Scholarly Works Soar
Nursing Practice Reaches New Heights
More than half a century ago, Vanderbilt nursing students knew they’d have the opportunity to change their patients’ lives. Little did Virginia George know then that she’d remain an integral part of Vanderbilt’s nursing program for the next 67 years and beyond. As a student, as an educator and a generous scholarship donor, Virginia George is still changing lives.

For more information on supporting scholarships at the School of Nursing, contact Sydney Haffkine at (615) 322-8851 or sydney.haffkine@vanderbilt.edu.
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Dear Alumni, Colleagues and Supporters,

We have had a very busy and successful several months and are off to a very strong start to the 2014-2015 academic year. In May more than 100 MSN, DNP and PhD students participated in Vanderbilt’s Commencement and our Academic Hooding Ceremonies. In early August 350 students completed their MSN, DNP or post-master’s programs of study and received their Vanderbilt nursing pin. Concurrently, 150 of our students completed the PreSpecialty level and took the NCLEX exam.

During three consecutive weeks in August, we welcomed over 450 new incoming students via our multiple entry options into each of our programs. Meanwhile, we have about 500 continuing students progressing toward their academic goals. VUSN is one of the largest Master of Nursing programs in the country, and we are vital to the health care industry by preparing advanced practice nurses and nurse scientists to meet the needs of the people. While we have a large student population, our goal is to nurture and develop each of these students as they prepare for their future roles.

VUSN continues to attract people interested in the MSN, DNP and PhD programs from across the country. In early October we welcomed 300 prospective students and guests who spent the day learning more about our academic programs as part of our fall Open House. Also, we hosted Reunion events for alumni returning to campus, including those celebrating their 50th anniversary of VUSN graduation. In response to requests from the alumni, there were continuing education sessions included in the reunion events.

We are in the process of developing a comprehensive strategic plan to map the future direction of VUSN. This endeavor began with an all-day faculty retreat in the late summer with 181 faculty representing those engaged in academics, research and practice. We will continue to meet as a collective faculty and in small groups during this academic year to develop a plan that will outline the contribution that VUSN will make to VU, VUMC and needs of the health care system at large.

We have significantly increased the investments in faculty research and scholarship. You will see some selected faculty publications and presentations that are making an important impact in nursing and health care inside this magazine. Additionally, we increased the number of research active tenure track faculty. We instituted a Scholarly Practice Program to provide a support system for non-tenure track faculty to be able to develop a sustained scholarship trajectory, with six faculty beginning their projects in August 2014. We designed this program to showcase the role that advanced practice nursing faculty can have by conducting meaningful and effective clinical nursing projects that improve health. Our goal is to enhance the recognition of VUSN as a center of clinical nursing excellence at national and international levels in nursing research and scholarly work.

I hope you read more about all of these items in the pages of this issue of Nurse magazine. Wherever you are based geographically and in your life pursuits, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is your home and your resource.

Sincerely,

Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN
Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing
Dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing
linda.norman@vanderbilt.edu
The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has a national reputation as a top ranked graduate nursing school, and is one of the largest graduate nursing schools in the country with a full array of specialty tracks. The School fosters a community of scholarship, education and practice.

### Master of Science in Nursing Enrollment by Specialty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>116</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP/FNP)</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Informatics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse-Midwifery</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse-Midwifery/Family Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatric Mental Health (Lifespan) Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>94</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Health Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's Health/Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>26</td>
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</tbody>
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### Student Demographics

**AVERAGE AGE:**
- PreSpecialty: 26
- RN PreSpecialty: 35
- DNP: 41
- PhD: 40
- Post-Master's: 42

**GENDER:**
- Male: 11%
- Female: 89%

**MINORITY ENROLLMENT**: 15%

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS**
- Full-Time: 479
- Part-Time: 368

### Scholarships

- **$5,978** Average Scholarship Awarded to Master’s Students per year

### Debt

- **$80,289** Average Debt upon Graduation

### Alumni

- **8,787** Number of Alumni
- **$152,539** 2013 - 2014 Annual Giving
- **12%** Alumni who have contributed
Several VUMC Nursing executives, including Administrative Director Ann Cross, facilitated breakout sessions during the School of Nursing’s strategic planning day. Each group focused on a different subject area and drilled down to discuss needs and opportunities.

School Kicks Off Strategic Planning Process

Nearly 200 Vanderbilt University School of Nursing faculty members took part in a special planning retreat this summer, kicking off the School’s strategic vision process.

“We are in the midst of a sea change in health care,” said VUSN Dean Linda Norman, DSN, MSN, FAAN, Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. “This will give us an opportunity to look at the current impact of the School of Nursing and the future needs for nursing research, scholarship, practice and education. In doing so, we will discover the things we may need to change and any new things we will need to initiate.”

The goal of the daylong strategic planning session was to introduce a framework for this work and to tackle the first goal—analyzing data about the current state of the school.

“In order to develop a comprehensive vision, we need to first understand our current efforts and how they work together. The retreat is about getting a picture of where we are and begin to explore where we need to be,” said Norman.

As a launching point and to ensure cohesiveness, Norman shared key components of the Vanderbilt University strategic mission. Marilyn Dubree, MSN, RN, Executive Chief Nursing Officer, also described Medical Center Nursing’s strategic goals. Presentations included feedback from an external point of view, gathered by the North Highland consulting group.

They presented findings from deans and senior leaders from other top nursing schools, current and potential employers of VUSN graduates, clinical preceptors/mentors of VUSN students and community partners such as public health departments and community-based clinics.

The senior associate deans for Academics, Research, Faculty and Community Partnerships and Informatics each provided detailed analytics of their specific areas, which included strengths as well as areas for improvement.

The afternoon was spent in breakout sessions, where faculty groups brainstormed the current versus future needs in the areas of academics, research, practice, educational innovation, inter-professional activities, trans-institutional activities and relationship of VUSN to VUMC Nursing’s strategic initiatives.

“We have so many strengths and a wonderful team of faculty and staff who are truly dedicated to our students and to advancing nursing,” Norman said.

Faculty work groups continue to meet to determine areas for further improvement and development with the goal of having the strategic planning process complete by mid-2015.
Reaching Out to Local Students

Glencliff High School Public School students recently learned first-hand about health care roles thanks to a collaboration between the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and the Oasis Center’s Youth Engagement and Action Program.

VUSN students, including Lena McMillan, left, developed an hourlong curriculum, as part of their community health course, to engage students like Erika Davila and Raymundo Gabino-Garcia, in hands-on learning, including the process of taking a pulse and blood pressure measurements and presenting a rapid trauma assessment scenario. Each nursing student played a different role on the health care team—physician, EMT, registered nurse, physical therapist, nurse practitioner, X-Ray tech or respiratory therapist.

VUSN’s Lalonde Wins on Jeopardy!

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing student Molly Anne Lalonde was a four-time winner on the game show Jeopardy! this summer. Her winnings netted more than $55,000. Lalonde is a Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner student who completed her master’s coursework in August.

She is no stranger to the academic rigor and emotional intelligence required to succeed on “America’s Favorite Quiz Show.” She held the Laura Catherine Rankin Full Tuition Scholarship at VUSN and was a member of the VUSN Graduate Student Council, where she served as a liaison between graduate, professional students, faculty and administration.

A VUSN student ambassador and member of the Vanderbilt Health Care Improvement Group, Lalonde earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame.

For Lalonde, being on Jeopardy! was a lifelong dream. A trivia buff, she thinks nursing school contributed to her success on the show, including what she calls an “unwritten lesson of nursing school ... how to appear confident while actually being freaked out about something you are about to do.”

Health Coaching Certificate Program Debuts

The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and Medicine, the Osher Center for Integrative Medicine at Vanderbilt and Vanderbilt University Medical Center Nursing Service have come together to sponsor a new health coaching certificate program that teaches health care providers how to partner with patients, help set realistic health goals and provide support along the way.

The 28-week program is open to applicants with a degree in a health care field, such as registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, physicians, physical therapists and occupational therapists. It is offered in the convenient modified distance learning format, off-campus and asynchronous, with two on-campus intensives. The course of study features 19 education modules in areas including patient-centered approaches, behavior change and theory application, disease-specific coaching and positive psychology and mindfulness.

For more information visit our website at nursing.vanderbilt.edu/certificate/health_coaching
**New Palliative Care Offering**

For those interested in delving deeper into the world of palliative care, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing introduced a palliative care post-master’s certificate program.

Directed by Kathryn Lindstrom, PhD, FNP-BC, a leader in adult palliative care, and Mary Jo Gilmer, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, internationally known for her pediatric palliative care work, the program prepares students to improve function and quality of life for people of all ages. The program encourages a holistic approach to care and emphasizes physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of people and their families dealing with serious illness.

The 13-credit hour program offers multiple entry options for advanced practice nurses in conjunction with the MSN and DNP programs or for completion as a post-master’s certificate option. Didactic classes are taught online and clinical placement settings include acute care, palliative care consultation services, home palliative care and hospice care.

**VUSN Lands Pediatric Palliative Care Grant**

The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing has been awarded a $1.8 million grant by National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Nursing Research. The four-year grant is in partnership with the Palliative Care Research Cooperative (PCRC), will recruit children with advanced or relapsed cancer via Facebook and develop a web-based tool so they can create electronic storyboards reflecting their lives. Terrah Foster Akard, PhD, RN, the principal investigator, believes this will help the children and their parents better cope and adjust to these difficult health conditions.

Preliminary data from Akard’s prior work show that face-to-face legacy-making interventions can improve coping and adjustment for children with cancer. This grant is specifically targeted to children between the ages 7 and 17 who have cancer that does not respond to treatment or who are dealing with a cancer relapse. It will also look at coping strategies for parents and caregivers.

The grant will start recruiting 170 children in January 2015, and will guide the children to create an electronic digital storyboard about themselves. Along the way, the children will answer legacy-making questions about themselves, upload photographs, videos and music and share the finished piece with parents and caregivers. The results will add to the greater body of pediatric palliative care and end of life knowledge.

Research reported in this publication was supported by the National Institute Of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number R01NR015353. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.
Shapiro Shares the Art of Negotiation

Ron Shapiro, negotiator, sports agent, attorney, educator, author and civic leader, recently led a workshop, “How to Negotiate so Everyone Wins, Especially You!” at the School of Nursing.

“Having dynamic speakers come to campus for a workshop like this is a golden opportunity for us to step outside our traditional roles and learn new things,” said Linda Norman, DSN, RN, FAAN, Valere Potter Menefee Professor and dean.

While some know Shapiro as the sports agent for Baseball Hall of Famers such as Cal Ripken Jr., Jim Palmer, Brooks Robinson and more, he also founded the Shapiro Negotiations Institute, which has trained more than 350,000 professionals, and created the Butler Conference of Leaders, which annually assembles CEOs and other leaders to address economic and social issues.

Shapiro has drawn on his experience in the worlds of law, sports, health care and business to write several books on different facets of negotiation.

“After working with Ron and his colleagues, I have a systematic approach to guide me through the process that includes preparatory scripting, asking questions and really listening to the answers, and knowing your walkaway or exit or bottom line,” said Melanie Allison, DNP, a VUSN faculty member who was mentored by Shapiro as part of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing’s Executive Mentorship Program. “Ron taught me the best way to get what you want is to help the other side get what they want.”

Shapiro shared key points and examples of his approach for articulating and moving ideas forward and signed books.

VUSN earns Hartford Designation

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing was selected for membership in the National Hartford Centers of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) in recognition of the highest level of commitment to the field of gerontological nursing.

“This is a tremendous honor for our school and a reflection of our dedicated research, education and practice faculty,” said Dean Linda Norman, DSN, MSN, FAAN, Valere Potter Menefee Professor of Nursing. “We are delighted to be aligned with a premier organization committed to improving the health and quality of life for an important and growing portion of our society.”

The School has been preparing for the growing numbers of older adults, their health care needs and their impact on the nation’s health care system. In recent years, the number of VUSN faculty active in geriatric nursing has doubled, resulting in the creation of the Geriatric Specialty Interest Group, which ensures geriatric content is embedded throughout the School’s specialty programs.

The geriatric research faculty has produced and disseminated research that has impacted health policy, and the school is well known for its use of simulated learning experiences to educate students with hands-on learning in geriatric care.
Curiosity, critical thinking and continuous learning are requirements for successful nursing students and faculty alike. The Vanderbilt University School of Nursing (VUSN) recently launched its Scholarly Practice Program, which empowers non-tenure track faculty to seek answers for their clinical practice.

“Our faculty are extremely talented professionals, each focused on their individual areas of interest. This program establishes a formal process to further grow and sustain scholarship—scholarship that we hope will profoundly advance nursing practice on the local, regional, national and even international levels,” said Linda Norman, DSN, RN, Valere Menefee Potter Professor of Nursing and Dean of VUSN.

“Though it’s not a requirement, it’s worth noting that all the funded projects for this first round are being conducted by faculty who have earned a DNP. It’s just one example of how the DNP education can open new avenues,” added Norman.

In addition to the thriving research efforts of the tenured and tenure track faculty, the leadership team wanted to develop the Scholarly Practice Program that would provide mentorship and support to non-tenured faculty to further develop their contribution to evidence-based practice.
The hallmark of our program is identifying and supporting sustained projects that will have a documented impact. We know our faculty are doing cutting edge, interesting and innovative things, and we can now propel them forward,” said Senior Associate Dean for Research Ann Minnick, PhD, RN.

An important part of the structure is the support provided by Ruth Kleinpell, PhD, APRN-BC, RN, visiting professor, who also serves as director of the Center for Clinical Research and Scholarship Program at Rush University School of Nursing since 2007. Kleinpell is known for her own work on outcomes of APRN practice, discharge planning and telehealth.

Kleinpell serves as the director of the Vanderbilt Scholarly Practice Program at Vanderbilt to guide and support faculty, starting with application guidance through evaluating the project—and every stage in between.

“Most faculty have experience with publishing or doing a clinical project based on opportunities that arise. They have the best intentions of moving forward, but often don’t have dedicated time to do it,” said Kleinpell. “Now they can have dedicated faculty support time to pursue their scholarly work. The non-tenure track faculty are ideal to do this work. They have a unique opportunity to partner with clinical sites because they are already there with students or with faculty practice.”

“Clinical scholarship is investigating real work, daily clinical programs and gaining solutions,” said Kleinpell.

“Scholarship is not formal research, but it provides a mechanism to evaluate impact. The projects can result in publications, presentations, opportunity for funding for clinical projects or opportunities to showcase innovative health care solutions.”

The Scholarly Practice Program is funded through the Dean’s Faculty Development Fund and accepts applications on a rolling basis. In this inaugural round, six scholarly projects were funded.

**Patient Communication**

Ginny Moore, Women’s Health Interim Specialty Director, is conducting a project to promote effective patient communication among vulnerable women in Nashville, thanks to the Scholarly Practice Program.

“There is a lot of information available to guide providers in how to communicate with patients, but there’s a paucity of information on how to help patients have more effective communication with their providers,” said Moore, DNP, WHNP-BC.

Her project explores how to help women learn more about the best questions to ask health care providers, be encouraged...
to ask more questions during health care visits, and, ultimately, become more confident in patient-provider interactions.

Moore led a similar project with Magdalene, a residential program for women who have survived prostitution, trafficking and addiction, as part of her own DNP capstone project. The Scholarly Practice Program is allowing her some time away from teaching to expand her work to a new level with The Next Door, an organization which provides residential transition and treatment for incarcerated women with co-occurring disorders. The organization recently doubled its resident capacity, so the timing is ideal.

“If one of the women, or anyone, is leaving a provider-patient interaction without getting thorough information, she is leaving the experience unsatisfied. Even follow-up phone calls for clarification are hard to make happen for these women and can add more confusion,” said Moore. She added that there is a direct correlation between effective patient communication and increased patient satisfaction and positive health outcomes.

Moore’s project involves one-on-one coaching and role playing that builds on provider encounters to find ways to better engage the provider. Each woman receives an individualized notebook to chronicle her lessons, write down medications and have questions ready to ask at her next health care appointment. So far, the notebooks have ended up being like security blankets for many of the women.

“I’m really excited to continue and expand this work,” said Moore. “Working with the women gives me an opportunity to expand my initial work and, as the project moves along, there will be opportunities for our students as well.”

Developing Competencies for ENP Practice

Jennifer Wilbeck, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC, VUSN’s Emergency Nurse Practitioner Specialty Director, is using the Scholarly Practice Program support to further contribute to development of the competencies for the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners (AAENP). This is the first and only organization created to brand and promote this crucial subspecialty area and ensure its continuing contributions.

The group’s specific objectives encompass diverse aspects of emergency care: establishing guidelines for quality health care, encouraging continuing clinical education, fostering training and education for all nursing students, promoting research, and representing clinicians within professional health organizations and academic institutions.

“More and more people are seeking primary health care in the emergency department. The health care system is flooded, and the safety net is the hospital emergency department. The ENP is uniquely prepared to help patients of all ages and across acuity levels,” said Wilbeck. “You may be treating someone who has been undergoing outpatient chemotherapy, and now has overwhelming sepsis, and the very next patient you
encounter is a child who fell off the monkey bars. The next patient might be a suicidal person or someone having a heart attack.”

Only about 5 percent, or roughly 9,000 of nurse practitioners in the U.S., are ENPs, and there are only eight master’s-level academic programs focused on emergency care. Yet, according to Wilbeck, emergency nurse practitioners can be employed in geographic areas that are unable to recruit or maintain physician attention—such as rural locations.

“The AAENP exists to support those ENPs in varied practice settings. We are a specialty organization focused on developing a unified voice for emergency nurse practitioners, much like physicians have an emergency physicians organization,” said Wilbeck, who was elected chair of the new association.

Her scholarly practice will benefit the organization by revising the scope and standards of ENP practice. She and the board of directors are participating in conferences and actively recruiting membership while developing a geographic membership infrastructure. Interest in membership has already been expressed from as far away as Australia, New Zealand and in South Korea.

Measuring Provider Competencies

Vanderbilt nurse-midwifery faculty member Sharon Holley, DNP (VUSN ’10), CNM, aims to determine the most meaningful and specific ways to measure the competency of nurse-midwives. While the Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation and the Focused Professional Practice Evaluation (FPPE) exist for health providers in Joint Commission-accredited hospitals, Holley wants to explore how she can improve the process even further.

“The challenge is that the Joint Commission is not very specific on how to measure competency among this group of providers, midwifery or APRNs generally, so each practice, each labor and delivery department, is left to its own definition of what it means to be competent,” said Holley.

This is a real-world issue that Holley knows well in her role as co-director of the Vanderbilt Nurse Midwives, the thriving VUSN faculty practice with more than 23 nurse-midwives who deliver more than 1,200 babies each year.

Sharon Holley is helping define nurse-midwifery competencies in an effort to standardize care and improve outcomes.
“In my case as an administrator, what is the best mechanism to assess competency? Do I only use the numbers that I have for my nurse-midwives? Do I use the six OPPE parameters? Do I factor in patient feedback?” asked Holley. “The other challenge is that we have certain procedures that we don’t do very often, but are responsible for knowing, like shoulder dystocia or breech birth. How do we measure competency of those?”

Holley and Christian Ketel, DNP (VUSN’ 14), RN, have laid the groundwork for this scholarly project with a recent article in the *Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health* (August 2014). The focus of her scholarly practice project is to identify which metrics might help answer the competency question and develop a tool kit that any nurse-midwifery practice can use with more specific guidelines.

“This work is meant to address quality issues and improve patient outcomes,” said Holley. “It’s another great opportunity for me to use my DNP education to quickly improve practice, and I’m really excited that our dean supports this kind of work.”

**Helping Healers in Kenya**

Carol Ziegler, DNP (VUSN ‘12), MSN (VUSN ‘06), NP-C, RD, brings a variety of experience to her roles of teaching in the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and championing the school’s global health offerings for students. She will further investigate the role and cultural healing practices of Nandi traditional healers in Mateket Village, a rural community in Western Kenya.

“There is virtually no affordable, quality primary care in the region. The district nurse comes out twice a year to give vaccinations, but the residents have no support for major health issues like alcoholism, malaria and hypertension,” said Ziegler. “They rely almost exclusively on the local healers—some are midwives, some are herbalists and some are both.”

Ziegler has a professional and personal connection with this 700-person, agriculturally based community. Mateket is her husband Magut’s home village, where his mother, sisters and extended family reside in one of the few brick homes in the mostly mud hut community.

Familial relationships have allowed Ziegler to gain a deeper trust with those she will be interviewing to identify community needs, health care workforce issues and educational needs among the healers.

Healers have some powerful outcomes, but their way of life is being threatened, according to Ziegler. For instance, their access to medicinal plants is shrinking due to deforestation and government-imposed licensing rules.

After combing through focus group files from a previous visit to Kenya as part of her own DNP project, she will conduct a gap analysis and develop a community needs assessment with local Kenyan partners for use with additional on-site interviews in December 2015. She will tease out the major health needs and develop targeted, measured community interventions that will be developed in collaboration with local partners. She hopes to develop culturally appropriate, accessible and quality community-led initiatives for the people of Mateket.

“The School of Nursing leadership is very invested in global health, and supporting a faculty member like me in this way, shows it,” said Ziegler.
For people with a chronic illness, leaving the hospital after an acute episode can be overwhelming, confusing and scary.

They have many medications to juggle, may struggle to remember their providers’ instructions, and have to fight social barriers like transportation to the pharmacy or grocery and missed work or school days.

With all of these issues, many return to the hospital after only a few days. If only there were some way to help these patients better connect the dots of their care.

Vanderbilt University School of Nursing is piloting two projects—one in pediatric asthma and one in heart failure—that aim to improve transitions of care and keep patients out of the hospital.

“Let’s build a bridge, but let’s make it one way—out of the hospital and into the home and primary care clinic. We don’t want patients in that ravine where no one is keeping track of them,” said Natasha McClure, MSN, instructor in the Community Health Nursing and PreSpecialty Program, who leads the asthma project.

The asthma and heart failure care transition projects are part of the clinical component of the community health course for students in the PreSpecialty component of the MSN program, the generalist nursing series of classes students take before progressing to their specialty level of education. Pairs of students are assigned a patient and make home visits to assess their needs, identify barriers and facilitators and create health goals.

“These services are an extra resource. We emphasize that our clinical interventions do not replace a home health or clinic visit. We are simply an extra set of eyes and ears and can give some insight into what is happening in the home that may be causing some of these hospital readmissions,” said Melissa Smith, DNP, ANP-BC, adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner program instructor, who leads the heart failure project.

About 5.8 million people in the U.S. have heart failure, and half of people who develop it die within five years of diagnosis. According to the American Heart Association, about 1 million people are hospitalized with heart failure each year, and one-fourth of those return within 30 days.

The average heart failure patient is on six medications to treat just one disease. It is a progressive disease that requires management of many factors, including diet, fluid balance and medications.

That’s where the nursing students’ extra eyes and ears can be so valuable.

“The students are able to go into the medical record and see which medications the patients have been prescribed at the time of discharge. They go into the home and work with the patient to determine what they are actually taking. They help patients understand the importance of weighing every day to monitor their fluid balance and make sure they are looking for signs and symptoms,” Smith said.

In turn, the students are getting an insight into the factors affecting the
transition of the patient from hospital to home.

“We’re raising the bar for these students immensely, and they’re going above and beyond normal work for the community health course,” Smith said.

Students utilize a specific home visit guide related to CHF or asthma and learn how to individualize a patient’s health history and write a SOAP (subjective, objective, assessment and plan) note. A Promise of Nursing grant, from the National Student Nurse Foundation, provided cell phones for students to be able to contact patients and iPads for face-time with the faculty in the home and to display a voice-over PowerPoint presentation during the home visit. Another grant from Vanderbilt’s Medical Center Staff Advisory Council purchased low-literacy education materials and weight scales.

“We grew and learned a lot in the initial phase. It was a lot of hands on, and I felt like we all became very independent by the end,” said psychiatric-mental health specialty student Anna Reiff.

But Reiff recognized that it took a lot of investment and patience to see any results.

“We didn’t see the fruit of our labor right away. (Our patients) have to get to know us and we have to get to know them. Eventually, we could tell when they went up in weight and could know what they needed because we were consistently interacting.”

After following her patient every two weeks for a year, Reiff said it was hard to say goodbye.

“My patient said we made such a difference and she wouldn’t be where she was without us.”

Marian Dudley knows that feeling. She has had heart failure for about 10 years and has known Professor Smith from her work in Vanderbilt’s heart failure clinic. Dudley, 76, was thrilled to participate in the pilot program and welcomed students into her East Nashville home.

“We go way back,” Dudley joked to Smith, when she checked up on her in late July while the nursing students were on summer break.

“She has been a big lifesaver to me. She got my meds straightened out and got oxygen for me.”

Dudley says her legs feel like rubber and she gets short of breath easily, but otherwise feels pretty good. Smith assesses her needs and determines the assistance she needs such as home health visits and who is picking up her groceries and doing the housekeeping. She also checks Dudley’s blood pressure, listens to her heart and lungs and looks over her weight log.

If there were any red flags, Smith would contact Dudley’s cardiologist.

Today, with everything looking good, they can talk about homegrown vegetables and how much Dudley loves to watch the television show “Ellen.”

“Most of the time it’s helpful just to talk to someone,” Dudley said.

With the first year of project implementation completed, Smith is refining the program to identify the patients who could benefit most, developing the discharge criteria, and deciding which factors should be measured to determine the success of the intervention.

“We had one patient with six admissions, four of them fewer than 30 days
Medical Center Staff Advisory Council to purchase HVAC filters, cockroach treatment, pillow and mattress covers and inhaler dose counters.

“With $1,000 we funded eight families last year, and each visit to the ED costs around $5,000. We’ve found that a small investment can help a few families and save not just money, but children’s lives,” she said.

The biggest lesson learned is that there is no magic solution for every patient.

“Every patient is different, and we provide individualized care. Something floats to the top for every patient, but it’s not the same for everyone.”

That’s why home visits are so important. The students and families can get apart. After we were involved, he had one admission, and it was greater than 30 days. He did not have a readmission from April until August,” Smith said. “On the other hand, there are some patients we haven’t been able to impact no matter what we do. We are learning about the factors that impact early readmission.”

According to the Tennessee Department of Health, 10 percent of children in Tennessee have asthma, and it is the most common chronic disease of childhood worldwide. An emergency department (ED) visit for an asthma attack creates chaos for the family, and can be dangerous for a child as they are exposed to other illnesses, like cold and flu. Uncontrolled asthma may lead to missed school days, poor quality of life and risk of sudden death.

“I worked in the ED and have seen these children in respiratory distress. It’s often preventable, and it’s upsetting when the parents don’t know how or don’t have the resources to get the child’s asthma under control, and that child is suffering as a result,” McClure said.

Many acute asthma attacks are preventable through consistent medication use and environmental factors, but busy parents often don’t have the time or resources to manage it well. McClure encourages nursing students to treat their home visit like an investigative mission.

“Two of the big triggers for asthma are cockroaches and mold. Many of our families are in Metro Nashville (subsidized) housing and it’s a hard problem for them to overcome by themselves,” she said. “For a single mom with several children, just getting to school on time is hard. So we help make a schedule and put a chart on the refrigerator to help them remember medications and keep track of their usage.”

McClure received a grant from the Medical Center Staff Advisory Council to purchase HVAC filters, cockroach treatment, pillow and mattress covers and inhaler dose counters.

“With $1,000 we funded eight families last year, and each visit to the ED costs around $5,000. We’ve found that a small investment can help a few families and save not just money, but children’s lives,” she said.

The biggest lesson learned is that there is no magic solution for every patient.

“Every patient is different, and we provide individualized care. Something floats to the top for every patient, but it’s not the same for everyone.”

That’s why home visits are so important. The students and families can get
comfortable with one another and be more open and honest.

“We don’t go in and tell them everything they’re doing wrong. We want to reinforce the positive things they are doing, and really try to make them feel like we are part of a team, along with the entire family,” McClure said.

Family Nurse Practitioner/Midwifery student Rosalind Elliott said it was rewarding to establish a relationship and create a safe space for the families to open up.

“One we were comfortable, they would say it was hard to give the medication in the morning because they have other kids and are just trying to get to school on time. But we never heard that on the first visit. It was important to be on their turf and let them know we understand the challenges and see how hard this is every day,” Elliott said.

“It was different seeing it from that side,” added Women’s Health student Chelsie Hochradel. “We sit in the classroom and talk about needy communities, but these patients let us in their home to see what isn’t connecting. It was really rewarding.”

Home visits also allow more time for teaching.

“Our students get a two-hour lesson on asthma and would probably still say it is confusing. Families get 30 minutes in the clinic to learn how to take their medicines correctly and what to do if they have an exacerbation,” McClure said. “We’ve found that repetition is key—just going over all those instructions again and again.”

The students also provided helpful exercises to show how difficult breathing with asthma could be. They had parents and siblings puff through a straw and then pinched the straw to simulate an asthma attack and added a little ball of Play-Doh to mimic the blockage that builds up gradually as a result of inflammation.

Seventeen families have participated in the program over two years, and results have been very positive. McClure says one patient had eight emergency department visits in four months, and had none for the two years they were followed by the student group.

“Since our health care system needs to shift from acute care to primary care and preventative care, we need to teach nurses how to better take care of patients with chronic disease,” McClure said.

“Our model is asthma, but it could be applicable to diabetes or heart failure or obesity. It looks slightly different in each, but it’s the same core system and skills.”

And the students will carry those skills into their future practice.

“I want to make sure people know I’m listening and want to be there to help,” Hochradel said.

“I saw that chronic illness is a constant crisis mode of living,” Elliott added. “I learned that trust takes time, and the space you practice in matters. It’s important to be aware of the intimidation factor. This was a positive power shift because we could meet in the middle in someone’s home.”

Melanie Lutenbacher, PhD, MSN, FAAN, associate professor of Nursing and Medicine, who helped with the refinement and evaluation of these projects, said overall they are a win-win-win—for patients, hospitals and students.

“By creatively leveraging resources from VUSN, the Medical Center and the community, these teams have created an innovative system of care for complex patients—improving their quality of life and reducing risk of readmissions, and providing our nursing students excellent ‘real world’ learning opportunities.” — MELANIE LUTENBACHER
Onward & Upward

There is a sense of excitement permeating throughout the School. Leadership, faculty, students and staff are building momentum and advancing the School’s mission in new and profound ways. We welcomed new faculty who will further infuse our community of clinicians and scholars. We celebrated the many professional accomplishments of our faculty, several of whom serve nursing at national levels. We congratulate our prolific faculty who continually increase their meaningful contribution to nursing science through published works and presentations. In the following pages we share a sampling of these accomplishments from 2013. We are a collective of nurse scholars and educators who are constantly moving forward on behalf of our students and the profession of nursing.
Faculty Appointments

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING VANDERBILT SCHOOL OF NURSING FACULTY ON THEIR RECENT APPOINTMENTS.

National Nursing Organizations Leadership

Susie Adams, president-elect, American Psychiatric Nurses Association
Cathy Ivory, president, Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses
Jana Lauderdale, president, Transcultural Nursing Society
Patty Sengstack, president, American Nursing Informatics Association
Jennifer Willbeck, chair, American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners

National Nursing Organization Boards

Karen D’Apolito, National Perinatal Association Board Member
Sarah Fogel, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Health Equality Board Member
Betsy Kennedy, Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses Board Member

Awards

Melanie Allison, Johns Hopkins University Nurse Leader Executive Membership

Jenny Kim, Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing Excellence Primary Care Scholar; Excellence in Leadership Award from the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Ann Minnick and Ruth Kleinpell’s book, Assessment in Advanced Practice Nursing, was chosen #1 Advanced Practice Nursing text by the American Journal of Nursing Book of the Year Awards for 2013
Abby Parrish, Lorraine Mion and Todd Monroe received the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Award for their poster “Nurses’ Perceptions of Pain in Long Term Care Residents with Dementia”
Betsy Weiner elected to the Institute of Medicine

Fellows in National Nursing Academies

Michelle Collins, American College of Nurse Midwives
Terri Donaldson, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
Sarah Fogel, American Academy of Nursing
Mary Ann Jesse, Leadership for Academic Nursing

Program, American Association of Colleges of Nursing

Rene Love, National Academies of Practice
Todd Monroe, American Academy of Nursing
Carrie Plummer, Distinguished Public Policy Fellow in the Nursing Academy of the National Academies of Practice

National Nursing Organization Committees

Susie Adams, Institute of Medicine Committee on Psychosocial Standards—Association of Reproductive Health Professionals National Task Group
Michelle Collins, Colposcopy Mentorship Program Committee, American Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology; Director, Midwifery Education liaison to Student Issues Section of American College of Nurse-Midwives
Jie Deng, Lymphatic Education & Research Foundation, International Conference Scientific Committee Co-Chair
Mary Jo Gilmer, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, Audit and Assessment Committee

Sharon Holley, American College of Nurse-Midwives award to West End Women’s Health Center for the lowest rate of less than 41st week inductions (Feb 2014)
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (May 2014)

VUSN DESIGNATIONS

American College of Nurse Midwives award to West End Women’s Health Center for the lowest rate of less than 41st week inductions (Feb 2014)
National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (May 2014)
Cathy Ivory
PhD, MSN, RN
Ivory completed her PhD and post-doctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University. Her dissertation focused on standardizing failure to rescue elements in perinatal nursing documentation. Ivory brings more than 20 years of clinical, education and research experience to her role as assistant professor, continuing her research and teaching courses in informatics. She has directed women’s services for large hospital systems, was a faculty member at King’s College, in Bristol, Tenn., and was a labor and delivery staff nurse. She earned her MSN in Nursing Administration/Healthcare Informatics from Georgia College & State University and her BSN from Georgia Baptist College of Nursing at Mercer University. She has published in Nursing for Women’s Health and Technology Horizons and regularly presents at Association of Women’s Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses and Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. She is the president of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN).

Cathy Maxwell
PhD, MSN, RN
Maxwell earned her PhD and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at VUSN. She is continuing to pursue her research to determine the effect of pre-injury status impact on patient outcomes among older adults. Maxwell was a trauma and critical care nurse and nurse manager for more than 25 years, rising to the position of director of Emergency Services in Columbus Regional Medical Center in Georgia. She won several regional and state awards for her emergency care work and served as assistant professor at Troy University, in Alabama, for five years—the same institution where she earned her BSN. She received a Vanderbilt Clinical and Translational Science Award grant to support her research and has published in journals such as Applied Nursing Research, Geriatric Nursing and the Journal of Trauma Nursing.

Jeremy Neal
PhD, CNM, RN
Neal joined VUSN from The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology where he served as assistant professor and director of the Nurse-Midwifery and Women’s Health Specialty Tracks since 2009. His research and funded grant activities focus on the active phase of labor and how to improve outcomes for mothers. His current research focuses on developing a computer-adaptive pictograph to measure labor progression for first-time, low-risk mothers. His sample publications include articles in the Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Journal of Midwifery & Women’s Health, and a book chapter in “Varney’s Midwifery.” Dr. Neal earned his PhD and MSN degrees from The Ohio State University, where he won several awards for his academic excellence and contributions. He earned his BSN from Bowling Green State University. He is also a former captain in the United States Air Force.

Bethany Rhoten
PhD, MSN, RN
Rhoten earned her MSN and PhD and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at VUSN. She is pursuing research areas related to body image, provider-patient communication and self-monitoring among people with head and neck cancer. She was the 2012 March of Dimes Graduate Student Nurse of the Year, and won the VUSN Dean’s Award for excellence in writing. She was chosen as a Vanderbilt University V-Pocket Scholar which will provide funding for her research activities.

Welcome New Faculty

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEW FACULTY MEMBERS. THEY MAKE A WONDERFUL ADDITION TO OUR VANDERBILT SCHOOL OF NURSING COMMUNITY.
CLINICAL

Diana Dowdy
DNP, CNM, RDMS

Dowdy has more than 32 years of advanced practice nursing experience, specializing in women's health and nurse-midwifery. Her experience encompasses a variety of settings including clinical practice, administrative, academic, rural public health, research and state regulatory process. She earned a DNP from the University of Alabama-Huntsville, an MSN from Emory University and a BSN from the Anna Vaughn School of Nursing in Oklahoma.

Randy Smith
MSN, FNP-BC, RN

Smith began his career as an elementary school teacher and changed directions to become a family nurse practitioner. He earned an MSN from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and an MS and Bachelor of Arts both from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He will be working closely with the Family Nurse Practitioner program faculty. Smith has deep experience in the urgent care, walk-in clinic care delivery arena.

ACADEMIC

Courtney Cook
DNP, ACNP-BC, RN

Cook is an acute care nurse practitioner who has practiced in Neuroscience Intensive Care and congestive heart failure units at two academic health systems, coming to Vanderbilt from UNC-Chapel Hill. She earned a DNP from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing where she established a shivering assessment scale for neurocritical care patients receiving hypothermia treatment. She earned an MSN from Yale University and a BSN from Clemson University in South Carolina. She will be teaching in VUSN’s Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program.

Jill Harris
MSN, RN

Harris has been in nursing for more than 15 years, much of that time spent in the pediatric critical care unit of Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. She also taught at Belmont University School of Nursing and Nashville State Community Colleges in classroom and clinical settings for the past few years. She earned an MSN in Nursing Education from Western Governors University and a BSN from Tennessee State University. She is a clinical faculty member in the PreSpecialty Level Program.

Lesley Ann Owen
MSN, RN

Owen is a clinical faculty member in the PreSpecialty Level Program and has been in nursing more than 10 years, specifically in the care and well-being of children. She worked at Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt in pediatric hematology/oncology for eight years and in pediatric home care. Owen also served as a clinical instructor for Lipscomb University the past couple of years. She earned an MSN in clinical management, with a focus in pediatrics from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and a BSN from Samford University School of Nursing in Alabama.

Mary Lauren Pfieffer
MSN, FNP-BC

Pfieffer will serve as a clinical faculty member in VUSN’s PreSpecialty level program. She previously worked at the Williamson Family Medicine Clinic, while pursuing a DNP at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where she earned her BSN. She also has worked in pediatric cardiology critical care at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt. She has served as a clinical instructor at Aquinas College and Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

Judson Smith
MSN, FNP-BC, AGACNP

Smith will serve as a clinical faculty member in the PreSpecialty level program. He has been a hospital supervisor at Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, and is responsible for patient movement and safety throughout the hospital. Previously, he was a travel nurse working throughout the U.S. He earned an MSN from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing in Acute Care/Family Nurse Practitioner with an Emergency Focus specialty. He earned a BSN from Chamberlain College of Nursing in Illinois and an ASN from the State University of New York-Canton.

LeTezia Baxter Smith
MSN, PMHNP

Smith is a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner who works at the Mental Health Cooperative, where she provides psychiatric evaluation, diagnosis and treatment for people with mental illness and emotional disturbance. Previously, she worked for the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute. She earned an MSN from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing and a BA in Sociology from Vanderbilt University. She will be working closely with the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program faculty and with the program’s clinical placement activities.
## Currently Funded Grants and Contracts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Title</th>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Grant Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Nurse Detection of Delirium Superimposed on Dementia (END-DSD)</td>
<td>Lorraine Mion</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health-National Cancer Institute, 8/01/2013 – 7/31/2015, $367,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adherence Problem Solving Early Nurse Detection of Diabetes and Digestive</td>
<td>Micah Skeens</td>
<td>Maryland Institute of Technology, 7/01/2014 – 3/30/2016, $30,000</td>
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<td>Terah Foster-Akard Impact of a Palliative Care Research Cooperative (PCRC)-Supported Legacy Interventions in Pediatric Palliative Care</td>
<td>Leanne Boehm</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health-National Institute of Nursing Research, 9/26/2014 – 6/30/2018, $1,857,880</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canines and Childhood Cancer: Examining the Effects of Therapy Dogs</td>
<td>Mary Jo Gilmer</td>
<td>American Humane Association, 10/03/2013 – 12/02/2014, $20,000</td>
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<td>Health Workforce Studies Program</td>
<td>Peter Buerhaus</td>
<td>Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, 7/01/2013 – 6/30/2017, $2,202,124</td>
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Selected Works

WE ARE PROUD OF THE GROUNDBREAKING WORK OF OUR FACULTY AND CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR MANY PUBLICATIONS.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS


Collins M. To dip or not to dip: that is the question. Journal for Nurse Practitioners. Sept 2013;9(8):544-545.


Foster TL, Gilmer MJ, Friedman, DL, Given B, Hendricks-Ferguson V, Hinds PS. From qualitative work to intervention development in pediatric oncology palliative care research. Journal of Pediatric...


May KN, Mion LC. Nurses’ impact on the hospital environment: Lessening or contributing to the chaos?. *Geriatric Nursing*. Jan 2013;34(2):74.


Onward & Upward


FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Adams S. SBIRT across the lifespan: Meeting the goals of Healthy People 2020. National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties; April 2013; Pittsburgh, PA.

Adams S. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders: An opportunity for prevention. Louisiana Consortium of Graduate Nursing Education; January 2013; St. Charles, LA.

Adams S. Dilsk T, Vanderhoof D. Is the 4th ‘P’ lost? Innovative pedagogies to maintain the role and scope of PMHNP practice. American Psychiatric Nurses Association; October 2013; San Antonio, TX.


Adams S. The nursing workforce in an era of health reform. AMN; October 2013; Las Vegas, NV.

Buerhaus P. Key trends in nursing workforce in an era of health reform. National Forum of State Workforce Centers; June 2013; Scottsdale, AZ. Minnesota State University; September 2013; Mankato, MN. The University of Wisconsin; September 2013; Madison, WI.

Buerhaus P. The nursing workforce in an era of health reform and slow jobs recover: Outlook for the future. Philippine Nurses Association of America; July 2013; Cleveland, OH.

Buerhaus P. The context for constructing a research agenda in an era of health reform: Skating/researching to where the puck/research problems will be.


Bell C. Building a theoretical foundation for adolescent end-of-life research. Poster: American Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology (ASPHO) and Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Consortium (PBMTC); April 2013; Miami, FL.
Council on Graduate Education for Administration in Nursing; November 2013; Baltimore, MD.

Buxton M. The use of simulation to teach ethics in midwifery education. American College of Nurse Midwives; June 2013; Nashville, TN.

Christenbery T. Doctoral writing in the age of Twitter: How to create a scholarly writing environment. Workshop: National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties; April 2013; Pittsburg, PA.

Cole S. The role and value of rotating faculty to enhance the interprofessional clinical experience. Collaborating Across Borders; June 2013; Vancouver, BC.


Deng J, Murphy BA, Wells N, Dietrich MS, Ridner SH. Using a team approach to develop and validate a head and neck cancer related external lymphedema and fibrosis grading criteria. Oncology Nurses Society; November 2013; Dallas, TX.

Deng J, Murphy BA, Dietrich MS, Ridner SH. Comparison of symptom burden among head and neck cancer patients with and without secondary lymphedema. International Congress of Lymphology; September 2013; Rome, Italy.


Fogel S. Healthy weight in lesbians and bisexual women. Workshop: GLMA: Healthcare Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality; September 2013; Denver, CO.


Gooch M. Name that sign. Sweet as sugar. Southeastern Seaboard Emergency Nursing Symposium; April 2013; Concord, NC.

Gooch M. Toxins, tablets, and drugs: What’s new on the streets? Emergency Nurses Association; September 2013; Nashville, TN.

Gooch M. The ABCs of respiratory pharmacology: ALS, GBS, MG: Weird neurological diseases. American Nurses Credentialing Center; October 2013; Destin, FL.

Gooch M. Ear disorders. Head trauma: Keys to judicious assessment. Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education; December 2013; Las Vegas, NV.


Inott T, Jesse MA. Interactive teaching-learning strategies in the large classroom setting: Development of skills to enhance client-centered care. Poster: American Association of Colleges of Nursing; November 2013; New Orleans, LA.

Ivory C. Current strategies to improve maternal and infant outcomes. Technology’s role in the support of optimal nurse staffing. Invited address and/or keynote presented at: Montana Perinatal Association; April 2013; Bozeman, MT.

Ivory C. Health IT: Leveraging the nursing possibilities. Association of Womens Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing; April 2013; Clearwater Beach, FL.

Ivory C. Evidence based use of oxytocin for labor. MMIC; January 2013; Webinar, IA.

Ivy C. Healthy IT and the nurse midwife: Your paycheck depends on it. American College of Nurse Midwives; May 2013; Nashville, TN.

Ivy C. The ability of SNOMED CT to capture perinatal process concepts. SNOMED CT Implementation Showcase; October 2013; Washington, DC.


Karp SM. Schlundt D. Micro-analysis of mother-toddler feeding in the home environment. Poster: Obesity Society; November 2013; Atlanta, GA.

Kennedy BB. Empowering nurses through mentoring. Relational aggression: It’s the new name for bullying. Symposium: Contemporary Forums; April 2013; New Orleans, LA.

Kennedy BB. Mythbusters: Facts, fiction, and moving the profession forward. Association of Womens Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing; June 2013; Nashville, TN.

Leming-Lee T. The hand hygiene challenge: Going to Gemba to protect your surgical team and patients. Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN); March 2013; San Diego, CA.

Love R. Dancing with the changes: Advocating for and transitioning our advanced practice psychiatric nursing workforce. International Society of Psychiatric Nurses; San Antonio, TX.

Lutenbacher M, Dietrich MS. Picklesmeir A. A comparison of maternal and neonatal health outcomes: Women enrolled and not enrolled in an evidence-based nurse home visitation program. American Public Health Association - Maternal Child Health Section; November 2013; Boston, MA.


Maxwell CA, Miller RS, Dietrich MS, Fallon WF, Mion LC, Minnick AF. The aging of America: A comprehensive look at over 25,000 geriatric trauma admissions to U.S. hospitals. Poster: American Association of the Surgery of Trauma; September 2013; Las Vegas, NV.

Maxwell CA, Mion LC, Minnick AF. Prevalence of geriatric resources for injured older adults in U.S. hospitals. Poster: Society of Trauma Nurses; April 2013; Las Vegas, NV.

Maxwell CA. Screening injured older adults for cognitive and functional impairments. Society of Trauma Nurses; April 2013; Las Vegas, NV.

McArthur D. Doctoral writing in the age of Twitter: How to create a scholarly writing environment. National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties; April 2013; Pittsburgh, PA.


Mion LC. Unassisted falls in U.S. hospitals. Poster: American Geriatrics Society; May 2013; Grapevine, TX.

Mion LC, Bradas C, Amat S, Sandhu S. Association of hospital nurses’ characteristics and their decisions to request physical. Symposia: Gerontologic Society of America; November 2013; New Orleans, LA.


Monroe TB. Pain in nursing home residents with dementia. Poster: American Geriatrics Society; April 2013; Dallas, TX.


Monroe TB. The psychophysical response to thermal pain in people with dementia. Poster: Society of Biological Psychiatry; May 2013; San Francisco, CA.

Monroe TB. Research committee annual symposium. Symposia: National Gerontological Nurses Association; October 2013; Tampa, FL.

Moore ER. Early skin-to-skin contact for mothers and their healthy newborn infants. Association of Womens Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing; June 2013; Nashville, TN.

Moore ER. Educating DNP students about critical appraisal and knowledge translation. Educator’s EBP Workshop Academic Center for Evidence Based Practice; July 2013; San Antonio, TX.

Moore ER. Educating DNP students about critical appraisal and knowledge translation. Teaching EBP: Measurement of attitudes, support, self-efficacy and behavior. Posters: Summer Institute on Evidence Based Practice; July 2013; San Antonio, TX.

Mulvaney SA. Utilizing health technology to improve diabetes adherence. Society of Behavioral Medicine; April 2013; San Francisco, CA.


Norman LD. Using blended interprofessional e-learning to teach collaborative practice, principles of patient safety and quality, and improving transitions of care. Workshop: Southeast Consortium for Interprofessional Education; June 2013; Vancouver, BC.

Parish A. Holliday K. Long-term care acquired urinary tract infections’ antibiotic resistance patterns and empiric therapy: A pilot study. BIT’s 1st Annual World Congress of Geriatrics and Gerontology; October 2013; Dalian, TX.

Parish A, Monroe TB, Mion LC. Nurses’ perceptions of pain in long term care residents with dementia: A focus group study. Poster: Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association; September 2013; Chicago, IL.

Phillippi JC. Expanding primary care opportunities for midwifery students: Simulation for clinical reasoning. American College of Nurse Midwives; May 2013; Nashville, TN.

Phillippi JC. Exciting learning environments for a new generation of midwifery students. American College of Nurse Midwives; May 2013; Nashville, TN.

Pilob B. Population health initiatives update: CMS funded projects and other early exemplars. Invited address and/or keynote. Tidal wave or tsunami? The impact of allied health providers. Discussion Panel. Advanced practice nursing roles, models and continuum care management: Weaving the tapestry into a successful program. Workshop: Contemporary Forums; November 2013; Chicago, IL.

Pilob B. A long and painful journey for Americans: Policy, politics and health. Oncology Nurses Society; November 2013; Nashville, TN.

Pilob B. Ketel C. Development evaluation of an IPCP team providing primary care to vulnerable populations. West Michigan Interprofessional Education Initiative; November 2013; Grand Rapids, MI.


Rhoten BA, Ridner SH, Deng J, Dietrich MS. Murphy BA. Body image, social anxiety, and viral-related tumors in patients with head and neck cancer. Poster: Oncology Nurses Society; November 2013; Dallas, TX.

Ridner SH. Lymphatic research: National & local perspectives. Symptoms associated with lower limb lymphedema and implications for professional treatment and self-care. Lymphedema Lifeline Foundation; May 2013; Grand Junction, CO.

Ridner SH. Lymphatic research: National & local perspectives. Symptoms associated with lower limb lymphedema and implications for professional treatment and self-care. Lymphedema Lifeline Foundation; Grand Junction, CO.
Ridner SH. Take charge of lymphedema - it’s not just breast cancer. What every survivor needs to know. National Women’s Survivors Convention; August 2013; Nashville, TN.

Ridner SH. Lymphedema self-monitoring with bioelectrical impedance. Lower limb lymphedema associated symptoms. International Congress of Lymphology; September 2013; Rome, Italy.

Mackenzie AG, Ridner SH, Franjic J, Zimmerman C. Take charge of lymphedema - It’s not just breast cancer. What EVERY survivor needs to know. Women Survivors Alliance; Nashville, TN.

Schorn M. It’s not over ’til it’s over: Third & fourth stage of labor and current evidence. Association of Womens Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing; June 2013; Nashville, TN.

Schorn M. Getting the job you want. Workshop: American College of Nurse Midwives; May 2013; Nashville, TN.

Scott P. Key points in neonatal post resuscitation and stabilization. Association of Womens Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing; April 2013; Nashville, TN.

Smallheer B, Squiers J, Ashby N. Implementing and managing integrated simulation within and between various levels of nursing student education. Integrating simulation within and between various levels of nursing student education. Symposium: Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing; November 2013; Indianapolis, IN.

Vanderhoef D. Diagnostic and treatment dilemmas for patients with a psychiatric disorder and co-morbid substance use disorders: A case based evaluation. University of McNeese; Lake Charles, LA.

Vanderhoef D. Bridging an integrative approach to psych/mental health nursing. The Nordic Conference of Mental Health Nursing; September 2013; Reykjavik, Iceland.

Wallston K. Attitudes affect phosphate control in ESRD. Poster: National Kidney Foundation 2013 Spring Clinical Meetings; April 2013; Orlando, FL.

Wallston K. Expressive writing as adjuvant treatment in t2dm: Short-term effects on clinical status and patient well-being. American Diabetes Association; June 2013; Chicago, IL.

Wallston K. Teaching EBP: Measurement of attitudes, support, self-efficacy & behavior. Poster: UT Health Science Center; July 2013; San Antonio, TX.

Waynick-Rogers P. The Vanderbilt program in interprofessional learning: Innovation in building a collaborative ready workforce. Sigma Theta Tau, International Honor Society of Nursing; November 2013; Indianapolis, IN.


Wells N. Post-operative pain time from severe to mild: effect of frequent and multimodal interventions. American Pain Society; May 2013; New Orleans, LA.

Wells N, Dubree M, Sandlin B. Developing local leaders for evidence-based practice. American Nurses Credentialing Center; October 2013; Orlando, FL.


Young C. Addressing musculoskeletal complaints in primary care. Workshop: American College of Nurse Midwives; May 2013; Nashville, TN.
60s

Kathleen Smith Lewis, BSN ’66, has written a book, “Challenges of Living with Chronic Illness—Beginnings & Endings,” which is available on Amazon.com. She lives in Atlanta.

Sandra Jones Campbell, PhD, RN, BSN ’69, received the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award from The League of Innovation for co-creating a civility code of conduct with a class of registered nurse students pursuing a baccalaureate degree at St. Petersburg College, in Florida. She was also awarded a St. Petersburg College Foundation Innovation grant for 2013-2014: “Civility in Academics & Nursing: Beginning the Civility Conversation.” Recently retired as a full-time professor at St. Petersburg College, Campbell is currently president of a seminar/consulting firm, Winning Within, Inc.

70s

Diane Cody Roberts, BSN ’73, was elected to serve as the chair of the Private and Parochial School Nurse Association. She lives in Houston, Texas.

Cecelia Kennedy Page, BSN ’79, DNP ’14 (VUSN Founder’s Medalist), FACHE, is the University of Kentucky HealthCare’s new chief information officer. In this role, she will lead UK HealthCare’s information technology division and is responsible for maintaining momentum on information technology strategies, governance, implementations and service delivery.

80s

Cathy Mezmar, MSN ’81, is the Chief of Quality Management for Veterans Administration Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care System and is based in Harlingen, Texas. Her husband, Michael Mezmar, MSN ’81, is serving his second term as a Harlingen city commissioner.

Julie Bomberger Lindley, BSN ’83, RN, MSN, received her MSN in Nursing Administration from the University of Texas at Arlington in May.

90s

Sharon Dowdy, MSN ’85, PhD ’99, has retired from teaching at Belmont University in Nashville. She and her husband are traveling the world with recent trips to Italy, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Singapore. She also regularly visits grandchildren in California and Maryland.

Beverly Byram, MSN ’92, program director of the Part D Ryan White program at the Vanderbilt Comprehensive Care Clinic, received the 2014 Salute to Nurses Community Outreach Award from the Tennessee Nurses Association and The Tennessean newspaper.

Sarah Fogel, MSN ’94, PhD ’01, has been accepted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. She was inducted in October in Washington, DC. She is the director of Vanderbilt School of Nursing’s ASN to MSN program.

Jo Carol Stephens, MSN ’94, was selected as the director of KentuckyOne Health’s new healthy lifestyle centers. Stephens has been working for Louisville-based KentuckyOne and its legacy organizations for about 28 years. Before getting involved with the healthy lifestyle centers, she worked as a team leader in the system’s cardiac research center.

Michael William Vollman, is now a full-time academic faculty member at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA). Vollman will teach in both MTSAs Master of Science and Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia

Four mannequins were sent to Kenya thanks to ‘travel agents’ Poppy Buchanan, BSN, ’61, left, and Sally Miller, MS, RN, VUSN Skills and Simulation Manager. Buchanan has supported a nurse-run rural health clinic in Kenya for several years.

Ann C. Page, BSN ’80, left, received the Michigan Nightingale Award in May from Barbara Medvec.
Matthew Brayton, MSN ‘93, DNP, ACNP-BC, completed his DNP at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. His residency project was titled “Treatment of Overweight and Obese Adults in a Primary Care Clinic.” He will be taking the Family Nurse Practitioner board certification exam which he will add to Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification and continues to work in emergency departments throughout East Tennessee.

Alyce Goodman-Abraham, MSN ‘95, APRN, was awarded the 2014 Ellen Bailey Nurse Practitioner Award for the state of Kentucky. This award was for outstanding advanced clinical practice, service to the profession, strong clinical competence, leadership and community involvement. She is the nurse practitioner of the Pelvic Pain Regional Specialty Center at the Jewish Hospital Medical Center East in Louisville, Kentucky. She serves as the Louisville director for the Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners.

Connie M. Chenosky-Miller, MSN ‘97, DNP, FNP-BC, CDE, BC-ADM, completed the DNP at the University of Northern Colorado in May. Her capstone project was on the Patient Centered Medical Home—a Practice Analysis and diabetes. She works at the Cheyenne VA Medical Center in ambulatory care.

2000s

Margot (Walker) Harris, MSN ’00, and her husband, Joshua, welcomed son John Franklin, April 17, 2013. He joins Sawyer (10), Eva (8), and Isaac (3). The family lives in Janesville, Wisconsin. She is a women’s health nurse practitioner and lactation consultant in an OB-GYN clinic and a naturopathic clinic.

Melinda Easley, MSN ‘02, married Kenneth R. Luckay, MD, on June 14. The couple is in practice together in Roanoke, Virginia. They have seven children and four grandchildren combined.

Aimee Chism Holland, MSN ’02, DNP, WHNP-BC, FNP-BC, RD, was presented with the 2014 Award of Excellence in Community Service for her dedication to improving the lives of women and newborns through community service. The award was presented at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses national convention in Orlando, Florida. Holland is an assistant nursing professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she coordinates the dual Adult-Gerontology Primary Care and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty track.

Deanna Christine Pilkenton, MSN ‘02, DNP, WHNP-BC, FNP-BC, RD, was presented with the 2014 Award of Excellence in Community Service for her dedication to improving the lives of women and newborns through community service. The award was presented at the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses national convention in Orlando, Florida. Holland is an assistant nursing professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she coordinates the dual Adult-Gerontology Primary Care and Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner Specialty track.

Johnny Wyatt, MSN ‘04, DNP, has a new position as the clinical program director of the Complex Care Program for Cigna-Healthspring, a health services company. The new, multi-state program will use nurse practitioners working alongside primary care providers to manage complex chronic conditions such as diabetes, CHF and COPD among Cigna-Healthspring’s Medicare Advantage population.

Melanie Allison, MSN ‘03, DNP, graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree in May. She successfully defended her project, “An Evidence-Based Approach to Cascade Screen Relatives for Familial Hypercholesterolemia.”

Brandon Roark, MSN ’06, APRN, NPC, is the owner of Tri-State Family Healthcare located in Middlesboro, Kentucky. Roark is a registered Family Nurse Practitioner in Kentucky and Tennessee. He is ACLS and PALS certified by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Roark’s experience includes caring for patients in the emergency room and five years in the intensive care unit, as well as medical/surgical skilled nursing.

Tracey Kiesau, MSN ’08, DNP ’12, has been named the director of children’s services at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Georgia. Prior to that, she was the clinical manager of Maternal Child Health at Oklahoma State University Medical Center in Republic in July, as part of Project HOPE’s support of women’s and children’s health clinics.

Matthew Brayton, MSN ’93, DNP, ACNP-BC, completed his DNP at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. His residency project was titled “Treatment of Overweight and Obese Adults in a Primary Care Clinic.” He will be taking the Family Nurse Practitioner board certification exam which he will add to Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification and continues to work in emergency departments throughout East Tennessee.
Tulsa. She is a registered nurse who has served in pediatric departments in hospitals in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Tracey and her husband, Trent, have a daughter, 13, and a son, 11.

Tommy L. Thompson Jr., MSN ’08, is an active Shriner and works with Fitzgerald Health Associates to help a medical missionary family abroad transport their child to a Shriner hospital. Thompson also serves as the Worshipful Master of Clarksville Lodge #89 Free and Accepted Masons in Clarksville, Tennessee. Thompson is a veteran of the U.S. Army, receiving several accolades during his 20 years of service.

Bethany A. Rhoten, MSN ’09, PhD ’13, VUSN Postdoctoral Fellow, has been named a V-POCKET Scholar. V-POCKET is Vanderbilt’s institutional K-12 award in patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) sponsored by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Rhoten’s project will be a patient-centered outcomes study to address gaps in current knowledge about communication between surgeons and patients with recurrent head and neck cancer. It will also identify factors that influence patient choice of treatment, desired outcomes and patient satisfaction with treatment.

Melissa Armstrong Glassford, MSN ’10, earned a DNP at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis. Her project was “An evaluation of the effectiveness of self-monitoring of blood glucose practices in uninsured patients with diabetes mellitus.”

Bryan McPherson, MSN ’10, has a new position at the Veteran’s Administration in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, following two years at Fort Campbell. His job responsibilities include working in the psychiatric outpatient clinic and the emergency department. His oldest daughter started Lipscomb University in Nashville this fall with a provost scholarship.

Tina Crabtree, MSN ’12, serves as a nurse practitioner at Mercy Clinic Midwest City in Oklahoma.

Kate FitzPatrick, DNP ’12, RN, NEA-BC, ACNP-BC, is the Clinical Director of the Neurosciences Nursing & Women’s Health & Neonatal Nursing at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She has been chosen as a 2014-2017 Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow, which comes with $35,000 to support project work in an area of her interest. She was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing in October.

Mary A. Green, MSN ’12, and her husband, Aaron, welcomed daughter, Adaline “Ada” Faith on June 5 at Mayo Clinic Health System in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where she practices in her dual role as a Certified Nurse Midwife and Family Nurse Practitioner.

IN MEMORIAM


Janice Feagin Olson Britton, BSN ’44, died on Feb. 20 in Spanish Fort, Alabama.

Mildred S. Mann, BSN ’45, of Luther Crest and formerly of East Greenville, Pennsylvania, died on Jan. 13.

Cloace Ferguson McGill, BSN ’47, died on June 4 in Canyon Lake, Texas.

Betty Ann Voigt, BSN ’47, died on Feb. 4 in Versailles, Kentucky.

Martha Milligan Larsen, BSN ’48, died on July 7 in Columbus, North Carolina.

Mary Lynn Gabor, BSN ’55, died on Feb. 6 in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

Alice Jane Brown Petry, BSN ’56, died on May 20 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Susan Philbin Walsh, BSN ’61, died on June 21 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Rosemary P. Henrion, MSN ’72, died on April 2 in Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Nancy Harris Smith, BSN ’77, died on Feb. 18 in Homewood, Alabama.

Laura N. Trent, BSN ’77, died on Jan. 8 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Anne Lindegard Oakley, BSN ’80, died on Feb. 20 in Whispering Pines, North Carolina.

Diana Kristen Soule, MSN ’97, died on June 7 in Concord, New Hampshire.

Mareeka Carol Geerdes Bachuss, MSN ’05, died on March 12 in Franklin, Tennessee.

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Lauren Eppinger, MSN ’10, is a nurse practitioner with Mystic Valley Pediatrics in Medford, Massachusetts. She enjoys the community feeling of a practice and getting to know families from birth all the way through adolescence. Eppinger also enjoys traveling, cooking, baking, quilting and other creative projects.
Vanderbilt Commencement and VUSN’s Academic Hooding Ceremony took place on May 9. This year’s ceremony recognized 54 DNP students, 348 master’s-prepared graduates and two who earned their PhD degrees in the Science of Nursing.

For more pictures, visit VUSN at flickr.com/photos/vanderbilt-nursing-school

1. DNP Graduate Phillip Parcon celebrates just prior to the official Commencement ceremony in Memorial Gym.

2. DNP graduate Stuart Downs and his son Jason celebrate the academic milestone.

3. MSN graduate Kameela Williams-Jackson smiles during the Academic Hooding ceremony.

4. (Left to right) Carrissia Holloway, Justine Franks and Meredith Eades wave during the processional for the Investiture and Academic Hooding Ceremony.

5. Left to right: Senior Association Dean for Academics Mavis Schorn, VUSN Dean Linda Norman, and Senior Associate Dean for Informatics Betsy Weiner prepare for the processional into Branscomb Quadrangle.

6. VUSN’s 2014 Founder’s Medalist and DNP graduate Cecelia Page, center, is hooded by DNP Director Terry Donaldson, left, and Senior Associate Dean for Academics Mavis Schorn.
For more than 60 years, Madison Sarratt served Vanderbilt as a beloved educator and dean. The Sarratt Society was created to honor his commitment and dedication to Vanderbilt.

When you name the School of Nursing in your estate plans, you automatically gain membership in the Sarratt Society and take your place among those whose vision has strengthened this institution. To learn more call (615) 343-3113 or (888) 758-1999 or email plannedgiving@vanderbilt.edu.

Visit vu.edu/sarrattsociety.