

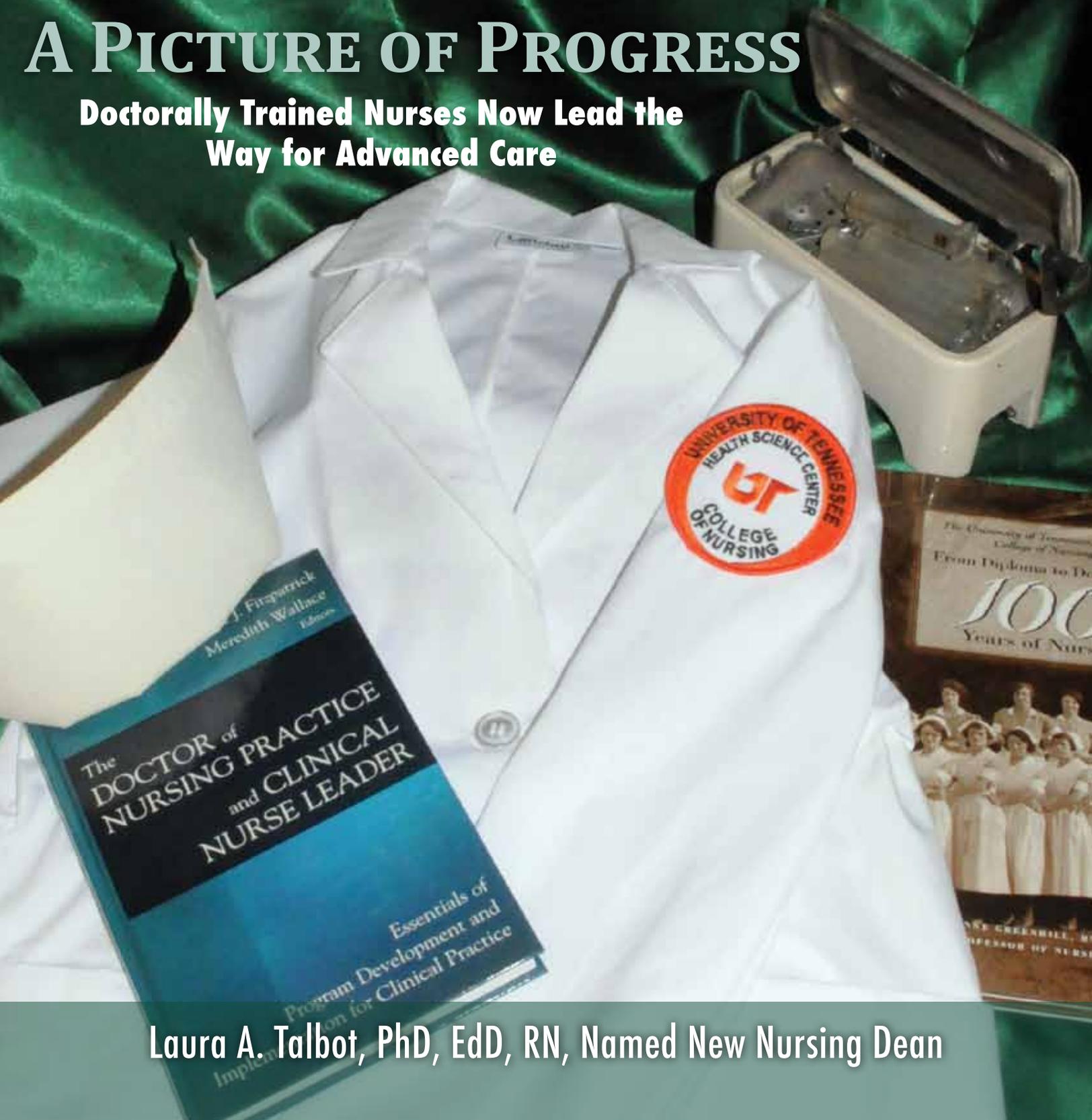
# NURSING

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

SPRING 2012

## A PICTURE OF PROGRESS

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Way for Advanced Care**



**Laura A. Talbot, PhD, EdD, RN, Named New Nursing Dean**



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

STEVE J. SCHWAB, MD



It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Laura Talbot has been selected as dean for the College of Nursing effective June 1, 2012. The search committee chaired by Dr. Kennard Brown, Dr. David Stern and ably represented by nursing faculty, identified three national leaders as candidates for dean. The input of our hospital partners, the deans of the colleges, the university system administration, and the faculty of the College of Nursing was sought to arrive at final candidates.

Dr. Talbot emerged as the selected candidate based on her extensive administrative experience in leading large diverse organizations and her ability to interact with the leadership of our partner institutions. In addition, her relationships with government funding agencies, as well as having a national research portfolio and a diverse clinical background as a practicing nurse, made her an ideal dean for UTHSC.

I would be remiss if I did not share with you that Dr. Talbot's negotiating skills are substantial. She has negotiated a formidable metric-based, go-forward package for the College of Nursing that should serve as the springboard for advancing our strong College of Nursing on an ongoing upward trajectory.

I would like to thank Dr. Susan Jacob for her outstanding role as interim dean of the College of Nursing. Her even-handed and thoughtful approach has been essential to set the stage for Dean Talbot. You can read more about the new dean on page 6.

Those who participated in our Centennial Gala on September 17 know it was a truly remarkable and memorable evening. Many thanks to all of the faculty, students, staff, alumni, donors and friends of UTHSC who enthusiastically supported our celebration. For a glimpse of the event, use the scanning software on your smart phone to capture the QR code at the end of this letter. Or, type this link into your browser: <http://www.uthsc.edu/100/>.

UTHSC closed 2011 and opened 2012 with changes that will bolster our progress for years to come. In mid-October, UT College of Pharmacy Dean Dick Gourley stepped down shortly after presiding over the opening of the new \$70 million Pharmacy building in Memphis. He has left UTHSC to take on new challenges as interim president for the University of Tennessee Research Foundation. Marie Chisholm-Burns, PharmD, MPH, FCCP, FASHP, was selected as the next permanent dean for the UT College of Pharmacy, arriving on campus full time in February. Read about her many accomplishments on page 11.

In February, during the UT Board of Trustees meeting held here in Memphis, we were pleased to have Governor Bill Haslam on campus. During lunch the trustees and the governor, who serves as chair of the UT Board, heard a student from each of our six colleges discuss the outstanding education they are receiving at UTHSC. To see our students with Gov. Haslam, turn to page 35.

Strategic alignments with partners, focused commitment to our mission, and support from alumni and friends like you are critical elements in our ability to move forward to even greater achievements. We look forward to working with you as we all build for the future.

Steve J. Schwab, MD  
Chancellor  
The UT Health Science Center



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

SUSAN R. JACOB, PHD, RN (INTERIM)

Welcome to the spring issue of the UTHSC College of Nursing magazine. I believe it will provide a snapshot of the exciting work and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students and alumni.

In this issue we have highlighted our exceptional Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, which was one of the first in the country and is well known for its quality. I know you will enjoy reading about our faculty and alumnae in the various tracks of the DNP program as they describe their unique roles in delivering patient- and family-centered health care to individuals, families and communities.

You will also note in these pages that the CON is experiencing great transition as several faculty and staff are retiring after many years of dedicated service and new faculty and staff have recently joined our ranks. Of course our most notable transition will occur with the June arrival of our new dean, Dr. Laura Talbot. Faculty and staff are looking forward to working under her leadership to continue our tradition of excellence.

There is a lot of energy and excitement among our faculty and staff as we begin moving our offices. We should be completely moved from the Lamar Alexander building into our new space in the 920 Madison building by mid-June. I hope you will drop by this summer and visit with faculty and staff in our new space.

Lastly, I will be transitioning into retirement soon after Dr. Talbot arrives in June. I want to thank you for your support of the college during this time of transition. It has been a privilege to serve alongside mission-driven faculty and staff first in the role of executive associate dean for eight years and then as interim dean during this past year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan R. Jacob".

Susan R. Jacob, PhD, RN  
Interim Dean & Professor  
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**Laura A. Talbot, PhD**

## New Nursing Dean Named

On March 9, Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, announced the appointment of Laura A. Talbot, PhD, EdD, RN, GCNS-BC, as the next dean for the UTHSC College of Nursing. Dr. Talbot is currently the Dean W. Colvard Distinguished Professor in Nursing, and a professor in the College of Health and Human Services at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC). She also serves as director of the UNCC Health Services Research PhD Program. Dr. Talbot has extensive administrative, clinical and research experience, much of it gleaned during her more than 30 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, where she rose to the rank of colonel and commanded a medical squadron. Dr. Talbot will assume her responsibilities at UTHSC in June.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Talbot to the university community," Chancellor Schwab said. "Her combination of extensive experience as a practicing and administrative nurse, combined with her substantial research talents and her proven ability to obtain major grant funding are assets that will be of tremendous benefit in her new role."

Originally from Texas, Dr. Talbot received her undergraduate education at Incarnate Word College School of Nursing in San Antonio. She obtained graduate degrees from California State University in Los Angeles, the University of North Texas in Denton, and Texas Women's University in Denton, focusing on college teaching, studies in aging and nursing. Her postdoctoral work was performed at the Gerontology Research Center and sponsored by the National Institute of Nursing Research and National Institute on Aging, parts of the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Talbot's extensive academic appointments include five years on the faculty of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md., five years on the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Baltimore, Md., and four years at UNCC. Her contributions as a significantly funded researcher, scholarly reviewer, hospital administrator, published author and accomplished professor are augmented by her work as a member and leader of major academic committees, task forces, planning groups and evaluation teams.

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# Welcome & Best Wishes

The College of Nursing recently welcomed three new staff members and will say goodbye to three longtime Nursing employees who are retiring this year.

**Gadsby Creson** joined the Nursing staff in the Office of Academic Affairs on February 15, assuming responsibilities for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program previously fulfilled by Marsha Chorce, who retired later that same month. Creson graduated from Tufts University, School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Mass., with a bachelor's and earned her master's from Memphis College of Art (MCA) where she worked for more than seven years. While at MCA, Creson served as the associate director of Admissions and assistant to the Financial Aid Director, where she worked to develop a more efficient application process. Later Creson advanced to the role of director of Career Services in which she coordinated internship programs. While doing so, Creson forged many new community partnerships and was able to establish more than 100 new internship sites, as well as create an outreach program called the Give Back Program. She also created and maintained 10 years worth of placement statistic data on graduates, which was used to demonstrate the school's institutional effectiveness during MCA's ongoing accreditation process.



**Gadsby Creson**

**Josie Owens-Cox**, administrative services assistant in Student Affairs, became a permanent employee in the College of Nursing in October 2011. Before coming to UTHSC, Owens-Cox worked as a senior business analyst for FedEx, where she retired. Now as part of the Student Affairs team, Owens-Cox, who has a bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from Crichton College (now Victory University), is responsible for all documentation for future students' enrollment packets, which include information for the MSN Clinical Nurse Leader, DNP and PhD programs. Owens-Cox is usually the first face you will see when you visit the College of Nursing as she is charged with meeting and greeting visitors, employees and students of the college.



**Josie Owens-Cox**

**Kevin Webb** joined the College of Nursing practice team in February in an administrative leadership role, responsible for managing current practice contracts and the practice infrastructure. Webb received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing in 2000 from the University of Mississippi, and a Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management in 2005 from UTHSC. He is a registered health information administrator and comes to UTHSC from working with Le Bonheur Children's Hospital as a coding analyst and a health information management specialist since 2005. His previous experience prior to Le Bonheur was as a sales representative with John Morrell and Company.



**Kevin Webb**



**Connie Burgess**

## Burgess to Bid Farewell to Friends After 34 Years

After 34 years of working at UTHSC, 14 of which were in the College of Nursing, Connie Burgess has decided to take the next step and retire. Her official last day is set for April 30.

"I have worked with Connie for most of those 14 years," said Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN, chair and professor of the Department of Acute and Chronic Care. "Initially, Connie worked with Donna Hathaway as Donna's administrative assistant in the Research/PhD program office and later in the dean's office. Then, Connie came to the Acute and Chronic Care Department as our administrative assistant. I have found that, over the many years, it has been a pleasure to work with Connie, and her generosity, willingness to always help, and loyalty will be missed."

Burgess returns the sentiment, stating, "I will miss the many people that I have worked with and come across over the years. I have made a lot of friends here."

Prior to coming to the College of Nursing, Burgess started at UTHSC in 1978 in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences in the College of Allied Health Sciences. She worked there until 1994 and also worked in Personnel Services and the Development Office before moving to Nursing.

A resident of Covington, Tenn., Burgess plans to work on projects at home and spend time on two of her favorite hobbies – painting and cross-stitching. She may also consider working part-time in the Covington area, but that depends on how busy her other projects keep her.



**Veronica Engle, PhD, who helped develop the PhD program at the UTHSC College of Nursing, will retire in June.**

## Engle Leaves Legacy of Many 'Firsts' at UTHSC

June 30, 2012 – which is Veronica F. Engle's official last day before retiring as a nursing professor – may seem like the close of a chapter to her impact on the college. However, when one looks at all her "firsts," it is easy to see that the path she blazed and the people she educated will continue to shape nursing at the UT Health Science Center and beyond.

Veronica F. Engle, PhD, GNP, AHNC, LADS, FGSA, FAAN, first came to the UTHSC College of Nursing in 1986. She was hired as the chair of Medical-Surgical Nursing and served in this position until 1994. This role brought some of her favorite memories of "being part of Dean [Michael] Carter's dynamic administration team, building the research and practice mission and enhancing the teaching and service mission of the College of Nursing."

Before she arrived at UTHSC, Dr. Engle had already earned her PhD – one of only two nurses in the nation who was a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner with a PhD. She came to help recruit new faculty with nursing doctorates and to help expand the college's own research program. In so doing, Dr. Engle helped develop the PhD program, advised the first graduate of the PhD program (June Larrabee, PhD), and taught the first Theory and Quantitative Research Methods courses. She would also come to mentor many of the future leaders of the UTHSC College of Nursing, including Donna Hathaway, PhD; Carol Thompson, PhD; and Mona Wicks, PhD, and guide others as their PhD advisor, including Margaret Hartig, PhD; Leslie McKeon, PhD; and Cheryl Stegbauer, PhD.

As a researcher, her program of research focused on the health status, health status disparities, quality of life, end-of-life care, pain, and comfort needs of black and white nursing home and assisted living residents. Dr. Engle was the principal investigator on the college's first NIH RO1 grant funded by the National Center for Nursing Research to evaluate the health of older adults following nursing home admission. Her second NIH RO1 grant funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research evaluated the health of black and white nursing home residents, and she was one of the first investigators on the UTHSC campus to have NIH RO1 funding to study health disparities. She and her team published extensively in sentinel nursing, geriatrics and gerontology journals.

In the clinical arena, Dr. Engle has taken a holistic approach and integrated Western medicine interventions with evidence-based complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) interventions for older adults as a board certified Gerontological Nurse Practitioner and Holistic Nurse. One example of this is receiving funds from the state of Mississippi to develop, implement and evaluate Sitting Tai Chi Wellness Programs for nursing home residents. Focusing on Western medicine, she and Emily Fox-Hill, PhD, were funded by the Methodist Healthcare Foundation to develop evidence-based very low low-literacy diabetic foot care education materials for faith-based educators. She also assisted advancing nursing practice education by conducting the first needs survey for the nursing practice doctorate, and aiding with the HRSA grant supporting the Clinical Nurse Leader program.

A true educator, Dr. Engle is one of the few faculty members who teach in all three programs – PhD, DNP and CNL. The hardest part of retirement springs from leaving this. "I will miss collaborating with my teaching, research and practice colleagues at the College of Nursing and the UTHSC campus," said Dr. Engle.

Dr. Engle's contributions to UTHSC are plain to see, but she has also been recognized nationally for her work. Some of these prestigious honors include being named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN) in 1992, a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America (FGSA) in 1991, and recognized as one of the Top 20 Nurse Researchers Nationally by the Friends of the NIH National Institute of Nursing Research in 2001.

In her 26 years at UTHSC, Dr. Engle has definitely left a legacy as well as enjoyed it thoroughly, so much so that in retirement she states that in addition to spending more time with her husband and grandchildren she will have to "figure out what I want to do when I grow up!"



# Chorice Says Goodbye to Second Home

After 30 years, Marsha Chorice, assistant director for Academic Programs in the College of Nursing, has said goodbye to her home away from home. Chorice, who retired on Feb. 28 from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, had served almost her entire career in the college's Academic Affairs office. She began her tenure at the university in 1981 and was only away from Nursing's Academic Affairs for a five-year period when she served as a secretary to the dean and an administrative assistant to Dr. Dianne Greenhill in research grants.

With so many years in one office, it will be an adjustment not to come to UTHSC every day; however, it is the people from her second home that she will miss the most.

"Many of these folks have become 'family' to me and I will miss seeing them, talking to them, on an almost daily basis." Chorice added, "I will also miss the interaction with the students."

But, Chorice is taking with her some wonderful memories during her time here at UTHSC. Here are a few of her "favorites." See if her memories also take you back.

- The old Goodman House, where the windows sometimes fell out, air conditioners sometimes worked, and everyone had their own bathroom!
- Getting to meet and work for Ms. Ruth Neil Murry. (Occasionally she would stop by the college and need something typed – I was able to do that for her! Priceless!)
- Our move to our new offices in the Lamar Alexander Building



Marsha Chorice

- Dr. Michael Carter sometimes doing his best work without his shoes on!
- Dr. Donna Hathaway always with a diet coke in her hand!
- Our annual Christmas parties.

Although Chorice is taking many memories with her, others in the College of Nursing will be keeping theirs of her.

"Marsha Chorice exemplifies quality and dedication in all that she does. She has touched so many lives," said Cheryl Stegbauer, PhD, professor and associate dean for Academic Affairs in Nursing. "Marsha leaves a legacy of service and kindness that has been a gift to all of us who have had the pleasure of knowing and working with her."

With extra time that retirement brings, Chorice will be filling it with other favorite things. She and her husband of 41 years plan to do some traveling, spend time on the family farm in Missouri, garden, and play with their grandchildren.

Marsha and Ken, who is retired from Consolidated Freightways and works part-time for Harding Academy, have two children. Kevin (wife Kristin) is an officer with the Memphis Police Department, and Whitney (husband Stephen Sutton) teaches pre-K in Maury City, Tenn. They also have a granddaughter, Abby, (Kevin's daughter) who is 5 and in kindergarten in Bartlett, with another granddaughter on the way and due this spring. Marsha is excited about another addition to the family and the time she will have to spend with them!

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## PHARMACY

# A New Look @ New Leadership

Last semester UTHSC administrators, community leaders, alumni and friends cut the ribbon at the dedication of the College of Pharmacy's new 183,857-square-foot building. A new dean was also named last fall, and Marie Chisholm-Burns, PharmD, MPH, FCCP, FASHP, arrived on campus this semester ready to take the helm.



**Marie Chisholm-Burns, PharmD**

Dr. Chisholm-Burns most recently was head of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Science at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy. A nationally known investigator and educator, she built her reputation with expertise in improving health outcomes by novel methods of medication adherence and health care access.

A native of Long Island, N.Y., she received her undergraduate education at Georgia College. Dr. Chisholm-Burns obtained her BS in pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees at The University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, Ga., and her Master of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

She began her academic career at UGA and the Georgia Health Sciences University (Augusta, Ga.), rising to become professor of Clinical and Administrative Pharmacy at UGA and professor of Medicine at Georgia Health Sciences University. At Georgia, she founded, implemented and managed the statewide Medication Access Program. She was subsequently recruited to the University of Arizona in Tucson.



During January and February 2012, the UTHSC College of Nursing was promoted across the airwaves via WKNO-FM radio. Commercials touting the college for its efforts to train advanced practice nurses and garnering scholarship-winning students rotated through "Morning Edition." Below is one of the scripts that reached the ears of listeners in the Mid-South.

*(Brought to you by) the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where over the past four years fifty students split a half million dollars in scholarships to earn accelerated master's degrees in nursing...right here in Memphis. To learn more, visit [uthsc-dot-edu](http://uthsc-dot-edu).*

## Research Reorganized

Research leadership at UTHSC is being reorganized through the creation of a Research Council and a new position of Senior Associate Vice Chancellor of Research. The Research Council will be responsible for strategic research planning and funds allocation, whereas the Senior Associate Vice Chancellor of Research will oversee the execution of the strategic plan along with day-to-day activity of the Office of Research.

The Research Council, in its initial form, is composed of Chancellor Steve Schwab, MD, two deans, College of Medicine Executive Dean David Stern, MD, and College of Pharmacy Dean Marie Chisholm-Burns, PharmD, and Executive Vice Chancellor Kennard Brown. The newly named Senior Associate Vice Chancellor of Research is Polly Hofmann, PhD. The open Vice Chancellor for Research position prompted the recent evaluation. The Research Council will obviate the need to fill that position and is designed to make the research organization more responsive to investigators by empowering the deans with a direct input into strategic research plans, funds allocation, and research space. It also creates a council that can problem solve on all aspects of all items and resources related to research.

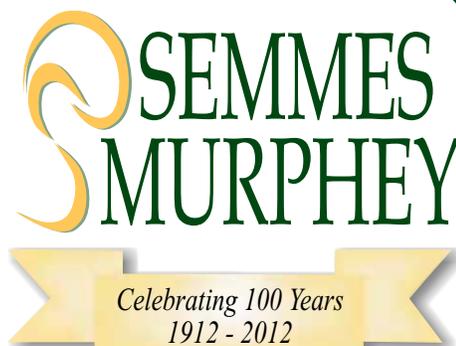
## Expanded Scope Necessitates New Accreditation Process

Since 1999, UTHSC as a university has been accredited as part of the Big Orange University in conjunction with UT Knoxville (UTK), the UT Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), and the UT Space Institute (UTSI). However, due to the Health Science Center's expanded scope, size and resources, UTHSC is now required to be an independently accredited university via the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This accreditation is required for federal student loan support and is a prerequisite for the independent accreditation of all of our professional colleges. Thus, UTK, UTIA and UTSI will be reaccredited as a unit, and UTHSC will be accredited as a unit.

The accreditation review, scheduled for 2015, will examine all aspects of our institution such as our academic programs, the qualifications of our faculty, means of governance, support services for our students, our physical facilities, financial health, and most importantly, our practices related to strategic planning and assessment – referred to as Institutional Effectiveness. Since this is quite an extensive undertaking, preparations have already begun.

## State Board Grants Approval of CNL Program

On February 15, the Tennessee Board of Nursing confirmed full approval for the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) – master's for initial licensure nursing program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Full approval is granted a school that has met the requirements that are set forth by the board and has demonstrated its ability to provide an educational program that meets its standards.



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# A PICTURE OF PROGRESS

## Doctorally Trained Nurses Now Lead the Way for Advanced Care

A quick glance at an early 20th century photograph with nurses in white apron uniforms and matching caps readily reveals that, as most things, the nursing profession has evolved over the years. However, to obtain a full picture of the progress of nursing, one must take a closer look at not just what they wear, but what they do. Nursing has advanced from the days of a training program where a diploma was earned after rotating through various departments in the city hospital to nurses who now practice at the highest level as doctorally prepared practitioners.

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing led the way in advanced practice nationally when it began the practice doctorate in 1999. The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is a full-time doctoral program for the nurse who seeks specialty preparation in advanced levels of practice. Six DNP options are available — Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nursing, Anesthesia, Family Nursing, Forensic Nursing, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, and Public Health Nursing.

Though the names of these options give a hint to what nurses in these capacities do, it is hard to visualize their roles until one looks deeper at the programs and the people involved. On the following pages insight from both alumnae and faculty is shared to show how the DNP shaped a few of their careers and is continuing to change the communities where they work. Often donning a white medical coat, UTHSC DNP graduates provide advanced practice nursing to individuals and families.

The DNP program is designed to educate clinicians while emphasizing:

- philosophical, ethical and scientific principles;
- continued acquisition of knowledge and clinical skills in a specialized area of advanced practice;
- analysis and examination of practice including completion of a residency project.

As a full-time web-enhanced program of study, the DNP is geared both toward individuals who hold a professional entry (BSN or MSN-CNL) nursing degree and to those who have an earned MSN advanced practice degree. The length of the program depends on the student's qualifications and area of concentration. Generally, it takes a minimum of three years for nurses entering with a BSN or MSN-CNL, while those who enter with a MSN nurse practitioner certification can finish the program in a minimum of two years.

The DNP program consists of:

- two, 20-week academic terms per year (some specialties include summer terms);
- on-campus requirements;
- core courses such as philosophy of science, biostatistics, epidemiology, health economics, and policy/leadership;
- an area of specialty concentration, as well as a clinical residency in which a scholarly project is conducted.

Nurses who successfully complete the three-year DNP program of choice will be eligible and prepared to take the national certification examination(s) in their advanced practice specialty.

— by: Rebecca Ennis

*The next few pages provide a snapshot of what several nurses are now doing with their Doctorate of Nursing Practice degrees. Please read their stories for a picture of what the DNP and UTHSC are doing for health care.*



# ADULT/GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE

The DNP Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program focuses on superior preparation for advanced practice nurses in acute care settings. The College of Nursing has prepared critical care advanced practice nurses since 1989.

To prepare the acute care provider, the ACNP focus is on complex monitoring and therapies, high-intensity nursing intervention, and continuous nursing vigilance within the range of high-acuity care for critically ill adult patients experiencing episodic illness, exacerbation of chronic illness, or terminal illness.

## **Beth Baker, DNP, ACNP-BC, CCNS-BC College of Nursing, Class of 2010**

Being a clinical nurse, caring for the critically ill is not only what Beth Baker does on the nurse practitioner service line at Methodist University Hospital. It is who she is.

Being at the bedside is what she's always wanted, but at the same time she's had a desire to continue to learn and grow in her field, which becomes easily evident when one looks at her career history. In 1985, Dr. Baker took her first step in nursing when she graduated from the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing. She then went on to complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Memphis. Next came a master's from the UT Health Science Center in 1993, which allowed her to work as an Advanced Practice Nurse and a Clinical Nurse Specialist for the next 20 years. But even at the time, she wanted more.

"At the time I went thru then [for my master's], I wished I could continue on to complete a doctorate," Dr. Baker remembers. "However, at that time, there was no clinical doctorate, and I am a clinical nurse."

After 20 years as a cardiovascular Clinical Nurse Specialist, she decided it was time to continue her education and do something more professionally. "I chose the Acute Care option because I am truly a hospital-based person," she says. "I enjoy being at the bedside."

Almost as if the DNP program was designed for her, Dr. Baker returned to UTHSC to quench her ongoing desire for the next level of nursing; she graduated in 2010. As a DNP she continues to do what she loves most – stay at the bedside – but now she brings an added measure of insight and research.

As a team member on the nurse practitioner service line at Methodist, much of her time is focused on discharge planning and assisting with inpatient care. "The role allows me to be at the bedside, teaching patients about their disease processes and prevention," Dr. Baker explains. "I felt well prepared by the program at UT to handle the challenges a nurse practitioner faces daily. Although I continued to improve areas that I was strong on initially, we also zeroed in on the areas that needed growth. UT gave me the tools to be able to research and grow my professional portfolio, wherever I landed."



*Picture courtesy of  
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare*

**“I chose the Acute Care option because I am truly a hospital-based person. I enjoy being at the bedside.”**



**Sheila Melander, DSN, ACNP, FCCM, FAANP**  
**College of Nursing, Professor**

The UTHSC College of Nursing Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program is not a traditional college classroom experience. In fact, most of the work is done off campus, where nurses from across the country can convene online to discuss and learn about the latest practices and then immediately apply the discoveries to their communities. With this established structure, it seems only fitting that one of its faculty members also shares this similar set up. A full-time UTHSC faculty member, Sheila Melander lives outside of Santa Monica, Calif., and commutes into the city a couple times a week to see patients at a cardiology office and hospital as part of her faculty practice.

“I believe having my own clinical practice brings such a wealth of knowledge,” says Dr. Melander, explaining the important balance of teaching and practicing at the same time. “You are out there in the middle of your specialty area as drugs change, when new techniques are developed, as new protocols are being developed; I have more tools to bring back to the classroom.”

Dr. Melander, whose practice focuses on heart disease, stroke and heart attack prevention and management, first began teaching at the Health Science Center in 2003. With undergraduate and master’s degrees from the University of Evansville in Evansville, Ind., a Doctorate of Nursing Science degree from the University of Alabama Birmingham, and an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner post doctoral preparation from Vanderbilt University, she possesses both knowledge and experience.

In the practice setting, Dr. Melander works with a team of other health care providers, such as a cardiologist and nutritionist, and works with patients over a period of time. One of the main aspects of her job is to take a holistic approach and develop a plan to reduce the risks for the patient once he or she is diagnosed. Genetic testing to look for predictors of disease, how they exhibit themselves, and how medical providers can best intervene are some of the areas she considers.

These real-life experiences are what she emphasizes and brings back to her students for discussion. Dr. Melander offers a scenario: “What if your patient does not respond to the first course of treatment, or the second or third treatment options? Then what? These patients have many complex health issues, you just work through them together with the patients to reach your combined optimal goals,” she states. Bringing a broader perspective, getting her students involved on a national level, and then having them take that knowledge back to their communities is her goal. This is done through web cam visits, conference calls, and actual clinical site visits to see them in their required clinical residency settings. Though students are located throughout the nation, Dr. Melander explains that they are “constantly in touch.”



This constant connection for both teacher and student to be linked to learning and practice is what Dr. Melander feels makes the program so successful. “I love the mix of being able to practice and teach,” she said. “It is a gift that UT has in that it not only allows faculty to practice, but encourages and values our practice for what that brings to the students.”

### *Fast Facts:*

#### **Year Program Began at UTHSC**

Acute Care (master’s): 1989  
DNP Option: 1999

#### **Points of Pride**

UTHSC Acute Care faculty members lead nationally in executive roles in professional health organizations. For example currently, Carol Thompson, PhD, ACNP, CCRN, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, option coordinator, serves as president-elect of the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Sheila Melander, DSN, ACNP, FCCM, FAANP, is president-elect of The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

# ANESTHESIA

The DNP in Nurse Anesthesia Program prepares registered nurses for advanced nurse anesthesia practice. The Nurse Anesthesia program, which is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs, began in 1930. In addition to core DNP courses, students credentialed as a CRNA explore a specialized area of anesthesia practice through individualized coursework and mentored clinical experiences. For nurses entering this specialty, the front-loaded curriculum is designed to provide a strong science foundation before students encounter the clinical area. Courses in advanced physiologic and pharmacologic principles with anatomy cadaver lab experience are included.

Looking at Tennessee, many counties only have nurse anesthetists to provide anesthesia; and, in fact, there are more CRNAs in the state than anesthesiologists (n=1733:1002, respectively). CRNAs are the primary providers of anesthesia care in rural America, enabling health care facilities in these medically underserved areas to offer obstetrical, surgical, and trauma stabilization services. In many areas of Tennessee and the country, CRNAs are the sole providers in nearly 100 percent of the rural hospitals.

## Angela Duncan, CRNA College of Nursing, Class of 2009

Though nursing is not what Angela Duncan set out to do when she started college, now she can't imagine doing anything else. "I love going to work, not many people can say that," states Duncan, who works with the Medical Anesthesia Group in Memphis as a nurse anesthetist.

In the early '90s, Duncan earned a business degree and had plans to work in finance, but an interim job at an internal medicine doctor's office changed her course. "I became more and more interested in patient care," remembers Duncan, who then began an accelerated BSN/RN course at UT Health Science Center and would work the following decade as a nurse in cardiovascular intensive care.

"I felt like UT prepared me very well," says Duncan. "In terms of the global picture, comparing UT with other options, they really teach you how to think critically – to reason your way through things and excel in your career." This is what has brought Duncan back to UTHSC again and again. In 2009, she graduated as a nurse anesthetist, and this fall, she will return again to begin her DNP at UTHSC in that same area.

"Like so many other fields, we are moving to a doctorate to practice," says Duncan as she looks to the future of nursing. "In the interest of being prepared for whatever opportunities lie ahead, I decided to go ahead and get this under my belt to keep my options wide open."



Wanting to build on what she is already doing, the thought of an advanced degree outside of nursing did not appeal to Duncan. "My identity, my foundation is built on my career as a nurse," she emphasizes. Duncan looks forward to the practice-based program that will allow her to delve deeper into anesthesia and focus on a specific area of practice and research.

One of the major draws for Duncan returning to UTHSC is the faculty, specifically, Jill Oswaks, director of the Nurse Anesthesia Option and who was Duncan's mentor during her master's program. "I want to seize the opportunity to get a DNP under faculty whom I admire, trust and who are respected nationally. UT has a rich heritage ... and I am confident in the leadership there," she says.

Duncan plans to take what she learns from UTHSC faculty and use it directly with her patients. "The higher education process broadens your scope of knowledge and sharpens your analytical skills," says Duncan, looking forward to what she will gain. "We [nurse anesthetists] never leave the patient; we are required to think on our feet, evaluate and act appropriately. Every bit of experience you gain, both educationally and clinically, impacts the quality of care that you provide."

**Lorena M. Thompson, CRNA, DNP**  
**College of Nursing, Assistant Professor**

The old adage “two heads are better than one” is how Lorena Thompson views the College of Nursing’s Doctorate in Nursing Practice programs, which brings in both didactic material from the classroom and clinical experiences through real practice. It’s how UTHSC DNP nursing faculty members teach their students, as well as how they continue to be on the cutting-edge of education.

Dr. Thompson, who benefitted from the UTHSC program earning her master’s and then DNP in 2009, now serves in another role as a teacher and as the associate director of Clinical Education in the Nurse Anesthesia option. Dr. Thompson also continues to practice at the Obstetrics Labor and Delivery Unit at the Regional Medical Center (The MED).



Anesthesia was an area that Dr. Thompson was particularly drawn to because of the “idea of working independently in a team-focused setting” and being able to concentrate on “one patient at a time, getting to see the end result of care for that patient.”

Just as she enjoys specific aspects of the clinical setting, Dr. Thompson is also drawn to teaching and helping students see the bigger picture. By utilizing evidence-based practice, Dr. Thompson helps students look at all aspects of a situation – thus helping them focus their research and ultimately improve the care they provide.

“I think it is positive that I get to see what’s happening in the clinical area and compare that to what I see in the textbook,” says Dr. Thompson of her dual role. “Health care is readily changing, and I get to see those changes up close and personal. I see what’s going on clinically and can apply that didactically, and vice versa.”

As faculty members increase their overall knowledge base, Dr. Thompson believes that they “in turn give that to the students.” “Doctorate education broadens the horizon. You begin to look at cause and effect more so than you do in a master’s,” she explains.

Dr. Thompson describes the DNP Nurse Anesthesia option as “very hands on,” where in-class work covers concepts and theories and then a variety of practical experiences allow students to do rotations at such institutions as Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the Memphis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, The MED, Methodist University Hospital and even into rural areas like down in New Albany, Mississippi.

***Fast Facts:***

**Year Program  
Began at UTHSC**

Anesthesia (master’s): 2000  
DNP Option: 2009

**Points of Pride**

The option achieved a 100 percent first-time pass rate from the MSN Class of 2011 and second entry-into-practice DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program.

# FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

The DNP FNP Program concentrates on educating primary care providers for diverse populations in a variety of settings. Advanced Practice Nurses provide preventive care, acute episodic care and care of chronic illnesses across the life span. The program, founded in 1972, was one of the first graduate-level nurse practitioner programs in the country as well as one of the oldest DNP programs in the country.

As a primary care provider, the DNP FNP focuses on comprehensive health assessments, follow-up care for health problems, and health promotion or disease management activities. Graduates are eligible for national FNP certification and certification/licensure/recognition in all 50 states.



**Rebecca Whiffen, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, DNP**  
**College of Nursing, Class of 2011**

Getting a DNP as a Family Nurse Practitioner for Rebecca Whiffen was about doing two things she loves – practice and teaching. Little did she know that the DNP curriculum would change how she does both.

Dr. Whiffen, who lives in Sikeston, Mo., practices at a cardiology clinic part-time and teaches at Southeast Missouri Hospital College of Nursing, located in Cape Girardeau, Mo. “I wanted to practice, and I wanted to teach,” says Whiffen, who had done both prior to her DNP. However, she wanted more opportunities to do both on an advanced level, and her DNP provided just that, opening the door to her current positions.

Because she was already working as a nurse practitioner, Dr. Whiffen explained that the DNP did not necessarily have a great increase on her paycheck; so, many people wondered why she was going back to school. “What more could a DNP possibly offer you?” was the question she was often asked. However, Dr. Whiffen has seen the benefits in countless other ways and she shares those.

“There is a different level of respect,” says Dr. Whiffen of the interaction she now has with physicians and fellow nurse practitioners. “There is a little more autonomy. There is more research attached to the DNP; I think my colleagues appreciate the time and effort that goes into a doctorate.”

Not only can she tell a difference in how others view her, but Dr. Whiffen can also see a difference in how she conducts her work. “It has made me a better nurse practitioner; it has changed how I practice,” she says. And she credits much of this to the UT Health Science Center.

Dr. Whiffen previously earned her master’s degree from UTHSC in 1995. She explains that her prior experience and education at the Health Science Center was the main factor for returning to UTHSC. “I realized how well taught I was, and it helped me to hit the ground running,” she says of her master’s training. “I knew the doctorate would do the same.”

Knowing the faculty members at UTHSC and seeing their names in nursing research publications gave her the continued confidence in the college and program. Then through courses, such as health policy, Dr. Whiffen believes UTHSC prepared her to practice at the next level and prompted her to become more active in the political arena in her own state to remove barriers to care.

“Those who think you can’t gain anything more from a doctorate in nursing are wrong,” she stresses. “The doctorate degree is more than just having the letters DNP behind your name.”





**Martha Ballard, DNP, FNP-BC**  
**College of Nursing, Assistant Professor**

Investing in both the community and nursing posterity is what Martha Ballard does in her role as a doctoral-trained family nurse practitioner. As an employee at Complete Healthcare Center, which is located on Madison Avenue in Memphis and is an entity of Consolidated Medical Practices of Memphis, Dr. Ballard currently provides care to patients primarily ages 18 and up. She also mentors UTHSC students and serves as a clinical preceptor to assist with the growth and training of future DNP health care providers.

She knows exactly what this training can mean because she has been on both sides. As a member of one of the first cohorts of DNP family nurse practitioners at UTHSC, Dr. Ballard graduated in 2008 from the College of Nursing. "As a doctoral-prepared nurse, it has enhanced my clinical and critical thinking skills, allowed me to effectively utilize evidence-based practices and prudence in my care provision, and lastly it has prepared me for leadership and scholarship," she says.

Dr. Ballard, whose primary practice setting is internal medicine, used the DNP to hone her skills as a family nurse practitioner and refine her knowledge and care practices relating to diabetes and its co-morbid disease states. Using the holistic care approach she learned as a registered nurse, Dr. Ballard now as a DNP applies this knowledge in the diagnosis, management and treatment of illnesses and maladies occurring within individuals, systems and communities.

"It helps make primary care more accessible," says Dr. Ballard of her current role. "Physicians can't accommodate all those who have a need to see them. It allows me to make health care more available for all patients and helps to reduce barriers to care in this complex health care environment."

Dr. Ballard feels that when trained at the highest level in one's discipline, it promotes trust and confidence among physicians and other health care providers. It also helps to foster trust with patients and the communities in which they serve. "Being board certified as a family nurse practitioner allows me to care for individuals across the life span, broadens my scope of practice, and allows me to function in variable practice settings," says Dr. Ballard.

These are the things she hopes to instill in her students. "There is a growing need for providers in this area, and that will continue to bloom with changes in health care," says Dr. Ballard of the impact family nurse practitioners have in their community. "We are really making a difference in bridging the gap and meeting unmet health needs of a large population of patients."

And as far as her involvement in education of advanced practice nurse practitioners at UTHSC, she is just as proud of the impact she has made there, as well as the impact it has made on her. "I think being trained at UTHSC, as a family nurse practitioner, in itself, is an honor because of its legacy for leading," she says. Dr. Ballard explains that the DNP degree is cutting edge and that UTHSC was one of the first institutions to develop and use it to push nurses to the next level. Dr. Ballard says of nursing, "A discipline is only as strong as its posterity and their impact; as an nursing clinician, educator and mentor, this is where I place my investments!"



### *Fast Facts:*

#### **Year Program Began at UTHSC**

FNP (master's): 1972  
DNP Option: 1999

#### **Points of Pride**

The program has had a 100 percent national certification pass rate for the last four years.

# FORENSIC NURSING

**The DNP in Forensic Nursing focuses on advanced preparation for nurses specializing in the care of individual patients, families and communities in response to or prevention of injury to victims and perpetrators of crime. Graduates are prepared for roles such as sexual assault examiners, death investigators, legal consultants, prevention specialists, and child and geriatric abuse specialists.**

**The DNP Forensic curriculum combines concepts from forensic science, public health and psych mental health nursing in a holistic approach. Students acquire competency in scientific investigation; evidence collection and preservation; and analysis, prevention and treatment of trauma and/or death. Students also learn to effectively collaborate with other health care workers, government agencies, criminologists, policy-makers, and legislators for the purpose of injury prevention.**

## **Amanda Taylor, DNP, ANP-BC, SANE-A, SANE-P College of Nursing, Class of 2011**

The ability to work at a higher capacity is what the DNP in forensics brought to Amanda Taylor. The Rape Crisis Center's name speaks for itself, but what might not be as well known are the credentials of those who work there and the vast education received. Dr. Taylor is one of those who serves as a sexual assault nurse examiner at the Rape Crisis Center in Memphis. She is a certified adult/adolescent and pediatric examiner, who decided to seek the next level of expertise at the UT Health Science Center.

"I chose UTHSC and the DNP forensic option because it offered me the cutting-edge opportunities that were unavailable at any other school," she emphasized. "It has given me more specialized training in the field of forensics."

Dr. Taylor primarily sees patients from Memphis and Shelby County, but can and has also cared for those from further away such as Mississippi and Arkansas. Her training while in the College of Nursing's program gave her an additional boost because she was "able to form strong connections in the medical, law enforcement and judicial communities." During her clinical experiences, she spent time at the medical examiner's office in Nashville, the Memphis Police Department (crime scene and sex crimes departments), a local doctor's office who deals frequently with sex offenders, and the district attorney's office.

"These experiences were all memorable and taught me a great deal about how a forensic nurse can function in and aid each of these areas," says Dr. Taylor of her experience. "My training allowed me to see the importance of communication between these entities, as well as how important each role is in and of itself."

In addition to her work at the Rape Crisis Center, the 34-year-old mother of three also serves as a clinical instructor for the University of Memphis and has seen her DNP make a difference there as well. As an instructor, Dr. Taylor teaches two clinical groups in the Expanding Family section and is able to take her students to the Regional Medical Center – Rout Center for Women and Newborns, which deals with a very high-risk population.

"Getting my DNP as opposed to the PhD allowed me the more practice-based focus I wanted," she explains. "As a result this degree also helps give me the edge to teach at a higher capacity and serve in a more advanced faculty role."



**Jane Ann Sullivan, ACNP, FNP  
College of Nursing, Class of 2012**

Why is a nurse working with police officers, investigators and sheriff's deputies? It's a question Jane Ann Sullivan has been asked frequently as she has worked to complete her final 360 practical hours required for the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Forensic Program. For many, nursing and law enforcement may seem like an unusual fit, but for Sullivan, who is the lead trauma nurse practitioner for UT Medical Group, it was an ideal match.

As a UTMG employee, she works in trauma at the Regional Medical Center (The MED) in Memphis. She earned her acute care nurse practitioner license back in 1995 at the Health Science Center, and was in fact part of the first cohort to graduate from this option at UTHSC. Then 10 years later, she returned to achieve a dual certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Because patients of all ages come to emergency rooms, Sullivan wanted the specialty as a family nurse practitioner in order to better care for all patients who have critical needs. Even with this extensive background, Sullivan wanted more, and so she enrolled in the DNP Forensic program. She is expected to graduate this May.

With the amount of trauma caused by violent crime that she sees at The Med – one of the largest Level 1 Trauma Centers in the United States – Sullivan notes there is an undeniable need for prevention, treatment, evidence collection, and improvement in community resources. Leading change and finding better solutions has always been a motivator for her. One of the reasons for her return is because of Susan Patton, DNSc, and Patricia Speck, DNSc, who are faculty members and as she describes, "pioneers" in the field and "scholars" in the forefront of forensic nursing.

"I work in trauma and see intentional and unintentional injury every day," says Sullivan. "Forensics was a natural transition for me." She explains further that health care professionals do a great job of caring for those who are injured, but that she wants to see a stronger connection between health care providers, law enforcement, the community and prevention. For her, forensics was the bridge between acute care and family nursing. In turn, she hopes to be a bridge between health care providers and the community to help address trauma and violence, especially against the elderly.

In addition to collaborating with police officers, investigators, and sheriff's deputies, as part of her studies, she has also worked with the assistant district attorneys, watched proceedings in courtrooms, observed in the Mississippi Crime Lab in Jackson, Miss., worked at the Victims Advocacy Center, Crisis Hotline, Rape Crisis Center, YWCA and much more. She has also learned about all levels of prevention and evidence collection. "In the hospital we are in control. I'm now learning frontline what others in the community face every day," says Sullivan, of the desire to break down the walls between the various areas and to make connections for better outcomes.

Forensics is "not so much about death," she says, but instead for her it is about "hospital investigation of intentional and unintentional injury with the goal to pull law enforcement and the community into a collaborative practice." So, when people ask her why would a nurse spend clinical hours working with law enforcement, she has a clear answer.

**Fast Facts:**

**Year Program  
Began at UTHSC**

DNP Option: 2003

**Points of Pride**

Included in the graduates of the Forensic Nursing Program are lawyers, a state police officer, sexual assault examiners, death investigators, armament experts, disaster management experts, forensic scientists, and military officers.

UTHSC College of Nursing faculty members have served as president of the International Association of Forensic Nurses and president of the Forensic Nurse Certification Board. They are also co-authors of the "Scope and Standards of Practice for Forensic Nurses."



*Clinical picture courtesy of the  
Memphis Business Journal*



# PSYCH/MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

The DNP Psych/MH Program focuses on advanced practice preparation for nurses to provide mental health services for populations in a variety of settings. The DNP Psych/Mental Health option has a life span focus, with emphasis on individuals, families and groups.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) with non-psychiatric certifications such as family nurse practitioner (FNPs), seeking additional APRN certification in Psych/Mental Health Nursing are prepared for advanced practice serving the mental health needs of persons across the life span. Students without any advanced practice certification complete the family nurse practitioner (FNP) core curriculum as well as the Psychiatric/MH curriculum, and are prepared in a dual role with eligibility for certifications as Family Nurse Practitioners and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners. The experienced psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist who desires a dedicated focus in the broad discipline of Psych/MH care may seek learning in a specific area, such as trauma or cognitive behavioral therapy, or additional Psych/MH Advanced Practice Nursing expertise and eligibility for additional credentialing.



**Allyson Neal, DNP  
College of Nursing, Class of 2010**

When Allyson Neal set out to get more education and experience in the area of psych/mental health, she never dreamed that it would lead her to be her own boss and run her own business. Dr. Neal had trained and worked for 12 years as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Later as she focused on pediatric primary care, she saw more and more cases of depression, anxiety, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, etc. However, she did not feel like she had enough education in that area to do a good job, and that's when she turned to UTHSC.

Living and working in the Chattanooga area, Dr. Neal needed a program she could participate in from a distance, but also wanted one that was well established and had a proven track record. "From my first moment of applying it was a very positive experience," remembers Dr. Neal. "UTHSC gave me a deeper level of knowledge in all areas."

She explains that her DNP classes involved nurses from all concentrations and walks of life. "It made me fall in love with nursing all over again," says Dr. Neal, as she worked with, heard stories from, and shared experiences with other nurses.

From the clinical experiences to the foundation in health policy, Dr. Neal felt the program prepared her from all angles. And even though it was an intense, demanding program, she credited professors like Pat Cunningham, DNSc, for being a "calming presence."

Now Dr. Neal is the only doctoral-prepared psych/mental health nurse practitioner in the Chattanooga area. She works as an independent contractor with Focus Psychiatric Service, with patients coming from a 75-mile radius to see her. Parents and guardians bring their children and families from as far away as North Alabama and Georgia to see her. Dr. Neal evaluates, makes a diagnosis, and then maps a plan of care for her clients. Dr. Neal also teaches at Lincoln Memorial University and evaluates children in foster care through the Southeast Center of Excellence.

"The education I received at UTHSC changed my life," states Dr. Neal. "I would have never had the courage to have gone into these endeavors I am in now; I owe that to UTHSC."



**Patricia Cunningham, DNSc, APN, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC**  
**College of Nursing, Associate Professor**

Though psychiatric/mental health as an advanced practice has been in existence for more than 70 years in the field of nursing, Patricia Cunningham knows that there is still more work to do. Helping to remove the stigma that is often attached to it, treating those who suffer from it, and training the next generation of providers is how she views her role at UTHSC, as both an educator and clinician.

Dr. Cunningham explains further that psychiatric/mental health disorders were traditionally treated as “other,” and are often connected to feelings of shame, unlike a cardiac patient who was being treated for his or her condition. Now, with more research, professionals have a better understanding of triggers and treatments for those who are susceptible to mental health distress. For example, it has been shown that increased exposure to violence or being raised in an alcoholic family increases the likelihood of

mental health problems across one’s life span, with other physiological and social factors coming into play.

Using this knowledge, which may lead to prevention or screening for early detection and intervention, can keep mental health distress from cascading to a mental health disorder and is part of the role of the doctorally trained nurse. “Embedding the learning of the advanced practice nurse in a doctoral program provides knowledge that allows for in-depth examination of epidemiological and social factors that nursing as a discipline can help individuals, groups and communities recognize to reach better care outcomes. Simply stated, people don’t have to get so sick,” explains Dr. Cunningham.

But Dr. Cunningham emphasizes that psych/mental health is a “team sport,” and that nurses work in concert with colleagues in the disciplines of medicine, social work, psychology and counseling. Not only does Dr. Cunningham teach her students how to do this, but also does this herself at the Methodist University Teaching Practice, which is a primary care clinic where she works in collaboration with physicians and residents. Practice is part of the service mission of nursing faculty, but Dr. Cunningham also knows the faculty must live by the principles taught to students.

The trend for integration of psych/mental health care providers in primary care settings is increasing due in part to the increased number of mental health problems. However, this is a natural fit to produce improved health for patients. Dr. Cunningham explains that depression is often referred to as the “Unwelcome Companion,” which can interrupt a patient’s capacity to get fully well. For example, a diabetic patient is 40 percent more likely to suffer from major depression than the general population.

“The emphasis as a society is that we get better at recognizing mental health needs and not being afraid of it,” says Dr. Cunningham. “And when we get rid of some of the stigma about mental illness, especially for other clinicians in health care, the better off we are all going to be. Most importantly, so is the patient.”

She continues, “There is too much undue suffering related to mental health that needs to be addressed and that’s why I’m glad we have our program. The reality is if you don’t have mental health, you don’t have health.”



### *Fast Facts:*

#### **Year Program Began at UTHSC**

FNP (master’s): 1973  
DNP Option: 1999

#### **Points of Pride**

Last year 10 DNP Psych/Mental Health students, which is more than half the class, presented scholarly work at national conferences.

# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The DNP in Public Health Nursing (PHN) concentrates on advanced preparation for nurses committed to the health of populations in rural, urban, national and global communities. The DNP PHN Program builds on established public health foundations and intertwines a nursing perspective to prepare leaders who are knowledgeable in: (1) major health issues of populations; (2) various approaches to reduce injury and improve health; and (3) key strategies to maintain and improve population health and safety at all levels. This program accepts students with a MSN or MPH degree; MPH students must have a BSN.



**Marion Donohoe, DNP, APN, CPNP**  
**College of Nursing, Class of 2010 and Assistant Professor**

Moved by the high infant mortality rate in Memphis, Marion Donohoe tried to initiate a program in the community to combat the problem. At the time she was a pediatric nurse practitioner and, as she says, was “very proficient in nursing.” But she quickly met obstacles and found that it was hard to break through barriers in communities and in local agencies. She was seen as an outsider. Then Pat Speck, DNSc, associate professor in Nursing, talked to her about the doctorate in public health nursing option.

Reluctant at first, Dr. Donohoe would come to learn what she described as a “whole new practice.” “I didn’t know what I didn’t know,” she emphasizes as she relates some of the curriculum that built a foundation for making real change in public health. Outcome measures, community assessments, policy, advocacy, stakeholders, analyzing programs, writing skills, and making recommendations are just a few “tools” Dr. Donohoe acquired. “I quickly learned how systems in Tennessee and around Memphis work,” she says.

As a student who graduated in 2010, Dr. Donohoe felt like she was accepted into more communities and agencies; now as a faculty member she helps to continue to break down walls for her public health students. Dr. Donohoe and her students have specifically been working in the 38126 zip code area, which is part of the Vance Avenue Collaborative. It is a four-mile square area that has no grocery store; 50 percent of the housing projects were torn down to build middle class homes, and it has two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school.

“You can’t just read about it; you really have to immerse yourself in it for public health,” says Dr. Donohoe. And that is exactly what her DNP public health students have done in this area, completing a health impact assessment and focus group with parents to see what the community wants and will take ownership in. One of the recent projects completed was an edible playground, in which planters were installed in a portion of the grounds at St. Patrick’s Jubilee School. The fruits and vegetables they grow will benefit the community, and the project will also be connected to the students’ science classes for more understanding. DNP public health students are also taking recipes from residents in the community, modifying them to be more health conscious, and are then creating a cookbook with the residents’ favorite foods.

Though a formal assessment will help track the progress and give insight into possible new directions, Dr. Donohoe said they are already seeing an impact where they are serving and have more requests for involvement than they have students. “As people who are considered ‘smart’ are getting their hands dirty doing things, more and more residents are seeing UTHSC as a neighbor,” she says. “The DNP in public health enriches the students and builds trust with the community.”

Memphis is not the only community benefiting from public health nursing, Dr. Donohoe and her students have national and international reach. As a pediatric nurse practitioner, Dr. Donohoe also works with global public health initiatives for children in Peru and South Africa in areas focusing on HIV/AIDS and child abuse mental health strategies.



**Patricia Speck, DNSc, APN, FNP-BC, SANE-A, SANE-P, DF-IAFN, FAAFS, FAAN  
College of Nursing, Associate Professor**

Patricia Speck has a long history with the UT Health Science Center College of Nursing. It began as a student, but she has far surpassed that to reach international acclaim as a nurse leader.

The first time Dr. Speck graduated from UTHSC was in 1982 with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Then in 1985 she received her master's and in 2005 her doctorate in Public Health Nursing. The next year she would return as a faculty member.

With 28 years of clinical practice experience, Dr. Speck maintains an active faculty practice that includes serving disadvantaged under- and never-served forensic populations in Memphis. Her impact in public health nursing has not been isolated to this area, but has reached as far away as Africa, Eurasia and South America, where she has consulted and conducted research on the effects of violence and trauma on individuals and populations, policy development, program evaluation and capacity building, and violence prevention initiatives.

A leader in her field, Dr. Speck is a Fellow in the prestigious American Academy of Nursing. She is a Distinguished Fellow in the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) and Fellow in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS) – the 11th registered nurse in the 60-year AAFS history.

Nationally, Dr. Speck has received recognition for her efforts from the Health Resources and Services Administration via grant funding for Public Health Nursing workforce development. This grant-funded project is designed to double the number of Public Health Nursing (PHN) Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) graduates and enhance technical competencies by provision of an annual technical assistance workshop. The curriculum Dr. Speck has developed builds PHN competency skills through advanced nursing education, targeting graduate PHN faculty from historically Black colleges and universities, as well as PHNs working in disadvantaged areas.



The UTHSC College of Nursing is the leading producer of graduate nurses and nursing faculty for the region. Dr. Speck knows that as UTHSC produces more doctorally trained, advanced nurses, the end result is better outcomes for the community and public.

*Pictured in Peru, Dr. Speck gives a forensic physician a camera and, via an interpreter, instructs the doctor on how to use it to upload the images into a computer to create a medical forensic record. The forensic physician's role was to evaluate sexual abuse in adolescents and children in the local morgue, where she also had the responsibility to identify "the missing" from the recent civil war. The forensic physician was one of three in the community who served the entire Huánuco area – a region in central Peru.*

### *Fast Facts:*

**Year Program  
Began at UTHSC**

DNP Option: 2001

### **Points of Pride**

Since the inception of the Public Health Nursing program, students have applied public health nursing core competencies in the formative and summative evaluations in partnerships with more than 30 agencies that serve vulnerable and disadvantaged populations in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi.





## MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT-ELECT ELIZABETH ELLIS, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Springtime in Memphis will be here before we know it, and the Office of Alumni and Annual Giving is busy preparing for a new format for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Nursing Alumni Weekend on May 17-19, 2012.

Our special guests who will be honored will be the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing and the UTHSC College of Nursing Class of 1962 Golden Graduates, along with other celebrating reunion years – '72, '82, '87, '92, and 2002.

Our weekend will take place this year at the Downtown Memphis Marriott, which will allow attendees to be closer to the College of Nursing, planned events and to the Memphis BBQ Festival.

We have many new additions to our weekend this year. Thursday night we will kick off the weekend with our new Golden Graduate Dinner honoring our Class of 1962. On Friday, our Alumni Board Meeting will be followed by a special tour of the new Methodist Le Bonheur Children's Hospital ending at the Bioworks facility with the Dean's College Address. You won't want to miss a very special Nursing History Presentation by Dianne Greenhill, EdD, as well as other presentations from our students and the Student Poster Session.

This year instead of our annual Alumni Awards Luncheon, Friday night we will be hosting a new event, the Alumni Awards, Reunion and Scholarship Dinner Dance, to celebrate, recognize and honor our many special alumni. The evening will also encompass our first-ever Donor and Student Scholarship Dinner.

This year our Outstanding Alumna is Betty Witherspoon, EdD, Class of 1971, and our Most Supportive Alumna is Irma Jordan, DNP, Classes of 1997, 1998 and 2010. The Alumni Awards, Reunion and Scholarship Dinner Dance will feature the return of our famous silent auction! We will then dance the night away to "The New 30" band featuring hit songs of the decades.

For the first time, the university will host two exciting new events on Saturday including the Medicine in May 5K Walk/Run and the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing Reunion Luncheon. On a special note, the Methodist classes are in effort to establish a scholarship in memory of Elaine Witt, their beloved school nurse. Other celebrating classes are planning reunion luncheons and some time to enjoy beautiful downtown Memphis.

Alumni weekend is the perfect time for each of us to reflect on the question **Where would you be without UTHSC?**

Prepare now for a joyous and fun-filled weekend. Registration is open online at [www.uthscalumni.com/conspring](http://www.uthscalumni.com/conspring).

I appreciate your participation and support and look forward to seeing you all in May!

Elizabeth Ellis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP  
President-Elect  
The UT Health Science Center College of Nursing  
Alumni Board of Directors

# 2012 College of Nursing Spring Board Meeting & Alumni Weekend

**Make Plans to Attend: May 17-19, 2012**

**Thursday, May 17, 2012**

6:30 to 9 p.m. — CON Alumni Board of Directors & Golden Graduate Dinner  
University Club (Class Photo at 6:30 p.m.)

**Friday, May 18, 2012**

8 a.m. to Noon — Spring Nursing Alumni Board of Directors Meeting  
Memphis Marriott Downtown/Heritage Ballroom 3

12:45 to 2:15 p.m. — Tour of new Methodist Le Bonheur Children's Hospital

2:25 to 3:45 p.m. — Dean's College Address  
UT Nursing Centennial History Presentation  
Student Presentations & Poster Session  
Bioworks, 20 Dudley St.

4 to 6:30 p.m. — FREE TIME for Mini Spa Services  
Memphis Marriott Downtown - service by appt. with Harbor Town Day Spa

6:30 to 7 p.m. — Cocktails & Live Music by "The New 30"  
Memphis Marriott Downtown/Heritage Ballroom 3 & 4

7 to 9 p.m. — Alumni Awards, Reunion & Scholarship Dinner Dance  
Music by "The New 30" & Return of the Silent Auction  
Memphis Marriott Downtown/Heritage Ballroom 3 & 4

**Saturday, May 19, 2012**

8:30 a.m. — Medicine in May 5K, UTHSC campus

Free Time for Memphis Sightseeing or Mini Spa Services

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — Class of 1962, Golden Graduate Reunion Luncheon  
Paulette's, 50 Harbor Town Square

Noon to 2:30 p.m. — Methodist Hospital School of Nursing Reunion Luncheon  
Memphis Marriott Downtown/Heritage Ballroom 3 & 4

Individual Class Reunion Luncheons  
Various Restaurant Locations in Downtown Memphis

2:30 p.m. — FREE TIME for Memphis Sightseeing or Mini Spa Services

*Online registration is now open!*

***[www.uthscalumni.com/conspring](http://www.uthscalumni.com/conspring)***

*Don't miss this important weekend to become more involved and informed!*

## Dianne Greenhill

# A Golden Grad & Gem of UTHSC

She remembers a drunk driver slamming into her car. But Dr. Dianne Greenhill doesn't remember the car concaving in on her, torquing her arms, damaging her spine, and crushing her ankle.

Although bruised and injured, her body survived, and so did her indomitable spirit to continue what she had started at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Her brainchild – a public health master's nursing outreach program – went on, even if it meant she worked from a hospital room. Or from her bedroom, where years later after the 1986 car accident, she had to be monitored around the clock due to a staph infection caused by one of the multiple surgeries to fuse this or straighten that.

"I never lost my faith," said Greenhill, who initially worked at the UT Health Science Center's College of Nursing as an instructor. In her 30-plus tenure she served as an associate professor, professor of community health, department chairwoman, interim dean, and associate dean. She dedicated a number of years as director of nursing at Memphis and Shelby County Health Department. She also was a member of the United States Army Reserve Nurse Corps from which she retired in 2000.

"I always knew the Lord was leading me to be of service to others," says Greenhill of her childhood growing up in Tupelo, Miss. "Nursing was my chosen profession of service."

The late Ruth Neil Murry, who was the dean of the UT nursing program, "was my image of what a nurse should be," said Greenhill who graduated in 1962 from the University of Tennessee at Memphis, the predecessor of the UT Health Science Center.

"She set very high standards in her class," recalls Greenhill, who also received her master's degree, educational specialist degree, and doctor of education degree from other institutions. "I might have made the lowest grades in school under her, but

I learned so much. She was a leader, but a quiet one."

In 1999, Greenhill received the Ruth Neil Murry Educator of the Year Award. "It's an honor that still means so much to me, since she was not only my teacher, but a great mentor and friend," said Greenhill, who researched the history of the College of Nursing with Murry. Greenhill published "From Diploma to Doctorate, 100 Years of Nursing" in 1998 to mark and reflect on a century of nursing service.



Other accolades that adorn her bookshelves in her East Memphis home include a slew of UT Golden Apple Teaching Awards, Tennessee Nurses Association Lifetime Achievement Award, and an Outstanding Alumnus and Most Supportive Alumnus awards. While she may no longer be roaming the hallways of the UT Health Science Center as a nursing professor, she still remains active in the Tennessee Nurses Association and the Retirees Association of the UT Health Science Center.

"I bleed orange. It's my school as a graduate and a retired professor," said Greenhill of

her loyalty to UT.

Serving with some of her former students on the UT College of Nursing Alumni Board, "I am the oldest board member," she says with a chuckle. "As long as I can stay involved and give back, I will." As the class chair of her nursing class, Greenhill is anticipating the 50th class reunion this spring.

Still plagued by physical limitations caused by a drunk driver "that I was never angry at," she may never be physically whole again, but that does not stop her from working out with a trainer, having her usual lunch of grilled chicken and steamed vegetables, almost daily, at Buckley's Lunchbox, where the staff know her by name, and traveling to places still on her bucket list.

"I am thankful to be alive each and every day," she says.

— by: Chandra Harris-McCray

*Class of 1962*  
*Come Celebrate Together*

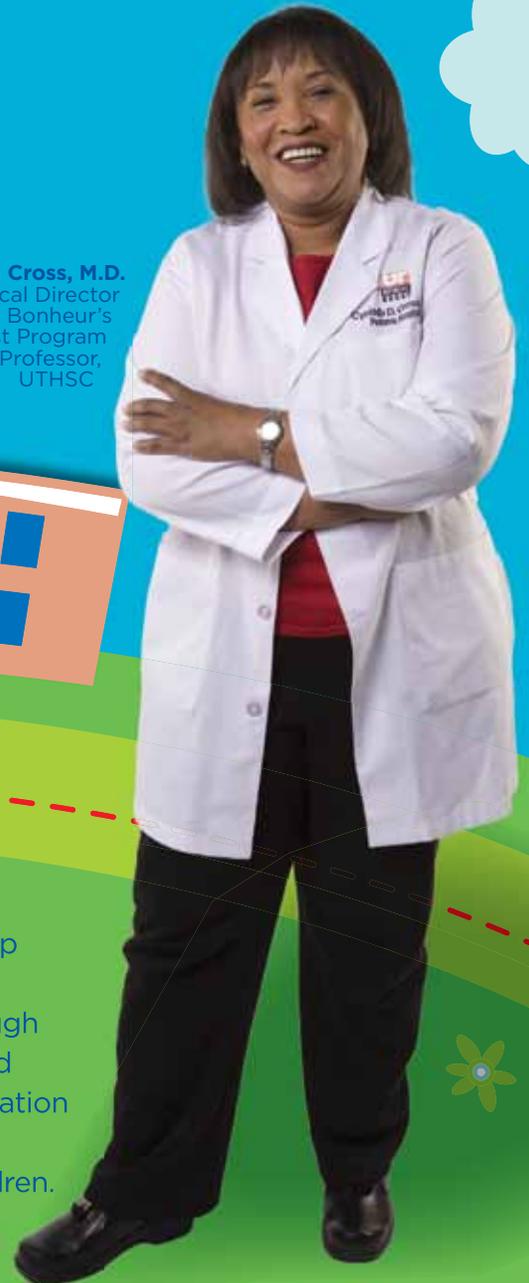
Register online today for College of Nursing Alumni Weekend & the Golden Graduate Luncheon

[www.uthscalumni.com/conspring](http://www.uthscalumni.com/conspring)



# The next chapter in an amazing children's story

**Cynthia Cross, M.D.**  
Medical Director  
of Le Bonheur's  
Hospitalist Program  
Assistant Professor,  
UTHSC



Le Bonheur Children's Hospital is proud of our partnership with The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Our collaboration has shaped children's health care through research and teaching efforts and by practicing advanced pediatric care. Together, we're developing the next generation of pediatric health care professionals who'll continue to provide a common thread of exceptional care for *all* children.

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A common thread of exceptional care

Ranked among the nation's **"Best Children's Hospitals"** by *U.S. News & World Report*



## Outstanding Alumna

### Betty Witherspoon, EdD

“There is no better gift than an education,” says Dr. Betty Witherspoon. “It is the gift that opens doors to a better life.”

With a strong mantle of education and work ethic impressed upon her early in life, Dr. Witherspoon received her bachelor’s in nursing from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center’s predecessor, the University of Tennessee at Memphis, a master’s in nursing from the University of Alabama, and a doctor of education from California Coastal College.

With her wit for science and math and passion for caring for others, Dr. Witherspoon knew her calling was nursing. “I was influenced by watching a cousin and a friend’s mother who were both nurses,” she says. “I have always been fascinated by the health care industry, and I knew nursing was a profession that would bring great satisfaction and meaning to my life.”

After nursing stints at military hospitals in Germany and hospitals in Mississippi and New Orleans, Dr. Witherspoon compassionately taught nursing, with specialties in child care and mental health, for close to three decades at Tennessee State University. In 1988, she began nursing babies back to health in the neonatal intensive care unit of Vanderbilt University Hospital. She continues to share her craft with students and faculty members at Vanderbilt as does her husband, Dr. John D. Witherspoon (UTHSC, ’68), who is in private practice as an otolaryngologist. “UT in Memphis holds a special place in my heart ... it’s where John and I met; it’s where I was molded by many amazing students, faculty, and mentors. Many of my college classmates are still great friends,” she says.

Faith, family, and friends are what inspire Dr. Witherspoon, who calls Nashville home, to be one of the biggest philanthropic cheerleaders for education, the arts, and community service. Mother and grandmother are her nearest and dearest titles. Her son, John, has a thriving real estate career, and her daughter, Reese, “who could have been a doctor, if she wanted to” is an Academy Award-winning actress. Her granddaughter, Ava, 12 “is a budding veterinary,” while Deacon, 8, “has his eyes on architecture.” And her youngest grandchildren – Abby, 6, and Draper, 5, “still have some time,” she says laughing.

A member of St. George’s Episcopal Church, Dr. Witherspoon is also a tireless advocate for the Arthritis Foundation of Middle Tennessee, the Nashville Children’s Theatre, and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Nashville. She also enjoys spending time with her pets – horses, which are often used for therapeutic and educational purposes.

## New Alumni and Annual Giving Staff

Jada Williams serves as the director of Annual Giving for the Health Science Center. Her primary responsibilities include the creation, production and oversight of annual solicitations for each of the college funds and the general campus fund. Jada has worked for the University of Tennessee for 35 years, with 26 of those years in the Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving for the UT system. Jada is a native of East Tennessee and moved to Memphis in October 2011 to assume her current position. She earned her bachelor’s degree in English at UT Knoxville.



Jada Williams

Michelle Nixon began working with the UTHSC Office of Alumni and Annual Giving in January 2012 as an assistant director of Alumni and Giving. Michelle’s new position will be focusing on student and young alumni programming at the Health Science Center. Prior to joining UTHSC, Michelle worked for ServiceMaster as a marketing consultant. She holds a BBA from the University of Mississippi and an MBA with a concentration in marketing from Christian Brothers University in Memphis. She is married to Ragan Watson.



Michelle Nixon

## Most Supportive Alumna

### Irma L. Jordan, DNP, APRN, FNP/PMHNP-BC

Dr. Irma Jordan bleeds orange through and through. She received her bachelor's, master's, and doctor of nursing practice degrees from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center's College of Nursing, where she serves as an assistant professor of primary care and public health.

Born in Millington, Tenn., Dr. Jordan might have graced the silver screen if the nursing profession hadn't chosen her first. Being a Red Cross volunteer at a naval base left a lasting impression. "It was my first job, and I got to see firsthand the cost of our freedom in the young men returning from Vietnam," she says.

Having practiced as a family nurse practitioner since 1998, Dr. Jordan says, "I see nursing from the viewpoint of where we are going. I, along with other amazing colleagues, have the role of educating students to not only deliver high quality health care, but to also serve as leaders directing the health of our citizens."

Practicing what she preaches, Dr. Jordan is developing an integrated model of health care delivery in the primary care setting for those with mental health disorders. With teaching roles in the family nurse practitioner and psychiatric/mental health options, Dr. Jordan also teaches mental health nursing in the Clinical Nurse Leader program. Her invaluable work earned her an educational grant to examine the enhancement of mental health/substance use education and practice in an advanced education Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

Along with her service as a crisis line volunteer in Memphis and on the board of the UT Health Science Center Nursing Alumni Association, Dr. Jordan also serves in a number of professional organizations, including Sigma Theta Tau, American Nurses Association, Tennessee Nurses Association, American College of Nurse Practitioners, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (Tennessee State Representative), National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty, and the Tennessee Primary Care Association.

Living her life inspired by Anais Nin's quote: "We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are," Dr. Jordan is the proud wife of Billy and mother of three, who enjoys simple days of doting on her seven grandchildren – all under the age of 5. She still hopes to one day cross Europe (and other quiet vacations) off her bucket list.



— by: Chandra Harris-McCray

## Where would you be without **UTHSC?**

Please visit us online at [www.uthscalumni.com](http://www.uthscalumni.com) to register for our online community and learn about upcoming events and reunions.

You may also make a secure, online gift to support your Alma Mater.



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**Memphis, TN 38163**  
**901-448-5516**

## Norris to Strengthen Nursing Workforce with Grant

Tommie L. Norris, DNS, RN, associate professor of Nursing and director of the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program, has received a grant totaling \$814,100 from the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. The award will be used to fund her project titled, "Increasing Nursing Education Opportunities for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds." The award will be distributed over a three-year period.

"More nurses, a more diverse nursing workforce, and diversity training are needed to change the culture of health care," said Dr. Norris. "This project will provide resources to increase diversity in nursing by increasing the number of underrepresented minority applicants and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who gain access to nursing programs and who successfully graduate and become active health care providers."



**Tommie Norris, DNS**



**Karen Olson, FNP, PhD**

## FNP Option Coordinator Transitions

Karen Koozer Olson, RN, FNP, PhD, FAANP, who has served as the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Option coordinator since December 2007, announced her desire to step down from that role on April 30 and return to a full-time faculty position. Irma O. Jordan, DNP, APRN, FNP/PMHNP-BC, who has had an integral role in the FNP option, will assume the position of FNP option coordinator on May 1. Drs. Olson and Jordan have been working closely together for the past five years and have been planning this transition for some time.



**Irma Jordan, DNP**

"I want to thank Dr. Olson for her superb leadership of the FNP option during the time of transitioning the program from the master's to the doctoral level and commend her for being proactive in leadership succession planning for the College of Nursing," said Interim Nursing Dean Susan Jacob, PhD. "The FNP option has a long history of excellence – being one of the oldest FNP graduate programs in the country – and I know Dr. Jordan will continue to provide strong leadership, which will ensure that we carry on our tradition of excellence."

## Cunningham Recognized for Excellence in Practice

Patricia Cunningham, DNSc, associate professor in the College of Nursing, received the 2011 American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Award for Excellence in Practice – Advanced Practice Registered Nurse category. Dr. Cunningham, who also serves as the Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing Option coordinator at UTHSC, was nominated by her peers and selected by an APNA committee. Annually, the APNA bestows awards in seven categories to individuals who exemplify a superior dedication to and passion for the psychiatric mental health nursing profession. The award was presented last October at the APNA 25th Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif.



**Pat Cunningham, DNSc**

"It is quite an honor to have a faculty member with such a distinguished award," says Susan Jacob, PhD, interim dean of the UT College of Nursing. "We are grateful that the APNA recognizes Dr. Cunningham's abilities and dedication in the advanced practice mental health nursing profession, a field that requires a very close working relationship with patients, as well as their families."

## Achievements

- **Ann K. Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN**, professor and chair, Department of Acute & Chronic Care, has been elected to a two-year term as a director-at-large of the Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Foundation Board of Directors.
- **Wendy M. Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC**, associate professor and vice chair, Department of Acute & Chronic Care, has had her manuscript, "Smoking Cessation Counseling in Women with Genital Intraepithelial Neoplasia" accepted for publication in Gynecologic Oncology.
- **Sheila Melander, RN, DSN, ACNP, FCCM, FAANP**, professor, has been elected as president-elect of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.
- **Diane Todd Pace, PhD, FNP-BC, APN, FAANP**, assistant professor and assistant dean for Practice, has passed the national HIT Clinician/Practitioner Consultant Certification Exam. She was also elected to serve as 2012-2013 president of the North American Menopause Society at the 2011 annual scientific meeting in Washington, D.C.
- **Susan B. Patton, DNSc, PNP-BC**, associate professor and coordinator, DNP Forensic Option, was selected to receive the Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year Award at the Arkansas Nurses Association's 2011 Convention in Rogers, Ark.

# Outstanding Preceptors

Each year students have the opportunity to recognize clinical preceptors who have made significant contributions to the training of both master and doctoral students. The 2012 Outstanding Preceptors, along with excerpts from their nominations, are below.

### Clinical Nurse Leader Preceptor

Karla Ashburn, RN, is a nurse on the seventh floor Neurological Unit at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and has been a clinical instructor for the Dedicated Education Unit for three years.



**Karla Ashburn**

Students under Ashburn's leadership could not say enough about her ability to teach and time she devotes to them. A portion of her nomination reads, "Karla is an exceptional nurse, which is evident in her knowledge of the patient population and the thorough care she provides to her patients. Karla is always cheerful and willing to precept students. She says that she remembers when she was in nursing school, and she strives to make every student comfortable by maintaining an attitude that welcomes questions. She encourages the students to take on challenging patients and to learn new skills."

### Doctorate of Nursing Practice Preceptor

Robert (Bo) L. Richardson III, is an Acute Clinical Assessment Preceptor for Doctor of Nursing Practice students in the acute care option. A 1991 graduate from the UTHSC College of Medicine, Dr. Richardson is board certified in Internal Medicine.



**Bo Richardson**

Dr. Richardson made an almost immediate impression this year while working with a student in her first clinical course in the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program. His nominator writes, "Dr. Richardson establishes an ideal clinical learning environment in a busy hospitalist practice. He is a well-seasoned clinical expert. He translates current evidence into practice, is efficient, and individualizes patient's care. He is well respected by the team and honors the contribution each member makes, including the student. He role models communications skills with compassion and clarity in emergencies and daily work toward all he encounters. He focuses learning on those initial skills of clinical assessment and manager of patient care."

Providing opportunity for learning the nominator explains, that Dr. Richardson "motivates, encourages, welcomes [students] to the team and [their] new career."

### UTHSC Distinguished Professor

Michael A. Carter, DNSc, FNP, FAAN, FNP/GNP-BC  
Donna K. Hathaway, PhD, FAAN

### Professor

Virginia (Ginna) Trotter Betts, MSN, JD, RN, FAAN  
Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN – *Chair, Department of Acute and Chronic Care*  
Veronica F. Engle, PhD, RN, GNP-BC, AHN-BC, LADS, FGSA, FAAN  
Margaret Thorman Hartig, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP – *Chair, Department of Primary Care and Public Health*  
Susan R. Jacob, PhD, RN – *Interim Dean*  
Carol A. Lockhart, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Sheila D. Melander, RN, DSN, ACNP, FCCM, FAANP  
Karen Olson, RN, FNP-BC, PhD, FAANP – *Family Nurse Practitioner Option Coordinator*  
Cheryl Cummings Stegbauer, PhD, APN, FNP-BC – *Associate Dean for Academic Programs & Director, Doctor of Nursing Practice Program*  
Carol L. Thompson, PhD, CCRN, ACNP, FNP, FCCM, FAANP – *Adult/Gerontology Acute Care Option Coordinator*  
Mona Newsome Wicks, PhD, RN – *Associate Dean of Research*

### Associate Professor

Jacqueline Burchum, DNSc, APRN-BC  
Patricia A. Cowan, PhD, RN – *PhD Program Director*  
Patricia D. Cunningham, DNSc, APN, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC – *Psych/Mental Health Nursing Option Coordinator*  
J. Carolyn Graff, PhD, RN  
Wendy Likes, PhD, DNSc, APRN-BC – *Vice Chair, Department of Acute and Chronic Care*  
Leslie McKeon, PhD, RN, NEC-BC – *Assistant Dean of Student Affairs*  
Tommie Norris, DNS, RN – *Director of MSN-CNL Program*  
Jill S. Dettly Oswaks, CRNA, DNSc – *Director of Nurse Anesthesia Option*  
Susan B. Patton, DNSc, PNP-BC, FAANP – *Forensic Nursing Option Coordinator*  
Patricia Speck, DNSc, APN, FNP-BC, SANE-A, SANE-P, DF-IAFN, FAAFS, FAAN – *Public Health Nursing Option Coordinator*

### Assistant Professor

Dwayne Accardo, DNP, CRNA – *Associate Director of Nurse Anesthesia Option*  
Bobby Bellflower, DNSc, NNP – *Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Option Coordinator*  
Marion Donohoe, DNP, APN, CPNP  
Irma Jordan, DNP, MSN, FNP, APRN-BC, FAANP  
Lynn Kirkland, DNSc, APRN-BC  
Donna Lynch-Smith, DNP, RN, NE-BC  
Diane Todd Pace, PhD, FNP-BC, APN, FAANP – *Assistant Dean of Faculty Practice*  
Stephanie A. Plummer, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP  
Keevia Porter, DNP, NP-C  
Lorena Thompson, CRNA, DNP  
Sherry Webb, DNSc, RN, CNL, NEA-BC

### Instructor

Hallie Bensinger, MSN, FNP, RNC  
Nancy Alise Farrell, MSN, CPN, RN  
Kathy Gaffney, MS, PMHCNS, PNP-BC  
Brenda Hill, MSN, PNP-BC  
Beverly Jones, MSN, ACNP-BC, CCRN  
Cheryl Scott, RN, BSN, MPA  
Jackie Sharp, MSN, RN  
Melody Waller, MSN, RN

### College of Nursing Staff

Trimika L. Bowdre, MPH  
Florine Burch Jones, BPS, CPS  
Connie Burgess, CPS  
Gadsby Creson, MSA, BFA  
Jamie Garrett, MEd  
Roylynn Germain  
Deborah Gibson  
Marie Gill, MSN  
Teresa Glaser, CPS  
Jada Harding  
Ramona Jackson, BA  
April Jones, BA  
Belinda Loyd, CPS  
Josephine Owens-Cox  
Judy Pantall  
Gail Spake, MA  
Deborah Talley  
Kevin Webb, BBA, BS

### Practice Programs

Sharon Little, MSN, FNP-BC  
Arabella Mitchell, MSN, RN

## 2011 December Graduates



**Doctor of Nursing Practice**  
Bonnie Lyn Freeland

**Master of Science in Nursing**  
Grace Lafaith Allen  
Eric Leon Bailey  
Misty Raquel Brown  
Rebecca Leigh Bush  
Blair Boeving Cannon  
Lisa Renee Carroll  
Candi Marie Clampit  
Anna K. Coleman  
Bridgette Criswell  
Grace Freeman  
Nicole Noel Gilmer  
Brandi Helms  
Timothy Chad Marlar  
Heather Rae Martin  
James McLaughlin  
Robert Montgomery  
Laura Rikard  
Hideyo Tsumura  
John Robert Wyatt

## College Continues to Receive 'New Careers' in Nursing Funding

For the fourth year in a row, the UTHSC College of Nursing has received funding to provide scholarships from the New Careers in Nursing (NCIN) program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Through the NCIN program, not only do the scholarships provide financial assistance, but also academic and social support, as well as leadership training.

During the past four years, NCIN has supported a total of 50 students at the UT College of Nursing. For the 2011-2012 academic year, the college proudly awards \$10,000 each to 10 students enrolled in its accelerated master's in nursing program. Scholarship recipients are: Jesse Bebout, Helen Castro, Wayne Creag, Brandon "Chase" Habkouk, Gloria Hicks, Dorothy Kabutu, Karen Kuusisto, Lisa Phillips, Tiffany Trowles, and James Winters.



## 2011 White Coat Ceremony



The College of Nursing held its white coat ceremony on Oct. 10, in the Student-Alumni Center, where 76 students were given the new garb. It marked the college's third white coat ceremony for students entering the Master of Science in Nursing – Clinical Nurse Leader Program. Following the keynote address offered by 2011 MSN-CNL graduate Crystal Martin, white coats, marked with UT orange, were presented as students will begin clinical rotations at UTHSC's partner hospitals. The students also took the International Nurses Pledge to prepare them for this path. Each student received a pen light from the UTHSC Office of Alumni and Annual Giving.

## Students Share with Governor

On Feb. 29, just before the full board meeting of the University of Tennessee, Gov. Bill Haslam and members of the UT board of trustees heard presentations from students representing the six colleges at UTHSC. Each of the students spoke about the path that brought them to the Health Science Center and the value of their educational experiences.

"Quality in higher learning is the focal point for all of the students at the Health Science Center," said second-year master's-level nursing student Derrick Meadow.

"When we hit the field for clinical practice, we are head and shoulders above some of the students from other educational organizations. UTHSC is also on the forefront of interdisciplinary training, pioneering ways to get all the colleges to come together and work across our disciplines. That's exactly what we will need to do to serve patients in the real world."

"It's a pleasure listening to these students, young men and women who are studying at an institution that provides maybe the highest level of education in Tennessee," Haslam said. "Their presence confirms that we all need to keep asking ourselves what can we do as a state to help people prepare for the workforce and the challenges of life. ... I see reasons for optimism wherever I go around the state. Here at UT you really are a critical piece of something bigger that we're trying to do in the state."



Gov. Bill Haslam (center) heard presentations from University of Tennessee Health Science Center students Pamela Matthews (left), Teresa Bell, Derrick Meadow, Lindsey Wells, Sumeet Vaikunth, Dee Helton and Matt Clark.

## Student Success



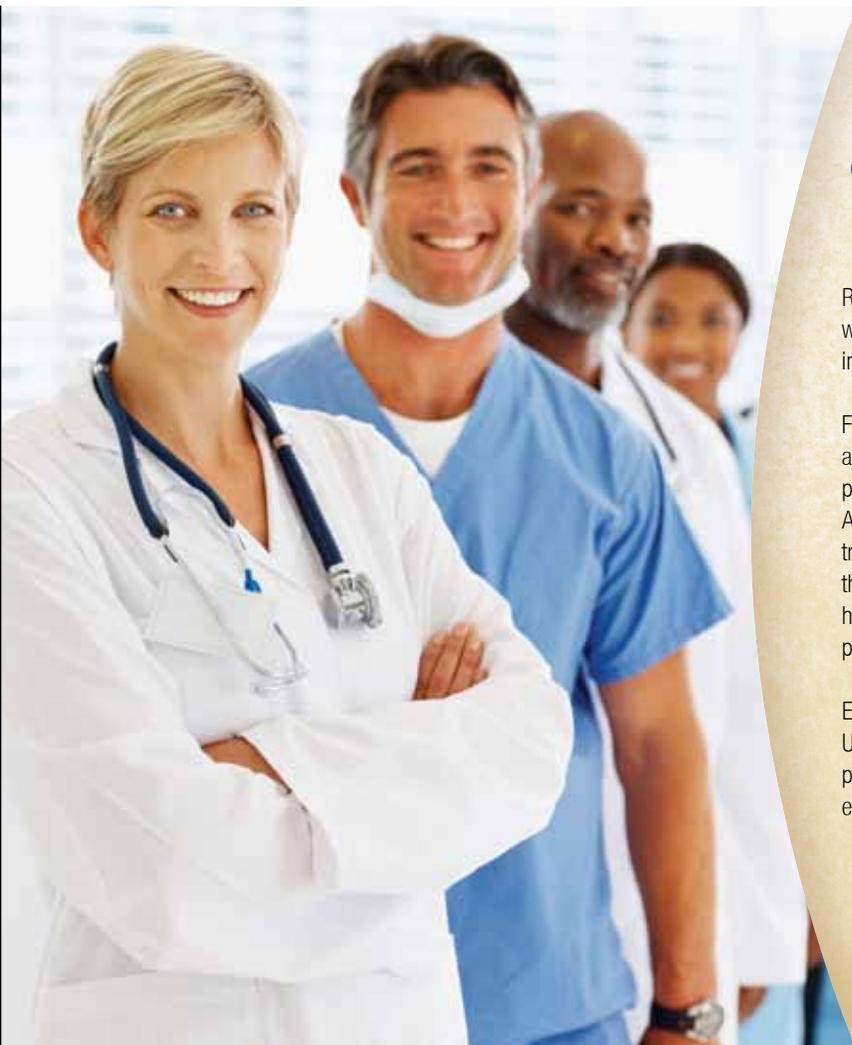
PhD student **Carrie Plummer, MSN, ANP**, was awarded one of 15 national John A. Hartford Academic Geriatric Nursing Predoctoral Scholarships. Plummer will use the two-year, \$100,000 scholarship to obtain new competencies in gerontological nursing research, leadership and education. Her research focuses on community-based accumulation of home medications and their associated adverse health outcomes for older adults. Her advisor is Veronica Engle, PhD, GNP, FGSA,

FAAN, professor in the College of Nursing.

“It is an honor to receive the John A. Hartford predoctoral scholarship,” said Plummer. “This award provides two years of financial support for my dissertation work, covers tuition and travel costs, and a living stipend. In addition, it presents the opportunity to learn from and network with leading nurse scholars and scientists. As a scholarship recipient, I will have the chance to develop my skills as a nurse researcher, leader and educator.”



**Krystal Hester-Smith** (right) received the Black Student Association Award for Outstanding Academic Performance and Community Service at the Annual Awards Ball on February 18, 2012. An outstanding student in the CNL program, she is a seven-year volunteer/mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Memphis, Inc.



### *Compassionate Care... Exceptional Services*

Regional Medical Center at Memphis is a proud partner with University of Tennessee Health Science Center in improving the health and well-being of our community.

For many years, Regional Medical Center at Memphis and University of Tennessee Health Science Center have partnered to provide quality health services to the Mid-South. Anchored by nationally recognized Centers of Excellence in trauma, burn, high-risk obstetrics and neonatal intensive care, the health system also includes a full service rehabilitation hospital, wound center, and outpatient services including primary care, subspecialty clinics and imaging services.

Each and every day, healthcare providers affiliated with University of Tennessee Health Science Center are partnering with us to provide compassionate care and exceptional services to our community.



**Regional Medical Center at Memphis**

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## Scholarships Distributed

2011-2012

Scholarship	Distribution
Absher .....	\$ 1,500
Andrew Holt .....	\$ 8,000
Brenda Mills .....	\$ 2,500
Chancellor's Diversity .....	\$141,262
Dorothy Martin .....	\$ 1,500
Elizabeth Club .....	\$ 3,000
Faculty Minority Scholarship .....	\$ 6,000
Grace Wallace .....	\$ 7,000
HRSA Grant - NAT (Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship) .....	\$ 23,093
HRSA Grant - AENT (Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship) .....	\$ 69,861
HRSA Workforce .....	\$ 40,000
Marie Buckley .....	\$ 3,000
Roane County .....	\$ 6,000
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation .....	\$ 100,000
Ruby Stephenson .....	\$ 10,000
Trentham .....	\$ 1,000
Washburn .....	\$ 3,000
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$426,716</b>



### Diversity Day

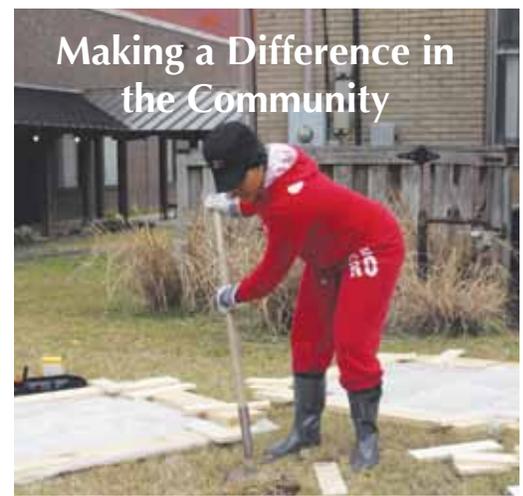
Last semester, UTHSC welcomed more than 60 future pioneers from across the state, who attended the first-ever Diversity Day on campus.

Those in attendance included high school and college students, and recent college graduates interested in pursuing their education further at UTHSC.

Representatives from the different colleges, including Nursing, hosted a question and answer forum for the attendees. The visiting students asked questions such as, "If you were in the ninth grade, what would you do to prepare for a career?" and "How did you decide on your area of study?" UTHSC volunteers spoke about their individual experiences and how they found their chosen paths. Most of all, they advocated for the prospective students to plan ahead and to surround themselves with people in the fields they wish to pursue.



Left: In February, members of the UTHSC Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Program, Doctor of Nursing Practice in Public Health Option, and the Black Student Association participated in the building of an edible playground at St. Patrick's Elementary School in Memphis, where above-ground planters will provide food and nutritional information through activities associated with science and nature. From left to right: Lauren Russell, LaQuita Moore, Ashlee Scott, Veronica Brown, Elizabeth Stark, Adrienne Allen and son, CNL Instructor Melody Waller with her son, Nikia Grayson.



Right: Clinical Nurse Leader student Lauren Moore breaks ground for a raised garden bed at St. Patrick's Elementary School.

CLASS NOTES

1978

**Cheryl Johnson-Joy** (UTHSC CON alumni: BSN 1978, MSN 1988, PhD 1997) was elected to a four-year term on the Sigma Theta Tau International Governance Committee during the November 2011 Biennial Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

1979

Last year **Steve Wooden** received the Outstanding Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Capstone Project Award at Duke University School of Nursing for "Exploration of Specialty Certification for Nurse Anesthetists: Nonsurgical Pain Management as a Test Case." The award is given to the graduating DNP student whose project best describes the development, implementation and evaluation of a practice change that addresses a significant health care problem in an organization and holds potential for adoption by other agencies. Wooden received a bachelor's degree from UTHSC.

1984



Texas Health Resources has named nurse executive **Paula Spears, DNSc, RN, NEA-BC**, as vice president for professional practice, research and magnet, nursing operations. Spears joins Texas Health from the Nursing Institute of the Mid-South in Memphis, Tenn., which she led as executive director and chief executive officer. She received her Doctor of

Nursing Science and Master of Science in Nursing degrees from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

2003

**Joe Burkard, DNSc, CRNA**, is the inaugural Jonas Faculty Fellow at the University of San Diego after serving 31 years in the Navy Nurse Corp.

2007

**David G. O'Dell, DNP, FNP-BC**, director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program at South University, has been selected as a site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the nation's top nursing school review body. The commission evaluates standards set forth by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Dr. O'Dell joined South University in 2009. Previously, he held a faculty position at the University of North Florida. He has taught for more than 10 years and has worked as a nurse practitioner for about the same amount of time. He earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from UTHSC.

2010

PhD graduate, **Todd Monroe** will be presenting a poster, authored with Dr. Michael Carter and others, at the American Pain Society's (APS) annual conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, to be held May 15-20. (Monroe, T., Carter, M., Feldt, K., Dietrich, M., and Cowan, R., "Hospice Enrollment and Dementia Severity Predicts End-of-Life Pain Treatment in Nursing Home Residents With Terminal Cancer.")

2011

**Lisa Campbell, DNP-PHN**, earned Advanced Public Health Nursing Board Certification. She was also selected as a co-presenter for the Quad Council of Public Health Nursing organization's education Webinar on "PHN Certification and Degree Completion," which aired in April.

**Colleen Harris, DNP-PHN**, has passed the specialty certification examination in Advanced Public Health Nursing at the American Nurses Association Credentialing Center.

SAVE THE DATE  
FOR A UT TAILGATE

Nov. 10, 2012 - Vols vs. Missouri

This fall the College of Nursing and College of Pharmacy will share a tent on the UT Knoxville Campus for a pregame tailgate party.

Look for more details about the exact time and place in the coming months.

IN MEMORIAM

Alum

**Etta F. "Aunt Jane" Williamson**, 82, of Harriman, Tenn., passed away June 21, 2011, at Harriman Care & Rehabilitation Center.

1939

**Carmen B. Lipschutz**, 96, of Louisville, Ky., passed away on September 27, 2011, at the Sunrise Senior Living Center.

1945

**Jimmie Lou McDonald Wright**, 89, of Memphis, passed away on May 14, 2011, at Baptist Memorial Hospital Hospice.

1946

**Constance S. Thomas**, 85, of Jackson, Tenn., passed away on June 17, 2011.

1947

**Betty Kinser** (Mary Elizabeth Campbell), 87, of Morristown, Tenn., passed away November 28, 2011.

1948

**Elenor Ruth Sanders**, 86, passed away at home in Marshall County, Miss., at Unity Hospice, October 11, 2011.

1954

**Margaret Ann "Maggie" Service**, 78, died suddenly in her home in Colorado Springs on October 5, 2011.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 17-19, 2012**

**Nursing Alumni Weekend — Memphis Marriott Downtown**

**August 8, 2012**

**Beverly H. Bowns Distinguished Visiting Professorship**

**November 2, 2012**

**William T. Cashdollar Distinguished Visiting Professorship**

**November 9, 2012**

**East Tenn. Alumni Reception — Sunsphere, Knoxville, Tenn.**

**November 10, 2012**

**Alumni Tailgate — UT vs. Missouri Game**

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## **NURSING APPLICATION DEADLINES 2012 - 2013**

**DNP CRNA Entry into Practice**

**September 1, 2012**

**Master's Entry CNL**

**January 15, 2013**

**DNP**

**January 15, 2013**

**DNP/PhD**

**February 1, 2013**