

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

NURSING

SPRING 2013

*Alumni
Weekend
May 2-3*

Page 17

BSN *Reborn!*



The BSN Degree Returns to UTHSC

Communications Team

Writing, Editing and Design TIM BULLARD
AMBER CARTER
SHEILA CHAMPLIN
DAVID MEYER, EDITOR

Photography THURMAN HOBSON

Chancellor STEVE J. SCHWAB, MD

Vice Chancellor for Development and Alumni and Annual Giving RANDY L. FARMER, EdD

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Planned Giving BETHANY GOOLSBY BLANKENSHIP, JD

Senior Writer-Producer MARGARET CARBAUGH

Associate Vice Chancellor for Alumni and Annual Giving KRISTOPHER PHILLIPS

Director of Annual Giving JADA WILLIAMS

Directors of Alumni Programs AMANDA LANE
CHANDRA TUGGLE

Assistant Director of Alumni and Giving MICHELLE NIXON

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

STEVE J. SCHWAB, MD



It has been a very good year for UTHSC and the College of Nursing. Major changes are under way on our Memphis campus including the planning for complete renovation of the historic UTHSC quadrangle. The Governor's budget this year allots \$66 million to renovate the Nash, Crowe and Mooney buildings, the cornerstone structures of the 1920s quadrangle. Last year, we received the planning money that allowed us to start the design process for this major undertaking. This is exceptionally important as the Crowe building is planned as the first-ever dedicated College of Nursing building on the UTHSC campus. In addition, we are demolishing old buildings and constructing several new teaching and research buildings as we finish the transformation of the Memphis campus.

On the education front, one of Dean Talbot's first major initiatives, the reactivation of the BSN program, is meeting with enthusiasm from all quarters. With applications

on the rise and our institutional commitment to the highest admissions standards, we are assured of a talented, top-notch pool of candidates for the fall 2013 class. As Dean Talbot notes, finding ways to increase the supply of doctorally trained nurse practitioners (DNPs) is the next major area of focus for the college. As an institution, we are committed to actively addressing the expanding primary care needs of our state. DNPs have the skills and the training to make a critical difference in wellness, disease prevention, and meeting basic health care needs. We will educate and train more of them.

In December, we revisited our long-range plans for the campus renovation, presenting an updated outline for the campus master plan. During the next five years, this comprehensive, strategic effort will change the face of our campus, aligning our academic focus with our emphasis on training students for a more team-oriented health care environment. We invite you to review our most recent campus updates on construction/renovation, research and finances through this link: www.uthsc.edu/chancellor/messages/

To one degree or another, we are all experiencing the furious pace of change determined by modern technology. Higher education and health care are equally enmeshed in the digital, Internet age. In late September, our organization welcomed Johannes van der Aa as vice chancellor for Information Technology and chief information officer. His depth of knowledge and experience are certain to be evident in his biographical sketch on page six. We are already deriving benefit from his innovative leadership and project management skills.

As 2013 unfolds, we invite you to join us on campus when you are in the area. Make plans to attend events that reunite you with fellow alumni, professional colleagues and longtime friends. On page five, read about the new, annual Legacy Scholarships that will be available starting this fall. Perhaps someone in your family will become part of the rich UTHSC legacy that was shaped and is supported by alumni like you.

Steve J. Schwab, MD
Chancellor



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

LAURA A. TALBOT, PHD, EDD, RN

Let me start this letter with heartfelt thanks to you — our generous and dedicated alumni. Your willingness to give of your time, talent and financial treasure for the betterment of our college is truly amazing. We deeply appreciate all that you do in support of our mission, our students and our team.

We must also extend our thanks to Elizabeth Ellis, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP, former Nursing Alumni Board President, for all she has done for the college during her more than six years on the board. Although Elizabeth was unable to complete her full term as head of the Alumni Board of Directors, we are most grateful for all the energy, ideas and insight she has shared with us — both over the past eight months as Alumni President and during her previous years of volunteer service to the college.

Assuming the role as Interim President of the Nursing Alumni Board is one of our most well-known and well-respected colleagues — E. Dianne Greenhill, BSN, MS (Nursing & Public Health), EdS, EdD. Having celebrated her 50th class reunion in spring 2012, Dianne is both an alumna of the UT College of Nursing and a retired professor. She has exhibited an unwavering commitment to her profession and to our institution during her decades of service to and support of the college. We are thrilled to welcome Dianne as leader of the Nursing Alumni Board. We know the experience, wisdom and diligence she brings to her new role will be invaluable assets as we move our college and programs to the next level.

Speaking of programs, it is a real pleasure to report the overwhelmingly positive response to the reactivation of our BSN program. Applications to the program are soaring and we couldn't be more pleased. As of the close of January, candidates had completed 26 online applications with another 81 applications in progress. At this rate, we anticipate well over 120 applications will be submitted by the April 1 deadline. We will then methodically select 70 of the best-qualified candidates to enter the BSN program in the fall.

Much more good news is on the way in terms of program expansion. We are gearing up to provide well-prepared nurses at every level to meet the burgeoning health care needs of our state. That translates into increased visibility and longer-term statewide marketing for certain programs, like the DNP. We have been charged to increase our Tennessee applicants to the DNP program to help fill serious gaps in availability of primary care. Our success means better care for those who would otherwise go wanting. We are determined to answer the call.

We look forward to spending time with many of you during Nursing Alumni Weekend, being held May 2 to 3, 2013, at the Memphis Marriott Downtown. Since this will be my first opportunity to actually participate in Alumni Weekend, I hope many of you will make the time to join us. One of my most rewarding activities as leader of the college is meeting and getting to know alumni and friends. See you in May!

Laura A. Talbot, PhD, EdD, RN
Dean

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Robert W. Williams, PhD
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Human Brain Project

A UTHSC Scientist Embarks on a Journey to Address One of the Most Ambitious Challenges of Modern Science: Understanding the Human Brain.

Professor Robert W. Williams, PhD, of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) has been selected by the European Commission to participate in the Human Brain Project (HBP), one of its two Future & Emerging Technologies (FET) Flagship projects. The new project will federate European efforts to understand the human brain.

The goal of the HBP is to pull together all our existing knowledge about the human brain and to reconstruct the brain, piece by piece, in supercomputer-based models and simulations. The models offer the prospect of a new understanding of the human brain and its diseases and of completely new computing and robotic technologies.

According to the Human Brain Project website (humanbrainproject.eu), "The project is driven by profound and fundamental questions in neuroscience, medicine and computing. How does our brain make us human? Where are its vulnerabilities? How do these vulnerabilities lead to disease? How does the brain represent information?"

What is the brain's computing paradigm? How can we reproduce this paradigm in Information Technology?"

Federating more than 80 European and international research institutions, the HBP is planned to last ten years (2013-2023). The cost is estimated at 1.19 billion Euros (more than \$2.5 billion). The project will also associate some important North American partners. It will be coordinated at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland by neuroscientist Henry Markram with co-directors Karlheinz Meier of Heidelberg University, Germany, and Richard Frackowiak of Clinique Hospitalière Universitaire Vaudoise and the University of Lausanne.

"UTHSC's role is to assemble massive genetic data sets and to build computer systems for the analysis of brain function and disease," said Dr. Williams, UT-Oak Ridge National Laboratory Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology. "We will build a sophisticated tool kit for joint genetic studies of humans and mouse models of human brain disease."

Dr. Williams is one of four scientists in the United States who are part of the first phase of this multinational collaboration. The other three U.S. institutions involved in the massive project are the Allen Institute for Brain Research, the University of California Los Angeles and Yale University.

The selection of the Human Brain Project as a FET Flagship is the result of more than three years of preparation and a rigorous and severe evaluation by a large panel of independent, high profile scientists, chosen by the European Commission. In the coming months, the partners will negotiate a detailed agreement with the European Community for the initial first two and a half year ramp-up phase (2013-2016). The project will begin work in the closing months of 2013.

FET Flagships are ambitious large-scale, science-driven, research initiatives that aim to achieve a visionary goal. The scientific advance should provide a strong and broad basis for future technological innovation and economic exploitation in a variety of areas, as well as novel benefits for society.

Human Brain Project

Dr. Robert Williams was interviewed by David Brancaccio, host of Marketplace Tech Report. The complete January 29, 2013 podcast can be found on American Public Media's "Marketplace" website at www.marketplace.org/topics/tech/human-brain-project-and-recruiting-more-cyberwarriors

on Marketplace

When asked about neuromorphic chips, which could enable computers to compute the way the human brain does, Dr. Williams explained, "Conventional microprocessors are based on a clock — so they have a high gigahertz or megahertz clock rate. Neuromorphic chips compute more in line with the way a human brain or neurons compute. One of the key differences — they can be extremely energy efficient. The human brain only uses about 75 watts of power, and yet does fabulous computation in parallel, and we don't have anything like that right now."

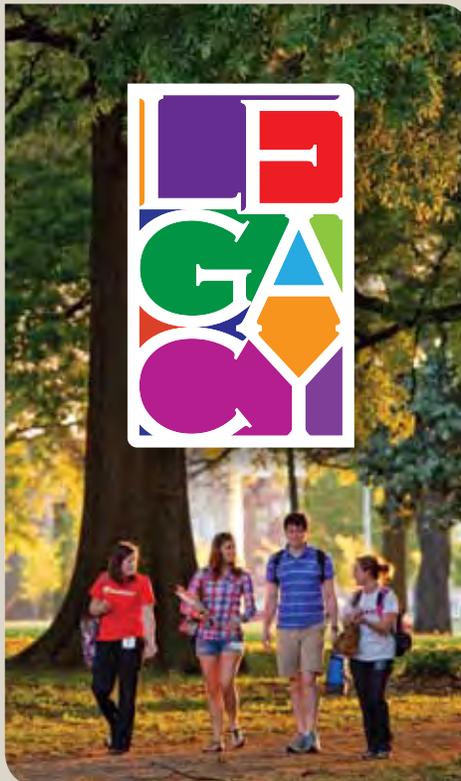
Brancaccio asked if the HBP team will create technology with the capability to "think," and Dr. Williams replied, "That is a difficult question. I do not think the Human Brain Project really is set up to develop A.I. (Artificial Intelligence). That's not our goal. We will leave that to Google and Apple and Microsoft and other corporations. Our goal is really to do the fundamental science that might underlie future Artificial Intelligence."

UT Alumni Association and Alumni of UTHSC Create Legacy Scholarship for Students

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) has been producing generations of medical professionals for over a century. To honor that tradition, the University of Tennessee Alumni Association (UTAA) and alumni of UTHSC have created a legacy scholarship. In this context, a legacy is a UTHSC student, who is the child/stepchild or grandchild/step-grandchild of a degree-holding graduate, from one of the UT campuses in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Martin, or Memphis.

The scholarships were originally funded by \$2,000 from the UTAA's Board of Governors and a campus match of \$2,000. However, Steve J. Schwab, MD, UTHSC chancellor, increased the campus match, making the overall total \$6,000. Each of UTHSC's six colleges will award one \$1,000 scholarship each year in partnership with the UTAA director of Alumni Programs and Scholarships.

The first recipients of the six \$1,000 scholarships will be announced in fall 2013.



Scholarship requirements are as follows:

- The scholarship will be available to both in-state and out-of-state students.
- The award will be for first-year students only.
- Recipients of the scholarship must maintain a 3.0 GPA in order to retain the scholarship for the second semester.
- Possible recipients will be identified using the application for the college and campus they wish to attend. As with the other UTAA scholarships, the campuses will use the parameters listed above to select its recipients.

"We welcome the opportunity to offer these six, annual Legacy Scholarships to qualified, first-year students," said Chancellor Schwab. "Our alumni play a defining role in our shared institutional identity. These scholarships are another way to acknowledge and award our students, particularly those who are continuing a tradition of excellence by enrolling at UTHSC like the generation or generations before them."

Please contact Sarah Stair, director of Alumni Programs and Scholarships, with any questions at [sstair@utfi.org](mailto:ssstair@utfi.org) or (865) 974-2502.

Johannes J. van der Aa Named Vice Chancellor for IT, Chief Information Officer at UTHSC

UTHSC Chancellor Steve J. Schwab, MD, announced the appointment of Johannes “Jan” J. van der Aa, PhD, as vice chancellor for Information Technology (IT) and chief information officer. Dr. van der Aa was the assistant vice president of Health Affairs and director of Educational Technologies for the UF&Shands, the University of Florida (UF) Academic Health Center. At UF, he was responsible for coordinating IT services and resources in support of six health sciences colleges, and five multidisciplinary research institutes.

In his new role, Dr. van der Aa is responsible for collaborating with the constituents of the six UTHSC colleges, associated research entities, and campus administration to direct and manage IT systems and services. He will also lead and coordinate UTHSC IT operations in tandem with the University of Tennessee System IT initiatives. He arrived on the Memphis campus full time in September.

“Dr. van der Aa brings a tremendous amount of experience and insight to our organization,” Chancellor Schwab observed. “He understands the special IT needs and requirements of complex health sciences institutions. Jan also has a proven ability



Jan J. van der Aa, PhD

to build strong, positive relationships. Those relationships are an integral element in supporting IT governance and in the efficient implementation of rapidly changing IT systems and processes. We look forward to welcoming Jan to our statewide campus community,” he added.

Born in the Netherlands, Dr. van der Aa grew up in the city of Eindhoven. He earned a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology in 1978. He moved to Gainesville, Fla., in 1980 and joined the Department of Anesthesiology, College of Medicine at UF. There he became part of a multifaceted group of physicians, engineers, students, and staff known as Florida Anesthesia Computer and Engineering Team. The group was involved in interdisciplinary research in biomedical and health care technology, clinical and basic research, and education. Dr. van der Aa also managed departmental IT services and staff. In 1987, he earned a master’s degree from the UF College of Engineering. Awarded in 1990, his PhD is in medical electrical engineering from Eindhoven University of Technology.

Minority Participants Sought for Aspirin Study

The Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) seeks 200 minority participants for a study on aspirin. The study, referred to as ASPREE (ASPIrin in Reducing Events in the Elderly), is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, a subsidiary of the National Institutes of Health. The research will assess whether aspirin cannot only prolong life, but support a life free of physical disability and/or dementia for healthy, older people.

Aspirin may help older individuals to live well longer by delaying the onset of illnesses. In fact, previous studies indicate that low dose aspirin reduces the risk of heart attacks, strokes and vascular events in middle-aged people. Low dose aspirin may also assist with preventing cognitive decline and specific forms of cancer such as bowel cancer.

While aspirin can thwart cardiovascular attacks and strokes in individuals with established heart disease, the effect of aspirin for elderly people without a history of cardiovascular disease is less certain and will be determined by this research.

ASPREE is being conducted in cities across our nation, as well as globally. The study will enroll a total of 6,500 healthy

citizens age 65 and older in the United States and another 12,500 in Australia. Since enrollment goals for Caucasian Americans have been met, only minority citizens are eligible to participate currently. In Memphis, study coordinators will recruit 200 minorities of African-American, Asian, or Latino descent.

“The ASPREE trial may provide important information regarding the benefits and risks of aspirin, a low cost, easily available medication for older, healthy individuals,” says Suzanne Satterfield, MD, DPH, associate professor in the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine and principal investigator for the Memphis study.

Participants in the study will be randomly assigned to take either a low dose aspirin or placebo (a pill containing no medicine) daily for about five years. Study pills and medical exams are being provided free of charge.

Patients will receive initial reports on specific health markers, including their functional and cognitive ability. Any changes will be monitored throughout the study. Once enrolled, participants will be seen annually.

Anyone interested in participating should call the UTHSC Department of Preventive Medicine at (901) 448-8400.



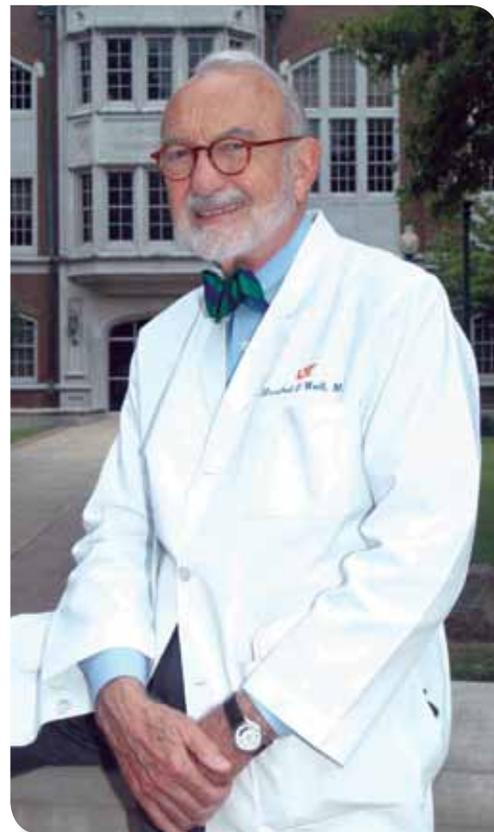
Wall Named Chancellor Emeritus of UTHSC

The University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro recently named Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD, Chancellor Emeritus for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. The appointment reflects unparalleled service and dedication to UTHSC during a professional career that spans more than 52 years.

“It is a truly humbling experience to be named Chancellor Emeritus,” said Dr. Wall. “It continues to be a great honor and pleasure to teach medical students, meet with donors and alumni, and serve the institution at which I have spent nearly my entire professional life.” Outside of military assignments in Europe, Dr. Wall has been part of the UTHSC community since he enrolled in medical school some 55 years ago. As Chancellor Emeritus, he will continue to support development and alumni relations initiatives for UTHSC.

A UTHSC alumnus who graduated from the College of Medicine in 1960, Dr. Wall has served the Health Science Center in a wide variety of roles. For the past three years, he focused on fundraising, capital development and alumni relations with one year as a special assistant to the UTHSC chancellor, and two years as a special assistant to the UT president (2009 to 2011). A longtime UTHSC faculty member and administrator, Dr. Wall has served as UTHSC chancellor (April 2007 through September 2009), interim dean for the UT College of Medicine, associate dean for admissions and student affairs, and division chief of General Pediatrics. In September 2008, UTHSC established the Hershel P. Wall, MD, Legacy Society to honor the distinguished alumni and special friends who have made a commitment to the UT Health Science Center through a planned gift arrangement.

“Pat Wall embodies the spirit of the UT Health Science Center in its education, research and outreach capacities,” said President DiPietro. “As a proud graduate of the UT College of Medicine, he is as passionate today about the work of the Health Science Center, its faculty, students, and alumni as the day he became a pediatrician and taught his first students.”



Chancellor Emeritus Hershel “Pat” Wall, MD

Holiday Food Drive Yields 4,800 Meals



Dr. Ken Brown, UTHSC Executive Vice Chancellor, presented a truckload of food from the holiday food drive to the Mid-South Food Bank. From left, Ron Childers, Action News 5; Dr. Brown; Pamela Houston, UTHSC Special Events; and Elise Moore, UTHSC Community Affairs.

Campuswide donations to the holiday food drive that ended Dec. 5 yielded 2,922 pounds of food and \$1,240 in monetary donations. This resulted in more than three tons of food, providing 4,800+ meals for families in need.

Also this summer, the UTHSC campus took part in a community outreach initiative by giving pocket change (pennies, nickels, dimes and dollars) for a total of \$2,000 in monetary donations. This was called “Packing the Orange Piggy Banks — with our pocket change” and yielded more than two and a half tons of food, providing 4,000 meals for families in need.

UTHSC’s total impact for 2012 was more than 8,800+ meals.



“... the College of Nursing refined its focus, transitioning from a certificate program to a baccalaureate program, then toward an emphasis on graduate education. Since December 2009 when the last class of undergraduates earned their degrees, the college has focused entirely on graduate programs that include a master’s degree, a PhD in Nursing and a clinical doctorate.”

**Excerpt from *The Legacy
The Future: A Centennial Portrait
of The University of Tennessee
Health Science Center***

BSN *Reborn*

The health care landscape, both nationally and locally, has changed over the past three years and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) has responded. In keeping with its mission to serve the needs of Tennesseans, UTHSC has restarted the BSN program.

What a difference three years can make.

In November 2012, the Tennessee Board of Nursing approved a UTHSC proposal to reactivate its baccalaureate program, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). According to Laura Talbot, PhD, EdD, RN, dean for the UTHSC College of Nursing, “The reactivation of our BSN program is a response to the health care needs of our city, state and region. Well-prepared nurses are a lynchpin in the health care system. They are almost always the first points of contact for patients, whether patients enter a health care setting through primary care, urgent care or any area in between.”

She added, “With this final approval, we can now move forward to recruit outstanding students for our renewed BSN program.”

Why was this done?

A Sign *of the* Times

According to Tommie Norris, DNS, RN, UTHSC associate professor and associate dean/chair of the BSN/MSN Department, “... we are trying to meet our practice partners’ needs as well as improve the overall health care for Tennessee.”

What had changed?

New health care needs

To provide the best medical service to the surrounding community while remaining academically competitive, UTHSC has always endeavored to adapt to changes in the health care environment. In reactivating its BSN degree, UTHSC is responding to the evolving needs of a growing patient community, economic circumstances, changes in federal law and more stringent hospital academic requirements. Add in an aging population of baby boomers and new models of health care delivery, and the need for a new health care prescription becomes obvious.

The growing number of health care consumers

When an increase in patients coincides with a decrease in health care providers, it presents special challenges for medical communities



Continued on next page

nationwide. UTHSC is taking proactive measures to prepare — anticipating a demand and getting out ahead of it.

“I think the Affordable Care Act will be sort of a milestone in American health care in the sense that it will literally open up health insurance for the vast majority of Americans,” says Steve Schwab, MD, chancellor of UTHSC. “Having said that, it certainly will create a need for more health care professionals of all types.”

Under the Affordable Care Act, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services estimates that more than 30 million uninsured Americans will have increased access to affordable, quality health coverage options. Medicaid expansion is expected to add even more patients to our health care rolls.

“Especially in rural areas, we do not have enough primary care physicians to meet the need, so nurse practitioners are being asked to step up to the plate to help fill that gap.”

Along with the increased population of Americans with access to health care, the growing number of aging baby boomers is also expected to have an effect on health care delivery. In a 2009 report from the Social Security Advisory Board, the Congressional Budget Office’s Long-Term Budget Outlook projections predicted that aging will account for about 44 percent of growth [in Medicare and Medicaid] through 2035. From 2035 through 2080, the effect decreases and aging accounts for about 30 percent of the projected growth in the two programs.

The BSN Degree Returns to

Dr. Laura A. Talbot believes there is a huge need for nurse practitioners. “With health care needs expanding among nearly every population group, more highly skilled nurses are definitely needed to fill the gaps in our health care system,” she said, adding,

The bursting of the health care bubble

Conversely, the aging population, along with an economy that seems to finally be recovering from the recent downturn, will likely have the opposite effect on health care providers. “As the recession goes away,” Chancellor Schwab says, “huge numbers of nurses, physicians and pharmacists will retire. There are many health care professionals who are currently in the workforce out of economic necessity, who had in better economic times planned to retire.” He believes that many nurses re-entered the workforce due to the recession, and they’ll be leaving as soon as their family economic condition improves.

Describing what he refers to as a “health care bubble,” the chancellor says, “I would argue that we are in a falsely good position relative to health manpower. I think we are going to have a huge need for Bachelor of Science nurses and I believe our nurse shortage will look much like it did eight or nine years ago.”

Dr. Schwab thinks that as long as the recession continues, the exodus of nurses will be postponed, but as the recession diminishes, the number of nurses will inevitably begin to shrink. He says, “If you go to the hospital, I believe that you will see the nursing workforce is now a spectrum of all ages. That wasn’t necessarily a fact 10 years ago.”

The chancellor added, “I think you are going to see it in every discipline, but I think you will see it in nursing first. I think we are starting to see it now.”

New higher standards

“One of the main things prompting the resurgence of the BSN program is the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report to improve the quality of health care and the way we educate our practitioners,” Dean Talbot says. “The push is to have more baccalaureate nurses because the report shows that they give much better quality of care, and patient outcomes are much improved. We are caring for a more complex patient than we have in the past, so students have to be educated very differently than in the past.”

The IOM’s *The Future of Nursing* report indicates that hospitals with a larger proportion of bedside care nurses with BSNs or higher qualifications have a lower risk of patient mortality.



The college is working hard to recruit qualified BSN candidates, utilizing television, print, online and billboard advertising.

Earn Your BSN at U! Be More.

The UT College of Nursing is looking for full, college students and second-degree students with the drive and desire to move your career forward. Enrollment is now open for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program at the UT College of Nursing.

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BSN Application Deadline—April 1, 2013.

Call (901) 448-8700 and ask for Jamie Garnett, JGarnett@uthsc.edu, or Ryan Gannon, RGannon@uthsc.edu.

Other organizations are coming to similar conclusions. The American Association of Nurse Executives, the major professional organization representing hospital nurse chief executive officers who employ 56 percent of the nation's nurses, has established the BSN as the desired credential for nurses. Many hospitals, particularly teaching hospitals

and children's hospitals, are acting on the evidence by requiring the BSN for employment. Nurse executives in teaching hospitals have a goal of 90 percent BSN nurses, and community hospital nurse executives aim for at least 50 percent BSN-prepared nurses.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) already recognizes the

Continued on next page



Steve J. Schwab, MD
UTHSC Chancellor

"The need for nurses in our state and region is huge, especially in West Tennessee where we have a slightly higher indigent population. The reactivation of our BSN program will help us and our health care partners serve the rising number of patients who need primary care."



Tommie Norris, DNS, RN
UTHSC Associate Professor
and Associate Dean/Chair
of the BSN/MSN Department

"The trend we are seeing from our practice partners is a push toward having a baccalaureate degree for nursing. I'm sure at some point and time we will see that as the required entry into practice."



Laura A. Talbot, PhD, EdD, RN
Dean for the College of Nursing

“Well-prepared nurses are a lynchpin in the health care system. They are almost always the first points of contact for patients.”



M. Bruce Jenkins, MD, MHA,
FAAP
Medical Director
Maternity Center NICUs
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare

“In today’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the patients are cared for by a team of diverse disciplines. The central person is the bedside nurse who now coordinates and facilitates all aspects. This requires a solid knowledge base in the basic sciences, clinical practice, quality improvement and lifelong learning. A BSN is essential to prepare some to embark on this challenging and rewarding career path.”

Bachelor of Science degree in nursing as the minimum educational requirement for professional nursing practice. The AACN believes that rapid growth of clinical knowledge and increasing complexity of health care require nurses to have an education that will prepare them for the diverse responsibilities demanded by their profession. Their position statement outlines the reasons: “As health care shifts

from hospital-centered, inpatient care to more primary and preventive care throughout the community, the health system requires registered nurses who not only can practice across multiple settings — both within and beyond hospitals — but can function with more independence in clinical decision making, case management, provision of direct bedside care, supervision of unlicensed aides and



other support personnel, guiding patients through the maze of health care resources, and educating patients on treatment regimens and adoption of healthy lifestyles. In particular, preparation of the entry-level professional nurse requires a greater orientation to community-based primary health care, and an emphasis on health promotion, maintenance, and cost-effective coordinated care.”



The New York Times reported that surveys show most hospitals prefer to hire nurses with bachelor’s degrees, but have trouble finding enough qualified candidates. Lawmakers in several states have introduced bills that would require at least some hospital staff nurses to have bachelor’s degrees within 10 years. Though none of these bills have become law yet, the handwriting is on the wall.

Locally, several area hospitals are striving for more prestigious “magnate” status, which includes having staff consisting of at least 80 percent BSN nurses.

“The trend we are seeing from our practice partners is a push toward having a baccalaureate degree for nursing,” Dr. Tommie Norris says, adding, “I’m sure at some point and time we will see that as the required entry into practice.”

Changing models of care

Chancellor Schwab predicts that the highest quality medical care will be delivered by “health care teams” in the future and believes BSN nurses will be a vital part of those teams. He thinks the move to team care will start in primary care and then extend through all aspects of medical care.

“As changes in health care unfold, we need to sharpen our focus and emulate successful models of care, with special emphasis on providing primary care,” he says. “If we are going to control health care cost, we have to provide primary care. It is the preventive care — the primary care — that’s keeping you from having the heart attack and keeping you from getting the diabetic foot ulcer. That is all primary care. That’s going to be the first bubble we hit and the only way we are going to meet the needs of the nation is with health care professionals working as teams to take care of large numbers of patients to prevent them from developing acute illnesses.”

Dr. Schwab thinks that delivering cost-effective, high-quality team health care will require the development of collaborative groups of nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, nurse practitioners and physicians. For that reason, he believes we need to train more nurses.



Keanna Dandridge, RN, BSN
Patient Care Coordinator
3 Pavilion Med-Surg/GYN
UTHSC Graduate

“UTHSC’s College of Nursing has prepared me with the knowledge and skills to handle the challenges of a complex health care system. When compared to other programs in the community, we have taken courses in informatics, gross anatomy, and had simulated laboratory experiences that give us a competitive edge over other graduates.”



Barbara Sax, patient with
Angela Brown, RN, BSN
UTHSC Graduate (left)

“My nurse, Angela, always keeps me informed and is very professional and instructive. I believe her education and training she received makes it possible for her to effectively care for her patients.”



**Gary S. Shorb, President and CEO
Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare**

“Highly qualified nurses are essential in today’s health care environment as the U.S. population is aging and complexity of care is increasing. Methodist Le Bonheur has a rich and proud history of educating nurses. We welcome the opportunity to continue this tradition and partner with the UTHSC School of Nursing to prepare the next generation of nurses. With this highly trained nursing workforce, we can continue to deliver the highest quality patient- and family-centered care.”



**Emily Mewborn, BSN
UTHSC Student**

“I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for the BSN program.”

New health care venues

When asked about the rise of “storefront” health care providers in retail locations, which are often staffed by nurses instead of physicians, Dr. Schwab replied, “The need for fast available care at a reasonable rate has led to the storefront clinics. I believe they have a role, but let’s not confuse the storefront clinics with primary preventive care. The storefront clinics are mechanisms where people who have a limited acute illness can get fast cost-effective care.”

He believes it’s the relative inability and lack of availability of the big preventive care networks that have led to the rise of the storefront clinics. People who have acute illnesses like a cold or the flu can walk in and get seen quickly. The fact that they chose a storefront clinic reflects the fact that they either don’t have a primary care physician or can’t get in to see their primary care physician.

The chancellor doesn’t think the clinics will have a direct effect on the need for nurses. He explained, “I believe we already have a huge need for nurses and I think the storefront clinics are just coming up to meet the demand. So, if the question is where the nurse practitioners are going to go, the nurse practitioners are going to go where there is opportunity, and I believe there are going to be tons of opportunities.”

The state of the state

Dr. Schwab says the need for nurses in the state of Tennessee and the surrounding region is huge, especially in West Tennessee, which has a slightly higher indigent population. The reactivation of the BSN program is expected to be essential in assisting the college’s health care partners to serve the rising number of patients who need primary care. As the various elements of the Affordable Care Act are imposed, the number of newly insured patients will only rise and the need is expected to be even greater, the same as for the rest of the nation.

The big picture

The reactivated BSN program will not replace any of the college’s existing programs. Instead, it will be an additional educational option and a key element in the college’s continuing strategy of becoming a full-service, full-spectrum College of Nursing.

When asked if there might be competition with other nursing programs at UT and elsewhere, Chancellor Schwab responded, “We believe there will be almost no problem with other UT nursing programs. We are in Memphis; we have a very strong working relationship with our Martin program, and we certainly will collaborate. Will there be some competition with local programs? Sure, but I believe that since we are looking for a different student than they are, it will be modest.”

A time for change

“This is a dynamic time to reactivate the BSN program,” Chancellor Schwab concluded. “We have a dynamic new dean with a new vision, we have a huge demand for health care professionals, and we have a highly motivated, highly skilled faculty. Also, our partner hospitals expect it — we have partners who have needs we need to meet.”

“The College of Nursing is a spectacular college. We are not trying to be the biggest, but our expectation is to be the best.”



The college plans to enroll 70 students per year for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing class that will begin matriculating Aug. 1. The first class will include 30 Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing candidates. The remaining 40 will be traditional students (college students with 60 or more college credits) and second-degree students (college graduates with a desire to change career paths). Those who enroll and are accepted into UTHSC’s accelerated program will be expected to graduate in December 2014, after 17 months of academic and clinical training.

For admission information, call (901) 448-6125 or 1-800-733-2498 and ask for Jamie Garrett, JGarre25@uthsc.edu, or Roylynn Germain, RGermain@uthsc.edu.

Earn Your BSN at ! Be More.

The UT College of Nursing is looking for RNs, college students, and second-degree students with the drive and desire to move your career forward. Enrollment is now open for the **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program** at the UT College of Nursing.

If you are:

- A Registered Nurse who wants more career options,
- A college student with 60 credits who wants a stable career, or
- A second-degree candidate who wants a challenge and a change,

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Complete a BSN in only 17 months.

Apply Now! Be More.

BSN Application Deadline – April 1, 2013.

Call (901) 448-6125 or 1-800-733-2498 and ask for Jamie Garrett, JGarre25@uthsc.edu, or Roylynn Germain, RGermain@uthsc.edu.

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www.uthsc.edu/nursing/bsn





E. DIANNE GREENHILL, BSN, MS, EdS, EdD

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Greetings to you in 2013!

Please accept this letter I write as newly appointed Interim Alumni Board President and on behalf of the UTHSC Nursing Alumni Association.

Elizabeth F. Ellis ('93, '95, '05), has tendered her resignation as Nursing Alumni Board President for personal reasons. We are grateful for her leadership over the past six years and appreciate her many contributions to the College of Nursing and the board. Some of her accomplishments include helping lead the board to more productive meetings with the creation of working subcommittees and helping us with improved alumni day programming. Elizabeth continues to be a supporter of the UTHSC College of Nursing and we wish her all the best in her career.

I have agreed to serve for the remainder of the president's term, which runs through 2014. I am excited for what 2013 holds for the College of Nursing! We commence this spring with exciting alumni programming right here in Memphis!

The Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving is busily preparing for The UT Health Science Center College of Nursing Alumni Weekend on May 2-3, 2013.

Our weekend will return downtown hosting from the Memphis Marriott Downtown and Memphis Cook Convention Center, but, we have so many new additions to our weekend this year!

Please join us on May 2, for the College of Nursing Distinguished Visiting Professor, Alumni Awards Presentation and Reception. We will hear from Dr. Larry Purnell, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor Emeritus of the University of Delaware, and this year's Mary L. Morris DVP. See page 17 to learn more about the events of Nursing Alumni Weekend.

Also, we will recognize and honor the 2013 College of Nursing Outstanding Alumna, Patricia D. Cunningham, DNSc, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC, APN ('01) & Most Supportive Alumna, Susan R. Jacob, PhD, RN ('93) and the College of Nursing's Preceptors of the Year. All participants are invited to a reception where we have the chance to meet Dr. Purnell and to congratulate the 2013 Award Winners.

Thursday evening offers alumni and students the opportunity to participate in a networking dinner. Nursing alumni can volunteer to host and be paired with a student for the event. During the dinner, we will specially recognize the doctorate (DNSc/DNP) and PhD alumni. This new initiative invites alumni to reconnect with UT and support, mentor and celebrate their distinct profession alongside current students. I encourage all to participate.

On Friday, May 3, the College of Nursing Alumni Board Meeting will be followed by a Scholarship Luncheon & College of Nursing Open House! Alumni, donors, students, parents, & guests are invited to attend the open house where tours will be conducted showcasing the college's newly completed space in the Madison building on campus.

Nursing Alumni Weekend is the perfect time for each of us to reflect — ***Where would we be without UTHSC?***

Please save the dates on your calendar and prepare for a joyous and fun-filled weekend.

Another upcoming event I would like to share with you is this year's inaugural Golden Graduate Homecoming honoring graduates of 1963 from all six UTHSC colleges. The event is scheduled for Oct. 2-4 in Memphis and features a Welcome Tea, Back to Class, College Open Houses, Golden Graduate Ceremony & Dinner (inducting class members of 1963), special events throughout Memphis attractions, and much more! If you are a member of the Nursing Class of 1963, you will not want to miss this event!

For more information on all our Nursing alumni events and to find out how you can get involved, please visit the UTHSC Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving Website at uthscalumni.com/events.

Also, take the time to connect with us via Facebook. Find us by searching for "UT Health Science Center Alumni & Friends" and like us!



I appreciate your participation and support and look forward to seeing you all in May and again as we connect throughout the year!

Sincerely,

E. Dianne Greenhill

E. Dianne Greenhill, BSN, MS, EdS, EdD ('62)
Interim Nursing Alumni Board President
Professor Emeritus

NURSING ALUMNI WEEKEND

MAY 2 - 3, 2013

THURSDAY, MAY 2

College of Nursing Mary L. Morris Distinguished Visiting Professor, Alumni Awards Presentation and Reception (12:30 - 5:30 p.m.)

Please join us as we hear from nationally known speaker, Dr. Larry Purnell, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor Emeritus of the University of Delaware, serving as this year's Mary L. Morris Distinguished Visiting Professor (DVP). Dr. Purnell's presentation is entitled, "Cultural Diversity and Competence: A Global Perspective." (2.25 CEU) We will also recognize and honor the 2013 College of Nursing Outstanding Alumna, Patricia D. Cunningham, DNSc, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC, APN ('01) and Most Supportive Alumna, Susan R. Jacob, PhD, RN ('93) and the College of Nursing's Preceptors of the Year. All participants are invited to a reception where they have the chance to meet Dr. Purnell and congratulate the 2013 Award Winners.

Location: *Memphis Cook Convention Center, 255 North Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103*

Dinner with Mentors (7 - 9 p.m.)

All Nursing alumni are invited to attend the wine tasting dinner. Participating alumni will have the opportunity to host and be paired with a current student for the dinner only. There will be special recognition of all doctorate program (DNSc/DNP and PhD) alumni. Come celebrate the wonderful nursing profession and network with fellow UT alumni and students in your field.

Location: *Memphis Marriott Downtown, 250 North Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103*

FRIDAY, MAY 3

College of Nursing Alumni Board of Directors Meeting (8 a.m. - noon)

Alumni Board of Directors meet and consult with the Dean of the College of Nursing.

Location: *Student-Alumni Center (SAC), UTHSC campus*

College of Nursing Scholarship Luncheon (12:30 - 1:45 p.m.)

College of Nursing scholarship recipients and a guest along with donors, Alumni Board members, and key faculty are invited to attend the luncheon.

Location: *Student-Alumni Center (SAC), UTHSC campus*

College of Nursing Open House (2 - 3:30 p.m.)

Join College of Nursing Dean, Dr. Laura Talbot, for a UTHSC College of Nursing Open House! Alumni, students, parents and guests are invited to attend. Desserts will be served and tours will be conducted showcasing the college's new and completed space in the Madison building on campus.

Location: *920 Madison Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38163 (Nursing - 9th and 10th Floor Offices and Research area)*

If any Nursing alumni groups would like to gather for an additional private dinner Friday night at a Memphis restaurant, please notify the Office of Alumni Affairs & Giving for assistance.

A special UT College of Nursing room rate of \$149/night has been arranged at the Memphis Marriott Downtown. Be sure to secure your hotel room as soon as possible due to it also being Memphis Beale Street Music Festival Weekend.

THE 2013 NURSING ALUMNI WEEKEND WILL BE A GREAT WAY TO KICK OFF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK!
PLEASE VISIT www.uthscalumni.com/events FOR MORE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER.

**Information is subject to change.*

NURSING ALUMNI WEEKEND

2012



*Class of '62
Golden Graduates*

Back row (l to r): Dianne Greenhill, Jane Allred, Theda Dyer, Carol Sexton, Anne Coleen Bertsch, Martha Simpson, Sarah Mynatt
Front row (l to r): Sarah Hall Gueldner, Dava Shoffner, Charlene Broyles, Freida Stewart, Margaret Newman, Mary Ann Barbee, Alicia Stigler



*Classes of 1963 and Prior,
You are Invited to the Inaugural*

*Golden Graduate
Homecoming*



**Honoring Graduates of 1963 from All Six UTHSC Colleges
October 2 - 4, 2013 • Memphis, TN**

Featuring

- Welcome Tea • Back to Class • College Open Houses •
- Golden Graduate Ceremony & Dinner (*inducting class members of 1963*) •
- Special Events at Memphis Attractions *and More!* •

Please watch your mailbox for a detailed event brochure. Call (901) 448-5516 for more information.

A Lifetime of Teaching. A Lifetime of Learning.

Alice P. Nunnery, PhD, signed up to serve on the College of Nursing's Alumni Board of Directors for a "trial" period more than a decade ago.

After four terms, she's decided to step aside, but enjoyed serving so much that she's taking on a new role: class representative, a liaison between the class of 1971 and the UT Alumni Association.

Nursing magazine took this opportunity to ask Dr. Nunnery, who graduated in 1971 with a BSN, to reflect on what she learned at UT. We also asked her thoughts on bringing back the bachelor's degree in nursing.

"I think that this [bringing back the BSN program] reminds everyone of the important role of the bedside nurse in the delivery of health care," she says. "The BSN program is also important as an entry point into the graduate nursing programs. Further, it will help continue the excellence in nursing education that began when Ruth Neil Murry was dean."

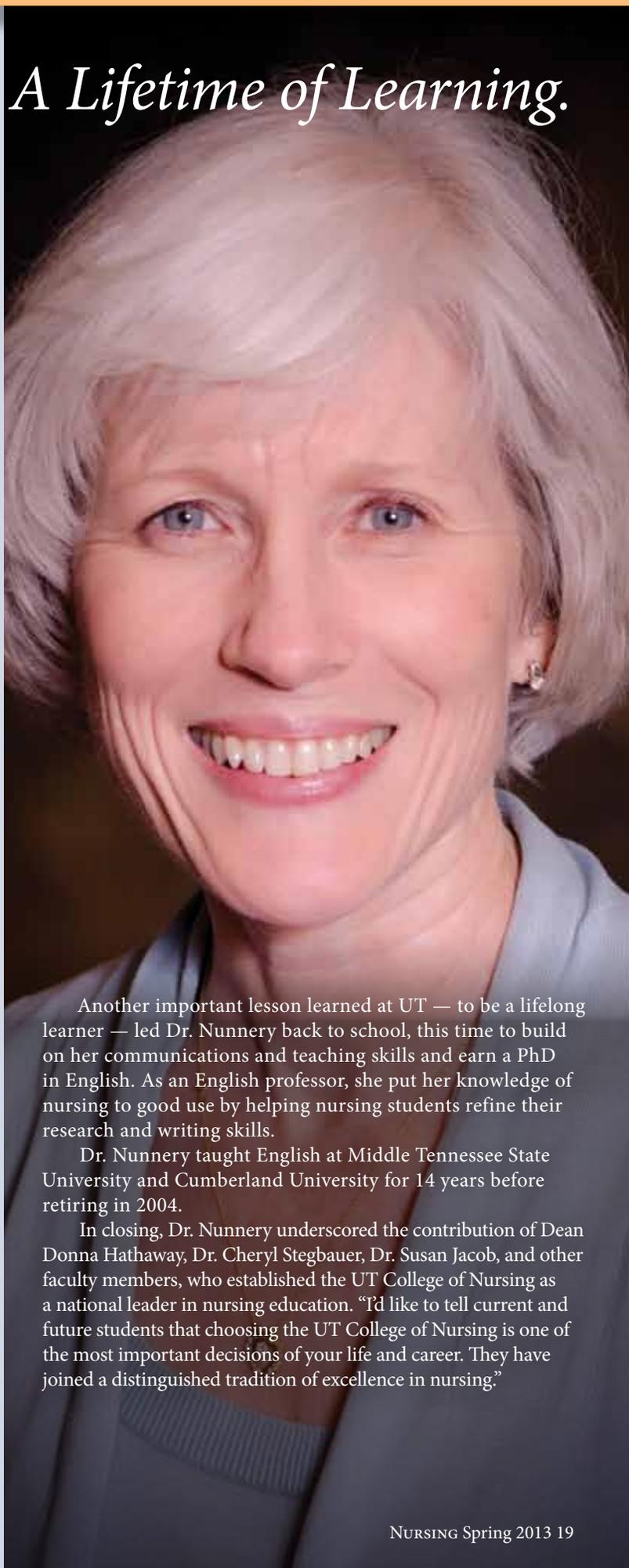
Dr. Nunnery started her own nursing career in the Coronary Care Unit of Wm. F. Bowld Hospital in Memphis, working with an exceptional health care team. It included Dr. Charles Mercer, the unit director and a College of Medicine faculty member, and Dr. Sherry Webb, a current member of the UT College of Nursing faculty.

"In the College of Nursing, Marie F. Buckley was also a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to us all," says Dr. Nunnery. Drs. Dianne Greenhill and Judy Thompson were other role models who imparted a lesson that is still true today: The relationship between the patient and the nurse is the most important in health care. "The nurse is the critical link between the patient and all the other health professionals with whom they come in contact," she says.

These and other lessons learned — at UT and in the coronary care unit — prepared Dr. Nunnery for her most significant career accomplishment: setting up a cardiac rehab center at a physical therapy clinic in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Here, she set up a program of exercise, dietary counseling and psychological support to help patients come to grips with their new "normal" and learn to take control of their health again.

In the cardiac center, as in other nursing settings, communication and patient education were keys to successful patient outcomes. They are equally important today with nurses choosing areas of practice that require even more specialized knowledge and training.

Dr. Nunnery explains: "Patients have access to more health information, so nurses must be prepared to help them assess it and understand which sources are most reliable and applicable to them. With outpatient treatments and procedures as the norm, the patient educator role is paramount. Nurses have less-prolonged in-hospital contact with patients, so they must make the most of every interaction."



Another important lesson learned at UT — to be a lifelong learner — led Dr. Nunnery back to school, this time to build on her communications and teaching skills and earn a PhD in English. As an English professor, she put her knowledge of nursing to good use by helping nursing students refine their research and writing skills.

Dr. Nunnery taught English at Middle Tennessee State University and Cumberland University for 14 years before retiring in 2004.

In closing, Dr. Nunnery underscored the contribution of Dean Donna Hathaway, Dr. Cheryl Stegbauer, Dr. Susan Jacob, and other faculty members, who established the UT College of Nursing as a national leader in nursing education. "I'd like to tell current and future students that choosing the UT College of Nursing is one of the most important decisions of your life and career. They have joined a distinguished tradition of excellence in nursing."

Outstanding Alumna *Patricia D. Cunningham, DNSc, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC, APN*

Since she was a child growing up as the eldest of four siblings in Philadelphia, Penn., Patricia Cunningham knew she wanted to be a nurse.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in nursing from Temple University, she pursued her MSN in psychiatric/mental health nursing from Indiana University and post-master's preparation as a family nurse practitioner from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She graduated in the inaugural class of the UTHSC College of Nursing's Doctor of Nursing Science Program in 2001.

Her nursing journey began in Pennsylvania and Indiana hospitals before joining the medical community in Memphis. She worked as a staff nurse in psychiatric hospitals in the early 1980s, and by the mid-80s, she was the staff development coordinator for the psychiatric units of a large general hospital. In the early 1990s, she served as a mental health/clinical nurse specialist in a large critical care division of a general hospital. She also worked as a part-time private therapist for a number of years, and spent eight years as a primary care provider in urban primary care clinics.

Since 1992, she has been a UTHSC College of Nursing faculty member. She is certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center as an adult psychiatric/mental health clinical nurse specialist, a psychiatric family nurse practitioner,

and a family nurse practitioner. In her current role as an associate professor and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) psychiatric/mental health option coordinator, Cunningham says the Tillie Olsen quote, "Who's to care about them if we don't, who?" inspires her work and life daily.

"This level of care is both challenging and interesting," says Cunningham. "I assist in making positive changes in the lives of psychiatric patients. My service to the evolution, education, and role of performing as an advanced practice psychiatric nurse is extremely gratifying."

In 2011, she received the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) Award for Excellence in Practice. In her years as an instructor at the College of Nursing, Cunningham has received many accolades, including the Excellence in Teaching Award, Outstanding Teacher Award, The Golden Apple Award, the Psychiatric Nursing Award from the Tennessee Nurses Association, and the Faculty Alumni Award from the UTHSC College of Nursing.

In addition to her roles at UTHSC, she volunteers with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for Critical Incident Stress Debriefing.

A mother of two adult sons, Cunningham is married to Tom Cunningham, who also works at UTHSC. She loves theater, and one day dreams of traveling to an ancient city in Europe.



Most Supportive Alumna

Susan R. Jacob, RN, PhD

Susan Jacob, recently retired interim dean of the College of Nursing, is finding new ways to fulfill her philosophy of life, as stated in Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

What’s important to her is clear. “It is extremely rewarding for me to combine my spiritual gifts with my professional expertise and interests,” says Jacob (PhD, ’93), who graduated from the UT Health Science Center with a BSN in the 1960s. Her name has been linked to nursing education for nearly four decades. She plans to use her new-found “free” time to work as an educational outreach consultant at the Memphis Church Health Center and to being “a dotting grandmother.”

“When I chose nursing as a major at West Virginia University in the late ’60s, I had no idea about the career opportunities that would come my way — from acute care nursing in the hospital to home health and hospice in the community, to education and administration in the academic setting,” says the West Virginia native, who holds the distinction of being the first hospice nurse and hospice administrator in Memphis. In 1982, Jacob received the John W. Runyan Award for her efforts toward the development of hospice.

With her bachelor’s degree in nursing, Jacob went on to pursue a master’s degree in nursing from San Jose State University and a doctorate from UTHSC before serving as a tenured professor at both the Loewenberg School of Nursing and Union University, where she also served as dean of nursing.

In 2003, she joined the College of Nursing at UTHSC to lead efforts to re-establish the baccalaureate nursing program. In 2005 the CON partnered with Methodist Le Bonheur to offer a BSN which was transitioned to a Master’s Entry Clinical Nurse Leader program in 2009. Prior to being named interim dean in 2011, she was executive associate dean in the UTHSC College of Nursing for eight years.

She has extensive experience in the area of curriculum development and teaching/learning in both the classroom and clinical settings at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She is the co-author/coeditor of *Contemporary Nursing: Issues, Trends and Management*, which is a leading nursing issues textbook in its fifth edition, and the author of numerous journal articles.



Jacob has consistently served in leadership roles in Sigma Theta Tau International and the Tennessee Nurses Association, and as a delegate to the American Nurses Association for several years. She currently is a board member for both the Tennessee Center for Nursing and the Nursing Institute of the Mid South, a founding member of the Southern Region Coalition, and an evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. She also serves as chair of the Professional Advisory Committee for Methodist Alliance Health Services. Jacob’s community service activities are deeply rooted in teaching a Faith Congregation Nurse Basic Preparation course, facilitating grief support groups, mentoring vulnerable expectant moms, and organizing health promotion activities in her church and the community. She and her husband, Dick, have taught a marriage preparation course at their church for more than 23 years.

“Besides 43 years of marriage, our legacy of our three daughters and nine grandchildren, I am most proud of the opportunities that I have had to mentor students and junior faculty. Many of my students are now doctorally prepared and are in significant leadership positions,” says Jacob, who is the 2013 American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Advocate State Award for Excellence recipient.

“I am also grateful for the many opportunities I have had in my career to share my faith.”

Nursing Scholarship Endowed for Brenda C. Mills

Circle of Friends and Professional Colleagues Recall Her Contribution to Nursing

By Margaret Carbaugh, senior writer, UTFI

“She was a voice for nursing and nurse practitioners,” says Cheryl L. Cox of her longtime friend and colleague, Brenda Mills, who served as an associate professor for the UTHSC College of Nursing for 25 years.

This theme emerges over and over when friends and colleagues recall Mills, in whose memory a scholarship has been endowed in the UTHSC College of Nursing.

Today, Cox is a full faculty member in the Epidemiology Department at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and a principal investigator of two NIH studies.

When she and Mills met in the 1970s, Cox had just graduated from Vanderbilt University and was working at the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department as its first master’s-level nurse practitioner. Mills was a pediatric nurse practitioner (PNP) and graduate of the early PNP certificate program, though she later earned the master’s degree in nursing and preparation as a family nurse practitioner (FNP). Brenda then earned her doctorate in nursing from Rush University.

Cox recalls the 1970s as the decade when the nurse practitioner movement was just getting under way. Mills, through her work for the Tennessee Nurses Association (TNA), was the vocal champion that the movement needed.

“The nurse practitioner as a health professional was a hard sell,” Cox recalls, “but Brenda was articulate and clear about the



role of the nurse practitioner. She was so forthright. She did not back down, but made the case for what we could bring to the table as nurses.”

Louise Browning, former executive director of TNA, agrees. She got to know Brenda through their years of service to the nursing association, which spanned the decades of the ’80s, ’90s and early 2000s.

“Brenda was one of the first nurse practitioners in Tennessee,” she says. “In the very early days, she and other TNA members spent a lot of time lobbying the Tennessee General Assembly to pass legislation promoting and protecting the nursing profession, including the advanced practice nurse.” For example, they pushed for and won Medicaid reimbursement for nurse practitioners and authorization for nurse practitioners to prescribe certain types of controlled drugs.

Another major legislative victory resulted in all nurses — rather than nurses and doctors — and a consumer representative on the Tennessee Board of Nursing. Equally important, an organization was created during Brenda’s service to TNA — the Tennessee Nurses Foundation — which funded a nationally recognized program to assist chemically dependent nurses.

Cheryl Stegbauer, a professor in the College of Nursing, was also a part of Brenda’s inner circle in the early days of the nurse practitioner movement. “It was a new concept,” she says. “But after I shadowed Cheryl Cox, I knew that it was what I wanted to do.”



Brenda Mills (center back row) surrounded by colleagues and friends at the 1992 American Nurses Association national convention. The photograph was taken after Virginia Trotter Betts (center) was elected ANA president. To her right is Cheryl Stegbauer. Also shown are other members of the Tennessee Nurses Association and Louise Browning, TNA executive director, right end front row.

After graduate school in Texas and working as a family nurse practitioner for Baylor College of Medicine, Stegbauer was recruited back to UT by Dr. Beverly Bowns to help establish the FNP program at the Health Science Center.

Stegbauer then worked on a federal grant with Mills and Peggy Ingram Veaser that sustained the program at UTHSC, the first public university in Tennessee to have a graduate nurse practitioner program, and one of the first in the South. "I still have the files for the grant application," Stegbauer says. "I can't throw them away."

But what Stegbauer recalls most is Brenda's contribution as a pediatric nurse, especially her more holistic approach to health care and focus on preventive care. "I think her lasting contribution is the difference she made in the lives of children and their families, and the fact that she taught this approach to her nursing students."

Others that *Nursing* magazine spoke with included Virginia Trotter Betts, former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Disabilities and a professor of nursing at UTHSC. Her memory of Brenda stretches through long and successful careers and their investment of time and attention in the Tennessee Nurses Association and American Nurses Association. Asked to name "just a few things" that readers should know about Brenda, Betts listed Brenda's role as a nursing pioneer, but it was surprisingly one of the last things cited.

Sitting outside of a coffee kiosk in a food court, Betts began ticking off the personal qualities that made Brenda who she was. "Brenda knew how to be happy right where she was," was the first. It was this quality — along with a positive mindset — that helped Brenda remain forward thinking when she received a diagnosis of cancer in the early 2000s. At a time when many of her contemporaries were planning retirement speeches and long-delayed family trips, Brenda was told that she had blood cancer that develops in the bone marrow.

The physician who diagnosed her condition promised Brenda "five good years" with the treatments then available. "She always held out hope that the next treatment would bring a complete and lasting remission," Betts says.

Brenda tempered her bright outlook with a daily dose of realism. "She knew that we cannot control the outcomes in our lives, but we can make a huge difference with our inputs."

Elinor Reed, another longtime colleague and friend, is an emeritus member of the UT College of Nursing faculty. She remembers Brenda as one of her BSN students and then the time they spent together in the Air National Guard as flight nurses.

We are sitting in Elinor's spacious Midtown home, just a few miles from the campus of the Health Science Center. As we are talking, a memory pops into her mind: "We were on a training flight to California on a C-124 with a double deck and a huge cargo. It's in the bone yards now," Reed recalls. "I was on the top deck and Brenda was on the lower deck. We were just getting in some flying time. One of the troops went into cardiac arrest. Brenda saved his life with CPR."

Joining us is Norma Long, the first dean of the U of M's School of Nursing. She and Brenda, along with the late Marie Buckley, another emeritus professor of the College of Nursing, lived in the same building on East Parkway, across from the Memphis Zoo. "We were all in a bridge club together and became close in later years," Long says. "Her death was hard on us all."

Brenda was sometimes in a lot of pain due to her cancer and treatment. "Still, she fought hard to live and made the most of every moment," Long says. She recalls that someone asked Brenda how she kept her spirits up. "I love living," she replied.

Her last days prove that point: The day before Brenda died, members of the bridge club called to check on her when she didn't show up at the regular time. Though she was tired and lying down, friends helped her get up and get dressed because she wanted to play. "She just glowed," Long recalls.

Brenda's response to living with cancer turned out to be the most important lesson that she imparted to students or to friends. As Betts reported, "She believed that people are about as happy or unhappy as they choose to be."

To learn more about the Brenda Mills scholarship or to make a contribution, please contact Nell Blair, Director of Development, at 901-448-8202 or by email at NellBlair@UTHSC.edu.

Thanks to the following people who have given and continue to give to the Brenda Mills Scholarship:

Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation
Janet A Bartosch
Virginia Trotter Betts
Charlene White Boy and Duane Boy
Michael Aand Sarah Carter
Ann and Ted Cashion
Patricia and Thomas Cunningham
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Reunited *for the First Time*

Last spring, approximately 65 alumni of the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing gathered for a class reunion, which was held for the first time with the UTHSC College of Nursing and during the College's Alumni Weekend.

The reunion was held at the Memphis Downtown Marriott and hosted by the UT College of Nursing, which invited Methodist alumni to take part in all of the Alumni Weekend opportunities for networking and fellowship.

The event came about when Methodist alumni asked the UTHSC Office of Alumni and Giving for help in planning a long-overdue school reunion. Reunion committee members were Teresa Jones Britt, '77; Angela Cook Hawkins, '96; Tara Cox Holt, '83; Laura Murley Long, '92; Diane Todd Pace, '71; and Paula Tapper Spears, '72.

Members were greeted by UTHSC Chancellor Steve Schwab and Gary Shorb, president and CEO of Methodist Healthcare

Corporation, who stressed the longstanding and beneficial partnership between Methodist and UTHSC.

Fun activities included a nurse's cap folding competition, a walk-through of the decades, and a presentation of memories by

Jean Jutman, longtime program recruiter for the school. Classmates also took to the lectern to share their favorite memories of their time in nursing school.

The Methodist Hospital School of Nursing has a legacy almost as long as that of UTHSC. "Since 1918, Methodist has graduated more than 4,000 women and men who have become great nurses focused on

leading and providing care for patients, and making a difference in their various health care settings," said Paula Tapper Spears.

"I think all of our graduates would agree that this school was a special place and played a very significant part in their lives and who they have become today."

"I think all of our graduates would agree that this school was a special place and played a very significant part in their lives and who they have become today."

Paula Tapper Spears, '72

Scholarship Benefits Methodist Alumni at UTHSC

It's not too late to support a scholarship established last year that will benefit Methodist graduates and the Health Science Center. The scholarship was established by Methodist alumni to help graduates of their school who want to further their nursing education at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

The scholarship honors the memory of Mrs. Elaine Witt and her decades of service as the school nurse for Methodist Hospital School of Nursing. The recipient(s) will be announced before the fall 2013 classes begin. For more information or to make a gift to the fund, contact Jada Williams, director of Annual Giving.

jada@utfi.org • (901)448-4974

Help Us Plan Our Next Reunion

Methodist Hospital School of Nursing alumni, we'd like your help in planning the next reunion, which is coming up in 2015.

It will be here before we know it! Amanda Lane, director of Alumni Programs, will be happy to get you involved in making the reunion even more fun and meaningful than the first.

alane@utfi.org • (901)448-8580

Help Us Keep You in the Know

To make sure you get reunion notices and other news, update your contact information with the UTHSC Office of Alumni and Giving.

In the spirit of going green, future mailings will be mostly electronic, so make sure that we have your email address.

sbass@utfi.org • (901)448-5516

64th Reunion a Treat for Cadet Nurse Corps Class of '48



A special group of women, alumni from the UT Cadet Nurse Corps Class of 1948, gathered at Kirby Pines Retirement Community in September to reunite at their 64th class reunion. Theirs was the last class of nurses to receive special training preparing them to treat soldiers wounded in World War II.

Hosted by one of the alumni, Bea Barnes ('48) and her husband Roy, who are residents at Kirby Pines, the event began Friday night with a dinner, and concluded Saturday. Other alumni

(l to r) Alice Buford Morris, Evelyn Harris Stafford, Bea Adair Thomas Barnes, Mary Culver Herring and Dorothy Jo Boswell Sayers, hosted their reunion in Memphis.

of the class were Alice Buford Morris, Evelyn Harris Stafford, Mary Culver Herring and Jo Boswell Sayers.

Bea said seeing her classmates was a treat. "It was delightful. It was just like homecoming." She said that although the group had stayed in touch over the years, it was the first chance they had to get together as a group in quite some time. The alumni finished out the reunion Saturday, after spending the day sharing stories about their careers, marriages, children and grandchildren.

Band of Sisters



The January 2013 issue of *RSVP* magazine featured an article about the UT Nurses champion women's basketball team.

As early as 1953, the UT Nurses competed against nurses from local hospitals. But they took off in 1955 when they found a volunteer coach in the person of Jim Stockdale, who had recently arrived on campus as the new director of student welfare.

Stockdale started a tournament for other nursing school teams — the Cotton States Nurses Invitational — drawing competition from as far afield as Georgia and Kansas. Under Stockdale's direction, the UT Nurses won seven tournament championships and 12 Nurses League titles in 26 years. His teams won 68 percent of their games. Three finished with undefeated records.

The issue can be found online at http://issuu.com/rsvpmagazine/docs/jan13_digimag.



Save the Dates!

Nursing Alumni Weekend
May 2 - 3, 2013
Memphis, TN



Events include

- **College of Nursing Mary L. Morris Distinguished Visiting Professor, Alumni Awards Presentation and Reception** featuring nationally known speaker, **Dr. Larry Purnell, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Professor Emeritus of the University of Delaware and honoring the 2013 College of Nursing Outstanding Alumna, **Patricia D. Cunningham, DNSc, APN PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC** ('01) and Most Supportive Alumna, **Susan R. Jacob, PhD, RN** ('93)
- **Dinner with Mentors**
 All Nursing alumni are invited to this networking dinner. There will be special recognition of the doctorate program (DNSc/DNP) and PhD alumni during the dinner.
- **College of Nursing Alumni Board of Directors Meeting** (Alumni Board Members only)
- **College of Nursing Scholarship Luncheon** (By special invitation)
- **College of Nursing Open House**
 The 2013 Nursing Alumni Weekend will be a great way to kick off National Nurses Week! Please visit uthscalumni.com/events for more detailed event information!

Thanks to our Investors

We would like to thank our generous Alumni and Friends who chose to invest financially in the future of Nursing here at UTHSC. Choosing to invest in the UTHSC College of Nursing supports our reputation of excellence today — and in the future.

We are extremely grateful for your investment!

This list reflects gifts received July 1, 2011 thru June 30, 2012. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Please contact Nell Blair, director of Development with any questions or comments — NellBlair@uthsc.edu.

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The college is truly grateful for this support.

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To create a new fund or support an existing fund, please contact Nell Blair, director of Development, at (901) 448-8202 or by email at NellBlair@UTHSC.edu.

2013 Outstanding Preceptors

Each year students have the opportunity to recognize clinical preceptors who have made significant contributions to the training of both master's and doctoral students. The 2013 Outstanding Preceptors, along with excerpts from their nominations, are below.

Outstanding Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)

Clinical Preceptor

Angela Dreher, RN

Angela Dreher, RN, is a staff nurse in the Tower at Methodist University Hospital. "Angela embodies everything that is right with nursing," according to her nomination form. "She is extremely passionate about the care that she provides and takes time to inquire about the situations and life circumstances of all of her patients, no matter who they are." Angela makes a point of taking coffee into patients' rooms in the morning and getting to know them as people.



Angela stresses the importance of communicating with patients. She lets them know when she will be returning to their room, or if she has called a doctor and is waiting for a call back. She respects patients' privacy, making sure they are comfortable discussing their care with others in the room.

She accompanies doctors in their visits with patients and follows up by asking more questions of the doctor. One of her students says, "She often tells me that she'd rather a doctor be annoyed at her persistence than compromise the health of her patient." "If you are unsure, ask," Angela tells students. "Never be afraid to ask questions. You can never be too careful."

Outstanding Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

Clinical Preceptor

Meredith Brooke Allison, APN

Meredith Brooke Allison is an APN instructor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She works at the Area Health Education Center in Pine Bluff, Ark.

One student wrote that Allison had prepared her well to be a nurse practitioner. Along with clinical instruction, She offers practical advice for the new nurse practitioner in the areas of records and certifications.



"I have grown tremendously under her direction," the student wrote. "She is not only an effective and positive preceptor, she is very willing to teach." Allison goes "above and beyond to teach and mentor" the student stated.

Allison was credited not only with being knowledgeable in her field of family practice but with guiding and correcting her students gently, thereby preserving and building their self-esteem.

Despite working in a very busy clinic, Allison remains aware of how important it is to provide her students with unique learning opportunities, inviting them to observe interesting diagnoses or procedures. "She is especially knowledgeable in the area of diabetes," a student wrote, "which is often a very intimidating area for students."

Join Our Team!

Associate Dean for Research/ Distinguished Professor

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) College of Nursing invites inquiries, nominations, or applications for the position of Associate Dean for Research/Distinguished Professor in the College of Nursing. The Associate Dean for Research provides leadership for the enhancement and growth of the college's research and scholarship programs. As a direct report to the Dean of the College of Nursing, the Associate Dean is a member of the college leadership team.

Qualifications

The PhD (or equivalent) in nursing or

a related field is required as well as at least one graduate degree in nursing (all from accredited institutions) and a demonstrated record of achievement in research, including experience as a principal investigator. The candidate must qualify for rank of associate professor or professor; qualify for tenure; be eligible for licensure as a registered nurse in the state of Tennessee; and undergo background checks required by the state of Tennessee.

The Associate Dean for Research will have extensive and in-depth knowledge of nursing and will serve as a major resource person to colleagues, students and the community. Other expected abilities include: excellent communications skills

of all kinds; general analytical expertise as well as understanding of and ability to interpret pertinent financial and legal documents, and data; and effective people and organization skills for working with diverse types of people both on and off campus including the boards of directors, potential funders, legislators, community leaders, and children. Applicants must have a commitment to diversity and equal opportunity.

Instructor or Assistant Professor

The UTHSC College of Nursing invites applications for a full-time position as faculty in the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program. Located in a tri-state

Three UTHSC Faculty Join an Exclusive Group of Forensic Nurses

Three nurses with UTHSC connections have become part of an elite group. Nancy Cabelus, Susan Patton and Joyce Williams earned certification as Advanced Forensic Nurses from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

According to Patton, there are fewer than 10 certified Advanced Forensic Nurses in the world.

Forensic nurses participate in the legal system by collecting evidence and providing consultation to law enforcement and medical agencies as well as caring for victims of violence.



Nancy Cabelus, DNP, MSN, RN, AFN-BC, FAAFS, is working in Africa to reduce human trafficking. An international consultant on sexual violence in conflict zones, she earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from UTHSC in 2007. She also just joined UTHSC as volunteer faculty in the College of Nursing.

Her 30 years as a nurse include 20 years as a Connecticut state trooper, investigating criminal cases and earning numerous citations for successful resolutions. She was in charge of security for Gov. Lowell Weicker, Jr., and his family from 1991 to 1995. She went on to be a program manager for the U.S. Department of Justice, receiving top secret clearance, and helped to start a forensic nursing program at the University of Nairobi in Kenya. She served as Director-at-Large of the International Association of Forensic Nurses from 2004 to 2008, receiving the Virginia A. Lynch Pioneer Award in Forensic Nursing in 2010.



Susan Patton, DNSc, PNP-BC, AFN-BC, FAANP, is a board-certified pediatric nurse practitioner working with victims of child abuse and sexual assault in private practice. She earned Doctor of Nursing Science degree from UTHSC, joining the College of Nursing faculty in 2001. She currently serves as coordinator of the DNP Forensic Nursing Option and interim director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program. Dr. Patton's major areas of scholarship and practice are developmental pediatrics and injury/violence prevention. She has received a number of awards, including the UTHSC Excellence in Teaching award, and has been recognized by the Arkansas General Assembly.



Joyce P. Williams, DNP, DF-IAFN, FAAFS, a forensic nurse examiner for the Child Advocacy Center in Hagerstown, Md., earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from UTHSC in 2007. She became an assistant professor at UTHSC in 2012. Williams was part of the response teams for United Airlines Flight 93 in 2001 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. A clinical instructor at Johns Hopkins from 2008-2011, she has volunteered her expertise to the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine. Her awards include the Dr. Wilbur B. Payne Memorial Award for Excellence in Analysis from the Department of the Army, the Governor's Citation from the state of Maryland, and the Distinguished Fellow award from the International Association of Forensic Nurses.

For more information on forensic nursing, go to the International Association of Forensic Nurses at www.forensicnurse.org and the American Nurses Credentialing Center at www.nursecredentialing.org.

regional medical center, UTHSC provides excellent opportunities and resources for clinical research and practice.

Qualifications

Experience in medical-surgical nursing, critical care, and teaching is desired. Minimal requirements for the position include a RN license and a Master of Science in Nursing. All degrees must be from an accredited program. Academic rank is at instructor or assistant professor level based upon academic credentials. Nominations and applications will be accepted until the position is filled but an early response would be appreciated. Applicants must have a commitment to diversity and equal opportunity.

Faculty – Doctor of Nursing Practice Program

The UTHSC College of Nursing invites applications for the position of a full-time, non-tenure track faculty member in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Faculty.

Qualifications

Licensure as a registered nurse and advanced practice licensure in Tennessee are required, as well as certification as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner. Doctoral degree preferred. Experience in advanced practice acute care nursing and education is preferred; Academic rank commensurate with degree and experience.

Faculty – Family Nurse Practitioner

The UTHSC College of Nursing invites applications for the position of a full-time, non-tenure track faculty member in the Doctor of Nursing Practice Graduate Program, Family Nurse Practitioner Faculty.

Qualifications

Doctoral degree and licensure as a registered nurse and advanced practice licensure in Tennessee are required, as well as certification as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse. Experience in advanced practice nursing and education are preferred. Academic rank commensurate with degree and experience.

For more information on any of these positions, go to uthsc.edu/nursing/jobs.php

UTHSC DNP Faculty Elected Presidents of National Practice Organizations

Four UTHSC College of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice faculty have been elected as presidents of national and international practice organizations. These leaders have active clinical practices in specialty populations including adult-gerontology acute care, family psychiatric mental health, and women's health.

Carol Thompson, PhD, DNP, ACNP, FNP, CCRN, FCCM, FAANP, FAAN, Acute Care DNP program coordinator, is the 2013 president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM). She is the second advanced practice nurse elected president to SCCM, the largest multiprofessional organization dedicated to ensuring excellence and consistency in the practice of critical care. Dr. Thompson joined SCCM in 1991. She has chaired the Nursing Section, served on Council, and has been an active member of Advocacy, ICU Report, Audit, Finance and Investment, Strategic Planning, and Nomination committees. She has also served as the society's representative to the National Quality Forum.

Shelia Melander, DSN, ACNP, FAANP, FCCM, also a professor for the Acute Care DNP program, has been elected as the 2014-16 President of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). Dr. Melander currently serves a two-year term as president-elect of this international organization focused on nurse practitioner education.

Patricia D. Cunningham, DNSc, PMHNP/CNS-BC, FNP-BC, APN, Family Psychiatric Mental Health DNP program coordinator, is the 2013 President of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA). The APNA, founded in 1986, is the largest professional membership organization committed to the specialty practice of psychiatric-mental health nursing and wellness promotion, prevention of mental health problems, and the care and treatment of persons with psychiatric disorders. Dr. Cunningham's accomplishments include co-chairing the Task Force on Implementation of the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education (LACE), which guides current and future APNA members in their practice.

Diane Pace, PhD, FNP-BC, CCD, NCMP, FAANP, assistant professor, Family Nurse Practitioner DNP program, is the 2013 President of the North American Menopause Society (NAMS). She is the fourth advanced practice nurse elected president to SCCM, which was founded in 1989. The NAMS is North America's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health and quality of life of all women during midlife and beyond through an understanding of menopause and healthy aging. Its multidisciplinary membership of 2,000 leaders include medical, nursing, and other experts from clinical and basic science.

Dr. Carol L. Thompson

Dr. Diane Pace

Dr. Patricia D. Cunningham

Dr. Shelia Melander

Executive Committee Retreat, Heber Springs, Ark.

Team Trek



Laura Talbot, Tommie Norris, Patricia Cowan, Belinda Loyd, Leslie McKeon, Wendy Likes, Victoria Bass



Patricia Cowan walking the cable with Nick Williams (facilitator) in the background.



Victoria Bass, Wendy Likes, Leslie McKeon (catchers and scribe)

FACULTY NOTES

Two faculty members will be honored at the June 2013 conference of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners: Dr. Susan Jacob ('93), professor emeritus, the 2013 recipient of the AANP Advocate State Award for Excellence, and Dr. Diane Pace ('98), the 2012 recipient of the AANP Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence. The first award recognizes an individual in each state who has significantly contributed to increased awareness and acceptance of the nurse practitioner role. The second award goes to an NP in each state for demonstrated excellence in clinical practice.

A manuscript by the Children's Oncology Group has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. It summarizes task force recommendations for follow up of female survivors of childhood cancer. It also discusses experimental pre- and post-treatment strategies for fertility preservation not covered in the COG Long-term Follow-Up Guidelines. Dr. Wendy M. Likes ('04), a member of the COG Fertility Task Force that drafted the recommendations, is an associate professor of the College of Nursing and vice chair of the Acute and Chronic Care Department.

An article by Dr. Wendy M. Likes ('04) was published ahead of print in November 2012. "A cross-sectional analysis of lower genital tract intraepithelial neoplasia in immune compromised women with an abnormal Pap" appeared as an Epub on Nov. 21, in the *Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics*.

An article by Drs. Cheryl Stegbauer ('94), Lisa Campbell ('11) and Bill Stroube is now in press. "Lessons from History: the 1665 Plague in Eyam, England" will be published in *The Texas Journal of Public Health*. Dr. Stegbauer is a professor in the College of Nursing.

Associate professor Tommie Norris ('87) recently presented a poster presentation, "Collaboration to Improve Nursing Education," at the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Education Board Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing.

2013 College of Nursing Faculty/Staff

UTHSC Distinguished Professor

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Donna K. Hathaway, PhD, FAAN

Professor

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Ann Cashion, PhD, RN, FAAN
Margaret Thorman Hartig, PhD, FNP-BC, FAANP
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
Laura A. Talbot, EdD, PhD, RN – *Dean*
Carol L. Thompson, PhD, CCRN, ACNP, FNP, FCCM, FAANP – *Acute Care Option Coordinator*
Mona Newsome Wicks, PhD, RN

Associate Professor

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Patricia A. Cowan, PhD, RN – *Associate Dean for Academic Programs*
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Leslie McKeon, PhD, RN, NEC-BC – *Assistant Dean of Student Affairs*
Tommie Norris, DNS, RN – *Associate Dean/Chair, BSN/MSN Department*
Jill S. Detty Oswaks, CRNA, DNSc – *Director of Nurse Anesthesia Option*
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Assistant Professor

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Lynn Kirkland, DNSc, APRN-BC
Donna Lynch-Smith, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CNL
Diane Pace, PhD, FNP-BC, APN, FAANP
Stephanie A. Plummer, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP
Keevia Porter, DNP, NP-C
Jami A. Smith, DHed, RN
Lorena Thompson, CRNA, DNP
Sherry Webb, DNSc, RN, CNL, NEA-BC

Instructor

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

Emeritus Faculty

Kay Engelhardt	Sarah Mynatt
Veronica Engle	Carol Panicucci
Dianne Greenhill	Elinor F. Reed
Susan Jacob	Peggy Veaser

College of Nursing Staff

Victoria Y. Bass, CPA – <i>Assistant Dean, Finance & Administration</i>	Ramona Jackson, BA
Trimika L. Bowdre, MPH	April Jones, BA
Gadsby Creson, MSA, BFA	Florine Burch Jones, BPS, CPS
Natalie Ensminger, MAT	Belinda Loyd, CAP
Jamie Overton, MEd	Josephine Owens-Cox, BS
Roylynn Germain	Gail Spake, MA
Teresa Glaser, CPS	E. Erwin Story, MBA
Jada Harding	Jackie Trice
	Kevin Webb, BBA, BS

Practice Programs

Arabella Mitchell, MSN, RN

Development & Alumni Affairs

Amanda Lane – *Director of Alumni Affairs*
Kris Phillips – *Associate VC for Alumni Affairs & Annual Giving*
Jada Williams – *Director of Annual Giving*

Dr. Laura Talbot gives the opening comments to the executive team at their strategic planning workshop



Strategic Planning Retreats

The College of Nursing is in the process of defining its direction for the next three to five years. Faculty will be attending several workshops focused on the strategic planning process for the UTHSC College of Nursing. The purpose of these workshops is to help us position our college as one of the premier nursing schools for the state of Tennessee and the region.



John Deadwyler of Bernard Consulting Group



Bernard Consulting Group facilitating the Strategic planning process

Standing: Dr. Patty Cowan, Vicki Bass, Belinda Loyd, Dr. Tommie Norris, Dr. Laura Talbot
Sitting: Dr. Pat Cunningham, Dr. Leslie McKeon, Dr. Wendy Likes



Oct.

2012 October Service Month

College of Nursing students showed their commitment to the people of Memphis last fall with a number of different activities during *October Service Month*. Since then, they have continued to contribute their time and energy on the second Wednesday of every month.



6th

Mid-South Heart Walk

Students joined more than a million people in more than 300 cities across America to take a stand against heart disease. The money they raised helped save lives by funding

- **Getting up-to-the-minute research into doctors' hands** so they can better prevent and treat heart disease among patients.
- **Groundbreaking pediatric heart and stroke research.** About 36,000 babies are born with heart defects each year. Research is the key to saving babies' lives.
- **Getting life-saving information to those who need it most** — how to eat better, how to recognize the warning signs of heart attack, and how to talk to a doctor about critical health choices.

10th

Feed the Homeless

The College of Nursing assisted at International Baptist Church in serving a meal to the Memphis homeless population. Students participated in *Feed the Homeless* by preparing meals, providing comraderie and helping to clean up afterward.

13th

Ride for Your Mind

Students aided the Memphis Hightailer's Bicycle Club by taking part in *Ride for Your Mind*. They helped Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) survivors to participate in a walk around a track. Cyclists raise money to support *Traumatic Brain Injury Service* in West Tennessee, which provides assistance to brain injury survivors and their families.

20th

Ready Shelby Day

Students helped to staff the Medical Reserve Corps table at this annual event educating the public about emergency preparedness. Preparedness partners were on hand to give away brochures, door prizes and good advice. The students were joined by organizations such as the Shelby County Office of Preparedness/Community Emergency Response Team, the Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps, Lifeblood, the American Red Cross Mid-South Chapter, Search Dogs South Rescue, the Salvation Army, the Children's Museum of Memphis, and the Memphis Grizzlies Grizz Girls.

23rd

Citywide Hospital Exercise

Students acted as victims in order to simulate clinical roles in a natural disaster involving all city hospitals. The scenario assumed a tornado striking the majority of the medical center with subsequent damage from straight-line winds to other area hospitals. All hospitals were surged beyond capacity.



Today

On the second Wednesday of every month, College of Nursing students continue to partner with *Island Community Church* to prepare meals for the homeless. They help with all duties, from food preparation to cleaning up the kitchen afterward, and also give their time and companionship to the homeless community.

Giving
Back
to the
Local
Community

“I wouldn’t be where I am today if it weren’t for the BSN program,” says Emily Mewborn, who graduates in May with her DNP degree. After graduation she hopes to work in family practice to fulfill her love of nursing in a primary care setting.

Emily chose the UT Health Science Center for her BSN degree because the program allowed her to graduate in 18 months. She says that the program also equipped her to be a nurse leader and sparked her interest in going on to earn advanced nursing degrees.

The love of nursing is something Emily learned from her mother, who personally cares for a younger sister with a lifelong chronic condition. Emily also learned practical lessons in nursing from her mother, and at an early age. “I couldn’t have been more than six,” Emily says. “I recall my mother showing me and my sister how to suction a tracheostomy tube, change feeding tubes and change dressings.”

“I couldn’t have been more than six. I recall my mother showing me and my sister how to suction a tracheostomy tube, change feeding tubes and change dressings.”

Emily Mewborn

“She was the reason I went into nursing to begin with, but I always knew I wanted to practice in the primary care setting,” says Emily.

“Nursing Challenges Us to See the Whole Person”

It’s easy to see why Emily was drawn to nursing and to primary care. She believes that nurses are the ones who most influence her sister’s health, with the exception of her mother, who cares for her sister day in and day out.

“The nurses ‘know’ my sister,” Emily says. “Not just medically, but emotionally, mentally and spiritually. Especially when she was in the hospital, they saw the big picture, coordinated care, and were her advocate.”

Emily also feels drawn to nursing because of its holistic approach and patient- and family-centered philosophy. “Nursing challenges us to ‘see the whole person,’ including the patient’s physical,

Primary Care Her

By Margaret Carbaugh

mental, emotional, spiritual and functional health,” she says. “This differs from traditional models.”

“Nursing Helps Fill the Gap in Primary Care”

Emily grew up in Collierville, in what was once a tiny community due east of Memphis.

Emily and the town both grew up in the 1990s. “We didn’t have a Target or the mall, and not even half of the restaurants that we have now,” she says.

One thing hasn’t changed. The town, which has tripled its population since Emily was born, still has too few primary care providers for the population of Collierville, let alone the influx from nearby Fayette, Hardeman and Tipton counties in West Tennessee.

Rural areas, though needing more primary care, are not alone. Cities are clearly challenges as well. Emily believes that the gap will widen when the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act goes into effect and millions more enter the health care system.

“Nursing Reintegrates Health Care”

Emily also believes that nurse practitioners are ready to step in and fill the gap. When they do, she thinks that they will help to “reintegrate” health care.

“I have seen how fragmented health care can be,” Emily explains. Her sister’s condition requires the skills of a cardiologist, audiologist, ophthalmologist, pulmonologist, endocrinologist, a craniofacial team, and many other specialists.



Primary Love

Dealing with her sister's condition taught Emily why those with a chronic condition need a dedicated health professional at the center of care. "Otherwise, how can all these different specialists coordinate their care to avoid procedure and medication interactions, confusion and duplication, all while ensuring the best general care for patients like my sister?"

"We Learn to Listen"

During her first year in the DNP, Emily completed many core courses. She especially enjoyed her interviewing and counseling class. "We learned to listen," she says. "Paying attention to body language, listening to tone and inflection, and seeing the big picture — they're all part of listening."

Active listening and other communications tools help nurses establish rapport with patients and families. This is important in getting them involved in their own care. "Families are the ones who have to do the work," Emily explains. "We don't go home with patients."

"Quality Improvement Is All About Process"

Emily has now completed her family practice courses, evaluation of practice, health care economics, and leadership and health policy. She is set to complete her DNP practicum and residency project.

Ultimately, Emily feels most passionate about evidence-based health care and the DNP's role in translating evidence into day-

to-day practice while improving the quality of patient care and outcomes. "Quality improvement is about process, about creating a culture of safety," she says, leaning forward to make her point.

"I've Been Blessed"

Emily's challenge next term will not be sitting for the board exams that many students dread. "I'm actually looking forward to them," she smiles. But she's not looking forward to leaving the academic setting. "I enjoy school. I like being pushed to my limit academically, but I also look forward to being challenged professionally."

Emily will also be saying goodbye to the other DNP students she's known for three years, friends who have supported each other through tough times in their personal and school lives.

Through it all, Emily says, "I've been blessed." First, she attended UT Knoxville on the Volunteer Scholarship and the Tennessee Hope (lottery) Scholarship. She then received two scholarships for the DNP program: the Andy Holt Scholarship and the Grace Spice Wallace Scholarship.

Thanks to scholarships and her husband's support, Emily has been able to give back to the College of Nursing, to her class, and to future nursing students. In her first year, she served as DNP representative to the Nursing Student Government Association. During her second and third years, she chaired the College of Nursing Honor Council and served as student representative to the DNP curriculum committee.

December 2012 Graduates

Ronda Franke
Tara Haskins
Tanitha Moncieur



STUDENT NOTES

Tonnichaka Lashaun Barrett (CRNA student) will receive the Andrew Holt Scholarship for two years. The amount of this award will be \$2,000 per year.

The following DNP and PhD students will receive Jonas Foundation Scholarships:

Jonas Veterans Healthcare Scholarship:

- Lindsey Perkins (FNP-Psych Mental Health Option; mentor, Dr. Patricia Cunningham)
- William Turner (CRNA Option; mentor, Dr. Jill Oswaks)

Jonas Nurse Leadership Scholarship:

- Loretta "Alexia" Williams (PhD program; mentors, Drs. Mona Wicks and Virginia Trotter Betts)

APNA Janssen Student Scholars

Adam Margolis ('13) and Cynthia Wilborn ('12) were chosen as the 2012 American Psychiatric Nurses Association Janssen Scholars. Only 15 graduate students in the nation received this honor.

Tha'er Almomani (PhD '14), Nancy K. West and Jami S. Gattuso (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital), and Belinda Mandrell (UTHSC) gave the following presentations in 2012:

- *Applying Mixed Methods Research in the Field of Pediatric Oncology: The Needs, The Methods, and The Challenges.* Presented at the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. Oct. 4-6, 2012.
- *Applying Mixed Methods in Studying Quality of Life in Children with Cancer.* Presented at the Pediatric Research Day, Children's Foundation Research Center — Le Bonheur Children's Hospital. Memphis, Tenn. Nov. 14, 2012.

Belinda Mandrell (PhD '08) and Carolyn Graff, associate professors in the College of Nursing, are Almomani's faculty advisors. After graduation, Almomani plans to pursue postdoctoral work in pediatric oncology, with a focus on quality of life in children with cancer.

Loretta "Alexia" Williams presented an abstract at the conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society (February 2013). The topic was "A Hidden Population of African American Men Caring for Relatives with End-Stage Renal Disease." Williams's PhD advisors are Drs. Mona Wicks and Virginia Trotter Betts; she expects to graduate in December 2014.

Crystal Martin ('11) presented an abstract at the conference of the Southern Nursing Research Society (February 2013). The topic was "HPV-DNA Testing as an Adjunct to Anal Cytology in a High Risk Population." Her advisor was Dr. Wendy Likes.

LaQuita Moore ('13) and Nikia Grayson ('13) will share the 2013 Black Student Association Award for the College of Nursing. The BSA award goes to students in each UTHSC college with outstanding academic and community service records.

1953

Irene Horne McCaskill, *Jackson, Tennessee*

Irene Horne McCaskill, age 79, died Aug. 2, 2012, at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Mrs. McCaskill graduated with a BSN degree from the UTHSC School of Nursing in Memphis. She was president of her class. She worked at the Women's Clinic until 1997.

1954

Annie Sue Clift, *Brighton, Tennessee*

Annie Sue Clift, age 80, died Nov. 4, 2012. Miss Clift graduated with a BSN degree from the UTHSC School of Nursing in Memphis. One of her first jobs was administration of the Salk polio vaccine as a member of Memphis' first public health "polio team." In the 1960s, Miss Clift went to Japan for her first assignment as a missionary nurse. After completing master's degrees in religious education and nursing, she returned to the foreign mission field, first to Yemen and then to Japan. She taught in the Department of Nursing at the University of Tennessee at Martin, until 1991.

1955

Velma Jordan Shearer, *Hixson, Tennessee*

Velma Jordan Shearer, age 87, died June 21, 2012. After high school, she entered the Army Cadet Nurses training program at the UTHSC School of Nursing in Memphis and graduated with a BSN degree. She also graduated from the University of Memphis with a bachelor's degree. Mrs. Shearer worked at the VA Hospital (Memphis) before she taught at the Baroness Erlanger School of Nursing and Chattanooga State Community College. Mrs. Shearer helped to establish a School of Nursing at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, from which she graduated with a master's degree.

1955

Gail Allen Talley, *Placitas, New Mexico*

Gail Allen Talley, age 80, died July 28, 2012. Mrs. Talley graduated with a BSN degree from the UTHSC School of Nursing in Memphis. She was retired from the University of New Mexico Hospital, where she worked as head OR nurse. She also worked with the state of New Mexico and NAMI. She enjoyed skiing, traveling, family and friends.

1958

Alleyna M. Ellis, *Kingston, Tennessee*

Alleyna M. Ellis died Oct. 22, 2012, in Chattanooga. She graduated with a BSN degree from the UTHSC School of Nursing in Memphis. In nursing school, she played basketball for the 1950s version of the Lady Vols. In addition to being a clinician, Mrs. Ellis taught nursing at the UT Medical Center in Knoxville, at a hospital and at a community college. She continued nursing until a few months before her death. During her 54-year career, Mrs. Ellis cared for thousands of patients and helped to train generations of East Tennessee nurses. She was the third of five generations to attend UT and the second of four generations of registered nurses.

Mayola Rowser ('05; '08)

Dr. Mayola Rowser is the new assistant dean of the University of Southern Indiana College of Nursing & Health Professions. She graduated from the MFP (Minority Fellowship Program) in 2008; her dissertation topic was "Depression and Obesity in African American Women Transitioning from Welfare to Work." Dr. Rowser is thought to be the first nurse in the United States to have earned both the Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing and Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) degrees. Her dissertation advisor was Dr. Muriel Rice ('01); her DNP program advisor, Dr. Patricia Cunningham ('01).

Barbara Cherry ('06)

Contemporary Nursing: Issues, Trends and Management, 5th edition, has been cited as one of the "Top 50 Must-Read Books for Nurses in 2012." Barbara Cherry ('06) and Susan Jacob ('93) wrote and edited the textbook with Virginia Trotter Betts ('69), and Tommie Norris ('87). Barbara Cherry teaches at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Shirleatha Lee ('09)

A manuscript by Drs. Patricia Cowan ('99) and Shirleatha Lee ('09) is in press. "Determining left ventricular hypertrophy in overweight-obese youth using electrocardiogram criteria" will appear in the *Journal of Nursing Measurement*. Dr. Cowan is an associate professor and director of the College of Nursing's PhD program.

Elizabeth A. Lee ('11)

Dr. Lee is an assistant professor of nursing at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Michael Carter chaired her dissertation committee. Two of her manuscripts have been accepted for publication:

- Lee, E.A.D., Bissett, J. K., Carter, M. A., Cowan, P. A., Pyne, J. M., Speck, P. M., et al. (In press). Lower heart rate variability relationship with military sexual trauma and posttraumatic stress disorder. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*.
 - Lee, E.A.D., & Theus, S. A. (2012). Lower heart rate variability associated with military sexual trauma rape and posttraumatic stress disorder. *Biological Research for Nursing*, 14, 412-418. doi: 10.1177/1099800412454453
-

Shirley Thorn ('11)

A manuscript by Drs. Shirley Thorn ('11) and Michael Carter ('09) has been accepted for publication. "The potential of health information exchange to assist emergency nurses" is slated to appear in a future issue of the *Journal of Emergency Nursing*.

Eileen Owen-Williams ('12)

Dr. Eileen Owen-Williams ('12) is completing a community-based faculty research fellowship through Seattle University. Her study, which will be conducted with the Seattle Indian Health Board, will research intergenerational relationships between youth and elders.

Mona Patterson ('12)

Ramona (Mona) Patterson ('12) successfully defended her dissertation, "Using Grounded Theory to Reveal Tacit Knowledge for Nurse Educators in an Unfamiliar African Setting." Dr. Michael Carter, distinguished professor, chaired her dissertation committee; other members are Drs. Peg Hartig, Susan Jacob, Pat Speck (UTHSC) and Lynda Wilson (University of Alabama at Birmingham). The setting for her research was Ghana Africa.

Marcy Purnell ('86)

Marcy Purnell (BSN '86) and Dr. Michael Whitt are conducting a basic science study that may answer a question as old as cancer research: How can we stem the growth of cancer cells without harming non-cancerous cells? "Our study addresses the electrical versus the chemical side of the cell," says Purnell. "There is clinical evidence that low and safely modulated electromagnetic fields inhibit the growth of cancer cells, in vivo and in human patients."

The research team is exposing melanoma cells taken from mice to electrical fields that enhance healthy cell growth. They aim to determine whether exposure to the same electromagnetic field will alter or inhibit the growth of cancer cells, which have a lower and/or different electrical potential.

Purnell received funding for this pilot study through her employer (the University of Memphis). She expects to graduate from the College of Graduate Health Sciences with a PhD in 2014. Dr. Whitt is interim chair of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Biochemistry.

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs
62 S. Dunlap, Suite 420
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October 2 - 4, 2013

Golden Graduate Homecoming (all colleges)