointed commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health, will be the keynote speaker for the conference. To read about her remarkable career in Public Health Nursing, visit the conference Web site: <http://nursingnet.utmem.edu/phnconference/>.

Individuals may also submit abstracts for peer review through the conference Web site. Papers are solicited in the areas of policy, practice, research and education within the field of Public Health Nursing. All accepted papers will be presented in plenary session and will be videotaped for later webcasting. Not all abstracts must deal with the theme but preference will be given to those papers that focus on disadvantaged populations.

College of Nursing Lauds Outstanding Alumnus



Dr. Ann Cashion

Each year the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association awards one of its alumni for his or her contributions and professional development. The 2007 award goes to Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN. Dr. Cashion is an associate professor and director of the Center for Health Evaluation and Lifestyle Promotion (HELP Center), as well as chair of the Department of Acute and Chronic Care in the UTHSC College of Nursing. The HELP Center is a College of Nursing-led multidisciplinary research and practice center that provides health promotion management and support for individuals with chronic conditions. Dr. Cashion received her BSN from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her MNSc from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences campus, and her PhD from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center where she has been on faculty since 1998. In 2006 she was inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Cashion's research and clinical interests target the effects of genetics and environment on multifactorial disorders such as obesity, diabetes

mellitus and transplantation. During the summer of 2000, she was selected to attend the inaugural Summer Genetics Institute sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research. The purpose of the Summer Genetics Institute is to develop and expand the genetic research capacity among graduate students and faculty in nursing, and to develop and expand the basis for clinical practice in genetics among advanced practice nurses. Dr. Cashion's study, "Genetic Markers of Acute Pancreas Allograft Rejection," was funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The study examined specific genetic markers for their ability to identify transplant recipients who are in sub-clinical stages of acute rejection. Identification of these individuals would allow for earlier treatment and resolution of the rejection episode.

Building on her clinical and research expertise in genetics, Dr. Cashion is actively involved in re-designing nursing curricula at UT to incorporate the rapidly expanding genetic content. In that regard, she has developed two genetic modules that are part of the master's curriculum and teaches a genetics course in the baccalaureate nursing program. In addition, Dr. Cashion teaches an online quantitative research methods course for doctoral students. Dr. Cashion has presented and pub-

lished numerous times on her research findings related to transplantation and genetics. Her article titled, "Emerging Genetic Technologies," was featured in the NINR Monthly Summaries of Nursing Research for April 2004.

In 2005, Dr. Cashion was one of 20 nurses awarded the three-year Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellowship. The fellowship is a leadership development program for nurses in executive positions. She serves as chair of the UTHSC Community Relations committee for the NIH-funded Regional Biocontainment Laboratory as part of her Robert Wood Johnson Leadership Fellowship.

Dr. Cashion is the president of the International Society of Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) and was Program Chairman for their 2006 Annual Conference titled, "Genomic Health Care: The Future is Now." In 2005, she received the Founder's Award from the International Society of Nurses in Genetics. She was also one of 10 nurse scientists featured in the Johnson & Johnson Nurse Scientist video to promote nursing research and the National Institute of Nursing Research. In September 2005, Dr. Cashion was selected to receive the Health Care Provider (Non-Physician) Award during the annual Health Care Heroes Awards, presented by Memphis Business Journal. The award recognized her role as a researcher and in improving the health of the individual.

Three Receive Outstanding Preceptor Awards

Three faculty members will be paid the ultimate tribute by their students when they receive the UT Health Science Center College of Nursing Outstanding Preceptor Awards at the Alumni weekend celebration April 27.

Ricky Maestri, RN, was chosen as the Outstanding Undergraduate Clinical Preceptor, while Pedro Velasquez, MD, and Carol Headley, DNSc, were selected as the 2007 Outstanding Graduate Clinical Preceptors.

A 20-year nursing professional, Ricky Maestri was cited for consistent-

ly demonstrating excellence in clinical education, teaching, mentoring and for his in-depth nursing knowledge. After working in the Burn Intensive Care Unit at The MED (Regional Medical Center at Memphis) for the first five years of his career, he moved to The MED's Wound Care Center (WCC) where he practices today. Maestri is largely responsible for educating and preparing new nurses to care for the WCC patient population, which requires specialized training in hyperbaric treatments and advanced wound care therapies.

On average, he devoted 12 hours per week to teaching nursing students WCC's novel procedures, and contributed more than 96 voluntary hours to helping them learn advance wound care. In recommending Maestri for the award, one of his students said, "Every student who rotated through the WCC has noted how much they have learned and how wonderful and knowledgeable Mr. Maestri is in his area of expertise. He clearly establishes an ideal example

Preceptor...continued on Page 16

UT National Alumni Association's 2007 Outstanding Teacher Award Goes to Alise Farrell



Alise Farrell

The University of Tennessee National Alumni Association presents Alise Farrell with the 2007 Outstanding Teacher Award, which recognizes faculty for their excellence in classroom and/or clinical instruction. Alise joined the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in January 2006, as a clinical instructor in the BSN program. She has over 19 years of experience as a nurse, predominantly in pediatrics at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center. She also has experience in clinical nursing administration, critical care, and staff

development. She has been a nurse educator for three years, serving on the faculty of Methodist School of Nursing where she taught pediatric and adult nursing courses and also served as clinical development specialist for Methodist-LeBonheur Healthcare.

In addition to this year's award for the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association's Outstanding Teacher, she has received the Top 100 Celebrate Nursing Award in 1993 and was nominated for nurse of the year at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center that same year. She was the recipient of the Lola Llewellyn Scholarship Grant in 2001 and in 2006 she was selected to attend the Tennessee Institute for Faculty Excellence.

A native of Memphis, Alise received her BSN from the University

of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis and her MSN from Union University, Germantown campus, with a concentration in nursing education.

Tommie L. Norris, DNS, RN, director of the Entry into Practice Program at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center said this about Alise. "I have worked with Alise for just over one year. Alise is an excellent mentor for the students and serves as their advocate. Her quiet demeanor and caring attitude are an asset in the Introduction to Professional Practice course, which is one of the first courses students complete.

"She is approachable in both the class and clinical setting. Alise is an excellent candidate for this award as she is the perfect role model for students in their flagship clinical course."

Preceptor...continued from Page 15

of an outstanding clinical preceptor for undergraduate students."

Dr. Carol Headley, a nurse practitioner, will be recognized for her consistent dedication to excellent patient care, clinical education, her knowledge of current practice issues and her mentoring of advanced practice nursing students. While guiding students in the Physical Diagnosis course for the past two years at the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, she received high marks as an expert clinical resource for all aspects of care of patients with renal disease. Consistently receiving outstanding ratings from students taking the course, Dr. Headley was noted for her very active involvement with student experiences in hemodialysis.

Several of Dr. Headley's nominations for the award pointed out that she remained steadfast in her com-

mitment to her students despite significant personal challenges. One student commented, "We gained more from her in a few hours than we did from many other clinical opportunities combined. She exemplifies the nurse practitioner's role through her patient communications skills, her knowledge base, her commitment to continuing education and her dedication to those entering the field."

As director of the UTHSC LifeDOC clinic, Dr. Pedro Velasquez impacts the lives of both patients and graduate nursing students. Described as a highly devoted professional by his students, he is also noted for the tremendous respect shown to the nursing profession. "Dr. Velasquez is dedicated to supporting and collaborating in the development of nurse practitioners in the DNP program," said one letter of nomination for the award. Further commenting, the student revealed, "Under his tutelage, I have been motivated to strive for and achieve exceptionally high standards in patient care."

A firm believer in the model of inter-professional practice, Dr. Velasquez consistently demonstrates that he values nurse practitioners as the corner

stones for patient care in both primary and specialty care settings. His students note that his model of practice had led to an increased level of trust between the nursing and medical professions, as well as a deeper understanding of what each has to offer in improving patient care.

As evidence of his commitment to his nursing colleagues, Dr. Velasquez worked intensively to encourage two pharmaceutical companies to sponsor the first clinical fellowship in diabetes for DNP students. He has also sponsored nursing colleagues to receive Fellowship Travel Awards, in the past given only to medical doctors.

Summarizing his impact as an educator, one student pointed out, "His sensitivity and responsiveness to the educational needs of nurses at every level of expertise represent the best of what is possible in a clinical preceptor."



Dr. Pedro Velasquez



Dr. Carol Headley

State of the Nursing Workforce: Looking Better, Still Room for Improvement

On College of Nursing Alumni Day 2007, Friday, April 27, Dr. Peter Buerhaus, senior associate dean for research and the Valere Potter Professor of Nursing at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, will



Dr. Peter Buerhaus

provide his perspective on the state of the nursing workforce. A summary of his observations are noted below.

Overall, the state of the nursing workforce in the United States is tracking more positively today compared to 2000 to 2002, when the current nursing shortage was at its peak. That is the way Dr. Buerhaus assesses the trends in the registered nurse (RN) workforce in 2007. Drawing from analyses of data from the yearly Current Population Survey administered by the U.S. Bureau of Census, and three recent national surveys of RNs which he conducted, Dr. Buerhaus sees clear signs of improvement in many areas. At the same time, he is quick to point out that in some areas, problems persist in the workplace environment that warrant further attention.

Improved Forecast of the Future Age and Supply of RNs

In a study published in January 2007 in the journal *Health Affairs*,

Buerhaus and colleagues provide updated projections of the future age and supply of the RN workforce. The new forecasts, which update earlier forecasts published in 2000 by Buerhaus and his team, indicate a slower rate of increase in the average age of the RN workforce. The study projects the average age will increase from the current 43.3 years to 44.7 years in 2016, which is almost one year younger than previously forecasted.

With respect to the development of a future shortfall of nurses — a shortage predicted to reach 800,000 by 2020 — Buerhaus now projects the shortage will be half as large, reaching 340,000 by the year 2020. The shortage is projected to take longer to develop which will give workforce planners several more years to implement strategies to head off the future shortage. The reason for the improved forecast as reported by Buerhaus and his team is attributed to the increase in nursing by people in their late 20s and early 30s.

Buerhaus adds that even a shortage of 340,000 is still large enough to incapacitate the health care system and remains a major threat to the health of Americans, and will have global implications as well. But, according to Buerhaus, the improved forecasts show that it is possible to make improvements in what many considered to be an overwhelming challenge. In fact, in just six years, he indicates that the estimated

future projected shortage has been cut by more than half, and we now have a great chance of making even further improvements in these projections.

Rising Hospital Employment

On another front, Buerhaus and his team report that RN earnings (both in hospitals and among other employers) grew substantially in recent years, and that hospitals have added nearly 185,000 RNs to their staffs in 2003 and 2004.

Workplace Environment

Comparing results across national random sample surveys of RNs conducted in 2002, 2004 and 2006, Buerhaus observes improvement in 18 of 20 measures designed to assess the quality of the workplace asked in each of the three surveys. In particular, overtime hours have decreased, job and career satisfaction has risen considerably, and many more RNs in 2006 than in either 2002 or 2004 would recommend nursing to a qualified student.

At the same time, Buerhaus notes that RNs and others he has surveyed recently (physicians, hospital CEOs and chief nursing officers) indicate serious concerns about the impact of the nursing shortage on hospitals' capacity to care for patients, care processes, nurses' ability to provide care, and on the quality and safety of patient care as measured by the Institute of Medicine's six aims for improving the quality of health care systems.

Lost Touch Since Graduation? Join the UT Alumni Online Directory



Search for friends and make new connections with the University of Tennessee's exclusive Alumni Online Community. Membership is exclusive and free to alumni. You simply have to visit the Web site www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UTK or visit the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association's Web site at www.utalumni.utk.edu.

In order to take advantage of all that your community has to offer, you must register to establish a User ID and password through a quick and easy process. You only need to register for the community once. When you return on future visits, enter your User ID and password when prompted when you go to the member's only areas of the community.

The online community allows you to search for classmates, e-mail your classmates, post class notes, check for upcoming alumni events in your area and find out more information about local alumni chapters.

If you are not an alumnus, but are affiliated with this community in some way, you can e-mail the community administrator to inquire about access to the community services.

Be More.

Nursing Alumni Day Speaker Set for 2008

For those looking ahead to the College of Nursing Alumni Day in 2008, our speaker will be Tim Porter-O'Grady, EdD, ScD(h), APRN, FAAN, a senior partner of Tim Porter-O'Grady Associates, Inc., in Atlanta, Ga. Following is some background information on his experience.

Dr. Tim Porter-O'Grady has been involved in health care for 37 years and has held roles from staff nurse to senior executive in a variety of health care settings. As senior partner of an international health care consulting firm, he specializes in health futures, organizational innovation, conflict and change, as well as health service delivery models. He is noted for his work on shared governance models, clinical leadership, conflict and health futures.

Dr. Porter-O'Grady is associate professor and leadership scholar at

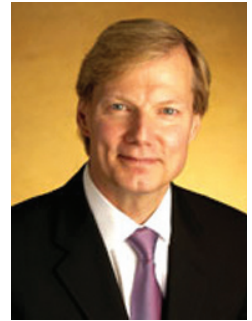
Arizona State University in Phoenix, College of Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, 2007 Visiting Scholar at University of Maryland, School of Nursing and is an adjunct professor at Lakehead University, School of Public Health, Ontario, Canada.

He holds graduate degrees in nursing and leadership, and a doctorate in learning behavior. In addition, he is currently a doctoral candidate in organizational leadership. Dr. Porter-O'Grady received a Doctor of Science degree, honoris causa, from the Medical University of Ohio. He has done postdoctoral work in aging and is board certified in gerontology. He is also certified by the Georgia Supreme Court's Office of Dispute Resolution as a registered mediator and arbitrator.

Dr. Porter-O'Grady has published extensively in health care with over

165 proctored journal articles and 17 books and is a five-time winner of the AJN Book of the Year Award. He has consulted internationally with over 900 institutions

and has lectured in over 1,000 settings internationally. He has held a number of offices in professional associations and national and community boards such as the vice chair of the governing board of Catholic Health East, governor with Sigma Theta Tau International, president of AID Atlanta, and the Georgia Nurse's Foundation, to name a few.



Dr. Tim Porter-O'Grady

First Chief of Advanced Practice Is UTHSC Alumnus

Elizabeth Fuselier, DNP, assistant professor of clinical nursing at the University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston, has been named to a newly created position at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. She is now chief of Advanced Practice.

While continuing as a University of Texas School of Nursing faculty member, Elizabeth will work to establish a cutting-edge advanced practice model for nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants while expanding the number and types of advanced practice health care providers within the hospital. She will oversee all elements of the Advanced Practice program and collaborate with hospital administrators and staff.

"Having a chief of Advanced Practice position is, to my knowledge, a first in the nation," said University of Texas School of Nursing Dean Patricia L. Starck, DSN. "This signifies that nursing care will be at the highest level for patients at Memorial Hermann, and it also will create an ideal learning environment for students in our doctoral and master's programs."

Elizabeth earned her BSN, master's and DNP at

the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing. In 2005, while still a doctoral nursing student, she was the lead nurse practitioner at the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina crippled the city. The clinic remained fully operational during and after the hurricane. In addition to caring for more than 400 patients, the hospital housed nearly 700 staff and 520 family members and their pets.

Following Katrina's devastating force, the hospital took in hundreds of rescued New Orleans citizens, patients from other hospitals and walk-in patients. Operating with no power and limited water and diesel fuel for its generators, the hospital went into "emergency room mode." With the help, support and quick response of her Memphis advisor and friend Dr. Cheryl Stegbauer (UTHSC College of Nursing) and of Dean Donna Hathaway, Elizabeth was able to coordinate the evacuation of Ochsner's critically ill patients.

For more information, on Dr. Fuselier, see <http://son.uth.tmc.edu/news1.cfm#drfuselier>.



Elizabeth Fuselier, DNP, a UTHSC College of Nursing alum who helped coordinate the evacuation of patients from New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, has been named chief of Advanced Practice at the Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center.

UT Health Science Center College of Nursing

Alumni Day ♦ April 27, 2007

Hilton Memphis

- ❑ Continuing Education Courses focusing on the Nursing Workforce Crisis
 - ❑ Special Recognition of the Golden Graduates of 1957
 - ❑ Alumni Awards Luncheon
 - Presentation of Golden Graduates of 1957
 - Presentation of Outstanding Alumna Award
 - Recognition of the University of Tennessee National Alumni Association 2007 Outstanding Teacher
 - ❑ Alumni Reunion Reception
- ❑ Class Reunions for the classes of 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997. If you would like assistance in coordinating a special event for your class, contact the UT Office of Alumni Affairs at (800) 733-0482 or (901) 448-4974.

Participate in an all-day continuing education program focusing on the Nursing Workforce Crisis featuring the Mary L. Morris Distinguished Visiting Professor, Dr. Peter Buerhaus, senior associate dean for research, Valere Potter Professor of Nursing, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. Also available is a community-wide workforce collaboration, which will include a status report on Mid-South academic and practice nurse leaders' efforts to provide a unified approach to the nursing workforce crisis and will be led by prominent chief nurse executives and deans of schools of nursing.

For more information:
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Office of Alumni Affairs
62 S. Dunlap, Suite 520
Memphis, TN 38163
(800) 733-0482 or (901) 448-4974
utalumni@utmem.edu
<http://www.utmem.edu/nursing>

The Hilton Memphis
939 Ridgeland Blvd.

For reservations call (901) 684-6664 or (800) 445-8667 and ask for the UT College of Nursing room block to receive the special rate of \$114 per night.

The UT Health Science Center
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs
62 S. Dunlap, Suite 500
Memphis, Tennessee 38163

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Memphis, TN
Permit No. 4026

E07-3860-002-07

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 27, 2007

2007 Alumni Day: “The State of the Nursing Workforce in 2007: The Nursing Shortage, Employment and Earnings, Quality and Safety of Care, Projections of the Future, and Implications for Policy”

May 3, 2007

2nd Annual Public Health Nursing Conference

July 26, 2007

**Elinor Reed Distinguished Visiting Professor featuring
Dr. Marcia Van Riper**

September 1, 2007

MSN Nurse Anesthesia Application Deadline

January 15, 2008

BSN Application Deadline

February 1, 2008

MSN (except Nurse Anesthesia), DNP and PhD Application Deadline